



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Free Home Repair Applications Now Available

by Vanessa A. Jackson

Homeownership is an accomplishment to be proud of, but it comes with the price of maintenance and upkeep. After many years of being exposed to the elements, a house will show signs of the wear, tear, and deterioration if not properly maintained. As homeowners transition from full-time employment to retirement, their household income and circumstances may change dramatically. The drop in household income leaves little left over for more than the necessities of life. This is certainly the case for many senior and disabled homeowners in our city.

Now for the good news! The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2012 Home Repair Program through Monday, March 5, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. for repairs that will take place July 9- 21, 2012.

World Changers, a ministry of LifeWay and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, continues its partnership with the City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development for the tenth year to provide free labor to qualified senior and disabled citizens residing within the Chattanooga City limits. The labor is performed by volunteer youth from across the U.S. between the ages of 12-18 years of



age supervised by adults. The partnership is a great testament to the positive impact that further collaborations among youth, faith-based organizations and government can contribute towards the social and physical revitalization efforts of our city.

While the program does not include roofing, gutter, electrical, sewer and plumbing work of any kind, the volunteers perform various types of repairs ranging from minor to moderate difficulty including interior and exterior painting, siding repair and installation, carpentry, floor joist, drywall, porch and ramp installations, to name a few.

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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Free Home Repair

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eligibility requirements, homeowners must be a Chattanooga resident, at least 62 years of age, or be a disabled homeowner of any age. Social Security documentation of disabled status must be provided. Applicants must be low income based on Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines and own and reside in the home that is to be repaired. In addition, all city and county property taxes must be paid through December 2011. Homeowners who received service from World Changers or Weatherization assistance from the City of Chattanooga or Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) within the last three years (2009, 2010 or 2011) or that received assistance from the 2010 or 2011 Roofing Repair Program are not eligible for this year's program. Applicants must provide verification of household income and assets to be eligible for assistance.

Application Assistance Workshops will be held throughout the city to prepare applicants for this year's process. While attendance is not mandatory, applicants who attend the workshop generally submit better applications and therefore are more likely to being selected for the program.

For more information concerning the application process or to receive an application, please contact, Vanessa A. Jackson, Neighborhood Program Specialist at 425-3700. Remember, the application deadline is Monday, March 5, 2012 by 4:00 p.m!



APPLICATION ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS	
February 1	11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Eastgate Senior Center Eastgate Mall
February 7	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Avondale Recreation Center 1305 Dodson Avenue
February 13	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. East Lake Recreation Center 3701 Dodds Avenue
February 17	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Alexian Senior Ministries 250 E. 10th Street
February 20	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. City Hall, Third Floor..... 101 East 11th Street
February 22	2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. John A. Patten Rec.Center 3202 Kelly's Ferry Road



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator's Letter

Now that the Neighborhood Partners Program funds have been awarded (page 3), it's time to move on to the next big program: World Changers. While the volunteers of World Changers provide the manual labor, the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development has the task of collecting all the applications, reviewing qualifications and deciding which home repair projects can be accomplished with the funds and volunteer time available. Once that is decided, we make arrangements to have all the necessary materials available when the volunteers arrive. We meet with the volunteer construction coordinators and crew chiefs to determine which days homes will be worked on. It is a time consuming task, but a very rewarding one. If you know someone that might qualify for the free home repair assistance, please have them send us an application.

Spring is just around the corner. So far, we have had a very mild winter... I've already seen flowers starting to come up and trees starting to bud. Now is the time to get a head start on your spring cleaning around the yard before the overgrowth season starts. It's always easier to stay ahead of it than trying to get control of it later. Once our beautiful spring weather arrives, you will have more time to enjoy it. I guess I'm saying we need to work on where we live so we will have more time to play!

Neighborhood Partners Program Awards

Thirty five neighborhood associations were recently awarded \$71,850 in funds through the 2011 - 2012 Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP). Administered by the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, the Neighborhood Partners Program provides assistance to neighborhood projects that substantially, positively, and measurably impact the community. Through NPP funding, neighborhood associations take ownership of their neighborhoods by completing projects that are developed among the residents themselves.



The Neighborhood Partners Program funds three types of projects:

- **Neighborhood Development:** Projects that strengthen and develop strong, independent and capable neighborhoods and further encourage educational achievement in our communities. Examples include neighborhood house banners, neighborhood history books, newsletters, community markers, and sign toppers.
- **Neighborhood Beautification:** Projects that focus on beautification, landscaping and improving the appearance of blighted, open and common spaces. Examples include passive parks, community gardens, and landscaping of neighborhood entrances.
- **Neighborhood Tree Planting:** Projects that focus on specifically on planting trees in accordance with the City's urban canopy plan. Examples include planting trees on designated and approved City streets within a neighborhood association's boundaries.

