



Mission Statement: To protect and preserve the East Central Neighborhood and its quality of life through planning, visionary leadership, accountability, and neighborhood volunteers working with City of Spokane departments, agencies, and neighbors for the benefit of current and future residents with the aid and assistance of Community Development Grants and other funding sources.

## **2009 Neighborhood Report**

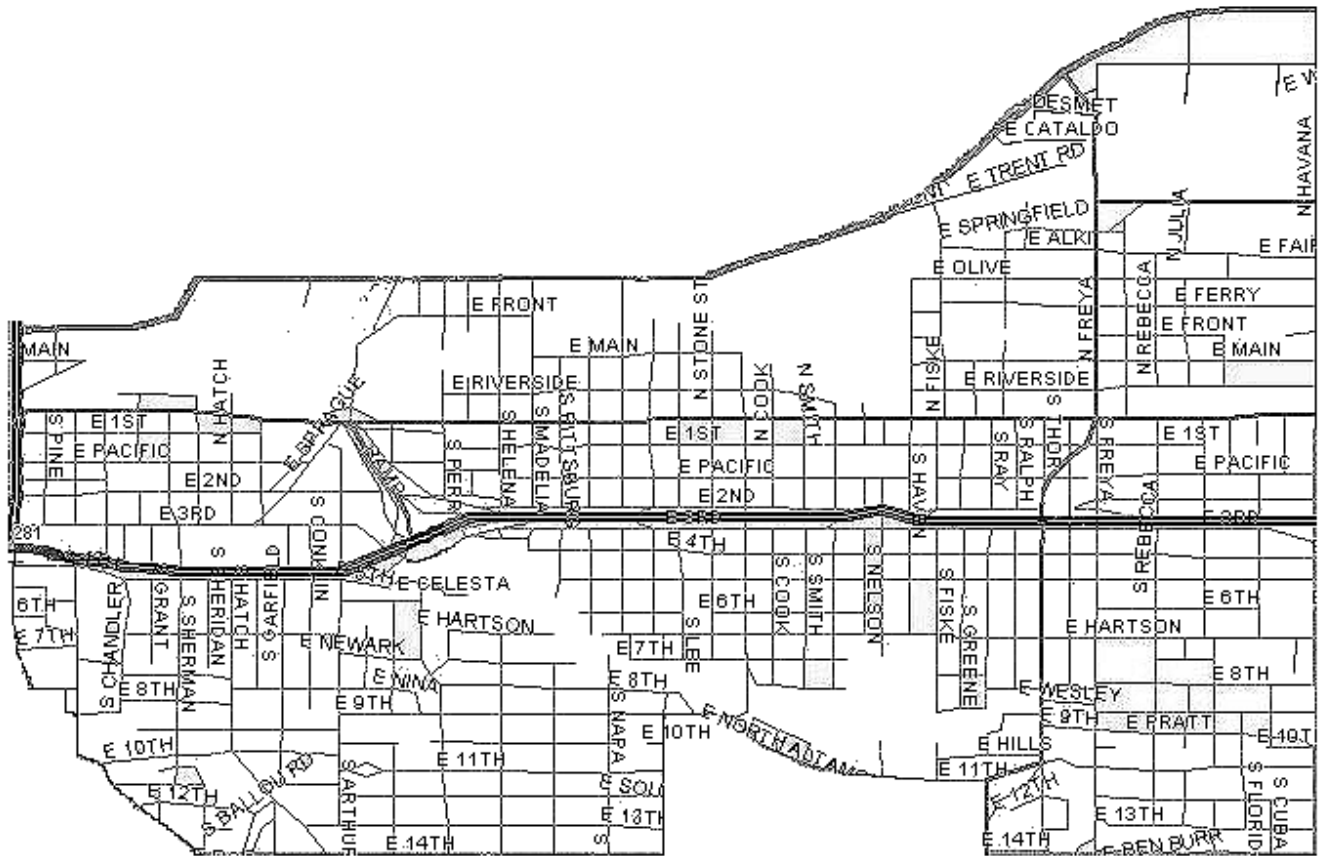
**East Central Neighborhood  
December 2008**

TO: City of Spokane Community Development Board

FROM: Joy Hart, Steering Committee Chair  
Jim Hanley, Steering Committee Vice Chair  
Doug Schroeder, Treasurer  
Lois Irwin; Secretary  
Angie Dirscherl, CDNC

SUBJECT: East Central Neighborhood Steering Committee recommendations for the expenditure of Community Development Funds.

Boundaries: North: Trent and River      East: Havana  
South: 10th - 14<sup>th</sup>      West: Division



## **East Central 2008-2009**

The purpose of this report is to summarize the East Central Steering Committee's accomplishments in 2008 and articulate its allocations for 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Since 1975, the East Central Neighborhood has been a Community Development Neighborhood. Through the CDBG program, the Steering Committee has recommended allocations that have benefited the neighborhood and its low to moderate-income residents. This effort will be continue in 2009.

## **The Steering Committee**

The East Central Steering Committee met eleven times throughout 2008, the third Tuesday of every month except August. Prior to each of these meetings, the committee provided notice to residents by mail, and use of website. The committee mailed agendas and previous meeting minutes to approximately 65 neighborhood residents, property owners, and businesses.

Over the past several years of neighborhood planning, we surveyed members at neighborhood meetings, this year we mailed a newsletter to more than 5,000 neighborhood households and businesses seeking awareness and involvement in decision-making for CDBG funds, and met with East Spokane Business Association to get a better idea of the greater needs in the neighborhood. This resident and business involvement guided the expenditure and allocation of CDBG funds and search for other funds through miscellaneous grants.

