

Community Information & Announcements

There are a lot of things happening in the Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods! This is a new section of the newsletter that we will include regularly to provide a snapshot of the many things underway...

<p>Monthly Meetings with Lafitte Residents take place on the second Wednesday of every month in New Orleans, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at St. Peter Claver Cafeteria (1020 North Prieur). However, soon we hope to hold the meetings at Sojourner Truth Community Centre. Dinner & Draw Prizes!</p>	<p>Free Tuition at Harvard! If you know of a family earning less than \$ 60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. To find out more visit Harvard's financial aid website at http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.</p>
<p>Lafitte Resident Leaders Meet Regularly with The Micah Project. If you're interested in participating, contact Daniel Mathieu at (504) 579-4379 or dmathieu@picolouisiana.org.</p>	<p>Friends of Lafitte Corridor is now finalizing their application to the State for creation of the Lafitte Greenway/ New City Cultural Products District. For more information, see http://www.folc-nola.org</p>
<p>A Free Nursing Program is being offered to anyone between the ages of 18-28 years old and interested in the nursing field. The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is offering FREE tuition, FREE books, a \$250 monthly stipend, and guaranteed job placement as a nurse at Providence Hospital upon graduation (it's a 3 year program) with a starting salary of \$40,000. The program is recruiting new students now! Contact Ms. Beshon Smith at (202) 266-5481 or bsmith@urbanalliance.org.</p>	<p>New Grants for Child Health-Related Costs are available to families with children who need critical health care treatment, services, or equipment not covered or not fully covered by their parents' health benefit plan. Applications can be made for up to \$5,000. To be eligible, children must be 16 years of age or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the United States, and be covered by a commercial health benefit plan. Visit www.uhccf.org</p>
<p>Lafitte Youth! Are you interested in getting involved in rebuilding your community? Contact LaTonya Williams at (504) 821-7226 or lwilliams@providencech.org or Emelda Paul at (504) 367-4724 or paulemelda@bellsouth.net.</p>	<p>A School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish is being developed. It will serve as a blueprint to guide future school renovations and new construction. It is a joint project of the Recovery School District and the Orleans Parish School Board. For more information, go to the following website: http://www.nolapublicschools.net</p>
<p>Catholic Charities Case Management for Lafitte Residents: in New Orleans call (504) 889-9680, in Houston call (713) 526-4611, in Baton Rouge call (225) 336-4406.</p>	<p>Have a community announcement you want posted here in our next newsletter? Contact LaTonya Williams at lwilliams@providencech.org or (504) 821-7226.</p>

Please Help us Stay in Touch with You!

Lafitte residents are often on the move, and we are doing our best to keep our database up-to-date. Please remember to contact us if your phone, address, or email information changes. Thank you!

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A Covenant for the Future A Draft for Review by Lafitte Residents

A number of people have been working hard to develop a Draft Covenant that shows their commitment to redeveloping and enhancing the quality of life for families living in the Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier neighborhood. This includes former residents of Lafitte, The Micah Project, Providence Community Housing, Enterprise Community Partners, and community members like the New Orleans Legal Assistance Center (NOLAC).

The Draft Covenant is included on the next page of this newsletter to make sure that as many Lafitte residents as possible have a chance to review it, comment on it, and make suggestions on how to improve it. Please share your comments **no later than August 8th, 2008**. Former Lafitte residents in New Orleans will continue their work with Providence, Enterprise, NOLAC and others to refine and finalize the Covenant. If possible, resident leaders hope to see the Covenant signed in August, prior to the 3 year anniversary of Katrina.

Updates from HANO

HANO continues to provide Lafitte residents with regular updates at monthly meetings in New Orleans. At our recent meeting between Lafitte residents, Providence, Enterprise, and others from the community, HANO provided these updates:

- Demolition of Lafitte continues, with all of the buildings between Rocheblave and Galvez now demolished. All buildings (except for the 94 units that are being rehabbed for temporary reoccupancy) are scheduled to be demolished this fall.
- Repairs to the 94 temporary units have been delayed a number of times due to damage caused by theft and weather. HANO has indicated that they expect the units to be ready for occupancy by mid-July. Many residents who had originally expressed an interest in moving back to the 94 units have since changed their minds. In many cases this is because the units will need to be vacated again in early 2009 to complete the demolition of the site and ensure redevelopment moves forward according to the schedules set in the state tax-credit funding agreements. If you have questions about the temporary units and/or are interested in returning to a temporary unit, please contact Lois Watson at HANO at the Iberville Office (401 Tremé Street) or call (504) 522-8162.
- HANO has heard that a number of Lafitte residents have been having trouble with the process of getting a Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV). Dwayne Muhammad from HANO has come to a number of meetings to help address these concerns, and Sarah McMorris and Laura Tuggle from NOLAC are also working with HANO and Catholic Charities Care Coordinators to ensure problems are addressed. If you have questions about how to get a TPV please discuss it with your Care Coordinator. If you are not working with a Care Coordinator and would like more information, your best bet is to contact HANO directly by calling Dwan White at (504) 670-3332.



