



Rehabarama transforms houses into homes in Historic South Park

By Walt Hibner, Executive Director
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In the past couple of weeks you have learned about the Rehabarama show and the two urban developers that have taken on the challenge to revitalize a neighborhood. Now its time to describe the transformation of the low valued houses that have gone from boarded up and abandon to warm and charming homes that will soon host holiday festivities, porch parties, and birthday celebrations. These transformations have been incredible.

As you tour the homes you will see the typical “before” photos and you will also see a home or two in the original condition to show just how much work went into these homes. Take a few minutes and look closely at the photos, you will recognize the “improvements” made over the years. They include paneling, the old dark wood and the fake brick variety. Also the many types and layers of carpeting flooring, wall paper and paint. The changes just aren’t skin deep. The newer wiring, plumbing and heating and cooling make many of these homes much more energy efficient. The reconfiguration of several floor plans that were poorly modified over the years brings more popular layouts such as a separate owners suite wing from the other bedrooms, open floor plans including the living, dining and kitchen areas and incorporating lofts and other interesting features.

Although still under construction, a popular renovation from the 2001 Rehabarama in South Park was the “co-joining” of two quaint cottages into one very nice home. You will see the exterior of this home at 630-632 Oak Street. The nearly 1,400 square feet of connected homes has the sleeping areas in the old 632 Oak Street portion and the living and kitchen areas in the 630 Oak Street side. Being a double lot, the rear yard is very spacious.

At 208 Bonner you will see a three bedroom, two and a half bath, pre-sold, frame home with much character and all the historic detail with the latest conveniences, design trends and open layout. The warm dining room is located in the front. The bow wall with expansive windows is overlooking the new front porch. Pocket doors separate the space from the

formal entry and a beautiful period fireplace mantel adorns the north wall. The living room has a large bay with a wall mounted LCD television surrounded by windows. The kitchen was designed for today's cooking aficionado. The beautiful contemporary custom cabinets in the kitchen are open to the family room. The vaulted ceiling of the owner's suite allows for a large loft area with a balcony overlooking the bedroom with a contemporary metal and cable staircase. The open master bath has access to a private balcony for the morning sunrise views. The two large additional bedrooms are connected by a "Jack and Jill" bathroom configuration allowing for privacy of the multiple users and easy access to the upstairs laundry area.

These are just two exciting examples of the many beautiful homes in the show and available for sale in the wonderful historic South Park neighborhood. And, if you are interested, come to the show and talk to a Wright-Patt Credit Union representative that will be available to answer questions on special financing and incentives available for the purchase of the show homes.

Admission to the Rehabarama home show is free and open to the public. To get to Historic South Park Rehabarama, enter on Park Drive, west off Wayne Avenue, just north of Wyoming Street. Look for the gazebo. Follow the signs to the free parking areas located within the neighborhood. Tickets and directions are also available at the 16 Miami Valley area locations of Wright-Patt Credit Union.

Rehabarama runs through October 21, 4 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Log on to www.historicsouthpark.org for more information.