East Sprague is working with Impact Capital and SNAP for improvement of the Keystone International District. Impact Capital will be working towards designing sustainable projects in the areas of property development, community development, and business growth with the goal of East Spokane becoming a "Main Street" entity and assisting with organizing a Business Improvement District (BID). The program will officially begin January 1, 2009. SNAP announced that they have received a 3-year grant to identify and develop sustainable and "green" businesses in three areas of Spokane. The East Spokane area is one of the areas selected for a 1-year program. Their plan is to hire an employee for the district to administer the program while working closely with the Impact Capital folks.

## **East Central Neighborhood Priorities ACTION PLAN for 2009**

The east Central Neighborhood Steering Committee/Council reviewed 55 goal statements from the East Central Neighborhood Plan (adopted by City Council resolution) and established an updated priority action plan for 2008. These draft priorities will continue to be refined by seeking additional neighborhood input on an ongoing basis, but as of December, 2008 priorities for City support and action are:

### **TOP PRIORITY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

- Develop Playfair for private sector use, including planning for re-development of underutilized properties between RR tracks and East Sprague. Establish a right of way for Bike/Pedestrian traffic at Playfair site that will not interfere with the commercial development of Playfair.
- Continue revitalization of Keystone, South Perry, and Thor/Freya business districts in East Central.
- Foster business development through.

- a. Facade improvements
  - b. Streetscapes
  - c. Traffic planning in East Central's commercial areas and Centers and Corridors.
  - d. Development of both the Arts District and the International business theme.
- Continuation of 5<sup>th</sup> as the major East Central east-west arterial south of the freeway to City Limits.
- Grant Street bike and pedestrian bridge from University District to East Sprague.

**SECOND PRIORITY: HUMAN SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

- Continue funding for East Central Programs
  - a. COP Shop
  - b. Neighborhood Clean up.
  - c. Increase resident participation in ECCO board Senior Housing, COPs and Blockwatch programs.
  - d. Support development of Community Gardens in East Central Neighborhood

**THIRD PRIORITY: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.**

- Encourage green buildings
- Community conservation of water and re-usable items (recycling).
- Protect and enhance neighborhood parks, urban forest, and natural habitat
- Link Ben Burr Trail, Underhill and Liberty Parks.
- Partner with the Parks Department to showcase the Liberty Ruins.
- Promote pedestrian and bicycle routes, with emphasis on traffic signs and street painting for turning lanes and pedestrian crosswalks at key locations by parks, schools, and in business corridors.
- Continue close monitoring of I-90 expansion so that adjacent residential and business areas are enhanced.

**2008 Accomplishments**

The neighborhood used its 2008 CDBG allocations for several projects, including sidewalk paving, housing rehabilitation and public service programs. The neighborhood completed a Traffic Calming Project and street beautification project on East Sprague and completed phase 2 of South Perry.

The Steering Committee also partnered with the Community Development Department for the completion of a Senior Living Facility connected to the East Central Community Center Campus. The Neighborhood along with the Community Development Department selected Kiemle-Hagood to be the developer; East Central Community Organization (ECCO) was the 501 © 3 sponsor for the development; Zech-Butler the architect; and KOP Construction the contractor. And in September we celebrated the opening of the 25 unit Senior Housing project.

In addition to these Community Development activities, the Steering Committee and neighborhood accomplished several other projects. The neighborhood and Eastern Washington University continues to collaborate regarding park planning and business development studies. These accomplishments represent the Steering Committee efforts to improve the neighborhood and these plans will help to guide future CDBG expenditures.

East Central looks forward to work on the Underhill Community Garden; is proud to have One World Spokane in its neighborhood; planning a tour to showcase neighborhood for May 2009 NUSA conference; continued collaboration with city departments on

neighborhood cleanup; East Central SC/NC is an active funding partner for the regional Smart Routes federal grant proposal.

We appreciate the support and guidance offered to us by city staffing for East Sprague Corridor planning and the completion of new ECCO garage which resulted in freeing up space for social programs.

**2009 Allocations:** See attached table.

### **East Central Neighborhood Steering Committee/Council**

Meeting Place: East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone

Meeting Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (no August meeting)

Meeting Time: 6:45 p.m.

#### **Officers 2008**

Chair-Joy Hart

Vice Chair-Jim Hanley

Secretary-Chris Green / Lois Irwin

Treasurer-Doug Schroeder

CDNC-Chris Green/Angie Dirscherl

CA Rep- Jim Hanley CA Alternate - Lois D'Wert

#### **Officers 2009**

Chair – Joy Hart

Vice Chair – Keith Raschko

Secretary – Lois Irwin

Treasurer – Doug Schroeder

CDNC – Angie Dirscherl

Community Assembly Rep – Keith Raschko CA alternated - Jim Hanley

### **East Central Neighborhood Current Voting (\*) & Non -Voting Members**

*Al Bibbens	*Doug Schroeder	Diane Jackson
*Toni Butler	*Carole Shook	Carolyn Jacobs
*Judith Campbell	*Mel Silva	Bruce Katahira
*Dave Clack	*Penny Sjodin	Rhoretta Rhoades
*Lois D'Ewart	*Rick Sjodin	Jon Snyder
*Angie Dirscherl	*Darrel Smith	Dan Strassenberg NRO
*Joy Hart	*Larry Stuckart	Lt. Toomes
*Jim Hanley	*Craig Sweat	Dick Winchell
*Maxine Howard	*Frank Tobie	Skyler York
*Lois Irwin	*Victoria Vogt	
*Sue LaRue	John Bowen	
*Diane Lennard	Daun Douglas	
*Bob Mauk	Vernon Doyl	
*Jerry Numbers	Scott Emerson	
*Jan Raschko	Bruce Gates	
*Keith Raschko	Spencer Grainger	