

Bulk Trash Pickup Dates

Friday, March 9
Friday, June 7
Friday, September 7

Creekside

NEWS & VIEWS · VOL. 15 · ISSUE NO. 2

Published by the Creekside Community Development Corporation · April/May 2007

**CREEKSIDE
NEWS & VIEWS is
published in**

February · April/May
August · Oct./Nov.

Public/Membership Meeting

Join us for a Mid-Year Review

Tuesday, June 19th
6:00 p.m. Refreshments
6:30 p.m. Meeting

Agenda

Maheras Park Update
Blight Fight Next Steps
Guyton Elementary Update
New Homes at
Creekside West
Home Repair Resources

**Refreshments provided
Bring a dish if you wish**

SAVE THE DATE FOR CREEKSIDE'S

Sizzlin' Summer Fun!

Saturday, August 18th
AB Ford Park
Games, refreshments,
family fun.

**Plan to bring your
family and enjoy!**

Good News for Guyton Elementary

There's good news for 375 Guyton students and their families: Guyton Elementary School, nestled in the southeast corner of the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood, will stay open. However, the school must meet certain academic and enrollment goals set by Detroit Public Schools. If those goals are not met, the school will automatically close in September, 2008.

Community Partners to Revitalize Guyton (CPR Guyton), a group of local organizations that has been working with Guyton since 2005, is working to help Guyton achieve these goals. Its members are gathering ideas that will improve test scores and bring more people to the school.

Guyton's staff is considering creating a curriculum that will take advantage of the

school's proximity to the Great Lakes. It would integrate Math, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies into the central focus of studying the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the Great Lakes. Students would explore ecology, plant and animal life, climates, water levels, global warming and its effects, floods, ship wrecks and Great Lakes history and commerce. Outings would include walks to the water's edge, trips to Belle Isle, boat rides, and taking regular water samples and making comparisons.

This new curriculum would meet all requirements like Grade Level Content Expectations and help students achieve higher scores on the MEAP test.

Guyton staff is also investigating how it can integrate African Centered

Education (ACE) into its curriculum. Detroit Public Schools asks that every school submit a plan outlining steps for implementing ACE into its curriculum. These principles and core values include: KIJICHAGULIA (koo-jee-cha-goo-lee-ah) self-determination, self-respect and goal setting; UJIMA (oo-jee-mah) responsibility to self and others; and KUUMBA (ku-oom-bah) creativity, self-expression and aesthetic appreciation.

Because it's important that teachers be able to teach and students be able to learn in a safe and cooperative environment, the school is investigating ways to deal with discipline. One program called Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) helps children control their own behavior.

— *continued on page 2*

Clean up day a GREAT success!

On May 5th, more than 100 came together to successfully clean up the blocks surrounding Guyton Elementary School. The effort was led by CRP Guyton, the Phillip and Marlborough Block Clubs and Creekside. Special thanks to Willie Burton and the Roundball Development crew, the Jefferson Chalmers CDC, Jack Rabbit, Chef Eric Giles, Councilwoman Alberta Tinsley Talabi and



the crew from SHARE House, Moica Moffit and Pat McGuire, and Phil Wassenhauer for donating tools and labor. Thanks to our other partners and local merchants Big Bear Market, Dallas Market and Bakery, Alter-Jefferson Mobile, Parkway Grocery, Del Point Market, Dollar King, Jerry's Liquor Store, Welcome Market, JEBA, and the Southeast Neighborhood City Hall for generous donations to the event.

Good News

— continued from page 1

RTP takes a new track, aiming control their own behavior. RTP takes a new track, aiming to respectfully engage students into thinking about their own actions and how they relate to the rules. It teaches students how to achieve their own goals without violating the rights of others.

CPR Guyton has several strategies to increase enrollment. One, spear-headed by Guyton School Community Organization (GSCO) and Southeastern Village, is called "Each One Reach One." GSCO President Glenda McCrea says, "We are very excited about this enrollment strategy that helps parents approach individual families encouraging them to enroll their children at Guyton. Parents will receive prizes and other recognition for recruiting students to attend Guyton." There will be an "Each One Reach One" Enrollment Fair in June.

Other enrollment strategies include additional enrollment fairs, marketing at local events, door-to-door delivery of brochures and visits to area

Head Start programs and elementary schools slated to close.

An important part of Guyton's marketing will be the Guyton Gateways Initiative, the goal of which is to permanently improve housing conditions and appearances on the two streets that lead from Jefferson to Guyton – Philip and Marlborough. Creekside is leading this effort with other partners and volunteers from the Philip and Marlborough Street Block Clubs. Together they will implement programs and strategies to eradicate blight and enable Gateway property owners and residents to fix up, paint up and clean up their properties.

