

A place to
call HOME.



eNewsletter

"Our mission is to support affordable housing as a foundation upon which individuals, families and neighborhoods can build vital communities."

May 2012

communityframeworks.org

Issue Eleven

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SPOKANE- Homebuyer Education Schedule

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June 2nd Neighborworks Week Celebration, Spokane

When resident manager Sean Ellis moved in to the unrenovated apartment complex that would soon become Aspen Grove, moisture, mold, and ants were pervasive problems. There were nine people living in the small apartment below his, and much of the facility was infested with fleas. The year was 2010, and Community Frameworks had just purchased the property, and was set to begin renovations.

Consequently Sean was to play eyewitness to the transformation of Aspen Grove from a haven for crime and dilapidation, into a desirable and affordable place to call home. His role as resident manager allowed Sean to take a leadership position in seeing the transition through. Sean explained that "For me this isn't just a job or a home, it's a community. The only way to build a community is for the community to do it themselves. They get to know their neighbors, which is huge." Under Sean's leadership, the community has begun to take pride in their home, which has manifested in neighborly potlucks and a brand new block watch.

In celebration of National Neighborwoks Week (June 2-9, 2012), Community Frameworks is planning a community beautification day for the Aspen Grove Apartment Complex. Entitled "Spring into Action Volunteer Day," the event will take place on June 2nd, and will engage local residents and business leaders, as well as Community Framework's own staff and volunteers to build outdoor recreation areas and gathering spaces at this revitalized apartment complex. Sponsorship for the event has been provided through generous donations from Kop Construction and NeighborWorks America.

For residents like Sean Ellis, National Neighborworks week is an opportunity to build on the improvements and beautification efforts as well as foster new relationships and new community connections. Sponsored by Neighborworks America, the annual week-long celebration focuses on community revitalization, including hands-on neighborhood beautification projects. The focus of this effort is to "mobilize tens of thousands of volunteers, businesspeople, neighbors, friends, and local and national elected and civic leaders in a week of neighborhood change and awareness" (www.nw.org).

Neighborworks America is a national 501(c)-3 organization that works to create opportunities for lower-income people to live in affordable homes in safe, sustainable neighborhoods

that are healthy places for families to grow. As a chartered member of the Neighborworks network, Community Frameworks works to extend the vision and goals of Neighborworks America into the communities they serve. Accordingly, NeighborWorks organizations' efforts have focused on community building as well as developing affordable and accessible housing.

For the June 2nd event, residents and neighbors of Aspen Grove will work together to install a BBQ grill, picnic tables, activity areas, a children's play area, and a fence. Community Frameworks will provide construction materials and oversight for the work. About 75-80 participant volunteers are expected.

Aspen Grove is one of Community Frameworks' most recent projects. Community Frameworks purchased and renovated the complex into affordable housing in 2010 and 2011. Since that time, all of the apartments have been renovated to be safe, decent, and energy efficient. New property management has instituted a screening process to make sure that all residents have a safe and comfortable experience living there, meaning that parking lot drug deals and violence are a thing of the past. Of the changes, one resident commented, "I'm a lot happier (since the changes). I feel safer living here than any where else. There are nice neighbors." For Sean Ellis, the process is more than beautification and physical improvements, "We're not just a property, we're a community."

Anyone interested in participating in the June Neighborworks Week event at Aspen Grove is encouraged to contact Ashley Martin at ashleym@communityframeworks.org. We are looking for participants with any skill level with an interest in helping to serve their community. As a regional developer of affordable housing, Community Frameworks is proud to sponsor community driven projects such as National Neighborworks Week. In addition, we are privileged to work along side our friends and neighbors at Aspen Grove. With time, it is our hope that Aspen Grove Apartments will continue to grow into a vibrant and engaging place to call home.



Building Community Value Through Organizing

By Andy Tangeman

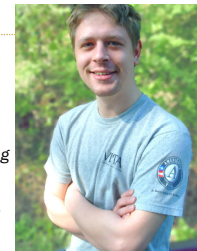
AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Andrew "Andy" Tangeman is nearing the end of his second term serving with Community Frameworks in Bremerton. Andy has spent the past two years working with community groups to strengthen their leadership and organizational capacity, with the goal of making Bremerton a place where grassroots, resident-led groups have the capacity to take on the challenges of community revitalization, head on. One of the groups he has worked with is a neighborhood association in a core neighborhood of Bremerton, called Union Hill. In the following story, Andy writes about his experience working with this group.

