

November, 2007

Dear Residents of Lafitte:

We have a number of updates for you this Fall, both about what's happening onsite at Lafitte and about programs available for Lafitte residents.

Updates for October and November 2007:

1. HUD/HANO to offer Tenant Protection Vouchers

At our regular monthly meeting with Lafitte residents in September, HANO officials confirmed that they have been given permission to move forward with the demolition of Lafitte. As a result, all former Lafitte residents will be issued a Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV). The TPV is similar to a Section 8 voucher, and ensures that all Lafitte families will have housing while Lafitte is being redeveloped. The TPVs will not be issued until current vouchers expire. We will send you more updates about this as we receive them from HUD/HANO.

2. Update on repairs at Lafitte

HUD/HANO has removed belongings from Lafitte apartments that are scheduled for repair. HUD/HANO have reported that the repairs will take several months to complete, and will begin with approximately 100 units in the buildings at the North Claiborne end of the site. Each repaired unit will be offered first to the residents who were living in that unit prior to Katrina. Another 100 apartments may also be repaired, however that decision will be finalized by HUD/HANO after completing a survey of Lafitte residents. Keep your eye out for the survey, we understand it will be sent to you shortly.

3. Seniors Apartments Available

Repairs are almost complete at St. Ann Apartments! These seniors apartments are located at 2123 Ursulines Avenue (see enclosed flyer). The 43 units in the building will be offered first to those people who lived in the units pre-Katrina. A waiting list for units is also being created, should any become available. Eligible residents must be 62 years old at the time of application and meet certain income requirements. If you are interested in adding your name to the waiting list of St. Ann's, please contact Kathleen Mullin, Project Manager at Providence Community Housing (504-821-7238 or kmullin@providencech.org).

4. Are you interested in job opportunities related to redevelopment?

Lewis Harvey from HANO Client Services attended the October meeting with Lafitte residents and talked about the job opportunities that will be available to them. He said that it can take up to six months to get someone trained and ready to work on-site, and encouraged people who are interested in starting the training process to call him at 504-670-3399.

5. Have you ever thought about home ownership?

Several Lafitte residents have told Providence and Enterprise that they are interested in learning more about home ownership opportunities. Now is a good time to start learning about how to build your credit rating so that home ownership is an option for you. If you are interested in learning more about credit counseling programs available to Lafitte residents, please contact LaTonya Williams, Community Liaison, in our New Orleans office (504-821-7226 or lwilliams@providencech.org) or talk to your Case Manager.

6. Regular Monthly Meetings Continue

Our regular monthly meetings with Lafitte residents continue. Our next two meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 14th and Wednesday, December 12th in New Orleans (Ujima Building, 1019 North Prieur). The meetings start promptly at 6:00 pm, and include dinner. Hope to see you there.

We hope you and your families are well, and we continue to send our prayers to you. As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding this letter or the work that Providence and Enterprise are doing in the Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier communities, please let us know. Our lead Community Liaison contact is LaTonya Williams (phone 504-821-7226 or email at lwilliams@providencech.org).

Happy Thanksgiving,



James R. Kelly
President & CEO
Providence Community Housing



Michelle Whetten
Director, Gulf Coast Rebuilding Initiative
Enterprise Community Partners