

Locals unite to improve neighborhoods

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DANVILLE – Old Soldiers Home Neighborhood Association president Damara Joyner said the approach is important in talking to residents and uniting neighborhoods to work together to combat drugs and crime.

A second event with JAC Property Management hopes to do more of that by uniting people in neighborhoods. The community service event will be 1-4 p.m. Sunday in the Camaro Drive neighborhood on the city's east side, north of Fairchild Street and east of Moore and Shasta streets and west of Michigan Avenue.

“It’s a rough area,” Joyner said. She and JAC Property Management are hosting the event.

There will be food and other information and displays set up on a table to make contact with people, according to Joyner.

Joyner said JAC believes “if you live better, you do better.”

Also expected to attend the event are Pastor Frank McCullough, NACCP Danville Branch President Ed Butler, Mayor Scott Eisenhauer and Ward 3 Alderwoman Sherry Pickering. The Danville Police Department also will participate, Joyner said, adding that some items, including book bags, have been donated.

This east side neighborhood association includes the areas of Utah, Cleveland, Delaware and Tennessee streets. Several break-ins to vehicles last year prompted neighbors to develop the group and a neighborhood watch.

In September, JAC Property Management provided hot dogs and hamburgers for an Old Soldiers Home Neighborhood Association cookout. There was a good turnout for that neighborhood cookout, which also featured children’s activities.

Joyner, who runs a day care and has worked with the homeless, a summer camp and others in the community for about a decade, said this second event with JAC Property Management also is to give back to the community and “take our neighborhoods back.”

According to Michaeleana Lowery, leasing coordinator with JAC Property Management, JAC manages five of six homes on Camaro Drive and another one at Deerwood and Camaro. They’ve been trying to get together with other city officials to improve the neighborhood.

Citizens have said the neighborhood is challenging due to gun violence, drugs, gang violence and other neighborhood nuisances.

“JAC would like to get our community together to show them that it does not have to be this way. We as a community can pull together and make all parts of Danville desirable to live in. Danville is a great place,” a letter from JAC Property Management reads to residents.

“We want our young people to want to stay and help the community flourish in the future. We need your help to pull together and help be the glue that puts this amazing neighborhood back together,” JAC states.

Joyner said they will continue to have neighborhood events throughout the city to improve it one neighborhood at a time.

Other areas to see events in the future will include Alexander, Bowman, Beard, Columbus, Cleveland, Crawford, Edwards, Griffin, Virginia, Kentucky, Grace, State, Lake, Griggs, Seminary, East Williams, East Fairchild, James, Koehn, Edgewood, Commercial, South, Franklin, Martin, Grant and Holiday Hills.

Joyner said “this can be done. I think it’s going to be really big.”

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