

New Communities Program



Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance

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Committee Meetings

All meetings held at the Garfield Park Conservatory - 300 N Central Park Ave

Housing – 1st Wednesday; 6pm

Youth – 1st Thursday; 5pm

Health – 2nd Wednesday; 3pm

Education – 2nd Thursday; 4:30pm

Open Space – 4th Wednesday; 6pm

Call about both the Art and Business committees

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Message from the NCP Director

Greetings! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with memories that will last a lifetime. This past summer, NCP staff were busy working with our partners to complete the youth summer mosaic public art projects, secure funding to build a gateway garden along Madison St. and hosted hundreds of local students and their families members for an afternoon filled with special events to recognize academic excellence.

This fall, NCP is poised to serve over 50 youth in our after school programs, complete a number beautification projects across the neighborhood, start a walking club and deliver hundreds of books to our local schools.

Please take a moment to review our meeting schedule and we hope to see you at a meeting or one of the many upcoming events highlighted on the back page.

Take care,

Mike Tomas

Employee News

After eight years of service to the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Credell Walls, NCP Youth Program Specialist, decided to explore new opportunities. Credell's last official day was Saturday, May 26, 2007, but he continued to assist with the youth programs throughout the summer. Credell is now working with Roots and Shoots, an international environmental awareness program, part of the Jane Goodall Institute. Thank you Cre and best wishes!

We would like to welcome aboard Seprina Redmond who will serve as the new NCP Youth Program Specialist. In this position, Seprina will be working with our Flower House Kids and Green Teen programs. She previously worked for the POWER Violence Prevention Program as a Program Coordinator and Outreach Worker with youth in the North Lawndale community. She is looking forward to working with the youth in East Garfield Park and will be a wonderful asset to the Alliance. Welcome aboard, Seprina!

Retail Efforts along Madison Street

Efforts are moving forward with a plan that will bring new retail and commercial development to Madison Street. In February, the Alliance's New Communities Program and the University of Illinois at Chicago's City Design Center rolled out the *East Garfield Park Retail and Urban Design Plan*. Over the subsequent seven months, the Alliance and the Greater Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce pushed forward with several exciting projects for the community's commercial core.

Currently, volunteers are installing a garden plaza at the intersection of Madison Street, California Avenue and 5th Avenue. Community residents met last summer to design the layout of the plaza according to their own preferences and vision. Once installed, the plaza will act as a gateway into the community and a catalyst for more development to the Madison retail corridor.

The Alliance has also engaged retailers, real estate brokers, and developers in an effort to promote the community. In May, the Madison Street partnership launched the first Madison Street Development Breakfast and presented market information and leasing opportunities to an audience of over 50 real estate professionals. This event led to conversations with individual retailers about the market opportunities along Madison Street.

These events are just the first steps in implementing the retail and urban design plan, which lays out a vision for retail development in the community. For more information, contact Mike Tomas, NCP Director, at 773-638-1766, ext. 14.



Madison Street and Fifth Avenue Garden Plaza
Photo: Rendering by UIC City Design Center

Greater Westside Unity Fest

On July 14, 2007, over 300 Westside residents gathered at the Garfield Park Conservatory for the Greater Westside Unity Fest. The purpose of the event was to strengthen community residents by (1) discovering community resources, (2) providing health screenings and healthy living and infection prevention education, and (3) exploring information on housing, finances, and employment.

Area businesses and organizations provided a resource fair ranging from blood pressure screens and HIV prevention to financial services and insurance options. Organizations involved with the resource fair included Advocate Bethany Hospital, CAPS, Loretto Hospital, Core Center, Community Savings Center, Washington Mutual Bank, and many more. In addition to the resource fair, activities included face painting, carnival games, and performances by the Jesse White Tumblers, Charismatic Praise Dance, and local talent.

During this event, we were pleased to honor over 250 elementary and high school students from the East Garfield Park community for academic excellence during the school year. Students received a medal for scholastic achievement and a light reception. Schools represented included Al Raby, Willa Cather, Jacob Beidler, Leif Ericson, Laura Ward, and Providence-St. Mel. In addition, three schools – Laura Ward, Jacob Beidler, and Leif Ericson – received awards for outstanding performance on the ISAT exam, which removed the schools from the Chicago Public Schools probation list.

It is important that we, as a community, recognize, congratulate, and reward our students and schools. They work hard, and we must show them that we are proud of their representation of East Garfield Park. We will continue to do all that we can to partner with our neighborhood schools and watch our students excel. For more information on how to get involved with education initiatives for East Garfield Park, contact Rishona Taylor, NCP Project Manager, at 773-638-1766 ext. 17.



