A Working Neighborhood... What does it take?

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ACTORS

George . . . . . . . . . . . . . Joseph Butler
James . . . . . . . . . . . . . Charles Tucker
George's wife. . . . . . . . Maxine Hall
James' wife. . . . . . . . . . . Sheila Tucker
George's children. . . . . . . Bernadette Butler
Joseph Butler
Steven Hall
James' children. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . James Tucker
Karen Tucker
Marvin Tucker

OTHERS

S. Jones-Barker
Gerry Belgiano
Andrea Byle
Mary Byle
Wilbur Byle
David Branch
Gale Branch
Russell Brown
Martha Cardona
Ellen Cartwright
John Comings
John Dickson
Joseph Essegian
Diane Farrell

Stephen Frantz
Lynda Hayden
Rohn Hein
Adeline Howard
Allen Howard
Vince Martone
Mark Menard
Joe Murray
Archie Simon
Tom St. Andrew
Cornelius Thomas
Fred Tyson
Karl Westphal
Garland Yates

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Rensselaer County Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health

NYS Department of Labor
Division of Unemployment

Unity House Street Ministry

HVCC Educational Opportunity Center,
Machine Tool Section

U.S. Department HEW, P.H.S.
Center for Disease Control

...and special thanks to the people of Troy

COORDINATING GROUP

New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Community Sanitation

Neighborhood Action Council of Troy (N-ACT)

Troy Intercity Neighborhood Center, Inc. (TINC)

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A WORKING NEIGHBORHOOD:
What does it take?

JAMES AND GEORGE LIVE IN THE CITY OF TROY, THEY'RE NEIGHBORS. THEY ALSO WORK AT THE SAME FACTORY, AND STARTED ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

James works at lathe no. 7

George works at lathe no. 8

At change of shift one day, a lay-off notice is posted.

The workers begin talking about who might get laid off.
WORRIED ABOUT THE LAYOFF NOTICE, GEORGE DISCUSSES IT WITH HIS WIFE AFTER WORK.

How did it go today?

Not well. There's a chance that I'll get laid off.

What do you mean? What will we do? We just can't afford it!

Maybe I can get a job as a waitress.

I don't know what to do, there's nothing in the paper. I'll have to collect unemployment, but that's only $90 a week at most.

George and James live next door to each other in an older part of town. A vacant lot separates their homes.
I even saw a rat down in the machine at work. He ought to get fired.

I'm not surprised, have you seen the garbage lot?

I'll bet James doesn't get laid off.

The way he keeps his machine at work, he ought to get fired.

I'm not surprised, have you seen the garbage in their lot?

I even saw a rat down in the basement today.

For sure they're comin' from next door!
That figures. The same old thing – last hired and first fired.

I don’t know how we’re gonna make it.

I guess I’ll have to try to find work.

Well, I doubt that I can get anymore than $87 a week in unemployment.

We just can’t get by on $87 a week. We have the mortgage, food, gas and electric --- and your insurance is due this month.

LIVING ON UNEMPLOYMENT WILL NOT BE EASY FOR JAMES’ FAMILY
Is there a chance that you won't get laid off?

We'll find out on payday. Maybe they'll get George first—he sure leaves his machine a mess.

That's no surprise, he lets his dogs run all over the place...

...They tear hell out of the garbage bags, too.

And have you seen how they keep their lot? It's filthy!

Hey, what's goin' on out there?

Sounds like the kids are at it again.
JAMES' AND GEORGE'S CHILDREN ARE ON THE VACANT LOT, ARGUING AGAIN . . .

You people leave too much trash on the lot.

What about your junk that's all over the place?

Look at what your dog did!
We even get rats from your place.

They're coming to us from your house!

My dad says your old man's a slob at work.

My dad says...

It's his fault—he started it.

Who, him?

Let's calm down, now.

No, he did!

Why don't you clean up your mess here, and keep your rats at home?

Cool it man! Your kids are always starting fights.

And it's your rats and your garbage not ours!
ON PAYDAY AT THE FACTORY...  GEORGE GETS A PINK SLIP

A FEW DAYS LATER GEORGE AND JAMES ARE BOTH AT THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE

JAMES ALSO GETS A PINK SLIP

I'll bet that James got my job.

Hey, George is here too. Looks like they're getting everyone this time.

Take these five cards to room 3. The clerk there will give you instructions.
So go ahead and fill out the cards. Make sure you have the right date for when you started your last job.

