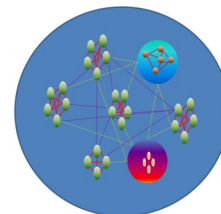


# NORTH PORT NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



The World is a  
Neighborhood.

## FIRST ISSUE!

Do we live in neighborhoods, or do we simply live in close proximity to others? What's the difference? Well, neighborhoods contain neighbors. Neighbors are those we can call on when we are in trouble or need a helping hand. Neighbors care for one another and have face-to-face interactions with one another. Neighbors enjoy life with one another! Unfortunately, it seems that the trend has been to become more and more isolated and alienated from those living around us. Bill McKibben writes ,

**... being a neighbor is a skill like any other, and it's a skill we've increasingly lost as we've turned into hyperindividuals.**

*Where Have All the Joiners Gone?/Orion Magazine*

We want to reverse the trend!

This newsletter is an attempt to do that by connecting us through information about what is going on in our neighborhood, the work

that is being done by our neighbors for the common good, and where to find local resources.

Of course information does not create neighborhoods. For that we need to interact with one another. This issue contains several articles about ways we can interact—from recreation to neighborhood projects and especially, to small group gatherings focusing on the creation of intentional community. Our dream is that a network of small group gatherings will grow organically starting from a few seeds here in North Port and spreading throughout Florida and then the rest of



the United States and eventually throughout the world.

One thing we're fairly sure of... the current trend toward hyperindividualism is unsustainable. Reversing the trend will be a challenge, but just the few feeble efforts we've already made have produced rewards that confirm to us that we are on the right track.

## Neighborhood Collection for School Supplies

Kiwanis is donating backpacks for school children and those backpacks need to be filled with supplies. If you have an opportunity to pick up a few supplies while you are shopping at Wal-Mart, Walgreen's, Publix or another of the many stores where you'll find sales being offered, drop them off at our house and we'll make the delivery from the 'hood.

If you live here in our neighborhood and need school supplies, stop by and pick some up.

## How About a Garden Swap?

Are you growing a garden and producing more than you need? Would you be willing to share some of your bounty with your neighbors? If so, let us know so that we can let them know. We have a grapefruit tree with quite a bit of fruit growing on it and some vines covered with grapes to share.

**Join our neighborhood email list. Send your email address to:**  
**donvandekrol@gmail.com**

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**“Geocaching is a great way to get outside with family and friends and explore your community.”**



## SHARE Florida Food Network

Terry and I recently volunteered to work with others at the *United Community Church of Christ* here in North Port helping to distribute food packages. Last Saturday, July 25th we not only helped to distribute, but we also received our first order—two basic packages of food consisting of high quality produce and frozen meats. We’ve already enjoyed two meals—one of them using a recipe that came with the food package. It was really, really good! Of course, Terry’s cooking skills had a lot to do with the meal’s success. (She is going to pay me for that comment.)

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

SHARE buys food directly from na-

tional and local food distributors, and because of their high-volume buying power, non-profit status, and thousands of volunteers, the food can be deeply discounted.

**Save up to**



**50%**  
off groceries

There are no eligibility requirements to order the food. Even Bill Gates could order if he chose to do so. In fact, the more people who buy the food the less expensive it becomes.

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. The next D-Day (distribution day) is August 22, and you’ll need to place your order by the 8th.

It’s just another advantage that comes from being in a most excellent neighborhood!

## LET’S GO GEOCACHING!!

**By Shannon McKenna**

Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure (aka trinkets). A geocacher can place a geocache anywhere in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache's existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS device can then try to locate the geocache.

Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment.

Geocaching is a great way to get outside with family and friends and explore your community.

In North Port, geocaching can take you anywhere from a beautiful hike through Myakkahatchee Park to the parking lot of Lowe’s. Caches can range in size from a coffee can to a nickel (yes, that small!). Some are easy to find and others are quite puzzling. All you need is a GPS, access to the internet (to get the geocache locations) and a desire to get off the couch.

More details can be found at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). We would be happy to help get you started or take you on a trial trip. One warning though—it can be addictive!

## 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. Below is an article Shannon wrote giving us some background history and information on her at-home business.

I first made soap about 15 years ago, thinking it would be a fun project. Back then there was hardly any information available, so this 'fun project' quickly became a major challenge. I persisted and experimented and succeeded in producing soap. Family and friends realized they liked it better than the store-bought stuff and demanded more. Thus, **Sebona Naturals** was born.

