

City of Champaign STAR Nomination Form : Entry # 1705

Nominees Information

United Garden Hills Association

Nominees Address

c/o AmyRevilla, President
Champaign, Illinois 61821
United States
[Map It](#)

Nominees Phone

(217) [REDACTED]

Nominees Email

[REDACTED]

Nominator's Information

[REDACTED]

Nominator's Address

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
United States
[REDACTED]

Nominator's Phone

[REDACTED]

Nominator's Email

[REDACTED]

I would like to nominate the above nominee for the following award (NOTE: only one category per nomination form):

Neighborhood of the Year (only category you can self-nominate)

Narrative

Please see the attached document for my formal nomination of the United Garden Hills Neighborhood Association for "Neighborhood of the Year."

Attachments

[STARnominee2012.docx](#)



To: STAR Leadership Nomination Committee

From: 

Date: February 25, 2013

Re: Neighborhood of the Year Nominee – United Garden Hills Neighborhood Association

I would like to formally nominate the United Garden Hills Neighborhood Association for “Neighborhood of the Year.” 

 I have worked intimately with members of this community over the past year. The dedication and tireless effort of the group’s Executive Team to improve the neighborhood, and improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents is commendable, and deserves recognition.

In my opinion, the United Garden Hills Neighborhood Group is the most organized and most involved neighborhood group in the City of Champaign. The group’s Executive Team meets at the beginning of the month during a “steering committee” meeting, which is frequently attended by city officials and community organizations. These meetings attempt to identify, and implement methods which benefit and improve the neighborhood and its residents.

A second meeting is offered monthly, which is attended by numerous neighborhood residents. The focus of the second meeting is to inform residents of things or issues happening in their neighborhood, and provide information, services or material which makes their homes more energy efficient and safe. Guest speakers at these meetings have presented topics such as; how to improve the efficiency of a furnace or home, crime prevention, fire safety, and domestic violence prevention, to name just a few.

The focus of the second meeting is always on the residents, and there is always a discussion about how the neighborhood can improve the quality of life for others in the neighborhood. The residents cherish and value “their” neighborhood, and look to “take care” of its residents, as well as find opportunities to improve the neighborhood’s appearance. The neighborhood has passed out energy efficient light bulbs, lawn clean up bags, organized a “trash pick-up” day to clean up a heavily traveled street that was littered with trash, and solicited a waste removal company that could provide better services for its residents

Neighborhood residents continue to work diligently to make their community not only better, but safer. By using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) methods, it helps make their homes less attractive to criminals, and by working with the police, the Garden Hills Neighborhood has seen a 16% reduction in crime over the past year, a trend that has continued for 4 consecutive years.

The neighborhood also works cooperatively with local community organizations and city departments such as Neighborhood Services, Code Enforcement and the Police Department. An excellent example of this interaction can be found from the City of Champaign's Website dated February 23, 2012:

"The Neighborhood Services Department, in partnership with United Garden Hills Neighborhood Association, are working together to develop a neighborhood improvement plan to address ongoing challenges impacting neighborhood livability. The plan will outline short, medium, and long term goals in key areas such as housing, public safety, public works, infrastructure and parks and open space.

The first component to be addressed is housing with a strategy designed to immediately impact housing and nuisance issues within the Garden Hills Neighborhood via stepped up code enforcement; increased community education concerning rules, regulations, and resources, and a pro active effort to work with the neighborhood organization to promote home ownership.

The plan will be comprehensive in its approach and therefore will require coordination with various departments and intergovernmental partners. Neighborhood Coordination will facilitate the engagement between these stakeholders and the neighborhood group over the next several months."

The Garden Hills neighborhood is diverse, both in age and race. The neighborhood embraces this, and looks for opportunities that benefit everyone in the neighborhood. The neighborhood continues to look for opportunities to increase participation throughout the Garden Hills area. In July of 2012, residents of Garden Hills participated in the "Walk as One" event, which distributed informative literature to residents, but neighborhood group leaders also seized this opportunity to invite other residents to the monthly meetings.

In closing, the Garden Hills Neighborhood is an established fixture in Northwest Champaign. Its residents take great pride in their neighborhood, and work diligently to improve the appearance of the neighborhood, while constantly trying to find services, products, or information that is beneficial to the neighborhood. It is tirelessly represented not only by its residents, but also by the Executive Team which spends countless time preparing meetings, events, and serving as a point of contact for city representatives, as evidenced by their support for the newly instituted Vacant Structure Ordinance.

The Garden Hills residents are driven, and sacrifice personal time, money and sweat to improve their neighborhood. This neighborhood is extremely committed to re-vitalizing this section of Champaign, and has demonstrated a long standing commitment to the improvement of the Garden Hills neighborhood, and an improved quality of life for residents that reside in northwest Champaign.

City of Champaign STAR Nomination Form : Entry # 1696

Nominees Information

United Garden Hills Neighborhood Association

Nominees Address

Garden Hills
Champaign, Illinois 61821
United States
[Map It](#)

Nominator's Information

[Redacted]

Nominator's Address

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
United States
[Redacted]

Nominator's Phone

[Redacted]

I would like to nominate the above nominee for the following award (NOTE: only one category per nomination form):

Neighborhood of the Year (only category you can self-nominate)

Narrative

I nominate UGHNA because of the hard work they do year round for the neighborhood as well as the residents in Garden Hills. They have been instrumental in the planning and implementing of the new park near the newly remodeled school, of which they also had a hand in some of the pulling together of the neighbors to get on board for the remodel as well as keeping everyone up to date on construction and deadlines.

They have gathered neighbors together and started a program called Clean and Green which meet the 2nd Saturday of the month and walk one or two streets, weather depending, and pick up garbage. There has been a lot of feed back on this activity. They also worked with a group of kids from the U of I to do a much larger clean up of Garden Hills.

They participated in the "Walk as one" program wear they took to the streets passing out important City wide information that could be helpful to the residents of Garden Hills.

UGHNA is always encouraging people to come together, which has involved several street holding block parties at different times of the year.

They also hold neighborhood meetings each month to bring any information that they think that our neighbors can use as well as beneficial updates whether it be from the Champaign Police dept. or Neighborhood Service also giving neighbors a chance to voice their concerns!

They have also been instrumental in getting the sidewalks on Paula as well as extra lighting in areas where is was needed.

I think that this Neighborhood group will be a strong force in uniting the neighbors of Garden Hills and deserve to receive Neighborhood of the year!

Attachments

[Walk-as-one.jpg](#)

[Garden-Hills-School.jpg](#)

[Garden-Hills.jpg](#)

[sidewalk-ribbon-cutting.jpg](#)

[4TH-ANNUAL-BLOCK-PARTY.docx](#)

5th ANNUAL
ANITA DR.
BLOCK PARTY

Street will be blocked off at 1:00 p.m.

Please advise any guest that you may have visit that they will have to move the barricade and put them back.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided as well as plates, silverware, cups, and condiments (ketchup, mustard, pickles and mayo)

Please bring a dish to pass and your drink of choice.

Cooking will start at 5:00 p.m. Music will also be provided.







