



Citirama - Transforming Neighborhoods Going Back to School

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Over the past several years, the Citirama event presented by the Home Builders Association of Dayton has showcased the transformation of many neighborhoods throughout the City of Dayton.

We all know how important neighborhoods are for the quality of life and the sense of community. Strong neighborhoods begin with great homes.

Our members have improved the housing stock by building new homes in several well deserving areas. Twice, in the Wright Dunbar Historic Neighborhood our builders built affordable historic sensitive homes on the outside with many modern features inside. They also created high-end luxury homes on cul-de-sac lots on former property of the Hook Estate on Philadelphia Avenue. All these urban homes were single family, market rate homes built and sold in traditional fashion. The neighborhoods have benefited with a jump-start for future transformation.

The 2007 Citirama presentation is unique in several ways from those of the past. And will be well worth attending.

To start with, this is the first partnership of its kind in the country, the Home Builders Association of Dayton is teaming with the University of Dayton to showcase student housing and the learn and live environment of the South Student Neighborhood.

Also unique is the University of Dayton's initiative to transform the neighborhood after UD Alumni considered the neighborhood living experience one of the most memorable of their college life. This is not the neighborhood that you may recall from your college days. The transformation includes a UD owned portfolio of more than 300 houses including several newer or renovated houses that have many of the comforts that students are accustomed when living at home. One of the most important features of all the new homes will be to maintain the front porch character that promotes neighborly interaction between the students.

This year's Citirama also introduces cost-effective and innovative approaches to student housing construction and design. This type of showcase demonstrates the ability of our builder members such as Greater Dayton Building & Remodeling, an Oberer Thompson to build more than traditional market housing in typical subdivisions.

The floor plans for the new and renovated houses include front porches, energy-efficient windows, doors and insulation; durable and low-maintenance interior and exterior finishes; and state-of-the-art mechanical, safety and communication systems. The architectural features blend in with the other homes in the neighborhood.

The show will also spotlight many of the University of Dayton's neighbors, partners, and other student amenities. The South Student Neighborhood has the new student recreational facility adjacent, and a coffee shop, a chapel and art gallery within.

So, in early August it may be time for you to go back to school and stroll through the old neighborhood and discover the transformation that will last for generations to come.