

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 Sojourner Truth Community Center (501 N. Galvez). Meetings are facilitated by the Lafitte Resident Council and include dinner and draw prizes! Future meeting dates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, January 14, 2009 • Wednesday, February 11, 2009 • Wednesday, March 11, 2009 • Wednesday, April 8, 2009 • Wednesday, May 13, 2009 • Wednesday, June 10, 2009 • Wednesday, July 8, 2009 • Wednesday, August 12, 2009 	<p>Need permanent supportive housing? The OAAS Permanent Supportive Housing Program is accepting applications until January 9th, 2009 for 1 and 2 bedroom units at the following apartments: <i>Meridian</i> located at 750 S. Jeff Davis Parkway, <i>200 Carondelet</i> located at 200 Carondelet Street and <i>Georgetown</i> located at 6200 Morrison/Curran Street. Only submit an application if you are willing to live at one of these apartments. To be eligible for PSH, an individual or household must meet all three of the following criteria: (1) The individual or a member of the household must have a long-term disability; (2) The member or the household must be in need of the support services provided through the program; and (3) The household must meet income guidelines. For more information, call (504) 568-3369.</p>
<p>Need health care? The Tulane Community Health Center at Covenant House assures every person gets the right care, at the right time, in the right place. Address is 611 N. Rampart Street. Hours are Mon 8am-7pm, Tues and Wed 8am-5pm, Thurs 8am-7pm, Fri 8am-5pm, and Sat 9am-1pm (1st, 2nd, and 4th Sat only). For more information please visit www.tucommunityhealthcenter.org or call (504) 988-3000.</p>	<p>Are you interested in what's happening with the Lafitte Resident Council? The Council meets monthly with Providence/Enterprise to discuss the Homebuilding Plan. Members include Emelda Paul (President), Valerie Johnson, Travis LeBlanc, Alvin Banks, Gale Sanders, Edwina Joseph. To get in touch with the Council, contact Emelda Paul at paulemelda@bellsouth.net or (504) 367-4724.</p>
<p>Interested in volunteering? Volunteer opportunities are available with Providence/Enterprise. If you're interested, contact LaTonya Williams at lwilliams@providencech.org or (504) 821-7226, and we'll get you involved!</p>	<p><i>Have a community announcement you want posted here in our next newsletter? Please contact LaTonya Williams at lwilliams@providencech.org or (504) 821-7226.</i></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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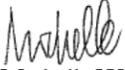
Happy Holidays!

As we prepare for the holidays and the New Year, we've been reflecting on our work with Lafitte residents over the last two years. We've all been presented with big challenges, but we've also seen big opportunities emerge to bring people home to a vibrant, thriving Lafitte community.

The Staff of Providence Community Homes and Enterprise Community Partners wants to wish you and your families safe and happy holidays, and all the best for 2009. We look forward to continuing our work together.

God bless,


James R. Kelly
President & CEO
Providence Community Housing


Michelle Whetten
Director, Gulf Coast Rebuilding Initiative
Enterprise Community Partners



December 11, 2008 - Snow in New Orleans!

In This Issue

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- Sojourner Truth – Repairs Complete, Opening in January!
- Upcoming Job Fair

Sojourner Truth Repairs Complete

The Sojourner Truth Community Center is a critical piece of the Tremé/Lafitte neighborhood – residents have been telling us that since September 2006. As those currently living in New Orleans likely know, the Center was used by HANO post-Katrina as a temporary location for their Section 8 offices. Both residents and the Lafitte redevelopment team have been eager to re-occupy the

building, and starting in January 2009 the doors will be open for community use. We will also hold our regularly monthly meetings at Sojourner Truth (the second Wednesday of every month, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, dinner and raffle included).

What will be happening at the Center? Providence and Enterprise have been working with the Lafitte Resident Council and Catholic Charities to figure out how best to use the space. Key points about the Center:

- It will be open and accessible to Lafitte residents and the public.
 - The Lafitte Resident Council will be actively involved in determining what happens at the Center.
 - Catholic Charities will offer support services (Family and Community Stabilization and Strengthening Services including: Case Management, Family Advocacy, Information and Referral Services, Employment, Education, Youth Development, Wealth Development and Health & Wellness).
- (continued on page 2)*



Sojourner Truth Community Center

Sojourner Truth Repairs Complete (continued from page 1)

The initial hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 5:30pm. Note that operating hours are subject to change based on community needs and program capacity. Saturday and after hours events will be offered based on resident and community needs and desires.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Center, contact Carol Carter, Catholic Charities, at ccarter@archdiocese-no.org or (504) 889-6980 Ext. 2222.

Covenant Signed!



On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, the Covenant between the Lafitte Resident Council, Providence, Enterprise, NOLAC, and The Micah Project was signed.

