

**Hildreth Hill and the Arbors
host holiday events**

Hildreth Hill held its second Holiday Sing Along on December 2nd to complement the City Hall tree lighting and BID's downtown open house. Neighbors and downtown shoppers gathered inside the GNRC to warm up, sing Christmas carols, and get into the holiday spirit.

In the Arbors, neighbors gathered in Bennett Circle to decorate a new evergreen tree with solar lights, tinsel and bows and enjoy holiday treats.



**neighborhood-led park
improvements planned
for 2012**

Building on the success of resident-led improvements for Lafayette Circle Park, the Pride In Our Pocket Parks Campaign group selected Brook St. and Richards Parks for community improvements in 2012.

The group walked Brook St. Park on a chilly Saturday morning brainstorming possible improvements for a spring community clean-up. A group of HWS students also joined in the Brook St. Park tour as part of a course project. The HWS students presented ideas to the park group for art/graffiti columns to help keep basketballs from going into Castle Creek and plan to help with the clean-up.



2nd annual awards banquet

On November 5th, dozens of neighborhood organizers, engaged residents, and city leaders gathered at the Sons of Italy Lodge for the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Celebration. The Celebration is an event that honors the great work being done in the City's neighborhoods during the year.



At this year's event, the following awards were made:

Neighborhood Association of the Year: Castle Heights

In 2011, Castle Heights continued successful traditions such as the spring Bulk Mulch program and the annual summer picnic. But it was the development of Lafayette Circle as a true neighborhood gathering place that earned the neighborhood association its award. "The Circle" received brand new plantings, a bench, and the first sign bearing the neighborhood's homegrown logo and tag line.



Neighborhood Spirit Award: Steve Muzzi

Steve Muzzi of Bennett Street organized his neighbors in 2011 to clean up and improve Bennett Circle. Steve and his neighbors plan to adopt the circle and make it the centerpiece of their Arbors neighborhood.

Community Partnership Award: Washington Park

In mid-September, the Washington Park neighborhood association partnered with Hobart and William Smith Colleges in an event called Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Off-campus

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GNRC 2nd Annual Awards

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students and long-time neighborhood residents worked together to improve a handful of properties on Cortland Street and shared a barbecue lunch provided by the Colleges.

Most Transformational Project: Jim Skinner, 60 Madison St.

Local contractor Jim Skinner purchased a derelict house on Madison Street and went on to renovate it to a level of quality not often seen in Geneva. With great attention to detail and high quality finishes, Jim turned a neighborhood eyesore into a warm and inviting rental property that brought a wonderful young family to the Washington Park neighborhood.

Most Innovative Event: Hildreth Hill Pumpkin Roll

In late October, the Hildreth Hill neighborhood association held a pumpkin roll at Brook Street Park where dozens of kids and adults rolled and chased pumpkins down the closed-off street. Pumpkin bowling, jack'o'lantern carving, and cider and donuts rounded out the afternoon.

Most Transformational Neighborhood Challenge Project: Deanne McLellan-Tuck

Deanne McLellan-Tuck was a member of the Maple/Pleasant Streets group that participated in the 2011 Great Geneva Neighborhood Challenge. Deanne took the Challenge to heart and spent far more of her own time and money on exterior home improvements than most Challenge participants. The transformation of Deanne's home included fresh paint on her porch, totally new landscaping, and a hand-laid paver walkway.