Neighborhood Association Programs and Activities Ideas

- Flower planting events
- Crime prevention initiatives
- Community Cookouts
- Graffiti Clean-up
- Tutoring Programs
- National Night Out
- Neighborhood Talent Show
- Child safety programs
- Leadership workshops
- Fire prevention education programs
- Neighborhood T-Shirts
- Neighborhood surveys
- Home tours
- Paint/fix-up projects
- Youth Leadership Program
- Neighborhood beautification projects

Additional tools and tips for organizing a neighborhood association are available at the Neighborhood Service Delivery Initiative webpage:

www.cedar-rapids.org

How can the City of Cedar Rapids Support Neighborhoods?

The Neighborhood Service Delivery Initiative was created to bring City staff and services together to better address community concerns and strengthen relationships with neighborhood leaders.

Members of the City’s senior management team provide direct support to communities by serving as liaisons between the City and neighborhood associations.

Goals:

- Improve Safety
- Improve Property Maintenance
- Improve Infrastructure
- Improve Connection between the Neighborhoods and City
- Improve City Responsiveness to Neighborhood Issues
- Build Relationships with Neighborhoods
- Bring Government Closer to People Served
- Increase Visibility

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What is a Neighborhood Association?

A Neighborhood Association is an organized group of residents, business owners, not-for-profit representatives, and other interested citizens that work together to improve and enhance the community that they live, play, and work in.

Most neighborhood associations work to address concerns and issues that affect the quality of life in a community. This can include issues such as:
- Upgrading neighborhood parks;
- Crime prevention;
- Traffic improvements;
- Zoning regulations; and
- Important projects for neighborhood associations.

What are the benefits of having a Neighborhood Association?

Neighborhood associations organize to bring people together to form a collective for the community. They can have a powerful and positive impact on a neighborhood when well organized. Neighborhood associations usually organize to:
- Create opportunities for residents to work collectively in improving their community;
- Serve as a united voice when communicating with community organizations and government entities; and
- Develop and foster community solidarity among residents.

Cedar Rapids Neighborhood Associations

Cedar Rapids neighborhood associations play a vital role in bringing neighbors together in order to improve the livability of communities.

There are over 12 organized neighborhood associations throughout Cedar Rapids that help citizens make their voices heard. They open doors of communication between neighbors and city government.

How to Start a Neighborhood Association?

Step 1—Evaluate the need for a Neighborhood Association.
Step 2—Determine the role the association will serve in the community and the needs that will be addressed.
Step 3—Recruit members that represent diverse aspects of the community.
Step 4—Hold a first meeting.
Step 5—Contact the City of Cedar Rapids and identify neighborhood boundaries.
Step 6—Continue to hold regular meetings.
Optional—Establishing the association as a not-for-profit corporation is optional. The group can decide if this route best fits the needs of the community.

The Iowa Secretary of State’s office provides information about the requirements for not-for-profit corporation and can be found on the Secretary of State’s website at:
http://www.sos.state.ia.us/business/Nonprofits/MinCodeReq.html