We (my family helps a lot) make soap using vegetable oils, butters, herbs, clays and essential oils using the cold-process method, which has been used for centuries. Basically, all the ingredients are heated and/or cooled to the right temperature, then mixed and poured into a mold. The mold is covered with

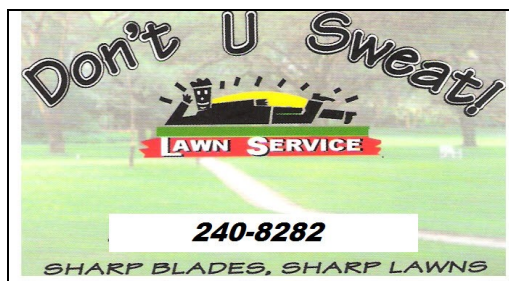
blankets and all the heat generated causes a chemical reaction which creates soap. After a day the mold is uncovered and the soap is cut into bars, then left to cure for about a month.

We also make natural laundry soap, liquid soap, body cream, herbal body powder (with no talc), soy candles and wax tarts, and room and linen sprays. Everything is entirely hand-crafted, from the measuring and mixing to the pouring and wrapping. Our website (though it needs updating) is [www.sebonanaturals.com](http://www.sebonanaturals.com). For more information/catalogs/soap samples you can email [Shannon@sebonanaturals.com](mailto:Shannon@sebonanaturals.com) or call (941) 429-5893.



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## Coming Up...

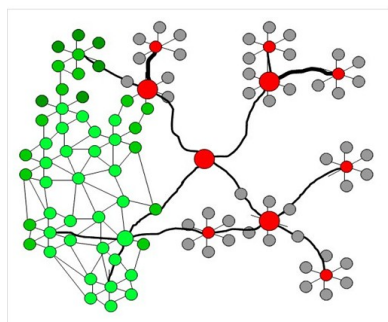
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[http://www.ourcommons.us/  
neighborhood/north-port-  
neighbors](http://www.ourcommons.us/neighborhood/north-port-neighbors)

***“In and through community lies the salvation of the world.” - Scott Peck***



**Our Goal: A Network of Small Group Gatherings**



*The good feeling lasts all year*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

### **Mission**

The mission of National Neighborhood Day is to inspire, build, and sustain the neighborhood relationships that provide the foundation for civic action and the building of stronger, more caring and effective communities.

### **Vision**

The ties that unite a neighborhood help us better tackle and enjoy the myriad of challenges and opportunities we face. The simple goal of National Neighborhood Day is to bring neighbors together and to help enhance neighborhood connections. Neighbors knowing neighbors improves neighborhood connections; connected neighborhoods lead to more effective communities; effective communities strengthen our nation as a whole. This ripple effect from our own neighborhoods to the larger world outside is what Neighborhood Day promotes.

National Neighborhood Day was established as an annual day to recognize and reinforce the relationships that are the fabric of our communities. It is a day of simple gatherings of neighbors to rekindle friendships; welcome new neighbors; catch up on each others' families, interests and needs; and share food, fellowship and fun.

National Neighborhood Day is celebrated in neighborhoods across the country each year on the third Sunday in September.

Join people in neighborhoods all over America as they gather with their neighbors to foster caring and concern for each other and promote stronger more effective communities.

This is something everyone will enjoy!

## **Tuesday Gatherings at the Vande Krol's**

Every Tuesday at 7:00pm a small group of neighbors gather in our family room. We keep the structure of our meetings as simple as possible—beginning with a check-in: “How ya doin’?” , and ending with a few snacks. We’ve discovered that we really like one another, even though we don’t share the same religion, culture, or age, and that each one of us has something we can contribute to the group. Right now this small group is like a new plant struggling to survive, needing to be nurtured and encouraged. Eventually we will reach a sustainable limit of growth at around 20 neighbors. Those who receive this

newsletter are welcome to drop in and see what we are doing. We can almost guarantee that you will enjoy the time. What we would REALLY like you to consider, is becoming a host for a Gathering in your own home. And, we would like to stay connected with you—to encourage you and occasionally join with your group in combined Gatherings—perhaps in a park or a building. Maybe we can have a big picnic. Perhaps, in a combined effort we can do something powerful. We’re pretty sure that if enough of us catch the vision, we can change the world.