Photo taken at Lafitte June 15, 2008

In This Issue

- Draft Covenant between Lafitte Residents, Providence, Enterprise
- Recruiting new members for the Lafitte Resident Council
- Home ownership opportunities
- TPV (Tenant Protection Voucher) Info

Draft Covenant for Review by Lafitte Residents (continued from page 1)

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Please review the Draft Covenant (below) as written by former Lafitte residents with input from The Micah Project, Providence Community Housing, Enterprise Community Partners, and NOLAC.

If you're interested in working with Lafitte resident leaders on the Covenant and/or addressing other community issues, please contact Daniel Mathieu at (504) 579-4379 or dmathieu@picolouisiana.org. Please share your comments before **Friday, August 8, 2008!**

DRAFT COVENANT

Former Lafitte Residents, Community Members, The Micah Project, Providence Community Housing, and Enterprise Community Partners have developed a strong working relationship based on mutual respect to create a vibrant community within the Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods. We have committed ourselves to carry out this covenant to demonstrate our shared commitment to working towards a neighborhood where all families have access to affordable housing, safety, quality education, affordable health care, living wage jobs, economic development and recreational activities. Collectively, we are committed to meeting regularly to review progress made on our efforts to develop a healthy, vibrant community. In signing this covenant, we agree that individuals and families living in Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier will have the opportunity to:

1. Live in a Safe, Mixed-Income Community Comprised of Homeowners, Subsidized Renters, and Renters.
2. Access Economic Development and Self-Sufficiency Programs to provide the community job opportunities, local financial institutions, grocery stores, restaurants, retail outlets; as well as to increase locally owned businesses.
3. Access state of the art school facilities to provide Quality Education for children and resources to improve adult literacy.
4. Access Quality Health Care and other services to promote healthy lifestyles including pre-natal care.
5. Access Recreation for seniors, adults and youth including parks, playgrounds, green space, walking pathways and bicycle lanes. This includes the use of Sojourner Truth Community Center and other community centers for programs and activities (music, art, karate, bingo, etc.)

Signed,

Providence Community Housing

Lafitte Resident Council

Micah Project - PICO LIFT

Enterprise Community Partners

N.O. Legal Assistance Center



LEFT: June 11th meeting of Lafitte residents

RIGHT: Resident Council members meet with Father Michael and the redevelopment team in September 2006



Are you interested in a seat on the Lafitte Resident Council?

The Lafitte Resident Council is looking for people, including youth, interested in joining the Council!

Since Katrina, the Council has been working hard to stay connected to the work that Providence and Enterprise are doing to redevelop Lafitte and build new homes in the Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods.

Participants on the Council include: Emelda Paul (President), Valerie Johnson (Secretary), Dolores Woods, Eddie Thomas, Mary Wright, Travis LeBlanc, and Edwina Joseph.

The total number of members will be determined, in part, based on the number of current members that want to continue serving on the Council, the number of people who say they are interested in being considered as a new member, and the qualifications of potential new members. The selection of new members will be done by the existing Council members.

More information on the Lafitte Resident Council:

- The purpose of the Council is to serve the residents and their needs, and to be a voice for the residents.
- In the past the Lafitte Resident Council has had a good relationship with the property manager; and whenever there was a problem concerning the residents, the Resident Council would work with management and residents to resolve it. That's part of the Resident Council's job.
- Resident Council members must commit to volunteer service. This could include visiting the sick, tutoring, mentoring, etc.
- To be a member of the Resident Council, you must be committed, dedicated, and sensitive to resident needs. Whenever residents confide in you about a problem, you must respect it. You must be flexible and attend workshops and meetings, and participate in some or all activities. You must also be able to work with all the partners that are involved with programs. You must have a positive attitude and your first impression is your last. But most of all, "KEEP SMILING!"

If you are interested in being considered as a new member of the Lafitte Resident Council, please contact Emelda Paul before the end of August at paulemelda@bellsouth.net or (504) 367-4724.

Introducing the Providence Homeownership Program

Buying a home will be one of the largest purchases and investments a person will make in their lifetime. Given the ever rising inflation of local housing markets as well as the increase in demand for housing in New Orleans, this can be a competitive process. Taking all of these factors into consideration, Providence Community Housing has created our Homeownership Program to offer former Lafitte families the opportunity to realize the dream of owning their very own home.



The Providence Homeownership Program is being kicked off with "The Edmundite Homes," a grouping of ten wood-frame structures built in the first half of the 20th century in the Parkview National Historic District of New Orleans. These buildings will be rehabilitated into beautiful three-bedroom, two-bathroom, single-family homes.

"The Edmundite Homes" is the first step in Providence's redevelopment project for the historic Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2008 and the homes will be completed by December 2008. The Lafitte Homebuilding Plan intends to create a mixed-income neighborhood by introducing a total of 600 homeownership units that are key in the revitalization of the community.

If you are interested in learning more about the Providence Homeownership Program and would like to be one step closer to a new beginning with an affordable quality home, please contact your case manager. Providence offers assistance to qualified families as well as homebuyer training and counseling. This approach will ensure that borrowers are comfortable with the process of buying a home, obtaining a mortgage, maintaining their home, and meeting the ongoing responsibilities of homeownership.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! Contact your case manager today so you can enroll in homeownership counseling and return to a home of your own! If you're interested, but not enrolled in the case management program, please contact LaTonya Williams at 504-821-7226 or lwilliams@providencech.org.