PATHWAYS FOR PARRAMORE Update

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009 ISSUE

Mayor Buddy Dyer
407.246.2221

Comm. Daisy Lynum
407.246.2005

Parramore Team:
Walter Hawkins
Director of Urban Development
407.246.3190

Fire – Medical – Police Emergencies
911

Services:
Animal Control
407.352.4390

Callahan Neighborhood Center
407.246.2305

Community Services & Resources
211

Code Enforcement
407.246.4444

Fire Department non-emergency
321.235.5200

Garbage
407.246.2314

Report Illegal Dumping
407.246.2686

Housing
407.246.2708

Jackson Community Center
407.246.232

Neighborhood Watch
407.246.2369

Police Department non-emergency
321.235.5300

Police Community Involvement
407.246.2461

Potholes
407.246.2238

Street Light Outages
407.737.4222

Street Signs and Stop Signs Missing
407.246.2020

Message from the Mayor

On February 25, I had the privilege of giving my sixth State of the City address as Mayor of our great City. My remarks, given just a few hours after President Obama laid out his federal economic recovery plan, were designed to work within and alongside the federal plan on a local level to aid Central Florida's economy by creating jobs, providing economic stimulus and connecting residents with vital information.

While this economic crisis is global in scale, its effects are being felt at kitchen tables and cash registers throughout our City. It is now up to us to confront and overcome this crisis to ensure our City comes out of this recession stronger and remains on course to fulfill our vision as the next great American city. In partnership with elected leaders, businesses, civic organizations and residents, we will **Strengthen Orlando**.

The **Strengthen Orlando** plan outlines several key initiatives in six different categories to help families and businesses weather difficult economic times. Some highlights of the **Strengthen Orlando** plan include:

Orlando Connects:
- Launch a Strengthen Orlando web site to connect residents to local resources.
- Promote existing programs in the community, such as free tax-preparation services and utility-bill assistance.

Orlando Builds:
- Provide additional transportation impact fee exemptions based upon location for new attainable and affordable housing projects.

Orlando Works:
- Host a series of economic forums to discuss issues affecting local businesses.
- Encourage and assist the private sector to embrace the concept of the BLUEPRINT goals and implement aspects of the plan to extend job opportunity to minority and women-owned enterprises (M/WBE).

Buy Local Orlando:
- Champion "Buy Local Orlando," a new program to encourage residents to purchase goods and services from Orlando businesses so more money will stay in the community.

Orlando Partners:
- Work with Governor Crist's office to secure federal stimulus cash for local "shovel-ready" projects.

Orlando Cares:
- Implement a new Emergency Home Repairs Program to provide assistance for qualifying homeowners to make major emergency home repairs.
- Expand the Foreclosure-Prevention Program to assist low- to middle-income homeowners with delinquent mortgage payments.
- Provide money for security deposits and utility startups, through the Homebound Rent Referral Program, to help families without a place to live move into rental housing.

Visit www.strengthenorlando.com to learn more.

Buddy Dyer

Commissioner's Column

By Commissioner Daisy W.

On December 16, 2008, I had an opportunity, along with 44 other national Black organization presidents and executives with the Black Leadership Forum, to meet with President-elect Barack Obama's Transition Team regarding governmental relations and civil rights issues. As President of the National League of Cities National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NLC/NBC-LEO), I will meet regularly with this group over the next 12 months and that may include President Obama and/or his staff from time-to-time.

I have expressed the support of the NLC and NBC-LEO, of the President's almost $1 trillion economic stimulus plan that will help rebuild America's infrastructure, put millions of people back to work and train or retrain millions for new "green" jobs or a change in jobs; in addition, the stimulus plan will address decreasing our poverty population, employing ex-felons, homeless individuals and veterans.

I need the help of my constituents across District 5 and the Orlando community to appeal to our Congressional representatives to approve this economic stimulus plan, provided the President issues an Executive Order or Congress changes federal decisions that have overturned laws that have ensured minority and women-owned business enterprises are included in each state, county and/or municipality's procurement process that guarantees inclusion and parity for contracts and jobs.

I have explained my position as described in Orlando's BLUEPRINT to the Transition Team and to my colleagues that we must ensure the inclusion of African Americans in the rebuilding of America, but that this time, they will be paid for their labor.

