



Rehabarama Returns to Historic South Park

By Walt Hibner, Executive Director
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You may recall in 2001, the Historic South Park neighborhood was the site of Rehabarama® in which the Oberer Companies renovated 8 beautiful homes. At the time, Historic South Park was a hidden treasure among the Dayton historic neighborhoods. Many were unaware of the charm and character that the neighborhood possessed. Rehabarama got the word got out and the mix of new and old residents began to form a common bond with their neighborhood.

Leap forward 6 years and you will find the South Park neighborhood and it's residents have continued to grow in strength, energy and passion. The neighborhood continues to be the center of a buzz around it's growing popularity, recent recognition as the winner of the American Institute of Architects 150 Grant which provided the free design services of 35 local architects in the areas of green-space & parks; residential infill; residential rehab; streetscape & boundaries; and commercial & public buildings and the potential of the new Kroger redevelopment project adjacent to the neighborhood.

The Rehabarama projects in the past have been a venue to showcase the magnificent transformations of neighborhoods this transformation is no exception. This year's edition of Rehabarama will continue to shine a spotlight on the area.

The 2007 Rehabarama will feature ten beautifully restored homes from quaint cottages to grand Victorians. The Dayton Society of Interior Designers will furnish and decorate many of the homes. The show tour will also have three market ready homes prepared for final finishes. The show homes are a small example of the over 30 homes that will be renovated and for sale at an affordable price point. Unique to this Rehabarama project is the financial, management and emotional commitments from a small group of private individuals to help make this neighborhood transformation possible. In the past local and government resources were expended on these types of projects.

With all the talk of home mortgages in the news, Wright-Patt Credit Union will have representatives available at the show to answer questions on special financing and incentives available for the purchase of the show homes.

A couple other events will be held in conjunction with the event. First will be a very interesting presentation by nationally recognized Kyle Ezell from Get Urban America (www.geturban.com). Kyle promotes urban living by focusing on how and why you would want to live urban. This event will be held on October 4 on the second floor of the Webster Street Deli. On Sunday, October 14 from 9:00am to Noon bring a chair and join Ann Stevens from WTUE as she hosts the popular "Breakfast with the Beatles" show live from the South Park gazebo.

The Rehabarama partnership between the City of Dayton and the HBA of Dayton dates back to 1993 in the McPherson Town Neighborhood just over the river from downtown Dayton. In the past, this partnership and event has been recognized nationally.

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, the Home Builders Association of Dayton, 2003 Springboro West; and the *Dayton Daily News*, 1611 S. Main St.

Rehabarama runs from October 12 –21, 4 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Rehabarama is a partnership between the City of Dayton and the Home Builders Association of Dayton sponsored by Wright-Patt Credit Union with support from the *Dayton Daily News*, *WHIO* and *Clear Channel*. Log on to www.historicsouthpark.org for more information.