



Spring at City Sprouts

www.omahasprouts.org

April 2009-June 2009 Newsletter of City Sprouts Inc, in Orchard Hill
Neighborhood, Omaha

"A garden is a friend you can visit any time"

VOLUME II, NUMBER IX

Garden Season opening May 2, 2009

Come celebrate 2009 garden season opening on Saturday May 2nd from 10:00am-1:00pm. Meet fellow gardeners, neighbors and volunteers. This season, we have 10 community beds and 35 beds assigned to individuals, families, or groups. Community beds' produce will be donated to homeless shelters and community members. Produce planted in community beds mid-March include spinach, mustard, kale, peas and more. Numerous individual/family/group beds are also sprouting! Garden managers will be present to help with planting and plant care starting May 2nd and through the growing season, Saturday mornings, 10:00 am-1:00 pm, and Wednesday evenings, 5:30 pm to dusk. Gardeners with beds and those who would like to visit the garden are welcome on Saturdays or Wednesdays. Bring the kids & sign up and get their own garden bed. Volunteer to help with the community beds, kid's garden beds, landscape plants and trees. The kid's garden is **free!** There will be free food, free seeds, free plants and free fun on Saturday.

Sprouts Awards Winners

Ramey McNamara, Jacqueline Horani, and Michael Carmody are co-winners of City Sprouts' First Awesome Peach Awards for their parts in planning the spring festival with great collaborative spirit and enthusiasm. The Students, Volunteers and Mr. Larry Kaiser are co-recipients of City Sprouts' First Awesome (cont.)

City Sprouts Very Own at Big Mama's Kitchen



Nicole Giron, City Sprouts Board Chair with Mr. Givans, at City Sprouts Festival

Meet Raymond Givans. In the late 1990s, Libby Broekemeier was lead gardener at City Sprouts and running our program to help neighbors start gardens at their homes. Libby helped Mr. Givans to start his first backyard garden and worked with him three years, until he took off on his own. Now, Mr. Givans is successfully growing greens in two lots and selling them to Big Mama's Restaurant.

Sprouts Awards Winners (cont.)

Asparagus Award for Caring for the Health of Orchard Hill Neighborhood. Our neighbor Justin Schafner is the received City Sprouts First Awesome Carrot Award for serving whenever and wherever necessary. Congratulations to all our winners!

Spring at City Sprouts

First Annual Spring Festival Earth Day

The festival was a great opportunity for students from UNMC and UNO to get out of the classroom and get involved with Orchard Hill neighborhood and City Sprouts. There were over 120 attendees over the course of the day. Kids and adults had plenty to eat and drink and got their Faces got painted and the UNMC Mobile Nursing Van and students was there to check blood pressures.



Great Painting Job

City Sprout News

House News

Brief Notes & pictures

Education News

Brief notes & pictures

Caring for the Soil Bob Green & Amy Smith (Douglas County Extension Office)

Flowers or vegetables

Scott Farrington from Indian Creek Nursery provided helpful and useful education on selection of site, soil, size and items to plant in the garden. He also provided education on necessary soil nutrients, compost use, plant rotation and organic earth when to plant which vegetables. He also donated various seed packets.

House News

Work continues on remodeling the kitchen and living room to make for more education space. We hope to celebrate its completion about May 15th. Thanks to Jay especially and others for undertaking this big project. The new stairs out back are finished; Jay did it in a day!

Education News

Bob Green & Amy Smith (Douglas County Extension Office) presented a class April 18th on caring for the soil. They have left soil testing kits with us, if anyone is interested in using them (there is a fee for analysis, though).

Service Learning/Volunteer News

- UNO
- UNMC
- Seventh Day Adventists Church and or Students – about 45 students from around the nation – Los Angeles, St. Louis, Denver, Omaha, and other locations joined us for a day in remodeling the kitchen and education space; volunteers also leafleted the neighborhood and cleaned up the basement!
- Decatur
- Beekeeping
- Grants

Education & Event Calendar

City Sprouts Garden Season Opening at 10:00 am at City Sprouts

Community Garden Plant Sales on May 2nd & 3rd 8:00 at Lauritzen Gardens

Latino Gardening & Traditions on May 16th 11:00 am-12:30 pm at City Sprouts House

African-American Agriculture on June 6th 11:00 am-12:30 pm at City Sprouts House

Kids Garden Programs Saturdays May 23rd -August 7th 10:00 am-00 noon at City

Volunteer Opportunities

We need regular help in maintaining and watering the native plants surrounding the garden. If you like doing regular light work over a season, this is a great opportunity to help us maintain the beauty of the garden. If interested, please contact Jumoke at csgardening@gmail.com

We will begin soon to clean up the lots on Decatur Street for growing. If you want to be on the list to volunteer to clean up and clear the land, please contact Jeannie Dickes at 558-9031 or jeaninedickes@gmail.com

Farmer Omojola says, “Don't leave a rake on the ground with the head pointing upwards!”

New Grants Awarded

Orchard Hill Neighborhood and City Sprouts have just been awarded four neighborhood improvement grants. Two of the grants were awarded by Mayor Fahey's Neighborhood Improvement grants program. One, to City Sprouts, is to help complete the garden design we began in 2005. This will involve installing drip irrigation for water sustainability and better food production. Also, we will place several benches to make the space more inviting for neighbors.

The second Improvement grant is to establish a variety of shade trees along the 40th Street corridor to enhance visual appeal, reduce summertime temperatures, and encourage foot traffic.

We also received two additional tree planting grants, one from OPPD and the other from NRD (the Natural Resources District). Besides planting trees on 40th Street, we will be replacing trees on Seward St., and at the City Sprouts site.

As part of the grants commitment, we will be asking neighbors and volunteers to help maintain the trees with maintenance and watering. Jeannie Dickes will lead us in this effort. This will be a great way for neighbors to get outside together and do light work to beautify our neighborhood.

Grants Programs Available to Orchard Hill

Both renters and homeowners have new opportunities to obtain grants to help repair homes, weatherize them, and to replace windows and repair roofs. There are a number of such programs. Many of them are directed to low income households. For details, contact Neighborhood Advocate Jeannie Dickes at 558-9031 or jeaninedickes@gmail.com

Happy Mother's Day

Sprouts Garden Tips

1. Several layers of newspaper help control weeds. Just cover with soil, much or landscape stones. Need more tips?

(<http://www.tiphero.com/tips>)

2. <http://features.bhg.com/ways-gardening-can-help-you-through-a-recession.html>

Garden Lessons

1. Delayed gratification.

How many days before I can eat those tomatoes?

2. Play safe

Why did I leave that rake by my garden bed with the head pointing upwards?

3. Beauty is deceptive

Ouch! The rose thorns do hurt



Meet Our New City Sprouts Directors
Jumoke Omojola & Jeannie Dickes

Volunteer form?

Kid garden application form should be available on Saturday?

Share your neighborhood news. Submit articles for our quarterly newsletter at P.O. Box 31593, Omaha, NE 68131-05931 Please include your Name, phone number & email address . Contact Andy ajameton@unmc.edu or Jeanine jeaninedickes@gmail.com For more information about the newsletter