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Home improvement Brady style



By [JENNIFER DIXON](#) World Staff Writer
1/30/2002

Brady Heights Neighborhood Association officials Tim Lovell (left) and Emily Warner met with Daniel Carey, regional director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, at the association's annual meeting earlier this month. Carey spoke to the group about the importance of preserving historic homes in the neighborhood north of downtown Tulsa.

JENNIFER DIXON / Tulsa World

Association introduces resource book for families interested in renovation

Members of the Brady Heights Neighborhood Association unveiled a resource book for area home improvement fans at the organization's annual meeting this month.

Tim Lovell, incoming president of the association, said many neighborhood residents were interested in improving their homes and often asked the association for advice.

To help, Lovell said he came up with the idea for "The Brady Heights Resource Book," which serves as a resource guide for rehabilitating and renovating historic homes.

Funds for the project came from a \$1,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a sum that the neighborhood association matched, Lovell said.

In order to obtain comprehensive information for the book, Lovell organized a series of three meetings in November, which involved discussions with more than 70 banking officials, historic preservationists and community residents.

Lovell said the book is divided into two sections, the first of which contains information on strategic planning, as well as loan advice from members of the banking community.

The second section offers advice from local residents who have already renovated their homes, Lovell said.

Lovell said the book will be distributed free to Brady Heights residents and will become part of a welcome package for newcomers to the area north of downtown Tulsa.

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"Other neighborhoods will probably want access to this information, and we hope to eventually have the book on our Web site as well," he said.

Daniel Carey, southwest regional director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, attended the meeting and said he's excited about the impact the book could have on the community.

"The book is a great idea because it's such a useful tool for historic properties," Carey said. "If it's used, it'll do a lot of good."

The National Trust, a nonprofit organization with more than 250,000 members nationwide and 1,100 in Oklahoma, receives its funding from members, donors and grants, Carey said.

He said the trust's goal is to provide direction and examples to the neighborhoods and then allow the residents to continue from there.

"Credit for this project belongs to the neighborhood association," Carey said. "We spark something but they're the ones that are here every day."

Emily Warner, outgoing president of the Brady Heights Neighborhood Association, said about 50 percent of the neighborhood homes have been restored.

The remaining houses are in various states of disrepair, and about three to five are in desperate need of new roofs, she said.

Warner said the neighborhood includes an area roughly bounded by Marshall Street on the north and Edison Street on the south as well as Denver Avenue on the west and Cheyenne Avenue on the east.

In addition to compiling the resource book, Lovell also helped garner MidFirst Bank's Preserving Oklahoma Loan Program, a loan pool of up to \$1 million for preserving historic homes.

"We're really excited to have developed a partnership with the banks and the National Trust," Lovell said. "My hope is that we'll continue to work closely with them in the future."

The book, distributed in a three-ring binder, will be an evolving process, with new information and revisions added as needed, Lovell said.

Of the 220 books in print, the majority will go to homeowners and residents, with extra copies available for interested parties.

Brady Heights, named after Tate Brady, was once dubbed the "Silk Stocking" of Tulsa due to the neighborhood's wealthy residents, Lovell said. "A lot of the folks who built houses here built them through oil money."

With the majority of houses dating between 1905 and 1925, the importance of renovating and preserving these historic structures remains more essential than ever, Lovell said.

And the neighborhood association is hoping the resource book will be just the tool homeowners need.

"We're excited -- it's a great piece of work," Warner said.

To find out more, call 587-6940 or visit www.bradyheights.com.

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By JENNIFER DIXON World Staff Writer

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