



Urban Neighborhoods Alliance Grant Beach Neighborhood March Update

Bowl-A-Thon '10 As you know, our only true fundraiser of the year is scheduled for Friday, March 12, at Enterprise Lanes. The 2nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon '10 can have a maximum of 24 teams per session but right now we only have 12 teams. In discussion after last year's event, the cost we had (\$400) seemed to be the overriding factor in the low number of team so we reduced the entry to \$30 per person or \$150 per team. We have room for many more lane sponsors and teams. Please consider tell all your family and friends about this event. A flyer on the event is posted on the UNA website as well as team packets for the event. Janet Dankert, Steve Wiemer, Pauletta Dunn and students from Drury University have done a remarkable job on this event.



Below Market Home Improvement Loan Program After last month's vote to have Guaranty Bank be the lender for the Below Market Home Improvement Loan Program, I am working with Dana Elwell to implement this program. This should be up and running by April 1.

Drury Brigades Program There is a whole class of freshman students working on projects in the UNA footprint this semester. Projects include:

- ✓ Working with UNA and Grant Beach on the Tire Toss event on April 17;
- ✓ Developing a walking tour brochure for Midtown to encourage Midtown residents and Drury faculty/staff to walk throughout the neighborhood;
- ✓ Working with Grant Beach on their sports program;
- ✓ Working with Midtown to plan a block party to launch the Neighborhood Watch program; and
- ✓ Working with UNA to host a youth basketball tournament on the DU campus to raise money for the mini-grant program that we had previously cut due to budget issues.

The second part of the semester the students are going to concentrate on writing grants for UNA.

Landlord Training Workshop UNA will be hosting its 8th annual landlord training workshop on Saturday, April 10, at City Utilities. Since we started this program, over 300 landlords have taken part, representing over 12,000 housing units in Springfield and the surrounding area. UNA will need to know if Grant Beach wants to "rebate" their landlords \$10 of their workshop fee as has been done in previous years. In 2008, you had five landlords attend (\$50 reimbursement) and in 2009 you had seven landlords attend (\$70 reimbursement). Letters will be going out this week to landlords.

Framing Hope Initiative For 2009, over \$40,000 worth of merchandise has been given away. This month's distribution went extremely well because of the volunteer support we received from the neighborhoods. The signage helped along with the "limits" that were placed on certain goods. We have received another shipment for next month already. Thank you to all the neighborhoods that helped. Another volunteer from Midtown is currently looking up prices and entering data and disbursements for January & February. We will start using only 2010 memberships in March. Another shipment was picked up today (3/7). A total inventory is being taken this week to be able to have more of a handle of what is there, the value and the stock numbers of the merchandise.

Community Land Trust Here is an update on properties so far for the trust:

✓ 906 W. Mt. Vernon	Purchase Accepted & ClosedRehab Started	West Central
✓ 2121 N. Franklin	Purchase Accepted & ClosedRehab Started	Woodland Heights
✓ 616 W. Hovey	Purchase & Closed	Grant Beach
✓ 1719 N. Clay	Purchase & Closed	Midtown
✓ 711 N. Fulbright	Purchase & Closed	Heart of the West Side
✓ 1040 W. Mt. Vernon	Purchase Accepted—Waiting to Close	West Central
✓ 2041 N. Prospect	Purchase Accepted—Waiting to Close	Robberson
✓ 2224 N. Travis	Purchase Accepted—Waiting to Close	Robberson
✓ 2204 N. Robberson	Purchase Accepted	Woodland Heights
✓ 2018 N. Robberson	Purchase Accepted	Woodland Heights
✓ 427 S. Hilton	Confirmed Interest	West Side
✓ 846 S. New	Coming Soon—Confirmed Interest to Purchase	West Central

To date, we have reviewed 78 properties from the trust and 29 properties from individual realtors that have sent us leads on properties. This is consistent with what was told to Brendan and me that we would probably buy 1 in every 10 that we reviewed. A list of properties we have reviewed is available upon request. In the past four years (2006-2009), 97 Grant Beach residents have lost their houses to foreclosure. Of the 4,020 foreclosures the past four years, 1,727 were in Springfield city limits and 318 of those were in the UNA footprint. The four neighborhood totals are as follows: Grant Beach (97); Midtown (26); West Central (94); and Woodland Heights (101). The CDBG area for the city represents only 20% of the land area but foreclosures in this area represent 51% of the total.

Tire Toss Event UNA has secured funding from the Department of Natural Resources for the reimbursement of the tire disposal. Community Foundation of the Ozarks is front UNA the money in order to have funding available to pay the tire disposal company. The event will take place Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. Grant Beach is taking the lead to secure volunteers for the event. Drury University students are helping on this project also.

Tenant Training Through the West Central Stabilization Grant, UNA will be conducting tenant training classes March 30, April 6, and April 13. These classes will focus on: 1) What is in my rental lease?; 2) Good Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods; 3) Household Budget...Tips You Should Know; 4) Appliances, Lights and Doorknobs or HOW DOES THAT WORK?; 5) Community Resources...I know what I need, but where do I find it?; and 5) Cultural and Economic Diversity...We are oh so different, so very different, and yet so very much the same! Food and childcare will be provided. I am going to try to open this up to tenants outside of the West Central neighborhood but there will be a fee for these classes.

UNA ToolBox The ToolBox continues to get new members. We have had another chipper donated to the tool lending library, now making two chippers ready for use. We have sent renewal notices out for those that have been members for a year. Cox Health has donated a tool shed to be used for the storage of many of our tools as you noticed when you walked in. The Division of Youth Services has contacted UNA about a possible partnership that might include getting another tool shed built for UNA.

Real Estate Listings On the UNA website, www.unaonline.org, there are listings of the homes that are for sale in the Midtown neighborhood through the multi-list service. I have also listed the houses under contract and the ones that's have sold. This might be a great tool for membership outreach you may want to do. These are separated by elementary school. A special thank you goes to Ron Coluccio (Murney Associates), a UNA board member, for generating these lists.

This report is available in a .pdf format and can be e-mailed to the residents of the Grant Beach neighborhood.