

# Alger Heights

COLLABORATIVE

## July 2015 - Community Coordinator Update

Hello, this is the first quarterly installment of the Community Coordinator update. The purpose of this update is to let you know what I've been working on over the last few months. This newsletter will also let you know of upcoming events and how you can be involved in your community.

In January, the Alger Heights Collaborative hosted a 'Good Neighbor Training'. In the training, neighbors were encouraged to list qualities of being a good neighbor and think about how we might better fulfill this role of being a good neighbor. Approximately 20 neighbors attended the training. Neighbors were also encouraged to let me know how they would like to be involved in the neighborhood. I followed up with residents and connected them to activities and groups that aligned with their area of interest.

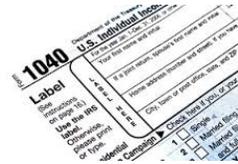


From that meeting in January, I was able to connect with four neighbors that were interested in helping to plan a Kick-off to Summer BBQ. Those four neighbors along with two others and myself planned a potluck in June that had over 100 people in attendance. We had two planning meetings and we all did our part to invite neighbors and get the word out. Each person contributed different ideas, talents and materials to the event. Despite a few hiccups during the evening it was an overall success that a lot of neighbors were able to enjoy.

**Upcoming Events:** Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30pm – National Night Out at Alger Middle School

**Get Involved:** I am currently looking for neighbors who are interested in planning a perennial plant exchange in the fall and/or a neighborhood history night where neighbors can come and share photos and stories about the neighborhood from the past. Please contact me if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

Earlier this year the Alger Heights Collaborative partnered with Garfield Park Neighborhood Association to bring a volunteer tax preparation site to the neighborhood. At Seymour CRC on Tuesday evenings in February, March and April, low to moderate income families could schedule an appointment to have their taxes prepared for free. Over 57 tax returns were prepared by neighborhood volunteers.



A small group of teens from Seymour CRC and Alger Park CRC will be working as Roving Listeners and will be conducting interviews in the neighborhood this summer. The purpose of these roving listeners is to engage young people in the process of collecting data from neighbors through the interview process. This will enable the Collaborative to continue its work of collecting information and meeting with neighbors. The interviewed residents will be highlighted with a display in the neighborhood at both Seymour Library and the Kroc Center, allowing others to see the gifts, talents and passions of their neighbors. The resident profiles will be on display in the fall.



On a rainy Saturday morning in May over 20 volunteers weeded, planted and mulched in the business district. With all volunteers hard at work we finished in less than an hour.

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