

SOAR and Tutt Library awarded "Love Your Block Kindness Grant"

SOAR and the Tutt Library partnered on the City of South Bend's "Love Your Block Kindness Grant" and were awarded \$350.00 to purchase children's books related to COVID. The library will present a family story time on Monday December 27th at 10:30am with these materials and gave away book prizes with informational packets on free local resources to help with health and mental health issues related to COVID for families.

Other Winter Library Programs Coming Up:

- Finger Knitting: Thursday 12/16 at 6pm. Learn a tools free knitting technique to make your own infinity scarf.
- Gratitude Journals: Thursday 01/06 at 6pm. Express your gratitude with 25 prompts for being thankful and make your own journal.
- Recycled Magazine Crafts: Thursday 01/13 at 6pm. Create coaster, beads, flowers and more!
- Hygge Tea Party: Thursday 01/20 at 6pm. Enjoy hot tea, cozy coloring, games and activities.
- Self-Care in a Chair: Thursday 01/27 at 6pm. Move your body! It's important even in hibernation.
- Scavenger Hunts, I-Spy games and more: Available as a drop-in activity for youth any time the Tutt Library is open.
- **One-on-one appointments available to help with rental assistance and utility assistance programs. Call the library at 574-282-4637 to set up an appointment.**
- **Free Lead Testing Kits available for pick-up at the library any time we are open.**

Best News Ever: The Library will be going Fine Free for the new year starting January 1, 2022.

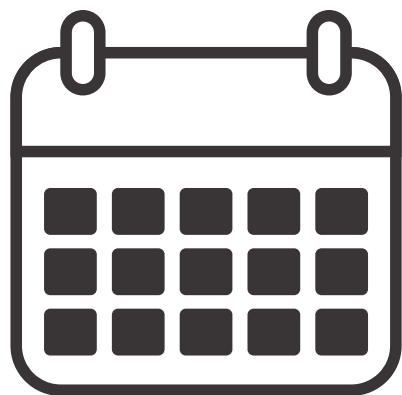
Free repairs available: Making your home lead safe

Do you live in an older home? Do you have young kids that live with you or visit often? Yes?! Then you could be on your way to free support that will protect your family and friends from lead risks.

The City of South Bend has grant money available to assist in making your home lead safe! It is free to individuals who live in homes built before 1978 with a child under the age of 6 and income qualify (ex. a four-person household must make under \$58,800 per year). Owner occupied and rental properties are eligible.

After you complete an application, the city will take it from there! They will check for lead in your home and make a plan to remove any lead hazards at no cost to you. The city will hire contractors to do the work and make sure your home is safe at no cost to you. Then you and your family and friends can enjoy living in a lead-safe home!

If you are interested in the Lead Grant you can reach out to Kristen at the City by emailing ktitus@southbendin.gov, or by calling 574-235-5826. If you want to learn more about lead, you can visit www.southbendin.gov/leadsafesouthbend.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Neighborhood Clean Up: April 30, 2022, 9 am - noon

**SOAR Monthly meeting (in-person & Virtual),
second Tuesday of each month, 6:00 PM**

**Broadway Christian Parish
1412 Carroll St, South Bend, IN 46613**



SOARING INTO THE FUTURE

SOAR Neighborhood Newsletter Winter 2021

Merry Christmas | Feliz Navidad | Happy Hanukkah | Happy Kwanzaa

SOAR (Southeast Organized Area Residents, Inc.) is the neighborhood association for this area and acts to represent all residents, home-owners and renters, to work together to make a safe, attractive, vibrant community.

We encompass the area bordered by Sample (north) Ewing (South) Miami (east) and Michigan (west).

SOAR is YOUR neighborhood association. Our purpose is "to represent the interests and aspirations of those who live on the Southeast Side of South Bend to preserve and enhance a safe neighborhood for all."

SOAR meets to second Tuesday of each month. Join us!

"Bring it to the table"

Broadway Christian Parish is hosting "Bring it to the Table" and Emotional Detox Support Group with southeast neighbor Debra Walker. She has hosted these monthly gatherings for years at Transformation Ministries in the northwest neighborhood. She is adding one in our community now that she's moved back to Broadway St.

Pastor Carl Hetler helps facilitate these discussions. They are an open place for honesty and vulnerability. Last month we talked about bitterness and the challenges we've faced in life. People shared about hardships with family members, jobs and life struggles. We listened to each other through tears and anger. We ended with a celebration of thanksgiving, remembering the good things we enjoy in life.

Third Saturdays at Broadway Christian Parish UMC
1412 S. Carroll St

- Next gathering is December 18th
- 8:30am refreshments
- 9:00am Discussion: "What negative messages have you received?" devotional "What gifts can you give?"
- Small group discussions wrap up by 10:30am

SOAR creates new website

SOAR has created a new website. Over the summer, SOAR was awarded \$400 for a digital stipend to improve their online presence by the Neighborhood Resources Connection. With the help of enFocus and the Center for Civic Innovation (CCI), the website launched early December 2021.

SOAR's website was rebuilt with the intention of serving as a platform to engage more residents in SOAR's monthly, hybrid meetings - virtual and in-person options, highlight the latest news in the neighborhood through an improved stories page, and provide access to events happening in the community.

SOAR also collaborated with officials at the City of South Bend to incorporate key information for the community. Southeast neighborhood residents will be able to quickly access crime data, 311 services and more. SOAR's website ultimately will serve as a resource for the community.

