

gnrc hosts open houses and welcomes walk-in traffic

A series of open houses provided community members, City Council members, advisory panel members, and city staff the opportunity to learn about GNRC resources and services.



Since opening day, residents have been visiting the GNRC. **Services and resources requested** during these visits include:

- * home improvements
- * financing options
- * Challenge information
- * design assistance
- * neighborhood issue assistance
- * volunteer opportunities
- * checking out the GNRC



A **Sense of Community Survey** is being completed by City residents over the next six months. This survey provides a benchmark for how residents feel about their neighborhood, current neighborhood activities, and neighbor interactions. The survey will be administered again in a few years, which will allow us to monitor changes in neighborhood pride and involvement.

In addition, a database of contractor services is being gathered through residents **rating their contractors**.

neighborhood associations move forward and organizers attend association training



NeighborWorks Rochester experts led a workshop for neighborhood organizers to share neighborhood association best practices, healthy blocks goals and success stories in Rochester, and strategies for making Geneva a healthy and vibrant city.



City Central neighborhood association held their first meeting.

Nine neighborhood association meetings are scheduled for March.

gnrc visitor, volunteer, website & media log

231 visitors:

- 135 residents
- 36 city employees
- 25 partners
- 16 students
- 19 other

1699 website hits this month

- 60 volunteer hours
- 4 Finger Lakes Times articles
- 1 HWS website: *This Week in Photos*

great geneva neighborhood challenge pre-applications available

The Challenge is in full swing with pre-applications due March 12th. We anticipate around 6-10 blocks expressing an interest in applying.

Challenge components include:

- * **physical improvements** to a group of homes, completed by participating neighbors and community volunteers this summer,
- * **events**, such as a block party, created by the participating neighbors to celebrate the work,
- * and a **banquet** in the fall to honor all of the projects and the participants.

partner collaborations

Working in collaboration with local banks, the City's Revolving Loan Fund committed \$334,000 for home renovation projects. Assistance projects for income qualifying residents include:

- * Grants up to \$5,000 for senior citizens
- * Small home improvement loans through the City and participating banks up to \$7,000
- * Medium home improvement loans through the City and participating banks up to \$20,000
- * Mortgage refinancing including renovations with closing cost assistance up to \$3,000



HWS Architectural Studies Program and the GNRC launched the film series this month with a viewing of *My Architect*. A series of events, such as the upcoming *Project H Design* exhibit and lecture on March 26th, are being planned.

Student projects, internships, and course lectures on neighborhood planning are in the works.