

Iowa Department of Economic Development

# Neighborhood Developments

This is the first IDED
Neighborhood Resource
Center newsletter. The
newsletter will be available
periodically to anyone
interested in neighborhood
development through the
www.iowalifechanging.com
Web site. See the link on
the next page to receive
the e-newsletter
electronically.

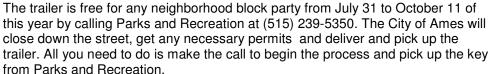
A little background about the Iowa Neighborhood Resource Center...the center was created in 2008 and is a broad-based neighborhood revitalization program providing neighborhood development information, resources and assistance to lowa's communities and existing and developing Neighborhood Associations. Staff works closely with community leaders, neighborhood associations, residents and partners providing a Web site(resource center) and education, training, technical assistance. presentations and workshops. Link to resource center: http://iowalifechanging.com/ community/neighborhood/d

# Neighborhood News lowa Neighborhood Resource Center

Issue No. 1 2010

### Ames "Street 'N' Greet" Block Party Trailer

Here is a great idea for your community: Street 'N' Greet, the new Block Party Trailer sponsored by the Strengthening Neighborhoods Action Team, is available for reservations by any Ames resident. This block party trailer is intended to encourage conversation and new connections for all people in the community and welcome the diversity that makes Ames a unique place to live.



The trailer is stocked with tables and chairs, outdoor games, a sound system, a first-aid kit, community information, nametags and barricades. A sign that you can place at a key neighborhood location to advertise the party and fliers you can use to personally invite your neighbors are available upon reservation of the trailer.

The goal of this trailer is to encourage neighborhoods to host block parties to encourage building stronger relationships. Visit their website at: streetngreet.webs.com for more information.

# Iowa Department of Health Neighborhood Walkability Assessment

This resource will help your neighborhood association/school conduct a walkability assessment of its neighborhood. The checklist will help assess what makes the walking environment inviting and safe, as well as identify barriers that exist. After the assessment, neighbors/school staff can help students become advocates for a more walkable community.

Link to Iowa Department of Health – Walkability Assessment http://www.idph.state.ia.us/iowansfitforlife/common/pdf/walking with purpose.pdf





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#### **SMART GROWTH**

### **EPA Smart Growth Partnership in 5 Iowa Neighborhoods**

EPA's Development, Community, and Environment Division brought smart growth technical assistance to five communities in Iowa that were affected by floods and tornadoes in 2008: Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, New Hartford and Iowa City. This implementation assistance was done in partnership with EPA Region 7, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa Department of Economic Development. For details regarding the assistance and workshops see: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/iowa\_techasst.htm

#### **Creating a Neighborhood Association Newsletter**

The City of Iowa City, Office of Neighborhood Services has a great resource to help you create a neighborhood association newsletter. Communication is an essential element of any organization. This resource addresses Neighborhood Association newsletter content and style, design and layout issues, and printing and mailing. You can find this document at <a href="http://www.icgov.org/site/CMSv2/file/planning/neighbor/creatingnewsletter.pdf">http://www.icgov.org/site/CMSv2/file/planning/neighbor/creatingnewsletter.pdf</a>

#### **Neighborhood Association – Start-up Kit**

Want to start a neighborhood association or know someone interested in doing that? There is now a very basic document at the IDED Iowa Neighborhood Resource Center that will help walk you through the process. This resource outlines the following Basic Components:

- 1. Leadership
- 2. Benefits
- 3. Issues
- 4. Organization
- 5. Planning

Need some help? The lowa Neighborhood Resource Center is available to meet with residents, community leaders and/or city staff to provide assistance in developing your new or existing neighborhood program. Contact us at: (515)725-3064 or neighborhood@iowalifechanging.com

## Would you like an E-newsletter?

The IDED lowa Neighborhood Resource Center *Neighborhood News* is available through electronic distribution. Visit <a href="https://www.iowalifechanging.com/subscriptions/login.aspx">www.iowalifechanging.com/subscriptions/login.aspx</a> then click on the "Register Now" link to register for IDED list serves. Once your account is created, simply login and choose the IDED communications you wish to receive - make sure to check the Neighborhood News publication, then click on "Update" to update your profile and you're all set!

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