I came to Bremerton, Washington in August 2010, after I had graduated with a degree in Urban Studies. My intent was to learn how to organize community members with the goal of creating social capital, and community cohesiveness. Since I've started my VISTA work, I have had the privilege of witnessing a movement of community engagement in Bremerton. Specifically, the Union Hill Neighborhood Association is one group that has made leaps and

bounds in their attempt to beautify their neighborhood area.

Located in Bremerton Washington, Union Hill encompasses over 300 diverse households within its multi-block footprint. Union Hill began as a small group of volunteers, and eventually grew stronger through their continued efforts

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Changes in the Bremerton Office

New Bremerton Location!

You can now
reach us at our
new location:

409 Pacific Avenue,
Suite 105
Bremerton, WA
98337

New Bremerton phone extensions!

Please utilize our
phone menu for
assistance in
locating staff
members.

Our Locations:
 Spokane Office:
 315 W Mission Ave
 Suite 100
 509-484-6733
 Bremerton Office:
 409 Pacific Avenue
 Suite 105
 360-377-7738

Union Hill Neighborhood Association Transforms (Continued...)

(Continued from page 1)

to improve the community socially and aesthetically. The most recent example of how Union Hill is striving to improve the conditions of the neighborhood is their annual Earth Day Clean-Up Event. Coordinated in cooperation with the neighboring Charleston Business District, Union Hill's annual Earth-Day Cleanup drew the attention of residents from around the area. Complete with a yard-waste pickup site, the cleanup was successful in transporting hundreds of pounds of debris to the local land-fill, free of charge to residents.

Union Hill accomplished the Earth Day event, as well as others, through hard work and diligent planning. As a community organizer, I am proud to be part of such a diverse and active community group. Union Hill represents an emerging organization that needs support and commitment to grow, and I believe that support for Union Hill has grown through partnerships between local non-profits, businesses, local churches, and the community at large. Accordingly, one major goal of the group was to participate in socially engaging activities in order to gain exposure and support from the surrounding community.

In addition to organizing and leading the Earth Day Event, Union Hill has recently made strides in organizing as a self-sustaining community group through various volunteer outreach events. At their recent Neighborhood Potluck, community members from around Union Hill, as well as the Mayor of Bremerton, Patty Lent, arrived to share food and conversation with their fellow neighbors. Overall, the accomplishments of Union Hill create an ideal to which other emerging groups can look to for inspiration and guidance. It is that type of result that exemplifies the vision of AmeriCorps VISTAs and Neighborworks America.

In line with Community Frameworks' goal to build safe and livable neighborhoods, the Union Hill Neighborhood Association has been a strong community partner in promoting community cohesiveness in Bremerton. Community Frameworks' Community Building and Organizing project in Bremerton began through the diligent work of previous AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. Funded and sponsored by Neighborworks America, VISTAs have been working closely with neighborhoods across the nation to beautify and organize their communities.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Union Hill Neighborhood Association is encouraged to visit their facebook page at www.facebook.com/unionhillneighborhood. In addition, information on the role that Neighborworks America and AmeriCorps VISTAs play in revitalizing communities can be found at www.nw.org and www.americorps.gov.



March Union Hill Neighborhood potluck.

A donation to
Community Frameworks is an
investment in your
community.



Please Click Here to
[DONATE NOW](#)

Save The Date!

Spring into Action

at Aspen Grove Apartments
Community Frameworks' newest affordable rental complex



Volunteer Day
Saturday-June 2, 2012
9:00 am—1:00 pm
12204 E. 4th Ave., Spokane Valley, WA

An official NeighborWorks Week event

Volunteers of all skill levels welcome!



Lunch will be served!
More information to follow
For questions contact:
Ashley Martin at Community Frameworks
ashleym@communityframeworks.org
(509)484-6733 x129



Did you know?
NeighborWorks America is the country's preeminent leader in affordable housing and community development. Community Frameworks is Spokane's local chartered member of the NeighborWorks network. By participating in National NeighborWorks week, you are joining with volunteers at 235 organizations throughout the United States who are beautifying their communities and meeting their neighbors.

Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, quality and affordable home.

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