

# NORTHWEST JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## AT HOME IN THE COMMUNITY

Spring 2008

NJCDC Tackles Crime!



### Nosy Neighbors

***Have you ever heard the expression that fences make good neighbors? We have great neighbors in our growing community because they mind their business and ours too.***

I was told recently that some kids were playing in my yard when I wasn't at the (model home) office. Our next door neighbor is out of town and together we have agreed to bring in the newspaper and check the mail. Her mother is sick and she may be awhile. She lost her husband about ten years ago. The oldest child got married a few years back and moved to the other side of town. The youngest boy is off to college. Thanks to my neighbor I've gotten the latest news for my street about all the neighbors. In fact, we have many Nosy Neighbors who keep constant vigil over our community.

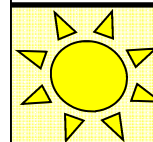
This unofficial crime watch is one of our community's strengths as we organize for change. They typically are elderly citizens who have seen many community changes over the years, however the Nosy Neighbor Club is open to everyone. We encourage them to share the news with us as they genuinely are concerned about the community and its plight.

When the "No Gooders" prowl our streets, the call network goes into effect. A stranger in our midst represents a possible threat to any or all of us. Nosy Neighbors are our guardian angels. They ask for no praise and they often like to stay anonymous. Our hat goes off to all of our Nosy Neighbors because you are our heroes. May God continue to bless you. Please accept our heart felt THANK YOU! just for being you.

**Call (904) 764-1805 to join today.**

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#### **Summer Tip #1**

**Try keeping the warm air outside by merely closing blinds, shades and curtains to reduce the amount of heat by 40%**

#### ***Board of Directors***

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Summer will be here soon, therefore we have provided a few tips to prepare you for those hot summer days! Continue reading for more tips...

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

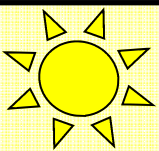
All the residents that participated in our Thanksgiving Neighborhood Clean Up. The event was successful in getting the residents involved! The residents and members of NJCDC collected 25 bags of trash and 15 tires within the 29th and Chase community on November 17th 2007.



Pictures to the right include all participants from the Thanksgiving Clean Up

Participants listed alphabetically by last name:

Dara Davis, Tavaris Gadsden, Aaron Gordon, Ms. Ethel Griffin, Taloma James, Christina Kanhai, Mr. Lewis, Felicia Myrick, Airelle Pruitt, Christian Pruitt, Jordan Pruitt, Kole Pruitt, Ms. Racheal Pruitt, Adjhoa Randolph, Ke'Monye Randolph, and Paul Tutwiler



Summer  
Tip #2

If you keep air moving it will feel cooler, so try to invest in an oscillating fan!

## COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR HOMEBUYING SEMINAR!

CALL 764-1805 FOR MORE DETAILS



# Community Ostriches



*Written by Paul Tutwiler*  
*NJCDC Executive Director*

***Some people can't find the forest because of all the trees in the way.  
We spend our daily lives just trying to just figure things out.***

I've spent the better part of the last decade working in the urban core. I've seen day-to-day activity that everyone must have grown accustomed to seeing. So we pretend not to notice it anymore. Open prostitution, drug activity, pan handling, trash, and blight become the subject of conversation that might begin "one of these days" or "somebody ought to do something about that." Then we go on about our daily lives.

These issues become community issues when a stray bullet hits an innocent child who is quietly reading a book. We cry. We organize. We fuss. Then, we carry on with our lives until the next time.

This reoccurring nightmare reminds me of an ostrich. When it gets afraid and feels trapped, the ostrich reportedly will just stick its head in the sand to hide from the danger. Maybe it feels the threat will go away. Maybe it feels the threat won't notice that the ostrich is in harms way and will go around it.

We've become ostriches in our communities. We pretend that the underground economies won't affect us even though they are obvious to anyone looking. Guests to our communities are often greeted with offers of illicit deals or sex trade offers. So our visitors go home and pretend that they don't know about our problems. After all, they've crossed the bridges to relative safety. We add the second or third lock to our doors. The sun comes up tomorrow and we both (groups) start all over again.

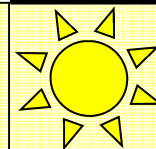
Some urbanites compound the problem by using street codes. There are many, but "don't snitch" is the most cruel. Let the bad guys go, we reason, because they are one of us (victims of society, trapped by life's circumstances). When the cowardly killers walk free, they have time to size up the next victim. Perhaps if we are lucky, it won't be our relative or ...us. As the drug dealers poison our streets.....You know the ones we don't see standing on the corners selling drugs everyday.....they turn our mothers and daughters into prostitutes to support addictions.

The police are tired of arresting the same people; the courts are over crowded; there are no jobs in the community; a new crop of dealers just dropped out of school; and so we get used to the same old soup warmed over. Where is the nearest sand pit so we can hide our faces from the danger?

***Let's work together on a plan to "Make a Difference".....in our lifetimes!***

## **WANT TO ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTERS?**

**Advertising with NJCDC allows businesses and organizations to reach a diverse community, which include area businesses, city officials, residents and students.  
Please call Christina at 904-764-1805 for more information**



### **Summer Tip #3**

**You can cut your AC costs by 5-7% for each degree you raise your thermostat!  
Recommended setting should be between 78-82 degrees**

**NORTHWEST JACKSONVILLE  
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*“Building around the triangles  
in the community”*

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A BRAND NEW HOME!



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Upon the Closing of that House!