



## Community Development Department

Date: April 3rd, 2016

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Thru: Patrick Urich, City Manager

From: Ross Black  
Community Development Director

Subject: **Community Development 2016 Neighborhood Programming**

Below is an outline of the identified 2016 Neighborhood Development projects that will be managed by the Community Development Department.

**Coffee with Code** - Coffee with Code is a forum that provides an opportunity for residents to get to know their code inspector. Residents will have an opportunity to learn about the code enforcement process, housing/environment court process, and information on how and why to maintain their property. Through the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. the Community Development Department will host sessions in the respective area of each inspector. Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinators (Raven Fuller & Terence Acquah) will be present to provide additional details on community projects and programs.

**Mural Project** - The City of Peoria Community Development Department will partner with artists for two vinyl art murals that will be displayed on buildings in the First District. The intent of this project is to showcase art and highlight a historic area of Peoria. As such, both murals will have specific themes.

One mural, located in the southern gateway corridor (3560 SW Adams), will depict the rich history of one of our oldest neighborhoods. The mural will incorporate the history of the Southside, residents of Southside, or the artist's interpretation of the future of Peoria.

The second mural, located in the heart of Peoria's Warehouse District (1318 SW Adams) will illustrate an issue related to water. This mural will incorporate CSO specific issues or can focus on water imagery, wet weather issues or ideas of green infrastructure.

These murals will be produced using inkjet printing on long-lasting vinyl, similar to today's billboard technology. The murals will also be revealed at a press conference with a link to the artist's work on the City of Peoria website. The City hopes to install the murals by early June.

**Alley Light Program** - The Alley light program is designed to provide residents with alley lights to increase safety and visibility. The only requirements for installation are that an applicant's house or property is served by an alley, and the applicant must not have participated in previous alley lighting

programs. The applicant is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the light after it is installed. The alley light features a LED Dusk 'til Dawn bulb encased in a metal wall unit with a heavy duty light cover. The light will be hardwired to an existing electrical system from a house or a garage. The program budget will be \$20,000 and will be available on a first come/first serve basis. The program will be launched the first part of May.

**Paint Program** - The program is designed to supply residents with paint for exterior improvements. (Homeowner must provide labor, painting materials, and other items necessary to complete the project.) The paint program will be available citywide to residents to who are 80% or below median income. Each property is eligible for 20 gallons of exterior paint in 5 gallon increments. Inspections will be conducted throughout the project to ensure the paint is being applied properly. The program budget will be \$20,000 and will be available on a first come/first serve basis. The program will be launched early May.

**Power Wash Program** - Modeled after the City's Paint Program and Alley Light Program, The Power Wash Program seeks to help residents power wash the exterior of their property. Many properties seem to look damaged or deteriorated but in actuality have no code violations – many of these properties can be improved with a simple power washing of the exterior siding. Individuals that live in a low income area (eligible area as defined by HUD standards) will be eligible to receive power washes at no cost. For those property owners that do not live in the targeted area, the cost will be split 50/50. The program budget will be \$20,000 and will be available on a first come/first serve basis. The program will be launched the first part of May. Rental properties are also eligible to participate: Landlords inside of the low income area can receive a power wash at a 50/50 split.

**Board Up Beautification Project** - This program seeks to turn vacant dilapidated houses into living murals. The Community Development Department will partner with local art groups to paint city owned boarded properties. This project will give local students a chance to showcase their talents while beautifying the neighborhood. The Community Department will locate 10 properties in the City of Peoria. The Community Development Department will host "paint ins" at The Hive where students will paint the boards. In addition, an event at the Harrison School to engage the community at the end of the project will be held. The budget for this program is \$12,000.

**Community Service Project** - The Community Development Department seeks to use community service workers for community projects, community clean ups, and other neighborhood projects. Currently the Community Development Department has used Community Service workers 'as needed', but this program focuses on using their services in a more strategic manner. Service workers will have access to monthly schedules of potential volunteer opportunities. This project has the potential to provide relief for city workers during storm clean ups, and other emergency situations.

**Walk the Block** - Walk the Block is a neighborhood revitalization initiative focused on getting residents out on the sidewalk. While the project has the ability to scale to a sizable investment of permanent installations, the goal is to start with an inexpensive intervention utilizing paint markers on sidewalks so walkers can track their progress.

The project will be piloted in two neighborhoods: South Peoria and the East Bluff. Benefits range from crime prevention due to eyes on the street to the public health benefit of additional exercise.

Different neighborhood activities will be planned around the initiative (i.e. neighborhood watches, scavenger hunts, Community Core sweat equity, and installations of community gardens).

**Roof Program** – The Roof Program is funded with the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation from HUD. The Program provides roof replacement to owner-occupied, low income homeowners. The Program is available City wide. Applications will be released on April 15, 2016 and are due back to the City on April 27, 2015. The City will accept the applications on a first-come, first served basis.

**Emergency Repair Program** – The Emergency Repair Program is funded with the City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation from HUD. The Program will provide up to \$4,999.00 in assistance to owner-occupied, low income homeowners to repair housing conditions that left uncorrected would make the house uninhabitable. To be eligible for the Program, there must be an unexpected incident in the home that results in the house being unlivable or have an immediate threat of danger. Some examples of eligible emergency repairs include:

- Sewer line back up and/or overflow
- Dysfunctional water heaters
- Malfunctioning furnaces
- Broken water service from water main to house

The Program is offered City wide and applications are currently available.

**Local Historic District Rehab Program** – The Local Historic District Rehab Program is a pilot program that offers \$15,000 in assistance to owner-occupied, low income homeowners located in one of the City’s local historic districts. The funds can be used for exterior improvements only and the repairs are approved by the City’s Historic Preservation Commission and Rehab Staff. The applications are currently available for this Program.

#### **Other 2016 Neighborhood Projects**

- Expanded Great American Cleanup
- Trash or Treat
- Neighborhood Banquet – Mid-October.
- Money Smart Week
- Community Development Department Open House
- Kids Fest – Litter Awareness
- Love that Lot – Vacant lot revitalization efforts highlighted
- East Bluff Village Growth Cell – 50/50 matching grant program for exterior, mechanical, and energy efficiency improvements.
- Increased Education outreach efforts
- Tenant/landlord Training
- Bradley Student outreach