Elementary students recognized at the Greater Westside Unity Fest



High School students recognized at the Greater Westside Unity Fest

Green Teen Program



Green Teens volunteering in the Children's Garden

The Green Teen program is a 10-week job-readiness program for teenagers who will create natural and green-inspired products to be sold in the Garfield Park Conservatory Gift Store. Learn resume writing, basic business management, career exploration, public speaking, teamwork, and individual responsibility. Receive a financial award of \$225 at the end of every five weeks for perfect attendance.

For more information, contact Seprina Redmond, NCP Youth Programs Specialist, at 773-638-1766 x21. Sign up online at: www.afterschoolmatters.org (search for Green Teen program).

Flower House Kids

Come have fun with us while we learn about ourselves and the people around us. It's **FREE** and starts October 1 and ends December 19, 2007. Classes are every **Monday and Wednesday from 2:30 pm – 5:00 p.m.** for a twelve-week session. Subjects that will be covered include:

- Leadership Building Skills
- Environmental Awareness
- Study Skills
- Reading Skills
- Homework help

Classes are taught by University of Illinois – Extension, Youth Development Department Staff, Faith in Place, and Alliance staff.

The Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance is looking for kids who:

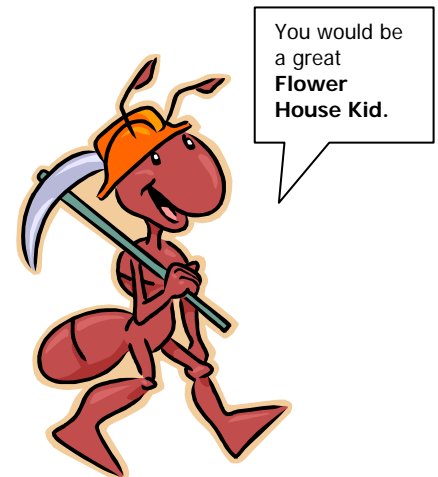
- Are ages 7-13
- Want to learn
- Need help with homework

Session Dates:

September 26, Parent Meeting
October 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
November 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
December 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19

If interested in signing up for the Flower House Kids program or for more information, contact Seprina Redmond, Youth Programs Specialist, at 773-638-1766, ext. 21.

Class size is limited to 25 so sign up now!



East Garfield Park Health Initiatives

The Community Health Coalition is embarking on new initiatives to help improve the physical health and education of residents living in East Garfield Park. After being awarded a grant from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Community Health Coalition will be able to continue providing creative programs to educate community residents and students on HIV/AIDS prevention. In commemoration of World AIDS Day, we will feature the developing West Side AIDS Quilt and offer a therapeutic Stress-Free Zone.

Beginning the week of September 17, 2007, community residents will be able to join a walking club to throughout the East Garfield Park community. Benefits of joining the Walking Club include:

- Free membership to the club and identification badges
- Healthy living tips and workshops to create and sustain healthier lives.
- Walking challenges and incentives for completion

For more information on how you can join the Conservatory Walking Club and begin increasing your physical activity, contact Rishona Taylor, NCP Project Manager, at 773-638-1766 ext. 17.

Upcoming Events

Niki in the Garden

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave
Exhibit continues through October 31, 2007; \$5 suggested donation
Thursday Niki Nights: October 4th, 11th, 25th; 6pm – 8pm

Garfield Marketplace

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave
Saturdays and Sundays through October 28, 2007

Flower House Kids Program Begins

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave
Mondays and Wednesdays through December 19, 2007

Green Teen Program Begins

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays through December 8, 2007

Garfield Park Conservatory Phantom Art Galleries

Various locations along Madison Street
Saturdays and Sundays through October 28, 2007

October 12-14, 2007

Department of Cultural Affairs Grant Workshop

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave; 4pm

October 22, 2007

Creatures of the Night

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave; 12pm – 3pm

October 27, 2007

Edaburi Group Community Meeting

International Design Competition - 300 N Central Park; 6 pm

October 29, 2007

Conservatory Walking Club

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave
Every Monday and Tuesday at 6pm through December 18, 2007

November 19, 2007

World AIDS Day

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave; 12pm – 3pm

December 1, 2007

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance Member Event

Garfield Park Conservatory – 300 N Central Park Ave; 4 pm

December 9, 2007