

DATE: April 7, 2024  
TO: **Dave Cameron**  
City Administrator for Republic  
FROM: David Burton  
Community Development Specialist  
RE: Republic Engaged Neighbor Project Updated for 2024

**Greene County  
Extension Council**

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Vacant  
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Aaron Jones  
Ray Meyer

Elaine Montgomery  
Rick Stenberg

Merri Sutherland  
Eric Sutton

Buck Van Hooser

Thank you for supporting the Engaged Neighbor effort in Republic. The purpose locally is to create an alliance of neighbors and neighborhoods that enhances community engagement and builds trust among residents. Our main goal is to engage Republic residents in a simple but effective way that helps to create connections among neighbors and a develop sense of belonging for residents. I have considered what went well in 2024 to develop a list of efforts to pursue in 2024-2025. I want to invite council members and city employees to join in, help to promote, or assist.

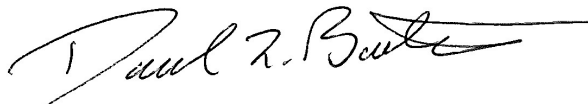
Here are efforts I plan to pursue further.

- **Neighborhood Leadership Academy.** Ongoing 10-week program offered in the fall. We have nearly 15 residents of Republic that are graduates of this effort. Graduates propose projects for the good of their neighborhood or community and some receive grant funding to complete. Four are currently being worked on in Republic.
- **Neighborhood Watch training.** Ongoing effort to support training efforts and neighborhood programs with the Republic Police Department and Officer Roger Stewart. There are ongoing possibilities here for neighborhood engagement.
- **100 block parties in Republic.** That is the goal. This could be anything from a driveway gathering to street blowout. We need people to register their plan on the MU Extension website so we can provide them with ideas & examples, provide motivation and grants, celebrate their success. I believe churches can be a big part of this ideas success by supporting members to host.
- **Council member listening sessions with neighbors.** If you are interested, I can provide the coffee. This can be a fun way to connect with those around you and share city news.

- **Missouri Good Neighbor Week.** This is the easiest way to be able to recognize the most engaged neighbor in Republic annually. See <http://mogoodneighborweek.com>.
- **Promote enrollment** from Republic residents in the online Neighboring 101 class.
- **Expand the small Republic Neighborhood Alliance email list** for regular communication emails related to neighbors and neighborhoods in Republic.
- **Partner with HOAs in Republic.** Offer to speak at HOA meetings when possible or conduct a neighborhood lab to determine assets and program ideas for neighbors.
- Involve the faith community at a deeper level by pursuing these ideas: 1) **Neighborhood Exploration or Connection Trips**, which are being planned in partnership with the Republic faith community and ministerial alliance with a goal to get members to engage with their neighbors for the betterment of the community. 2) **Organize a meeting of non-profits in Republic** that address community needs because a regular roundtable could help with communication and programming. 3) **Plan an annual training event for neighborhoods in Republic** that could include an awards banquet for neighbors.

I believe these efforts could help move Republic forward in some very positive ways.

Sincerely,



David L. Burton  
Community Development Specialist  
University of Missouri Extension



## Join Republic Neighborhood Alliance Email

The goals of the Republic Neighborhood Alliance (RNA) are to increase positive interaction among neighbors, increase engagement with the city, help residents identify what is strong in their community, empower neighbors to discover the assets around them, and educate neighborhood leaders on how to help make

Become a part of the Republic Neighborhood Alliance at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RepMoNeighbor>