Eight City Council districts are represented in this year's funding cycle, which is made by an independent selection committee. The timeframe for projects is January 1 to December 1, 2012.

For more information about the Neighborhood Partners Program, contact Donna Dewese at (423) 425-3718 or deweese_d@chattanooga.gov.

The Broken Window Theory

Excerpts from Wikipedia

The broken windows theory was first introduced by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, in an article titled *Broken Windows* and which appeared in the March 1982 edition of *The Atlantic Monthly*. The title comes from the following example:

“Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside. Or consider a sidewalk. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving bags of trash from take-out restaurants there or breaking into cars.”

A successful strategy for preventing vandalism, say the authors, is to fix the problems when they are small. Repair the broken windows within a short time, say, a day or a week, and the tendency is that vandals are much less likely to break more windows or do further damage. Clean up the sidewalk every day, and the tendency is for litter not to accumulate (or for the rate of littering to be much less). Problems do not escalate and thus respectable residents do not flee a neighborhood. The theory thus makes two major claims: that further petty crime and low-level anti-social behavior will be deterred, and that major crime will, as a result, be prevented.

While it is controversial that “fixing broken windows” can prevent crime, it nonetheless is certainly beneficial in maintaining a neighborhood. City Codes work on this same premise. These codes address housing, litter, abandoned vehicles and overgrowth. The intent is to maintain an acceptable standard and keep properties or neighborhoods from heading down the road to blight. Something to think about the next time you see a broken window.



Neighborhood Roundtable

By Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

January marked the first Neighborhood Roundtable for 2012. To start the year off, representatives from Chattanooga Housing Authority and Scenic City Beautiful shared their missions.

Chattanooga Housing Authority strives to provide safe, decent, affordable housing while promoting those community service program that encourage the education, personal development, and wealth building capabilities of the residents and participants served, in the most customer friendly, cost-effective manner. Besty McCright, Executive Director, Chattanooga Housing Authority, spoke about the Steiner Apartments that had been in existence for a number of years. Due to deterioration it was better to demolish and rebuild new apartment units. The units will be energy efficient with one, two or three bedrooms. Ms. McCright informed the group that Harriet Tubman Housing Development units are slated to close and Fairmont Apartments are being renovated.

Tammie Reeves, Housing Choice Voucher Program Director, Chattanooga Housing Authority, talked about the Housing Choice Voucher Program which is a federal government program whose purpose is to assist low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Ms. Reeves mentioned that the participants are free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and selection is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. Chattanooga Housing Authority administers approximately 3,140 Housing Choice Vouchers with housing and utility assistance payment approaching \$15.4 million annually. HUD sets payments standards.

Questions were asked about the number on the waiting list and payment scale. There are approximately 5,400 applicants waiting for an apartment unit.

Scenic Cities Beautiful is an affiliate of the National Keep American Beautiful. Scenic City Beautiful works with private and public organization to identify main source of litter and take action to reduce it. Scenic City Beautiful supports citizens who want to engage in litter prevention and cleanup activities. It is so refreshing to see a yard well manicured with beautiful flowers and shrubs planted and no debris or garbage in the yard or neighborhood. It takes some work to accomplish and Jeanette Eigelsbach works

will several organizations to help keep our streets and neighborhoods clean. Did you know littering is punishable under the law using the following definitions?

- Commercial Purpose: litter discarded by a business, corporation, association, partnership, sole proprietorship, or any other entity conducting business for economic gain, or by an employee or agent of the entity.
- Garbage: perishable animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.
- Litter: garbage, refuse, rubbish and all other waste materials, including tobacco products and any other item primarily designed to hold or filter a tobacco product while it is being smoked.
- Refuse: all perishable and non perishable solid waste.
- Rubbish: perishable solid waste consisting of both combustible and non-combustible waste.

Tennessee has an average of 5,100 pieces of litter per mile on urban freeways. Thirty percent is deliberate litter from people in vehicles and 70% is negligent litter from unsecured loads. Ms. Eigelsbach has worked with schools, sororities, civic groups and neighborhoods to help keep our City clean and free of debris. Each spring, people who love America take the time to make her shine, cleaning up litter, perking up parks and beautifying public areas. Scenic Cities has garbage bags, latex gloves,

posters, etc. to help make your cleanup efforts successful. If your group plans to do a clean-up, give Ms. Eigelsbach a call and she will assist your organization. Let's help keep our neighborhoods clean.

Vanessa Jackson briefly addressed the group concerning the Home Repair Program. The program provides minor to moderate home repairs to qualifying households and in partnership with World Changers, a volunteer youth-driven mission organization. All repairs will take place in July 2012. Ms. Jackson explained the eligibility requirements of the program, which are explained in the World Changers article on page 1 of this issue. Applications are being accepted now through Monday March 5, 2012. Attendees were encouraged to attend one of several technical assistance sessions scheduled across the city to give citizens an opportunity to learn more about the application process.

