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In Your Neighborhood

WINTER 2017



A Newsletter from the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

It's a Beautiful Day in YOUR Neighborhood... Neighborhood Sign Toppers are Coming Soon!

Two objectives of the Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative is to help Hutchinson neighborhoods build an identity and a sense of pride. The city is helping each neighborhood install sign toppers above each intersection sign within their neighborhood boundaries.

Each neighborhood has gone through their own design process and have selected designs that reflect their neighborhoods. Look for sign toppers to be installed this winter and spring!



Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative is provided through a partnership with the City of Hutchinson & Hutch Rec. For more information, contact Elizabeth Grilliot, director of neighborhood development at Hutch Rec, at 663-6179 or egrilliot@hutchrec.com.



HELLO, NEIGHBOR!

The Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods initiative is a collaborative approach to improve the marketability of area neighborhoods, making them attractive places residents and newcomers choose to live for an enhanced quality of life.

The initiative launched in April of 2015 and featured a steering committee with representatives from various local agencies who helped narrow the focus to two neighborhoods: College Grove and SW Bricktown. The initiative will eventually focus on additional neighborhoods; however these two have been top priority since then. Check out the inside pages of this newsletter to see an update on the exciting work being done in both neighborhoods!

How can YOU get more involved?

- Attend neighborhood meetings and events
- Provide your own skills and services to help improve the neighborhood
- Organize volunteer groups of residents to complete projects and/or welcome new neighbors

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• Stay in the loop! Find more details about this in the feature inside this newsletter.



Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhood Initiative's Vision:

Hutchinson's neighborhoods have a strong sense of identity and community pride, where residents trust one another and are confident in their ability to positively impact the future.

In Your Neighborhood newsletter is published quarterly and directly mailed to neighborhood residents in the SW Bricktown and College Grove neighborhoods.

Missed our Fall 2016 newsletter? Visit hutchrec.com for archived issues.



HAPPENINGS IN... College Grove Neighborhood

In the last newsletter, we highlighted the progress College Grove residents have made in coming up with a neighborhood name and organizing several neighborhood get-togethers.

A lot has happened since then, including the establishment of a neighborhood Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CollegeGrove), the development of a neighborhood logo (by a neighborhood resident), a neighborhood vote on sign topper designs, various gatherings, including at a pop-up coffee shop within walking distance of the neighborhood at the Cosmosphere, and the planning of a neighborhood project.



Public Art in College Grove

A work group from the neighborhood has been meeting since September to get plans in order for the submission of a Citizen-Initiated Public Art Application. The group is planning on hosting a neighborhood crosswalk street art painting this spring. With help from residents, two crosswalks will be painted to reflect a common theme within the neighborhoods that will tie in the sign toppers and neighborhood logo.

The city's Public Art Design Council formalized a public art application process last spring. The painted crosswalks are being designed by a local artist living in the neighborhood. Neighborhood art projects can bring a neighborhood together by working towards a common goal and result in:

- an improved a sense of place
- increased social interaction
- promotion of local art
- engaging youth in the neighborhood
- attracting positive attention for the neighborhood



College Grove residents sharing their official name through a proclamation at the City Council Meeting.

Hutch Homeowner Opportunities

Below is a listing of programs the City of Hutchinson offers. Check out the NEW opportunities for homeowners that begin March 1st! **For more information on these opportunities, contact the person listed below.**

- **NEW! Zero-Interest Home Repair Loan Program:** Provides interest-free loans for certain home improvement projects. There are no income restrictions and both rental and owner occupied houses qualify. **Contact Amy Allison at the City of Hutch, 620-694-2635.**
- **Down Payment Assistance:** The Down Payment Match Incentive was created to assist current renters in affording to purchase a home. Applicants must purchase a home in the SW Bricktown, College Grove or Houston Whiteside Neighborhoods to be eligible for up to \$2,500 assistance in down payment and closing costs match. **For more information contact Alicia Marsh, Interfaith Housing Services, at 620-662-8370 Ext. 708 or Amy Allison at 620-694-2638.**
- **Brush Up Hutch!:** Helps homeowners buy paint for the exterior of their house. Eligible applicants receive up to \$300 in reimbursement for the cost of paint.
- **Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Tax Rebate:** For homeowners who live south of 11th Avenue who would like to update their home without a tax increase. **Contact Casey Jones, (620) 694-2667.**
- **Community Garden Incentives:** Provides incentives to assist residents in establishing community gardens.
- **Rental Registration & Inspection Program:** To schedule an inspection, contact Fred Salisbury, 620-259-4108.

Need to Know Neighborhood Information

Phone Numbers to Remember:

- Report Crime: (620) 694-2816
- Animal Control: (620) 694-2636
- Code Enforcement: (620) 694-2671
- Report a Pothole: (620) 694-1900

Did You Know?

Check out the NEW Hutch Housing website at www.hutchareahomes.com!

Neighborhood Development Contact
Elizabeth Grilliot, Director of Neighborhood Development at Hutch Rec, (620) 663-6179 or egrilliot@hutchrec.com.

Keep in the Neighborhood Loop:

- Sign up for neighborhood alerts & set up account at nextdoor.com.
- Follow our Facebook pages, including: College Grove Neighborhood, SW Bricktown Neighborhood Center, Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative.

HAPPENINGS IN... SW Bricktown Neighborhood



As mentioned in the first HHNI newsletter, SW Bricktown is a neighborhood with a lot going on! They are the focus of a Community Engagement Initiative grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, administered by the United Way of Reno County. Residents and community partners have been working to bring some amazing opportunities to the neighborhood, including:

- Progress on neighborhood park master plans (Ashmeade & Shadduck)
- School activities, including Avenue A Mexican Dinner (a 50 year tradition) that was a success thanks to countless volunteers.
- Neighborhood logo chosen
- Neighborhood received new trees thanks to the City of Hutchinson Tree Board
- Art mural is in the works



Neighborhood Center



The SW Bricktown Neighborhood Center, located inside Avenue A Elementary School, has been open for almost three years. Not only does the center provide resources for students and parents of the school, it's also a place for residents of SW Bricktown to receive assistance and resources within their neighborhood. Jessie McElheny is a social worker and the coordinator of the center. She is an employee of United Way and serves as a liaison between community organizations, the residents in the neighborhood, and the school. With the many partnerships the neighborhood center has, they are able to not only offer basic need supports, but also: adult English classes, parenting supports, Circles of Hope (including curriculum for 6th graders), fitness activities for families, quality after-school program, financial coaching, and family reading nights.

SW Bricktown Tree Planting

In October 2016, the City of Hutchinson Tree Board planted 16 trees in SW Bricktown Neighborhood with the help of Avenue A Elementary fourth graders. The trees were planted near the school and along West Avenue A.

Plans to plant an additional 20 trees in the neighborhood are being coordinated for this spring. Help from the neighborhood residents will be requested - stay tuned!

