Happy Holidays!

Neighborhood Ambassador Newsletter

2015 Fall Semester Recap
By: Kay Long and Darlene Beeks

As the semester draws to a close, snow is falling and the holidays are already upon us. To get the 2015 fall semester rolling, we partnered with some of our neighbors in the University District to deliver welcome bags to new student renters moving into the area. We’d like to say thank you to the neighbors who went out of their way to greet a new neighbor! We had a ton of fun providing some of the kids’ activities at the annual Ice-Cream Social on University Avenue. Then, as the leaves began to fall, we created and distributed “Bear-Aware” flyers around Missoula.

Throughout the semester the Neighborhood Ambassadors continued the Sunday Sweepers event by partnering with student groups to clean up the U-district the morning following every home Griz football game. Thank you to all 18 student groups who participated this year. This event would not be effective without your help!

We delivered Boo Bags prior to Halloween in an effort to get neighbors interacting with each other. We also participated in an additional Sunday Sweepers event the morning after Halloween with volunteers from the ASUM Senate in an effort to reduce the candy wrapper trails left from the hungry ghosts, vampires, and skeletons. On Halloween night, our Ambassador team set up a kids’ booth on University Avenue and distributed glow sticks and trick-or-treat safety tips, along with some treats.

Our program was able to purchase additional rakes and shovels for leaf and snow removal. Each semester, we help student renters who do not have these items by allowing them to be checked out from our office with the idea the rakes and shovels are returned so the next student renter can utilize this free service. Don’t forget! Snow, ice, debris, or any obstruction must be cleared from your walks by 9 a.m. on weekdays and 12 p.m. on weekends and holidays, after a snowfall. Students, even if you leave for winter break, you are still responsible to make sure this gets done!

In November our Off-Campus Eco-Rep hosted a winterization event at the Buttercup Café to educate homeowners and renters on ways to save money during the winter months. To help student renter attendees get started, we provided free winterization materials for them to take home. For the month of November, we had a virtual Recipe Exchange on our Facebook page so that neighbors could share their favorite holiday dishes. It’s always fun to try something new. Feel free to continue this recipe exchange throughout the holiday season.

Thank you to our University District neighbors who support the Neighborhood Ambassador program and everyone, have a safe and wonderful holiday season. We’ll see you in the new year! Happy Holidays!
Gilkey Center Construction Near Completion
By Peregrine Frissell

Everyone has seen, and likely heard, the construction of the large building on what used to be the lawn in front of the business building. The Gilkey Center for Executive Education at the University of Montana is set to open for classes this spring, as long as all goes according to plan.

Much of the exterior of the building has been completed, leaving the interior work to be done in the bitter cold of the Montana winter and landscaping to take place throughout the early spring season as well.

In the beginning the $1.5 million (privately funded), 33,000 square foot project was estimated to be a 14 month project, but it will end up being closer to 16 months by the time it is ready to be used by students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Resident Profile: Gina Hegg
By: Peregrine Frissell

Gina Hegg has deep roots in the University District. Those roots were planted back when she was going to college in Missoula, but she’s been nurturing them anew for the last fifteen years.

A real estate broker and developer, Hegg owns Montana Dream Properties and lives with her parents and their 16-year-old dog on the 300 block of University Avenue.

Hegg grew up in Kalispell and has also lived in Billings. She won Miss Montana in 1993, and her favorite books are human physiology reference texts because that’s what she studied in Missoula.

Relationships are a big deal to Hegg. And what she cares about, she spends a lot of time nurturing. One of the founding board members of the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, she remained at the helm until she had established and trained enough people to sustain the group. After that, she left. It was hard, but she’s confident that the solid foundation she helped to develop will lead to a healthy future for something she cares about so much.

She takes the same approach to being a member of the University District. The way she talks about her neighbors and the students at the University reflects a will to welcome people and show them how to engage in the community.

Though she’s now a homeowner, when she used to live here, she was a renter. During that time she’s also rented out her space to students. Not all experiences are positive, and Hegg has had her share of negative ones. Bad tenants and shy neighbors have dotted her time here, but she doesn’t let those define her experience. She loves living near the University, and enjoys getting those around her to realize what beautiful place it is. She is very much a part of that equation.
Thank You Sunday Sweepers Sponsors!

The Neighborhood Ambassadors would like to thank the UM departments that made this season of Sunday Sweepers possible! This year, we received the majority of our funding from the UM Athletics Department. Other sponsoring departments included: UM Office of the Provost, the UM Alumni Association, and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center. Their generous support allowed us to partner with 18 different student groups for 6 clean-ups.

December Events:

DEC. 1-5: TREASURE ISLAND
Montana Theater, www.griztix.com

Dec. 4: FRIST FRIDAY, 5-8 pm, various art galleries

Dec 5: MSLA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, HOLIDAY POPS, Dennison Theater at 7:30pm

Dec. 12: COOKIE DECOARTING AND HOLIDAY CRAFTS
Missoula Public Library, 1-3pm

Dec. 12: YOUTH CAMP: DATE NITE REC.CARE Drop the kids off and have a night to yourselves. $20 for first child and $15 for each add’l child. 4:30-8:30pm

Dec. 13: MADE FAIR find the perfect locally made gifts at the Adams Center, 11-3

Dec. 18-20: NUTCRACKER GARDEN CITY BALLET at the Montana Theater

Dec. 31: FIRST NIGHT MSLA various venues, 12pm

SO LONG AMBASSADORS

Three members of our ambassador team will no longer be working for the program in the spring. We are sad to see them go, but are excited for them to pursue their next adventures.

Kay (Area 4) is graduating this month and plans to pursue a career in wedding planning.

Dave (Area 1) has worked for the ambassador program for 2 and a half years. He will be finishing his last semester at UM student teaching in the small community of Newhalen, Alaska.

Catherine (Area 3) will be leaving us to spend her final semester studying abroad in Marseilles, France. She will then be attending Harvard Law School in the fall.

We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors!