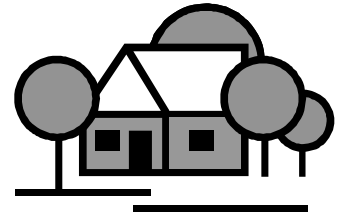


At Home in the Community



VOLUME II, ISSUE I

FALL 2004

Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation

NJCDC Hosts October Open House

On October 27th, Northwest Jacksonville CDC hosted an Open House, held at our newly constructed home located at 1590 West 25th Street. From 10:00 a.m. to noon, Executive Director Paul Tutwiler hosted a program celebrating NJCDC and our efforts to help bring back the community. Speakers included NJCDC President Aileen Williams, Jeannie Fewell of the City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department,

Joni Foster of Jacksonville LISC, and Darryl Griffin of the Jacksonville Housing Commission.

At the Open House, we unveiled the plans for our new two-story home model and house with a garage. Paul Tutwiler also got a chance to discuss the plans for Golfair Estates, which will be a new development located at the intersection of Golfair Boulevard and Myrtle Avenue. Golfair Estates is scheduled to begin construction within the next six months to a year. It is an exciting time at NJCDC!

On the afternoon of October 27th, NJCDC invited potential homebuyers to view the home and answered any questions about our homeownership process.

Both events were well at-



From L-R, Joni Foster, Aileen Williams, Jeannie Fewell, and Paul Tutwiler

tended, and we sincerely thank everyone who celebrated the open house with us. In particular, we would like to thank all our supporters.

Stay tuned for more Golfair Estates updates in the coming months!



Community members examine the exciting new architectural plans.

Meet Our President

NJCDC President Aileen Williams has been with NJCDC as president for three years. Ms. Williams' involvement in the community showcases her commitment to building strong neighborhoods.

Ms. Williams was born and raised in Jacksonville and educated in the public

school system. She raised three children and has five grand children. She has been at Shands in various positions for 23 years, most recently as the Quality Management Secretary.

Ms. Williams is also involved in many other activities outside of work. She is a founding member of the

First Coast African-American Heritage Society, the vice president of Sisters in Business, a member of the motivational Dream Team, and the co-owner of Unique Boutique, located at 9307 Lem Turner Road. She is also an active member of

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Mark Your Calendars!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and Community Clean Up

January 17, 2005

Make it a day ON, not a day OFF! Join your neighbors and help improve the look of your neighborhood!

Details to follow.

Thanksgiving Inspiration

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

~John F. Kennedy

29th and Chase Celebrates Clean Up Month

The 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association dedicated October as "Neighborhood Clean Up Month". During October, community residents were encouraged to do their part to improve the look of the community through planting trees and flowers, cleaning up house exteriors, or simply picking up trash. The purpose of the clean up was more than just helping the neighborhood look cleaner. The month-long clean up brought the community together and united

"The month-long clean up brought the community together and united residents in pride."

residents in pride.

To celebrate the successful clean up campaign, the 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association held a

block party on October 29th.

Over fifty community members came by to share in the festivities and enjoy the free food and raffle. The 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association wishes to thank the City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department, who, along with



Chef W.J. Lewis serves up food with a smile!



A couple younger community members join some of the members of 29th and Chase at the block party.

all our wonderful donators, helped make the event possible. A wonderful time was had by all!

The 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association is always open to new membership. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 in the Ben Durham Building, 2933 North Myrtle Avenue. Stop by and see how you can become an even greater part of the community!

What is NJCDC? (A Brief History)

NJCDC's goals are to provide the construction and rehabilitation of single family homes for low to moderate income-level families in the 29th and Chase community.

The development of homes in this community is essential because of the lack of redevelopment of housing stock for many years. NJCDC wants to be the leader in finding ways to assist the neighborhood with the redevelopment and revitalization initiative. Although the 29th and Chase community became a City of Jacksonville intensive care neighborhood, there were little resources available to assist with increasing the housing stock in a way that would increase the value of existing housing stock in the community.

In January 2001, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) began organizing professional and community leaders that either lived or worked in the northwest quadrant of the city to discuss forming a community development corporation (CDC). At the same time, the First Coast Black Business Investment Corporation (FCBBIC) had a similar objective and was in the process of organizing residents and business owners in the 29th and Chase neighborhood. LISC and FCBBIC met with members of the 29th and Chase Neighborhood Association and all agreed to work together to form a CDC aimed at improving the quality of life in the neighborhood. Thus, NJCDC was formed.

NJCDC focuses on construction and sale of single-family homes. Our efforts are concentrated in the 29th and Chase neighborhood, a Mayor's Intensive Care Community bordered to the North by Golfair Boulevard, to the south by Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway, to the east by Interstate 95, and to the west by Canal Street.



At Home with NJCDC!

Meet Our President

(Continued from page 1)

the Northside Church of Christ.

