Why Develop a Neighborhood Association?

Neighborhood Associations . . .

- Build new relationships between neighbors
- Create a forum for discussion of local issues
- Provide an opportunity for people to work together and make a difference
- Enhance neighborhoods through effective planning
- Grow the neighborhood through organized social activities
- Attract and retain home owners and businesses
- Encourage progress towards common neighborhood goals
- Increase awareness of policies and programs impacting the neighborhood
- Prevent neighborhood decline and apathy
- Provide a platform to build consensus

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West Allis Neighborhood Associations

What Is A Neighborhood Association?

A neighborhood association is a group of people who identify with a common area, share common goals and concerns and are organized as a member-based group open to everybody within the neighborhood. Through their collective energy and planning, members develop the stability, credibility and political influence necessary to be an effective force in building a stronger neighborhood.

Mayor Dan Devine

"As we continue to move West Allis forward, active neighborhood associations will be a vital component in developing a safe and vibrant community."

What Do Neighborhood Associations Do?

Neighborhood Associations . . .

- Help identify challenges and concerns
- Support change and improvement efforts
- Help resolve conflicts
- Provide volunteers for community initiatives
- Represent the neighborhood as a whole to elected officials
- Find resources to make the neighborhood a better place to live

Benefits of Neighborhood Associations:

Neighborhood Associations . . .

- Have real and lasting impacts on neighborhood programs (crime, traffic, parking, public space improvements)
- Grow demand for future home buyers
- Foster effective communication link with City Departments
- Receive funding for neighborhood improvement projects

STEPS FOR CREATING A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

GET INVOLVED!

1. Start Up/ Organizing

Neighborhood Associations often expand from existing, informal connections.

Early communication methods include:

- Word of mouth
- Door-to-door discussions
- Neighborhood gatherings

2. Development

At this stage, the group should work on:

1) An Association Name
2) A Mission Statement
3) Geographical Boundaries
4) Leadership

3. Formal Recognition

Formal recognition allows the group to receive rewards and assistance for their efforts.

This stage involves:

- Engaging entire neighborhood
- Contacting officials
- Hosting a public meeting

4. Up and Running

Once the association receives formal recognition, the group will continue to:

- Conduct outreach
- Plan activities
- Improve neighborhood
- Communicate with the City

HAVE FUN!

For more information about **Neighborhood Associations** in the City of West Allis, visit: http://www.westalliswi.gov/neighborhoods