**The Next
Neighborhood Roundtable
will be held
January 11 at 1:00 p.m.
in the Mayor's Conference Room
3rd Floor, City Hall • 101 East 11th Street**

North Brainerd Sunshine Neighborhood Association

By Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist and Gene Settles

The North Brainerd Sunshine Neighborhood Association was formed at its first meeting held in Brainerd High School's auditorium on January 21, 2001. The plan to meet and form a neighborhood association came several months after various one-on-one discussions occurred between a few of the neighborhood residents who lived on Howard Circle, Rogers Road, and Sunset Avenue.

The purpose for the neighborhood association was simple. First, there was a need to meet and develop closer relationships with the residents in our immediate area since the neighborhood had undergone significant change over the previous ten year span. Second, there was a need to develop a consistent and systematic means of communicating and looking out for the welfare of the neighborhood from a safety, hygienical, and aesthetical aspect.

The first meeting of the association consisted of nine neighborhood residents (Gale & Donna Bruce, Dorothy Edwards, Velma Johnson, the late Orlando McKeldin Sr., Betty Morris, Gene & Eva Settles, and Mack Wiggins) in addition to a representative from the Police Department (Sergeant Julia Dean), and a Department of Neighborhood Services representative (Dan Thomas, III).

The meeting lasted approximately two hours. Topics discussed were a desire for the association to be structured, the streets the association should cover, immediate neighborhood concerns, desired neighborhood improvements for the future, and the election of officers for the organization. City representatives provided valuable information and guidance as to how to build a strong organization with the ability to communicate effectively with City officials for support.

The original officers of the association were: Gene Settles, President; Donna Bruce, Vice President; Dorothy Edwards, Secretary; and Velma Johnson, Communications Specialist.

The present officers of the association are: Deborah Grimes, President of 8 years; Linda Banks, Vice President; Donna Bruce, Secretary/Treasurer; Gene Settles, North



NBSNA's Fall Gathering included a clean-up drive. L to R: Lee Grimes, Deborah Grimes (president) and Linda Banks (vice president)

Brainerd Community Council (NBCC) Liason; and Eva Settles, Rogers Road Street Captain.

The first meeting produced 16 improvement opportunities for the newly formed neighborhood association to embrace over the course of two years. However, only three opportunities were chosen to focus on immediately. They were: (1) removal of cars and trash from a certain Sunset Avenue address; (2) establish effective communications to all residents to minimize neighborhood burglaries; and, (3) obtain the City's assistance in removing brush and trash piles on the streets. All meeting participants were excited, enthusiastic, and willing to work and make the new endeavor successful.

The association set its meetings for the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. During the first two years of existence, most of the association meetings were held at Brainerd High School or Tucker Baptist Church. In April of 2001, Sunshine Neighborhood Association became an active member of the North Brainerd Community Council.

Eleven years have quickly passed but Sunshine Neighborhood Association is still alive, kicking and proudly standing. Congratulations to Sunshine neighborhood Association for all your hard work.

Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association

by Debbie F. Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Getting folks to attend neighborhood meetings is not quite as simple as it may seem. Flyers are utilized, but they can get costly using funds that may be better spent on more pressing neighborhood matters. It helps, of course, to have an established schedule of meeting dates; however, in this fast paced world, reminders are a must. The Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association tackled this situation by developing meeting signs. The signs are sturdy metal with sections for announcements such as their annual yard sale and covered dish dinners. They also included blank sectional pieces to advertise other events that may be happening in the neighborhood as well as provide times and dates of ongoing events. It is practical and economical not only in terms of dollars, but it provides a more clean landscape.

The Forest Plaza neighborhood is comprised of 82 single family homes. It is conveniently located off Norcross Road and it reflects families of all ages and generations. It is important to the Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association, established in 1963, that it maintains the sense of a community family. In April 2011, many Forest Plaza residents witnessed significant damage to their homes from the tornado that touched their area. Some of the neighbors are still rebuilding, but now they are reminded their neighborhood is behind them and providing support. The meetings are all about the residents coming together for regular fellowship, sharing of information and problem solving.

Kay Thrasher, Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association's Project Coordinator, commented that since they have utilized the meeting signs, they have seen an increase in attendance at the meetings. President William Green noted once they utilized the new signs for the annual community yard sale, "I think it was the best yard sale we have had in a long time!"

The Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association meets the first Tuesday of each month from September through May at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle Cross Baptist Church, 4009 Norcross Road.



Household Chemicals: Don't Dump 'Em!

Excerpt from SeirraClubGreenHome.com



There is a very good chance that you have a stockpile of household chemicals including old home and garden cleaners, pesticides, paints, motor oil, grease, and other potentially hazardous materials stored in your home, garage, or outdoor shed.