Ms. Williams decided to add NJCDC to her list of activities because she truly believes in the NJCDC mission. She says, "I am here to be a positive part of bringing back and revitalizing the community."

Ms. Williams plays an important role in NJCDC. She takes a particular interest in the daily office operations and sees herself as the liaison between NJCDC staff, the Board of Directors, and the community. Her goal is to bring harmony to all groups

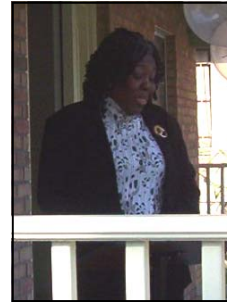
involved with NJCDC through her dedication.

Ms. Williams says that NJCDC plays a greater role in the community than simply building houses. NJCDC breathes life into the community by motivating, inspiring, and uplifting neighborhood residents. She sees NJCDC as a leadership organization.

She sees the leadership and motivation provided by NJCDC expanding in the future. She knows that NJCDC will continue to build not only houses, but dreams. Ms. Williams says, "I want NJCDC to show people

how to live, instead of just being alive."

NJCDC appreciates and values Ms. Williams' contribution to the Board, but most of all, we appreciate her sincerity and heart!



President Aileen Williams addresses the crowd at the Open House.

Executive Director's Corner



By Paul Tutwiler

Executive Director Paul Tutwiler has been in the Community Development field for over six years. He began his career

working on the Hope VI Oaks at Durkeeville project and has been the Executive Director of NJCDC for two years. This issue, Mr. Tutwiler responds to a Florida Times Union article about our neighborhood that described a murder that occurred without someone calling 911.

I am hurt and appalled by the article in the Florida Times Union on November 6, 2004. I am hurt because of the accuracy of the article and that it happened in my neighborhood. I am appalled that it made the headline on the front page.

We have been suffering as a community for some time now. Our suffering is from internal strife and conditions...and external stereotyping. For years the Florida Times

Union has reported on "Bicycle Rapists", murders, muggings, and other violent crime within the community. The paper has helped to perpetuate the stereotypes and to feed the low self-esteem of our community's citizens.

We have chosen to take the "half full", as opposed to the "half empty", view of our community's conditions. There is so much hope and promise for our community. We believe that the answers begin with us in the community. Sustainability of all we do depends on the community owning it. We once were a very prominent community, and we seek to return to that stature.

We are working with the Sheriff's office to create initiatives to stem crime in the area. If the U.S. can win the hearts and minds of the Iraqis children by giving out soccer balls and Frisbees, then a more intense strategy involving and engaging our youth will work as well.

In the last year, the community, with the help of the City's Planning Department, produced a Neighbor-

hood Action Plan that we use as a blue print for development. We also applied for a grant with the city that resulted in a pending "Town Center Project" which will resurface Myrtle Avenue and Moncrief Street and produce a streetscape that will be inviting to potential businesses coming to our area. The price tag will exceed 1.5 million dollars. J.E.A. is piggybacking the project and is moving up its timetable for new infrastructure to the area.

We are planning to revamp our park (Simmond-Johnson). We are also looking at economic development initiatives for the area. Among our modest short term goals is to get positive press coverage. The gloom and doom scares us and stems our progress.

Another murder in the neighborhood: two steps forwardnow one step backwards.

"SUSTAINABILITY OF ALL WE DO DEPENDS ON THE COMMUNITY OWNING IT."

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If you or someone you know is interested in homeownership, please contact an NJCDC intake specialist.

904-301-3767

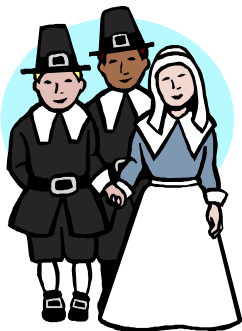


You Can Be a Homeowner

Thanksgiving Fun Facts

To celebrate the Thanksgiving tradition in the United States, we would like to offer you some obscure Thanksgiving trivia to impress your friends and amaze your family this Turkey Day!

1. Benjamin Franklin wanted to name the turkey the national bird of the United States, but he was opposed by Thomas Jefferson. Legend has it that Franklin then named the male turkey a "tom turkey" to spite Jefferson. (The female is



2. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the last president to change the date of Thanksgiving. He changed it to the Thursday before the last Thursday in November to make the Christmas shopping season longer and thus stimulate the economy. In 1941, Congress passed an official proclamation naming Thanksgiving a legal holiday to be observed on the fourth Thursday in November.
3. Cranberry jelly was eaten at the first Thanksgiving. Today, before cranberries are put in bags to be sent to the rest of the country, each individual berry must bounce at least four inches high to make sure it is not too ripe.
4. It was once believed that merely touching a wishbone would bring you good luck. Squabbles over the bone eventually led to the custom of tugging them until they snapped, and the holder of the longer piece would be granted a wish. NJCDC wishes you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!

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