

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 Iowa'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/
default.aspx?id=1](http://iowalifechanging.com/community/neighborhood/default.aspx?id=1)

Neighborhood News

Iowa 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 free for any neighborhood block party from July 31 to October 11 of this year by calling Parks and Recreation at (515) 239-5350. The City of Ames will close down the street, get any necessary permits and deliver and pick up the trailer. All you need to do is make the call to begin the process and pick up the key from Parks and Recreation.

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 <http://www.icgov.org/site/CMSv2/file/planning/neighbor/creatingnewsletter.pdf>

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 Iowa 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 Iowa Neighborhood Resource Center *Neighborhood News* is available through electronic distribution. Visit www.iowalifechanging.com/subscriptions/login.aspx 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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