

LABOR BEACON

Volume 7 Number 146

March 1, 2000

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Labor Unions Partner With City To Renovate Community Centers



Terry Davis, Executive Director of the Carpenters District Council (left) stands with Anna Mae Towner and Councilman Troy Nash. Directly to the right is Chris Heegn of IBEW 124 and Bridgette Williams, President Greater Kansas City Labor Council.

By DICK DANIEL
Writer & Editor

Leaders of several Labor Unions in partnership with Councilman Troy Nash signed an agreement to renovate several community centers throughout the inner city. The Unions will donate the labor and materials to help upgrade the safety and livability of the community and at the same time provide 'hands-on' training to their new apprentices.

Sharing the podium for this

public ceremony were Mayor Kay Barnes; Third District City Councilman Troy Nash; Terry Davis, Carpenters District Council; Anna Mae Towner, President of East Area Community Coalition; Fourth District City Councilman Jim Rowland; Chris Heegn, IBEW Local #124 representative; Bridgette Williams, President Greater Kansas City Labor Council; Jeff Wilkinson, Business Mnanger Laborers' Local 663; Joe Galletti.

See CRAFTS on page 6

Crafts Join In Community Initiative



Members of organized labor teamed up with community leaders and politicians to help out in the inner-city. In the above photo Councilman Troy Nash shakes hand with Carpenters District Council Executive Director Terry Davis.

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Firefighters Local #42; Stanley Counts, Jr., Director of Community Affairs, Brush Creek Community Partners and Major Barry Mayer of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, East Patrol.

Over 300 spectators were on hand, filling the street and sidewalks, in front of the partially renovated East Area Community Center at 3808 Agnes, to witness this momentous event. Mayor Kay Barnes, City Councilman Troy Nash and other city officials joined with labor leaders to announce the creation of a partnership designed to increase participation among labor unions throughout the inner city. The initiative is part of Councilman Troy Nash's plan entitled, 'An Action Plan for the New Millennium: Destroying the Status Quo and Recreating the Future.' Nash thanked Terry Davis, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Carpenters' District Council for their continued support and for being instrumental in making this plan a reality. This agreement between the Unions and the inner city will usher in a new era of cooperation and collaboration that will benefit neighborhood and community residents" said Nash.

Some of the unions that have agreed to participate in the partnership are the Carpenters' District Council of Kansas City and Vicinity, IBEW #124, Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons Local #

518, Laborers' Local #663, Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Union and Roofers Local #20. Rosanna Privitera Biondo of Mark One Electric Co., Inc. is also signatory to the agreement.

Bridgette Williams, President of the Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO, support saying "We want to do whatever we can to help the community's Anna Mae Towner, President of the East Area Community Coalition, praised Councilman Nash and the Unions for their commitment to rebuild the community centers. Members of the Carpenters, Electricians and Plasters Unions have already begun working on the east area facility and Anna Mae was ecstatic about the improvements. She recounted many of the hardships the center had endured over the last 19 years and how the all-volunteer group struggled to keep the doors open to serve the neighborhood.

In response to Anna Mae's rousing remarks, Terry Davis stepped up to the microphone a second time and donated one thousand dollars on behalf of the Carpenters' District Council to help with utilities and operating costs at the center.

In conjunction with this rebuilding program, members of City Police and Fire Departments will offer training in crime prevention and fire safety to area residents and community center personnel.