CPR Guyton partners will be working to establish new partnerships with universities, corporations and other non-governmental organization to ensure that Guyton gets the resources it needs. Concludes CPR Chair Sharon Meadows, "We have all worked very hard to keep Guyton open. Now we must continue our efforts to take Guyton to a new level, from being very good to being excellent. We won't stop until we can make Guyton *the* school of choice on Detroit's East Side."

Suzanne Bishop Memorial Tree Planting

On Saturday April 28th, more than 50 community members came together to plant ten trees on the Fox Creek trail.

The planting was done in partnership with Greening of Detroit. Funds for the event were provided by DTE Energy. Since 2002, Creekside volunteers have planted more that 160 trees on the trail. One of the 10 trees planted was dedicated to Suzanne Bishop for her heroic work to preserve green spaces in the Creekside community. Suzanne passed away last December. A beautiful, engraved river rock dedicated



to Suzanne sits at the base of that tree so that her community work will not be forgotten. After the memorial tree planting family and friends gathered at the Lenox Center for a memorial reception.

Thanks to DTE Energy's generosity, Creekside will plant another 30 trees in 2007. To get involved with the next planting, call Creekside at (313) 822-0062.

American Cancer Society

Relay for Life • June 23-24 Marygrove College

(formerly held at AB Ford Park)

For more info, call ACS at (248) 483-4305

Creekside West Homes

Ten New Homes on Kitchener Street
Located South of Jefferson



The Kitchener



The Continental

Why Creekside?

- Great schools
- Walking distance to Riverbend Plaza
- Near 7 major bus lines
- Excellent parks on the water
- Homes about 1,300 sq ft.
- 3 bedrooms & 2 baths
- 1 car detached garage
- Full basement
- Energy efficient

Call Bridget @ Creekside for more info (313) 822-0062

Sale Price
\$112,000
Buyer down
payment assistance
Reduced Property
Taxes
Must be income
eligible
\$35,000-\$55,000

Recycling Coming?

Creekside is taking steps to establish a neighborhood-based recycling program in the community. More information will be coming soon. Watch our website for details.

Call Kris at (313) 822-0062 if you'd like to volunteer to help get this program started.

Blight Forum Recap

On March 12th Creekside Co-Sponsored a “Unity in the Community Blight Forum” which brought together members from JEBA, Southeast Waterfront Coalition, Fox Creek Radio Patrol, CPR Guyton, Jefferson Chalmers CDC and the community at large. The evening was attended by more than 70 community members. The coordinated partnership facilitated a discussion on issues of neighborhood blight and security. There was also a slide show and video that members of the community put together about the neighborhood.

The group talked about the community’s strengths and weaknesses and where it felt improvements are needed. Commercial district improvements, illegal dumping and housing improvements were identified as areas to target.

Successes of Blight meeting:

- Created comprehensive community contact list
- Neighborhood leaders passed out flyers door to door and made phone calls
- The community feels more empowered to work together
- New community members came and participated

Progress has been made since the meeting. Creekside, CPR Guyton and Phillip and Marlborough Block Clubs kicked off Motor City Makeover with a successful clean-up around Guyton Elementary School. The Jefferson Chalmers CDC also provided people

power and resources for this successful effort. Block club leaders inventoried property conditions on their streets to determine which homes need to be targeted for home repair or other types of assistance, which lots need intensive clean up and monitoring, etc. Creekside is exploring ways to help home owners that may not have the funds to fix up their homes. JEBA is organizing walks on the commercial district.

So what can you do now? Well for one “Be the change you want to see.” If you want to eliminate blight start at home, talk to neighbors about what bothers you on your street, join your block club (if you don’t have a block club, start one). All of the organizations in the community are here to help, so please let us know what we can help you with.

Community Tree Farm and Garden

In an effort to stop illegal dumping on vacant lots, Creekside has adopted the lot at 567 Kitchener in the Creekside Homes area. The lot will be used to create a tree farm and community garden in collaboration with the Greening of Detroit. The tree farm will grow trees that will be replanted throughout the community. The trees will beautify a vacant city lot. New affordable housing and new trees will enhance the community.

The community garden will be project of the new Kitchener block club that is just getting started. The hope is to provide a space where the community can work together to beautify the neighborhood. Many Kitchener residents are renters and have no access to a garden. Deborah Cooper, a Creekside Americorps volunteer and Kitchener resident, is working on the Kitchener Block Club and hopes the tree farm and garden can be part of its formation.

All are welcome to participate. We are looking into other sites to expand this program. If you are interested please contact Bridget at Creekside 313-822-0062 or bchristian@creeksidedetroit.org

From the Director...