It's amazing how time flies when you're havin' fun.

Gee, they want to know when I was hired. Seems to me James started about the same time.

Hey, James when did you start at the plant?

You mean it has been that long?

Yup - over 5 years and they still canned us!

How did you remember that so fast?

Because it was good to get work then. My youngest boy was just born then.
AS THEY ARRIVE BACK HOME, THEY SEE A STRANGER DUMPING TRASH AT THE REAR OF THE LOT

James, would you like a ride home?
Sure, why not?

You know, I'm sorry about the hassle we had the other day over the lot.
Me too, George. We should know better than to get involved in our kids' affairs.

Did you see that dude?
Yeah — I always thought it was you throwing trash on the lot!
And I always thought you were the one dumping garbage here.
THE DOGS ARE GOING TO HAVE A FEAST

... AND SO WILL THE RATS

Man, you really have a garbage problem on your lot here.

Hey, it's not my problem.

What do you mean? Don't you own this lot?

Not me, I thought you did.

Well, I think it's time we found out who does own it.

Maybe tomorrow we can go down to City Hall to check it out.
AFTER THREE VISITS TO CITY HALL, THEY LEARN THAT THE CITY OWNS THE LOT (AND OTHERS ON THE BLOCK)

I'm going down there again to see if we can't get some action on this.

Yeah, since the city owns it they should at least help clean it up.

TWO WEEKS LATER AFTER ANOTHER VISIT TO CITY HALL

James, isn’t the city going to do anything about that lot?

I think we'll have to do it ourselves.

Let's call a block meeting at the Center. Maybe we can do all the lots.

Hey Flo, we're having a meeting tonight to plan a clean-up of all these trashy lots.

We thought you'd be interested.

Then you'll come to the center tonight?

You can count on me, brother.
THAT NIGHT AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, GEORGE AND JAMES EXPLAIN WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED THUS FAR

I heard that the County Health Department sends out trucks to pick up trash...to remove food and shelter used by rats.

So if the city won't make a move, what do you think we should do next?

They'll only pick it up. Who's going to do all the work?

Look, it's our neighborhood. We'll do it together!

Let's all meet back here on Saturday at 10, ready to work. The more folks we can bring, the sooner we'll finish.

They'll only pick it up. Who's going to do all the work?

I heard that the County Health Department sends out trucks to pick up trash...to remove food and shelter used by rats.

Let's all meet back here on Saturday at 10, ready to work. The more folks we can bring, the sooner we'll finish.

I'll bring...

I can bring a shovel.

Looks good to me!
ORGANIZATION FOR THE SATURDAY MORNING CLEANUP CONTINUES. . .

...And we'd like to know if the county has a truck available.

I'd be glad to send the Rodent Control Unit — truck and crew — to help you folks.

We'll need lots of empty boxes for the cleanup this Saturday.

Could you put up a notice about the cleanup?

Sure, we'll do whatever we can.

Take whatever I have here, I'm happy to support neighborhood projects.

Maybe some of the lots could be used for gardens.

So are all you guys gonna help with the cleanup?

We're talking about cleaning up all the trashy lots.

Sounds like a good idea to me.

What are you talking about?

Maybe we can have a party afterwards.
THE CLEAN-UP IS VERY SUCCESSFUL, WITH MANY PEOPLE PARTICIPATING.
That's good to hear! If we get our jobs back maybe we can buy that lot for ourselves.

Hey James, it says here the factory is going to be rehiring people next month.

I wonder if there's any news yet?

If you hadn't given me a ride home, we never would have started talking, and the lots never would have been cleaned.

And with the neighbors' help the work was easy.

You know something, if we could get the lots cleaned up, we could probably get many other things done in this community...

...and there is much to be done here if we all work together.
A multi-service neighborhood facility that serves the people

YOUTH ACTIVITY
PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC
COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER
LEGAL SERVICES
DAYCARE (SERVICE FOR CHILDREN)
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
HOME ECONOMICS AID
COMMUNITY ACTION
COMMUNITY ADVOCATE
HOME OF 567 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION COUNCIL OF TROY, INC

567 Neighborhood Council
9th. Street Association
No. Central Neighborhood Assoc.
East Side Recreation Board

United Projects
1st & 2nd Ave. Association
Hillside Neighborhood Assoc.
South Troy United

Working with the neighborhoods to build a better Troy