

NEWS FROM NORTHSIDE

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • IOWA CITY, IOWA

GOODBYE SUMMER ~ HELLO NEIGHBORS

BE SURE TO STOP BY North Market Square Park on Sunday, September 10th between 5 to 7 PM for Northside Neighborhood Association's inaugural gathering in the park.

- Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, catch up with old friends and meet some new residents, and celebrate the joys of living in Iowa City's Northside neighborhood.
- Enjoy music by Northsider Dave Moore, fun and games for the kids, and learn how you can get involved in the NNA.
- Food will be furnished by our friends at Oasis, and the NNA will provide water and lemonade; bring other beverages if you like. (Reminder: Alcohol is not permitted in Iowa City parks.)

You're invited to a

NEIGHBOR GATHERING

Sunday, September 10th 5-7 PM

ENJOY FOOD & MUSIC

**A Northside-sponsored event
to welcome all residents!**

NORTH MARKET SQUARE PARK

- If you're a potluck fan, bring a dessert to share, such as cookies or bars (nothing too messy!).
- Please let us know you're planning to join us at: rsvp@northsideiowacity.org, so we can have enough food on hand.

Welcome T'Shailyn!

The City has just hired its new Outreach and Engagement Specialist, and we're eager to introduce her to the Northside. T'Shailyn Harrington is an Iowa City native and business management graduate of the Tippie College of Business at the UI, where she also earned an Event Management certification and African American Studies minor. She spent four years as the Community Engagement Manager at Shelter House in Iowa City, with a focus on fundraising and cultivating community partnerships. She enjoys building community, developing equity, and maintaining a commitment to diverse populations. In other words, she's a perfect fit for her new position with the City. We've invited T'Shailyn to our September 10 event and hope neighbors will have an opportunity to meet her.

40TH ANNIVERSARY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Thursday, September 28th at 5:00 PM
HIGHLANDER HOTEL, IOWA CITY

ELECTRIFYING NEWS

Northsiders interested in energy conservation will have two opportunities in the coming weeks to learn and do more when it comes to making their homes more energy efficient.

First, the nonprofit Interfaith Power & Light will host a webinar: "Inflation Reduction Act Resources to Help You Electrify Your Home" on Thursday, September 7, from 7-8 PM. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is the largest climate and clean energy investment America has ever made, with strategic incentives to make the transition to clean energy and a decarbonized life easy, financially smart, and equitable. The IRA's home energy offerings include upfront discounts, tax credits, and low-cost financing that together provide a substantial pot of money for every household to electrify the machines they rely on, regardless of income level. Learn more and register for this free event [here](#). (continues on page 2)

NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Monday, September 18th 6:00-8:00 PM
Mann Elementary School, Multipurpose Room

ZONING MATTERS: DATES AND UPDATES

The NNA Steering Committee is currently engaged in two separate zoning-related initiatives, both of which will impact the Northside and other neighborhoods in the City’s University Impact Area.

1 Request for 27 foot height limit in RNS-12 zone

The NNA’s proposal that the height limit on new single-family and duplex structures in RNS-12 zones be 27’ was heard by the Planning & Zoning Commission on August 16. Due to a misinterpretation of our request by City staff, the Commission voted to defer its decision until its October 18 meeting. In the meantime, NNA Steering Committee representatives will meet with City staff to discuss staff’s opposition to our request and how we might reach a satisfactory resolution. We will keep the neighborhood informed as we get closer to the October P&Z meeting.

A QUICK EXPLANATION

to our readers regarding the 27’ height request in RNS-12 zones: Pressure for infill development has resulted in building proposals that are significantly larger in height than the single-family homes characteristic to the Northside neighborhood. For the areas of the Northside in need of neighborhood stabilization (therefore designated RNS-12), a 27’ building height cap will help new homes fit into the neighborhood. The City recently adopted a 2.5 story or 30’ height limit in the South District. We would like to see a similar height limit adopted for Northside houses!

2 Major Zoning Code Amendments proposed by City staff

These changes were discussed at the Zoning Matters forum organized by the NNA on July 30. Further information was shared at the August 2 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, where attendees learned more details about how the proposed zoning changes are intended to improve housing choice, increase housing supply, and encourage affordability. The P&Z voted to approve all proposed amendments but one, which related to accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Details about the Zoning Code changes can be found in the August 2 P&Z agenda packet by following the link [here](#).

Here are several related meetings to add to your calendar:

Zoning Code Open Houses: The City is hosting two public meetings to share more information about the proposed Zoning Code changes and how they will impact neighborhoods across the city. Northside residents are encouraged to attend one or both of these meetings to learn more and ask questions of staff.

- **Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5-7 PM, at Terry Trueblood Lodge**
- **Thursday, Sept. 14, 5-7 PM, at the Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room A**

Monday, September 18, 6-8 PM:

All NNA-meeting in the Mann Elementary School Multipurpose Room; our primary agenda item will be the proposed Zoning Code amendments and whether the NNA can reach a consensus on what the NNA’s response should be. We hope all Northside residents will attend this meeting to learn more about the proposed changes, and to voice their opinions about how the Northside should respond.

DID YOU KNOW

Approximately 54% of Northside neighborhood residential properties are rentals. Source: [Northside Neighborhood Plan](#) by Professor Jerry Anthony, May 2022



(Electrifying News continued) Second, the NNA’s Solar & Renewables Group met with representatives of the Johnson Clean Energy District (JCED) to discuss next steps in a pilot project slated to launch this fall. In brief, JCED will begin working with a handful of Northside households as test cases for energy assessment/

coaching tools that JCED hopes to roll out to the broader community in 2024. Look for more information about the initiative in the fall issue of the Northside newsletter. Our thanks to Barbara Eckstein and other members of the NNA Solar & Renewables Group for moving this exciting partnership forward.