Each one of us owes it to our community and the future of our country to support an economic stimulus plan. Too many of us need work and we can rebuild our transportation, sewer, energy and educational facilities, etc., at the same time. Our local congressional delegations are: Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez; Congresswoman Corinne Brown, Alan Grayson, Linda Kosmas and John Mica.

Thanks for your continued support and have a happy and prosperous New Year.

God Bless

Daisy W. Lynum

Business Development

Small Business Resource Guide

The Business Development Division developed a "Small Business Resource Guide" to provide a one-stop shop on how to start, operate and maintain a small business in the City of Orlando. In these very difficult economic times, it is important to realize that our citizens and business owners come first. The brochure will help answer basic questions that small businesses face every day and also provide contact information for specific City Departments/Divisions that can assist, in a timely manner, other requests. Small businesses drive our local economy, creating jobs and opportunities for the entire Central Florida region and it is our mission at the City to help them succeed. For your complimentary copy, please contact the Mayor's Business Assistance Team at 407.246.2222 or tim.dougher@cityoforlando.net.

Children & Education

Community Service Center Connects Young Adults to Jobs

The City of Orlando's Parramore Kidz Zone is partnering with the Community Service Center of Central Florida, Inc. (CSC) and the City's Community Venue partners to provide transitional employment opportunities to at-risk youth in the Parramore community. Just a few weeks after the project was launched in Parramore, 10 people have joined and five of those have been placed in jobs. The participants receive training, career counseling, workshops on resume writing and interviewing, mentoring and other supportive services prior to, during and after job placement. These opportunities are designed to prepare PKZ participants to obtain and retain employment with one of CSC's transitional jobs partners.

Powerteens Program

Powerteens is a youth group for girls ages 11-16, offering guest speakers, educational and cultural field trips and peer and mentor support to help teen girls make positive life choices. It is a faith-based program which uses personal life experiences through script writing, drama and song to teach girls to make

Powerteens Program

healthy life choices. The program administers both afterschool and summer programs. The group recently went on its Powerteens Youth College Tour to visit Bethune-Cookman University and Stetson University, allowing the teenage girls an opportunity to see what the schools had to offer them as potential future students.

Congratulations PKZ Bearz Football Team!

Parramore Kidz Zone's "PKZ Bearz" football team won first place in the Southeastern Offense/Defense Football Classic. Teams from both Florida and Georgia participated in this championship in November 2008. Their win came after placing first among Central Florida teams, and then the Bearz went on to beat the top ranking Georgia team. This is the team's first year in the league and they have already set an unprecedented record by winning their first 10 games in a row. The Bearz team is one of the many athletics programs operating year-round through PKZ. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Brenda March at the City of Orlando's Families, Parks and Recreation Department, 407.246.4295 or Brenda.March@cityoforlando.net.

Housing

Coming Home to Carver Park

The new community of affordable homes in Parramore, The Villas at Carver Park and The Landings at Carver Park are located on the site formerly known as Carver Court in the south Parramore area.

The Villas, a new 64-unit apartment development sponsored by the Orlando Housing Authority, is about 80 percent complete and is expected to open in April 2009. This development is intended to serve the very low and low-income elderly population in Orlando.

The Landings, the multi-family rental development consisting of attached townhouses with garages, duplexes, quad-plexes and row houses is about 70 percent complete. The rental portion of the development will open for low-income families in May 2009. Construction is also on the way of the on-site homeownership units. The model home, located at the corner of Short Avenue and Conley Street, will be used as a sales office. Fifteen houses are pre-approved for financing to purchase at Carver Park. Families meet individually with homeownership counselors.

If you have questions or are interested in any of the units, contact the Orlando Housing Authority at 407.894.1500.

Become a Homeowner

Are you interested in purchasing a house? SOJ Enterprises, LLC is one of the City's approved developers for single family development and they are building homes in the Parramore neighborhood. These homes are available at a reduced cost to homebuyers. Down payment and closing cost assistance may also be available.

For additional information to purchase any of these homes, please visit the Housing and Community Development Department website www.cityoforlando.net/housing under "Homes for Sale."

Carver Park Model Home

Public Safety

From your Orlando Police Department:

Thank you to SoDo Super Target, the Fraternal Order of Police and the City family for your help in making the 25th Orlando Police Department Angel Tree Christmas Party for underprivileged children living in the Parramore neighborhood a success.