During the winter months, you may want to take an inventory of the chemicals in your home and determine what is needed and what can be discarded. It's a great way to get a head start on spring cleaning.

Remember, never assume that it is safe or legal to dispose of household chemicals down the drain, in a storm sewer, or with general household trash. The local waste systems may drain in waterways or treatment facilities, which cannot process chemical waste. Your household chemical waste can create much bigger environmental problems for your community, local ecosystems and wildlife.

The City of Chattanooga Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is located at 3925 North Hawthorne Street. The facility is open on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. You can reach them at 698-9537, or you can call 311 if you have any questions regarding disposal of your hazardous waste.

Keep chemicals out of your local soil and water by disposing of them properly. Spread the word!

Announcements

Celebrating Literacy!

Continuing the Legacy of Mary Walker
**Learning to read at the age of 100,
 Mary Walker left a legacy for all...**

Come celebrate literacy with the
 Chattanooga News Chronicle, Mary Walker
 Towers, Howard High School, The Bethlehem
 Center, and the City of Chattanooga
 Department of Education, Arts & Culture



Monday-Friday
 February 20-24 from
 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
 Mark Walker Towers
 2501 South Market Street

Each day will feature:
 Intergenerational readings
 Speeches of Martin Luther King,
 Jr. and other civil rights leaders
 Stories and Perspective
 of local leaders Media
 Literacy | Refreshments
 and more culminating with
 a party on Friday!!

**Chattanooga Housing Authority
 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (Section 8)**

The Housing Choice Voucher program is a federal government program for assisting low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects.

A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the Chattanooga Housing Authority on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. The family is required to pay at least 30% of its monthly adjusted gross income for rent and utilities.

To apply for the Housing Choice Voucher program you must complete an application obtained from the Chattanooga Housing Authority when the waiting list is open. Currently the Chattanooga Housing Authority's waiting list is **CLOSED** and we are **NOT** taking new applications at this time.

Please visit our website at www.chahousing.org for more information on the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Don't Let This Be YOUR Summer!



**2012
 KIDZ KAMP!**

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT 2/1-3/30!
 ONLY \$240 FOR ENTIRE SUMMER!**

Scholarships available to qualified applicants

**Four 2 Week Sessions Starting June 4th, 2012!
 FOR AGES 6-12!**

**PLENTY OF FUN ALL SUMMER LONG @ the City's
 Community Centers with Field Trips, Games, Arts, Pool
 Time, Sports & More!**

Register at Local Center or Call 643-6052!



**PARKS AND
 RECREATION**



**Neighborhood
 Talk**

**A weekly radio show
 from the
 Department of
 Neighborhood
 Services and
 Community
 Development**

**Tuesday
 Mornings
 9:00-9:30 a.m.
 WNOO
 1260 AM**

**CHATTANOOGA
 311
 ONE CALL TO CITY HALL**

February Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Description
5 Sun	7:00P	Shepherd Community Council Meeting
6 Mon	6:00P	Battery Heights Neighborhood Meeting
	6:00P	Alton Park Development Corp
	6:00P	Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	6:30P	East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Hill City Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo Meeting
7 Tue	6:00P	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Bushtown Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association Meeting
8 Wed	11:00A	Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting
9 Thu	11:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
	6:00P	Churchville Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Sector 3 Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC) - George & Delta Zone
	6:30P	Belvoir Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Clifton Hills Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting
	7:00P	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting
13 Mon	1:00P	Regional Planning Agency Meeting
	7:00P	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association Meeting
14 Tue	6:00P	Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Indian Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Alton Park-Piney Woods Neighborhood Association Meeting

Date	Time	Description
16 Thu	11:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Menlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	South Chattanooga Oak Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
20 Mon	5:30P	Villages at Alton Park Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	6:00P	Avondale Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	East Lake Community Council Meeting
21 Tue	6:00P	East Lake Neighborhood Crime Watch
	6:00P	Hickory Creek Townhomes Association Meeting
	7:00P	Cloverdale Neighborhood Association Meeting
23 Thu	11:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	4:30P	South Broad Redevelopment Group
	6:00P	Glenwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Ridgedale Community Association Meeting
27 Mon	6:00P	Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Meeting
	7:00	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting
28 Tue	4:00P	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Across Hamilton County

For more information on these events and all registered neighborhood association meeting dates go to Neighborhood Services at <http://www.chattanooga.gov> and check our Calendar of Events

**FREE Home Repair
World Changers Applications
NOW AVAILABLE**



call 425-3700 or come by
City Hall, 101 East 11th Street, Suite 200

Systematic Codes Inspections

Code enforcement inspectors will be inspecting each parcel in the following neighborhoods for City Code violations including litter, overgrowth, abandoned vehicles and housing code violations:

Week of February 17, 2012
Hixson - Moody Sawyer..... District 3

Week of March 2, 2012
Oak Grove..... District 8