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Learn about Community Engagement Training, opportunity for community members to win high-efficiency furnace, Paul McKee forum, and more.



St. Louis Association of
Community Organizations

EVENTS AND NEWS

January 13, 2014, #05

PREPARE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR COMMUNITY MEETINGS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

2:30-4:30 pm, UMSL at Grand Center

The Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis is running a workshop on how to carry out constructive community engagement that involves data. This workshop is designed in partnership with UMSL, Rise, and Urban Strategies. The training will begin at 2:30pm on Tuesday January 28th, at UMSL at Grand Center, 3651 Olive. Among other topics, it will cover:

- How to plan and prepare for a community engagement meeting,
- Engagement techniques and strategies to provide all meeting attendees different avenues to voice their thoughts,
- How to determine what information or data would be important to have for residents at meetings on different topics, and
- How to present and talk about data in an easily understandable way.

At 4:00pm an optional half hour session focused on how to engage and prepare residents to participate in the City of St. Louis' Consolidated Planning Process will begin. This community engagement workshop is aimed at CBN and SLACO members along with government officials.

In the fall, the annual discussion unfolded about how federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars to the City of St. Louis would be spent. Federal regulators insisted that the City change its method of deciding where the dollars would be spent. In a nutshell, the change can be described as moving away from the tradition of Aldermen deciding how CDBG money would be spent within the ward, and toward a City-wide competition.

The entire experience has led many interested parties in the City to want to increase participation at the grassroots level. The Consolidated Plan should have considerable influence over how millions of dollars are spent over the next five years, so make sure your neighborhood is well represented.

To register for the January 28 sessions, click [here](#). Registration deadline is January 21, 2014.

Welcome New Member

SLACO welcomes Lindenwood Park Neighborhood Association as its latest member. We can accomplish our goals only through a robust membership base of most neighborhoods in the City and surrounding parts of the metropolitan area. Join us today; call 314-361-9406 to learn about membership benefits for neighborhood associations.

Win a Little Cash for Your Group, Help a Neighbor

In conjunction with an Energy Efficient Housing Contest sponsored by St. Louis Association of REALTORS and Housing and Community Solutions, Inc., neighborhood associations have an opportunity to win \$200 if the winning entry in a drawing for a free high-efficiency furnace (with installation) specifies their organization.

So ask your members to sign up by February 15. At www.energyefficienthousingstl.org, residents should click the link near the bottom of the home page and sign up for the mailing list. This will enter them into the drawing.

Incidentally, the public is invited to the award ceremony for the contest itself, as well as a display of contest winners. This event will be held on Thursday, January 30, at 7 p.m.



A great audience (above) gathered at Vashon High School on December 4 to hear Paul McKee, lead developer of the NorthSide Regeneration project, make a presentation about this proposed massive project. Construction will begin this year. The development will occur in an irregularly shaped large area east of Grand and north of I-64.

The best part of this SLACO All-Neighborhoods Forum was that we were able to ask audience questions for 45 minutes. Neighbors asked everything from what is TIF (tax increment financing) to detailed questions about the structure of the particular TIF arrangement that has been approved for NorthSide Regeneration.

at Steinberg Hall, Washington University.

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