OPD Operations

The Parramore Heritage Bike Unit (PHBU) is currently working two enforcement operations in the Parramore area to combat Orlando's escalating violent crime problem. The area

continues to bear witness to the senseless and reckless display and use of firearms plaguing Parramore. Operation Duration is a continuing mission to address crime issues emanating from the Polk and Benson Street areas. The Albany and Randall Street area is a main focus area for Operation Restoration, which will see the added presence of Orlando's Motor Unit, Mounted Unit and officers from the Community Relations Unit. Both of these operations are part of Chief Demings' relentless pursuit of violent offenders.

Working Together, We CAN Make a Difference.

Quality of Life

Nominate a Yard of the Month now!

The Orlando Police Department Neighborhood Watch Unit is launching a "Yard of the Month" program for the Parramore Heritage Community. The purpose of the program is to recognize Parramore residents who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property and contribute to the overall beauty of the community at large.

All award winners receive an official "Yard of the Month" lawn-sign, to place on their property for the duration of their award month. Key criteria for being selected as the Yard of the Month include a manicured yard, beautification, originality and creativity. The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.

The Orlando Police Department encourages all neighbors to join in keeping their yards and homes beautiful and keeping Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods.

Keep watching this space for more information. If you have questions please call 407.246.3628 or send an email to Georgeanna.Butler@cityoforlando.net.

Z.L. Riley Park Expansion Update

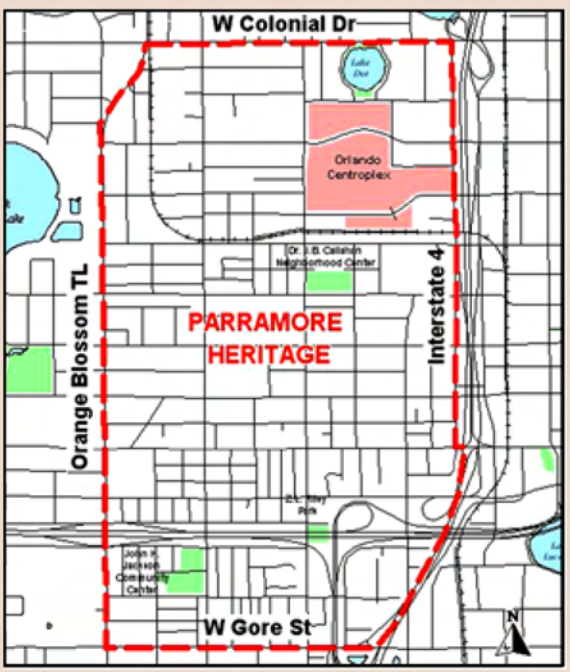
The construction plans for the Z.L. Riley Park expansion project are complete and the City is preparing to bid out the project. The project consists of the development of almost two acres of land into a premier park across the street from the Parramore Village project. The design was created with input from residents in the community and it will include a large shelter and stage area, 9-foot wide sidewalks, space on each side of the interior sidewalk for vendors for festivals or farmers' market use, picnic area, game tables and a shaded playground. The park will be enclosed with a decorative security fence and will feature mosaics depicting African themes made by local children and a mosaic artist. The park is dedicated to the legacy left to the community by local businessman Mr. Zellie L. Riley.

Get the Tax Return you Deserve

The City of Orlando with Heart of Florida United Way and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) want to make sure residents and families get the tax return they deserve. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax refund for low-income individuals and families. Don't miss your chance this year to earn a tax refund up to $4,824.

In addition, more than 30 FREE tax preparation sites in Central Florida are open to help the people in our community claim money they deserve and file their taxes FREE during these tough economic times.

Visit www.strengthenorlando.com or call 2-1-1 for more information on eligibility requirements and items you will need to bring with you to prepare your tax return.



Neighborhood Associations located within the Parramore Heritage boundaries:

Arlington/Concord Neighborhood Association, Bridget Monroe, President
Callahan Neighborhood Association, Ann Brown, President
Carter Street Neighborhood Association, Mercerdese Clark, President
Griffin Park Resident Association, Evelina Bigham, President
Jackson Court/Division Oaks Resident Association, Violene Johnson, President
McFall Neighborhood Association,Clive Beaumont, President
Terry Avenue Townhome Owners Association, Lynn Nicholson, President
West Central Park Neighborhood Association, Jerry Purcell, President
William Booth Towers Resident Association, Effie Wishom, President

For more information about these associations, and many City services, please contact the City's Office of Neighborhood & Community Affairs at 407.246.2169.