To see the improvements to SOAR's website, visit www.soarforward.org.

United Way Neighborhood Center Update



United Way of St. Joseph County in partnership with SOAR, 466 Works and those who live, work and are invested in our neighborhood are building a new Southeast Neighborhood Center, to help bridge gaps in access to health and social services. The new Center is currently under construction and is located at 1607 Fellows Street. United Way and the Neighborhood Center will utilize hospitality, authentic relationships, and cross sector collaboration to create dignity and support for all those who visit. The planned Grand Opening is July 2022.

The new Southeast Center will provide services including childcare, health and wellness services, a pharmacy and mental health provider, Healthy Indiana Plan enrollment, SNAP and unemployment enrollment, youth adult and senior programming, and other social services. A highlight of the new building be a community gathering space with on-going coffee/refreshment service.

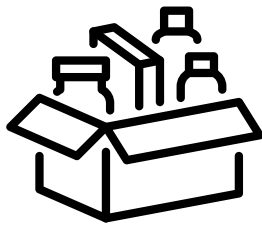
These are the partners committed to date who plan to have a presence at the Center:

- **Beacon Health System:** Community Health Workers
- **Bendable:** Drucker Institute Lifelong Learning
- **Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County:** before/after school programming for 200 children
- **Bowen Center:** youth and adult mental health services
- **Creative Arts for Veterans (Eskenazi Health)**
- **Cultivate Culinary**
- **Elkhart & St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium:** full day, full year high-quality childcare for 112 children ages 6 weeks-6 years
- **Family Connection of St. Joseph County:** early childhood quality training, coaching, assessment
- **WorkOne**
- **Goodwill of Northern Indiana: Bridges Out of Poverty, Nurse-Family Partnership**
- **Healthy U Rx Pharmacy: health clinic and sliding scale pharmacy**
- **Indiana FSSA- Department of Family Resources:** SNAP, CCDF, healthcare enrollment
- **Indiana Division of Aging**
- **Indiana Legal Services**
- **Logan Center:** onsite cognitive and behavioral intervention
- **Purdue Extension of St. Joseph County**
- **REAL Services:** 2Gen & Senior Programming
- **St. Joseph County Public Library**
- **University of Notre Dame**
- **U.S. Veterans Health Administration**

Broadway Pantry serves SE Side

The food pantry serving our Southeast Side Neighborhood is Broadway Christian Parish. It has served the needs of Southeast Side families for over 50 years.

If you need food, visit Broadway Monday - Thursday between 8:30 and 10:00 A.M. You can shop once a month. Please bring ID. Enter from the east side door or get curb side service at the west door at 1412 S. Carroll Street. For more information, call 574- 289-0333.



The pantry provides fruits, vegetables, eggs, meats, canned items and shelf stable goods. Food is donated by local church and community groups. They also receive food from USDA, Cultivate Food Rescue, and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

Partnership between the City of South Bend, Bendable, and St. Joseph County Public Library leads to Winter of Learning programming

The City of South Bend's Technology Resource Center (TRC) will host a series of lifelong learning opportunities open to the public in January, February, and March of 2022. The TRC will partner with Saint Joseph County Public Library and Bendable to bring these events and programs to residents.

"Lifelong learning is something so many of South Bend's institutions are committed to," says Denise Linn Riedl, CIO for the City of South Bend. "The City, Library, and Bendable are excited to curate these opportunities for our residents and provide more in-person and virtual opportunities to advance your skills and learn with a community."

Several events will allow individuals to learn in group settings. In one such program, "learning circles" will allow groups of learners to take an online course together, in person, with a facilitator present for help and guidance. The Business Analytics team will also open SB Academy courses to the public.

To promote cross-sector collaboration and introduce public and private groups alike to co-working space at the TRC, the Winter of Learning will bring back "Open Work Wednesdays", an opportunity for local groups and individuals with new or ongoing projects to work out of the same space once a month. During monthly "nonprofit office hours", too, the TRC will partner with local nonprofit enFocus to equip organizations with the skills they need to make data-driven decisions.

For a comprehensive list of Winter of Learning programming and events, and to access available sign-ups, please visit the TRC's webpage at southbendin.gov/trc. Learning circle signups can also be found at any of the library's branches.

Dayton Street House built by Students

Another new house is going up on Dayton Street, but this house is being built by students in the Building Trades program of the South Bend Community Schools. The program, housed at Riley, traditionally builds a new house each year. This is the first time they have built in a neighborhood like ours. This is a joint effort of SBCSC, Contech (a not for profit group that oversees this program), 466Works, and the city of South Bend.

Seventeen students, including four females, work each afternoon building the house. Their instructor is Rev. Rickardo Taylor. The students are ahead of schedule and the house is already sold. This hands-on learning experience trains young people for construction jobs which are in high demand and pay good wages.

It is hoped that the class will grow and attract young people from our neighborhood to this field. They will be building a second house in our neighborhood next year as well.

466Works homes

466Works continues to build new houses in our neighborhood. These affordable homes allow first time homebuyers to move into our neighborhood and enhance our area. Three houses are under construction now and are already sold. Another home will start in the spring and two more are scheduled for the fall. By the end of 2022, they will have built and sold 15 new homes in our neighborhood.

These new homes are helping to transform vacant lots from eyesores into vibrant housing that enhances the neighborhood and allows renters become homeowners. Although concentrated on Dayton Street, houses have been built on Indiana and Broadway as well, and in the future will be built on Dubail.