



UNC CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Action Research Project (CHARP)

CHARP Shout
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Enderly Park welcomes spring with several exciting events

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CHARP announces new neighborhood partner in Cabarrus County

Community activist Ken Reardon to visit CHARP and UNC Charlotte in April

Cultivate Food Forum: A success story of exemplary partnerships

On February 23rd, CHARP hosted the Cultivate Food Forum in partnership with WTVI, Chipotle and UNC Charlotte Urban Educators for Change. Residents from four CHARP neighborhoods participated in the event that was held at the WTVI station, Charlotte's local PBS channel. The student group Urban Educators for Change provided a healthy eating program for youth and childcare for attendees to enable widespread participation. Representatives from Chipotle not only supplied burritos with fresh ingredients for dinner to the 66 total participants, but also discussed what it means to serve "food with integrity." Whenever possible, Chipotle sources food locally and uses antibiotic and hormone free animal products to insure the freshest, healthiest ingredients.

(continued)



The student group Urban Educators for Change provided a youth program and childcare for the Cultivate Food Forum

The food forum evolved conceptually through AmeriCorps Pamela Pate's VISTA work plan that dictates that a major portion of her service at UNC Charlotte must focus on issues surrounding food security and the people that are adversely impacted by the absence of food security. The Windy Ridge neighborhood in west Charlotte, like many of CHARP's partner neighborhoods, where Pam is a CHARP liaison, is defined as a food desert, meaning that residents have little access to fresh healthy foods. Pam developed the food forum in response to this situation and identified the following three objectives to help guide the planning process for the food forum: 1) to bring residents

“For six weeks we worked together as a team to develop the food forum.”

--Pamela Pate, Organizer for the Cultivate Food Forum

out of their neighborhoods and into the larger community; 2) to provide residents with an opportunity to meet other Charlotte residents that are facing similar food security challenges; and 3) to celebrate the residents while learning more about healthy eating and what Charlotte has to offer.

Pam had the good fortune of meeting Beverly Dorn-Steele at a Crossroads Charlotte event when they were assigned to a group together. Beverly is the Community Outreach and Education Coordinator for WTVI. Shortly after that first encounter, Pam, who has a background in television, setup a meeting with Beverly to discuss how they could make the food forum into a larger event.

Working closely with Windy Ridge HOA residents, undergraduate students from Dr. Janni Sorensen's Social Inequality and Planning class, Pam was able to leverage additional internal and external resources to make the food forum an outstanding success. For six weeks everyone worked together as a team to develop the food

forum concept. CHARP liaisons also contributed to the success of the event and performed outreach in their respective communities resulting in a well-attended event.

Also present at the event was Dr. Elizabeth Racine, from UNC Charlotte, who presented her research on food deserts in Charlotte. The evening also included break-out sessions that allowed participants to network with residents from other neighborhoods while discussing the food security issues they face.

Thanks to WTVI, all food forum attendees received copies of the Sesame Street DVD, *Food for Thought*. CHARP also provided an assortment of kitchenware that was given away as prizes. Children received exciting grab bags, a children's cookbook and a variety of healthy snacks. The success of this event is a precedent for CHARP to continue! Thanks to all of those that helped.

--Tara Bingle and Pamela Pate



Enderly Park youth welcome spring with an Easter egg hunt

Enderly Park

The Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 31, 2012 at the Bette Rae Thomas Center was very successful. Around 100 members of the community came out to have some fun. The event featured egg painting, face painting, a sketch artist, and an air-filled jumping gym. Kids got plenty of eggs and baskets during the outdoor Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny made an appearance and had children and adults doing the Bunny Hop. The CMPD came through with their Carolina Dog mascot to promote Operation Medicine Drop where participants were encouraged to bring unused medicine from their homes to prevent substance abuse. CHARP donated food and there was plenty for everyone.

Construction of the Enderly Park Community Garden is now underway. The Garden is located behind the Bette Rae Thomas center and features a variety of vegetables and herbs. The community garden was started with funding from the Foundation for the Carolinas Front Porch Grant.

The Enderly Park Neighborhood Association meeting was held at the Bette Rae Thomas Center on Monday April 2, 2012 at 6pm. Increasing membership in the association and the Power2 Live Green Grant award were the main areas of focus. Energy Efficient Motion Sensor Floodlights will be given to members of the community to help reduce energy costs and improve neighborhood security as a result of the grant award.