This is an important accomplishment for the people involved, as it shows our collective commitment to continue our strong working relationship based on mutual respect. We also have a shared commitment to creating a neighborhood where all families have access to affordable housing, safety, quality education, affordable health care, living wage jobs, economic development and recreational activities.

Jobs and Contracts at Lafitte

With the demolition of Lafitte largely complete, Providence and Enterprise are now focused on working hard to get new housing built as soon as possible. **It is our goal to have the first families moving into their new homes before the end of 2009.**

There will be a lot of activity on the site over the next few months, starting with the construction of those services that we rely on – the roads, electricity, sewers, water, etc. Construction of homes will follow soon after.

Starting in January we will begin creating a list of Lafitte residents and business owners interested in working on the redevelopment. The job opportunities are for both men and women, and although most opportunities will be in construction, there will be other opportunities that focus more on support services and administration. **Please CONTACT US if you want to get on our JOBS EMAIL LIST.** We will also be hosting a JOB FAIR in January – and will send out more detailed information closer to the date.

JOBS AND SMALL BUSINESS CONTACT: LaTonya Williams, lwilliams@providencech.org or (504) 821-7226.



Wicker and Wheatley Schools to be Improved



Schools are a critical part of our community's future, and a petition signed by more than 380 Lafitte Residents and community members helped fast-track significant improvements to both Wheatley and Wicker.

The School Facilities Master Plan originally had the rebuilding of Wheatley scheduled for 2013 and the renovation of Wicker scheduled for 2021. After consultation with residents as well as Providence and Enterprise, Superintendent Valles and Assistant Superintendent Burke committed to **replacing Wheatley in Phase 1 of the School Facilities Master Plan** (beginning 2009), and to **renovating or replacing Wicker in Phase 2** (beginning 2013).

This is very exciting news – especially since we know good public elementary schools are the essential ingredient for long-term prosperity in neighborhoods.

By December 2010, Providence and Enterprise will have built over 700 homes for families, and now the children in these families will have better schools!



Former Wheatley Elementary School

Interested in Home Ownership?



In our June/July 2009 newsletter, we introduced the Providence Homeownership Program. We're proud to let you know that the first homes are now ready and on the market. We call them the **Edmundites Homes**, and they're located at the corner of N. Dupre and Orleans Avenue – just four blocks from the site of the former Lafitte Public Housing development.

There are 10 homes in total, and all have been rehabilitated into three-bedroom, two-bathroom single family properties with "green" features such as bamboo and linoleum flooring, Energy-star appliances, hardi-board for cladding (instead of vinyl siding) and many re-used existing materials. The homes were shown at an Open House in November, and there are still opportunities to review them. Interested buyers should contact realtor Stephanie Woodside at (504) 210-8465.



The properties will be available for purchase by market-rate and low-income homebuyers earning up to 80 percent of the area median income. If you're a former Lafitte resident and a potential homeowner, you have access to homebuyer training, personal counseling, credit repair services and home maintenance workshops (these programs operate through a cooperative relationship with HANO and Providence/Enterprise). Through the Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV) program, former Lafitte residents may also be able to use rent subsidies towards purchasing a home.



These historic homes are also located in a City of New Orleans Housing Opportunity Zone, which means qualified buyers can apply for additional subsidy through the Finance Authority of New Orleans (www.FinanceAuthority.org).

What's Been Happening in Your Community? Free Community Building and Healing Workshops

Catholic Charities Community Housing Supportive Services in partnership with Providence Community Housing, Enterprise, New Orleans Public Schools HIPPIY & Urban League of Greater New Orleans presented Sojourner Truth Community Center's Holiday Prelude Series - a series of complimentary dynamic community building and healing workshops to prelude the Grand Re-Opening of the Sojourner Truth Community Center.

Two workshops were held:

- **CULTIVATING THE CREATIVE PRE-SCHOOLER**

*Presented by Brigitte Peters Collins
Director, NOPS HIPPIY Program
Tuesday, December 16th 11:00 am – 12:00 pm*

New Orleans Public Schools (NOPS) Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY) is a parent involvement, school readiness program that helps parents prepare their 3, 4 and 5 year old children for success in school and beyond.

- **ADVOCATING AND NAVIGATING EDUCATION IN NEW ORLEANS**

*Presented by Tiffany Williams
PIC Urban League Greater New Orleans
Wednesday, December 17th 11:00am -12:00pm*

The Urban League of Greater New Orleans Parent Information Center (PIC) offers education, tools and resources to parents and community citizens to be strong knowledgeable advocates for children and schools and effective agents for education re-form.

These workshops have already been held, but more will be held in the future.

Are you interested in finding out about future workshops? If so, contact Carol Carter at Sojourner Truth at (504) 827-9963 or (504) 889-6980 Ext 2222 (or by email at ccarter@archdiocese-no.org).