

The World is a
Neighborhood.

NORTH PORT NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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Neighborhood Block Party!!



When: Sunday, September 20, 4:00pm

Where: Desco Ave.

- Let's have fun! Play games!
- Meet neighbors. Bring the kids!
- Gather current contact information (phone, e-mails) for the neighborhood
- Brainstorm neighborhood issues/projects we and our children might work on together!
- Getting to know each other better will make our neighborhood stronger, more secure and an even friendlier place to live!
- Bring an appetizer.
- Any folding tables and other donations would be helpful.
- Paper plates, napkins and forks/spoons will be provided.

RSVP/Questions: Don & Terry Vande Krol
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Florida Food Network

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SHARE Florida Food Network

is a non-profit organization that builds and strengthens communities through volunteer service while offering savings on high quality food. One Saturday each month, SHARE distributes nutritious food packages at a reduced cost through a volunteer-run, community based distribution system with over

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There are no eligibility requirements to order the food.

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Each basic package has enough food to feed two people for about one week and costs around \$18.00.

For more information visit the SHARE website, WWW.shareflorida.org or call (800) 536-3379.

If you are interested in saving some money on really good food or, if you know someone who could use a little help with some groceries, talk to us about placing an order. You can call Terry at: (941) 423-5444 or stop and talk to us at 4781 La France Ave.

Join Our Neighborhood Email List.

Send email to:

donvandekrol@gmail.com

"... being a neighbor is a skill like any other, and it's a skill we've increasingly lost as we've turned into hyperindividuals. Say you need the proverbial cup of sugar: do you turn to the neighbor or turn the car on and drive to the store? One survey found that three-quarters of Americans didn't have a real relationship with the folks who lived next door. (New upscale houses now routinely come with dual master bedrooms, since even the talent for being a mate seems to be dwindling.)

The big question for this century may turn out to be how fast we can relearn the skill of neighborliness." - Bill McKibben

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

Here's the place to look for local resources. If you want to write an article about your business or share a business card, drop it off or send it to me by email and I'll include it in the next issue.

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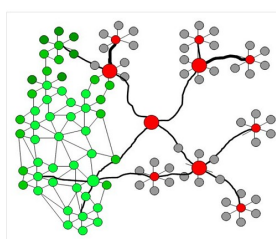
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Our Goal: A Network of Small Group Gatherings

"Although genuine community is not easily achieved or easily maintained, few would argue with its avowed goals: to seek ways in which to live with ourselves and others in love and peace." - Scott Peck

TUESDAY GATHERINGS

At 4781 La France Ave.

Every Tuesday at 7:00pm a small group of neighbors gather in our family room. Our purpose? We want to learn how to be good neighbors. Pretty simple. I'm convinced that one of the things we must become aware of, in order to learn to become good neighbors, is our interdependence.

At the last gathering, a classic metaphor for community came to me that I haven't thought about in quite awhile. Being in community is like being a coal in a fire. Each coal depends upon its neighbors to stay alive. Take one coal and set it aside and soon its heat is gone. Add it back to the fire, and it begins to contribute its own fuel, its own resources to its neighbors.

So, we don't gather in order to get the city of North Port to do something about our streets. We don't gather to solve one another's problems (but those things could happen). We don't gather in order to determine

who has the truest religion, or convince one another that we have the correct political view. We don't gather because we are looking for other birds with our kind of feathers. Our purpose becomes evident with the very first thing we do - we might call it our opening ritual. Each of us in turn does a "check-in" by answering the question, "How ya doin'?", and then we listen. That's really all it takes to begin caring about one another. We don't have to "fix" anything or anybody. We can learn to accept one another without having to agree with their opinions or approve of their choices. We discover that we really don't need to take ourselves or our neighbors too seriously. Sometimes, the answer to "How ya doin'?" is pretty damn funny. Those who receive this newsletter are welcome to drop in and see what we are doing. We can almost guarantee that you will want to come back.