The Enderly Park Neighborhood Cleanup will be held on April 28, 2012 as a part of the Keep America Beautiful: Great American Cleanup.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods meeting was held at the Bette Rae Thomas Center on Thursday April 5, 2012 at 6pm. District #3 Councilwoman LaWana Mayfield was the guest speaker.

The Enderly Park Neighborhood Cleanup will be held on April 28, 2012 as a part of the Keep America Beautiful: Great American Cleanup.

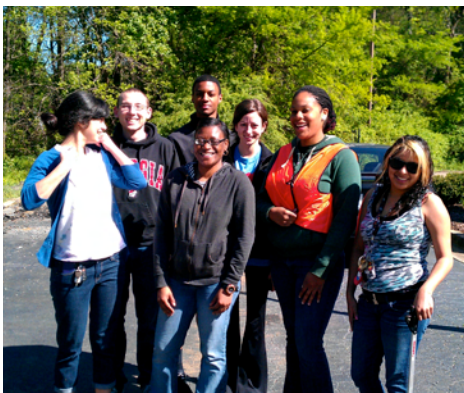
--Jabari Adams

Farm Pond

There are some exciting events that recently took place or will be taking place in Farm Pond. There was an Easter event on April 7th, the neighborhood yard sale and a Crime Watch meeting will be held on the 21st of April, and the International Festival will take place on April 29th. Additionally, Farm Pond will be participating in the Great American Clean up at the end of April, on the 28th. The International Festival, as well as the other events, will serve as steps to reaching the goals of increasing resident participation and strengthening the Farm Pond community.

The monthly neighborhood meetings will begin to shift focus toward Crime Watch and organizing residents to become more actively engaged. Keeping the neighborhood safe is a goal for both residents and CMPD; therefore, CMPD is excited to partner and assist with providing safety information and resources to Farm Pond residents.

--Sheree Harper



Reid Park

Spring has blossomed in Reid Park and exciting things are occurring. First, Reid Park has been selected to receive a KaBOOM! Playground. KaBOOM! works with funders and communities to create play spaces in communities that are lacking adequate recreation space for children. One benefit of the KaBOOM! model is that the community plans, designs, and with the help of community and funder volunteers, builds the playground itself. The build day for the playground is October 13, 2012.

The neighborhood association is currently focused on coordinating outreach and fundraising efforts for KaBOOM! and also on increasing neighborhood participation. Also, the community is engaged in extensive beautification projects. Many wooded areas in Reid Park have been affected by illegal dumping of waste from outsiders but, recently, neighborhood residents have responded by reclaiming their space through two major cleanup events. The second illegal dumping cleanup will be on April 28, 2012 and will coincide with the Great American Cleanup.

The neighborhood association is also in the process of closing out their grant. The new lawn grant funds have arrived, and now the fun begins as we reach out to those in the community who need yard

work completed.

--Artie Pryer

Windy Ridge

We've had a productive and successful winter in Windy Ridge that culminated in the Cultivate Food Forum. I delegated small tasks to the undergraduate students to support the planning of the event and I am very proud of their efforts up to and during the food forum. The students met weekly and partnered with the residents to make informative event flyers and get the word out about the Food Forum. The event was a community-building initiative! I cannot say enough about the level of teamwork that was displayed during this event.

Going forward, the team and I are planning a Windy Ridge Neighbor to Neighbors Day on Saturday, April 28th. This event was developed in response to residents wanting a more direct form of community engagement. So again through meetings, calls and flyers we are getting the word out about the event, which will include a door-to-door walk through the neighborhood with UNC Charlotte students along with representatives from local police, fire, city, code enforcement and Habitat for Humanity.

I am pleased that we have developed welcome information

packets to be handed out to all residents. And it's my hope that these tools will help them further unite on behalf of their community. It will also help new residents identify resources available to the community while encouraging them to become involved in their neighborhood.

--Pamela Pate

Logan

The CHARP team is pleased to announce their new partnership with the Logan community of Concord. This is our first neighborhood outside of Charlotte and is reflective of our commitment to the advancement of social justice throughout the region.

Following a meeting with neighborhood stakeholders on Monday, March 26, CHARP was welcomed into the community by Neighborhood Association President, Margie Smith. Logan has a strong presence in the Concord community and the neighborhood association has worked diligently over the past several years to strengthen their relationship with the City of Concord.

There is a remarkable amount of energy present in the Logan community and I look forward to working with the various groups

already active in the community.