First of all, sorry for the lapse in communication. A number of you have called the office to see when our next issue of the *Creekside News and Views* would be published. And finally— here it is!

It’s finally spring! And what a great spring it’s been in the community. One event after another has brought us together to get to know each other, and work together for a cleaner and safer community. The Unity in the Community meeting got the ball rolling, and set an example of what can be achieved if we all work together. Creekside’s memorial tree planting honored Suzanne Bishop, and built momentum toward finishing the Alter/Fox Creek planting project. So many planters attended that we finished planting 10 trees in less that 2 hours, and adjourned to the Lenox Center for the memorial event. Suzanne would have been proud of us!

The May 5th Phillip/Marlborough Guyton Gateway clean-up was also incredibly successful. It brought students, neighbors, teachers and many others together spruce up the Guyton grounds and gateway in order to better promote the school.

We’ve got some new faces around the Creekside office. Bridget Christian, an MSW student from the University of Michigan, will be with us for the rest of the year through Americorps as housing education coordinator. She’s hit the ground running by helping organize the Guyton Gateway housing inventory and clean-up, developing promotional materials for our Creekside West project, and much more. Kris Hammerberg, an urban planning student from the University of Michigan has also joined us as an Americorps volunteers. Kris will spend the summer focusing on park, greenway and green space planning and projects. We also anticipate hiring a full-time housing coordinator in the near future who will help develop and manage Creekside West and other housing programs.

Special thanks to Lynne Garner, who has volunteered to help get the Creekside office organized, and Maggie Horne, who has worked to whip our mailing list data into shape.

And thanks to Nicole Allard, our fall intern, who helped lay the groundwork and raise some funds for current projects. Thank you to former board member Ramone Crowe for his contributions to Creekside. We wish him well with the Java Exchange.

We’re expecting a busy summer as we prepare for the Creekside West groundbreaking, a family event in the park, 1-2 more tree plantings, and other events. Please plan to join us for an exciting summer.

— Karen Brown

Walking Group

Interested in getting more active? Join the Southeastern Village Pacers Walking club and get moving! The Pacers meet every Saturday from 9:00-10:00 at 1501 Canton (the former Bellevue Elementary School), and head out to one of Detroit’s parks or other places for a walk.

Walking is great exercise that anyone of any age can do. It keeps your heart healthy, helps lower your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol.

For more information, call Southeastern Village at 313-922-8660.

Creekside
CDC's service
area is in
southeast
Detroit,
bounded by E. Jefferson, Alter, Clairpointe,
and the Detroit River.



JEBA Summer Events

Are you Ready!

To take your first steps towards owning a business? Come to JEBA's Vision To Reality Seminar Tuesday, June 12th from 6 to 8pm @14628 Jefferson. Contact Robin L. Duncan @313-331-7939, rduncan@jeffersoneast.org.

"June on Jefferson"

Is a series of promotional community events to be held on Saturdays in June, hosted by JEBA. To learn more please contact Cassidy Boulan at 313-331-7939, ext.305.

Clean and safe

JEBA would like to invite you to join them every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2-4pm for the clean and safe community meeting held @ JEBA's office: 14628 E Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48215.

Creekside NEWS & VIEWS

Published by the Creekside Community Development Corporation,
1021 Manistique, P.O. Box 15221,
Detroit, MI 48215. Telephone voice mail:
313-822-0062 · Fax: 313-822-6962
www.creeksidedetroit.org

Distribution totals 4,600 copies to residents, churches and businesses.
Deadline for article submission for the August issue is July 15, 2007.

Karen C. Brown, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Myers (President)
Rosa Sims (Vice President)
Renee Gilmore (Treasurer)
Rhonda Ervin (Secretary)
Beverley Ebersold
Colin Hubbell
Traci Odom
Ron Muir
Mearon Lewers
Kerwin Wimberley



Printing by Creative Characters, Inc.



4th Annual Jazzin' On Jefferson

Friday June 22nd from 3pm til 10:30pm
Saturday June 23rd from 11:30am til 10:30pm

To become a vendor or volunteer,
please contact Shirlean Couxton
at 313 331-7939 ext. 307

Join us for the 32nd Annual CTC
(Conner, Tennessee, Clairpointe)
Old Timers' Picnic
on Sunday, July 24, 1-7 p.m.
Maheras Gentry Park

Call Sam Gibbs at (313) 864-4142 for more info.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DETROIT, MI
PERMIT NO. 100

Creekside NEWS & VIEWS
Creekside Community Development Corporation
P.O. Box 15221, Detroit, MI 48215-0221