

Choice Neighborhood Plan Update . . .

(Emma Shirey of the Community Building Institute at Xavier University, who has been working with the community and St. Leo's, provides an update on progress being made to improve and enhance available housing in the neighborhood.)

St. Leo's participated in a Choice Neighborhoods Planning process, which was completed in 2014, in partnership with the North Fairmount and South Fairmount communities. One of the specific areas of focus that the planning process informed was a housing strategy for the North and South Fairmount neighborhoods, along with English Woods. The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority and the Community Building Institute at Xavier University were the lead community partners in the development of a strategy to address the housing needs in these communities. The strategic plan laid out both short term and long term strategies for strengthening home ownership rates, housing values, and quality rentals in the neighborhoods.

The focus in the early phases of implementation has been to eliminate blight and stabilize the existing single-family properties. The 1 - 3 Year Housing Strategy of the plan states "Address vacancy and blight with acquisition of foreclosed/abandoned properties as well as rehab/loan modification assistance to existing owners. Demolition where appropriate. Work with St. Leo's to provide quality homeownership and rental opportunities for parishioners, many of which are Burundian refugees." The most significant work that has supported the strategy implementation has been addressing vacancy and blight. The Port Authority has supported the demolition of extremely blighted properties, and maintenance on existing vacant lots.

La Amistad, a local non-profit, is currently rehabbing a two-family home on Beekman Street. La Amistad plans to continue to work in the neighborhood to support rehab of existing properties

to support the neighborhood. The North Fairmount Community Center has also been active for many years in providing affordable housing in the area.

As we move into the summer months the North Fairmount Community Council is working diligently to be strategic about reporting blighted properties, high grass, trash and blighted vacant lots. The Community Council has hired a resident to expand and maintain the garden around the North Fairmount welcome sign. The North Fairmount Community Council is also exploring opportunities to acquire funding for façade improvement and curb appeal assistance for existing homeowners. The Council is passionate about supporting current home owners, specifically seniors.

Resources & Ways you can help:

Get your Water Tested for Lead-Request your free lead test kit from Greater Cincinnati Water Works: <http://cincinnati-oh.gov/water/lead-information/>

Fix it Cincy--The City of Cincinnati has a mobile app that allows you to report vacant properties, high grass, trash, pot holes, missed trash pick-ups, safety issues, etc. The app has GPS capabilities and you can even use your phone to submit a picture of the complaint: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cityofcincinnati/cincinnati-city-hall-mobile/>

Service Requests--Enter a Citizen Service Request via the City of Cincinnati's Website: <http://cagismaps.hamilton-co.org/csr/cincinnati> You can also submit a request over the phone at (513) 591-6000.



The Helping Hands free store at the corner of Beekman and Dempsey in North Fairmount is now open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm. The store, a project of the North Fairmount Community Center, provides free clothing, bedding, and household items as well as some things that cannot be bought with food stamps, like soap and diapers. All items are donated and given away for free. To donate or for more information contact Linda Klems at 623-9897.

Day of Hope

SPONSORED BY FACT3D
(FAITH ALLIANCE COALITION TEAM
OF DISTRICT 3)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

NOON - 4:00 PM

WAYNE FIELD (OFF OF BEEKMAN)

FREE

FOOD, CLOTHING AND HYGIENE KITS

**20+ AGENCIES WILL BE ON HAND TO
PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT
SERVICES AVAILABLE.**