--Tara Bengle

Graham Heights

The home energy audits have begun and the Spring Festival is coming together in Graham Heights. The City of Charlotte's Power 2 Live Green Grant will provide the residents of Graham Heights with up to 40 free home energy audits and energy-saving home improvements. EnergyWise Solutions led by Kevin Gedney with his service tech Kevin Smith have been performing the audits throughout March and April.

Plans are coming together for the Spring Festival Block Party. Graham Heights is pursuing a Crossroads Charlotte A.C.T. Grant to help fund the Spring Festival in order to bring families and people of all ages and races together for a Saturday of food, fellowship, and fun. Local bands and step groups are being tapped to provide entertainment for the event. As a part of the Power2 Live Green Grant, two refrigerators and two clothes washers will be raffled off at the Spring Festival. Graham Heights hopes to make this spring celebration a big hit and use it as a springboard to bring the neighborhood together.

--Joe Howarth

CHARP is pleased to announce the forthcoming visit of Community Activist Ken Reardon

Ken Reardon, professor and director of the graduate program in city and regional planning at the University of Memphis, will give a presentation titled "Promoting Transformational Change in South Memphis: Lessons from the South Memphis University/Community Partnership". The event will be held in room 208 of the Cone Center at UNC Charlotte and is scheduled to begin at 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 26th.

Ken will also be joining CHARP, along with our neighborhood partners, for a community forum on Friday, April 27th at the UNC Charlotte Center City Building in uptown. The purpose of this event is to evaluate the efficacy of CHARP's work in Charlotte.



Figure 1 Ken Reardon

Upcoming Events

04.02

7:00 PM Enderly Park Neighborhood Association Meeting | Bette Rae Thomas Center | 2921 Tuckaseegee Rd.

7:00 PM Graham Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting | Walls Memorial AME Zion | 2722 Bancroft St.

04.07

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Farm Pond Easter Celebration | Eagle Woods Apartment Clubhouse | 6110 Forest Glen Rd.

04.10

6:00 PM Reid Park Neighborhood Association Meeting | West Charlotte Church of God | 2945 Ross Ave.

04.13

10:00 AM Logan Community Clean-Up | Housing Administration Center | 283 Harold Goodman Circle in Concord

04.19

9:00 – 11:30 AM Learning Network Meeting | Revolution Sports Academy | 1225 Remount Rd.

7:00 PM Windy Ridge NHA Meeting | New Zion Baptist Church | 217 W. Todd Lane

04.21

11:30 AM Farm Pond Crime Watch Meeting | Eagle Woods Apartment Clubhouse | 6110 Forest Glen Rd.
Farm Pond Yard Sale

04.26

2:00 PM Ken Reardon Campus Talk "Promoting Transformational Change in South Memphis: Lessons from the South Memphis University/Community Partnership" | UNC Charlotte Cone Center Room 208

04.27

11:00 AM – 1:00 pm Ken Reardon Community Forum | UNC Charlotte Center City Building | 320 E. 9th St.

04.28

10:00 AM Great American Cleanup events in Graham Heights, Enderly Park, Reid Park, and Farm Pond (9:30 AM – 11:00 AM)

10:00 AM "Neighbor to Neighbor" | Windy Ridge | location TBA

04.29

1:00 PM Farm Pond International Festival | Eagle Woods Clubhouse | 6110 Forest Glen Rd.

05.07

7:00 PM Enderly Park Neighborhood Association Meeting | Bette Rae Thomas Center | 2921 Tuckaseegee Rd.

7:00 PM Graham Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting | Walls Memorial AME Zion | 2722 Bancroft St.

05.08

6:00 PM Reid Park Neighborhood Association Meeting | West Charlotte Church of God | 2945 Ross Ave.

05.17

7:00 PM Windy Ridge NHA Meeting | New Zion Baptist Church | 217 W. Todd Lane

05.19

11:30 AM Farm Pond Crime Watch Meeting | Eagle Woods Apartment Clubhouse | 6110 Forest Glen Rd.

2:00 – 6:00 PM Graham Heights Spring Festival | Ennis St. between Dogwood Ave. and Grimes St.

12:00 PM KaBOOM! Cookout in Reid Park | Amay James Recreation Center | 2425 Lester St.

06.02

12:00 – 6:00 PM Logan Community Spring Festival | Marvin Caldwell Park | 362 Georgia St. SW