

COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

New Homes Abound in City Neighborhoods

Now is the time of year when many families begin to search for a new home. First-time home buyers in Chattanooga have several choices available through a variety of new projects under way in the city.

Edward E. Stephens is the developer of Timber Brook, a new subdivision in Tyner. The neighborhood has 57 homes in the \$110,000-\$150,000 price range. Timber Brook has attracted young couples, empty-nesters, families, and single adults. Several homes are currently for sale in the neighborhood.

"We built in that price range so we can attract first-time home buyers," says Mr. Stephens. "We've been very pleased with our success with the project."

The 28th Legislative District Community Development Corporation also targets first-time home buyers. Started in 1993, the agency serves residents of the 28th District and includes most of inner-city Chattanooga and parts of Lookout Mountain, North Chattanooga, and Riverview.

"The purpose of the agency, also known as the 28th CDC, is to improve the quality of life for people in its service area and act as a catalyst for economic development," says Forestine Watson-Haynes, executive director.

The agency is currently overseeing construction of eight new homes on Newell Street in Bushtown. It is also developing four other new homes on North Highland Park Avenue and another four on North Holly Street. Six new homes in Avondale are in the works, waiting on environmental reports on the Dodson Avenue site.

All of the homes are single-family dwellings containing three bedrooms and two baths. They are available to first-time

home buyers who meet eligibility and employment requirements established by federal and state government. The 28th CDC oversees development of the projects, but construction is handled through a bidding process.

The corporation plans to build a 19-home subdivision on North Hickory Street in Bushtown within the next two years. These homes will be larger and will appeal to a moderate income household. Under current plans, the subdivision will be named through a community contest.

The Neighborhood Services Department welcomes the addition of new homes in Chattanooga, says Mark Kleiner, special projects coordinator.

"Revitalizing older housing stock is very



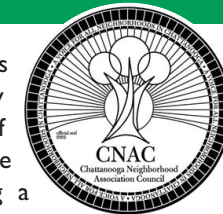
New homes, such as this one in Bushtown, add excitement to the neighborhoods in which they are built.

commendable and helps enhance and restore the historic character of a neighborhood," he says. "We are focusing on duplicating this effect in new housing as well."

CNAC Continues to Work for Change, Progress in Chattanooga

"The future must be seen in terms of what a person can do to contribute something, to make something better, to make it go where he believes with all his being it ought to go."

—Frederick R. Kappel



Bob Graham keeps this quote handy to remind himself why his work with the Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council is important.

"We want to partner with anybody who wants to help the city's neighborhoods," says Mr. Graham. "Together, we feel like we can accomplish anything that's positive and productive."

Established in 2001, CNAC's primary

goals are to reduce crime and eliminate blight. The council is composed of three representatives from each of the nine City Council districts.

CNAC has made progress in several recent projects. Chattanooga's new police chief, Steve Parks, spoke to members and indicated his support for the community policing program. Police sector leaders will meet with CNAC representatives on a regular basis, says Mr. Graham. "This will reinforce ties between community leaders and police," he explains.

CNAC CONTINUES WORK... Continued on page 3

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Fort Wood drew national attention recently when Southern Living covered its "Tom Sawyer Day," where neighborhood residents enjoyed a picnic and white-washed a fence together.

MAY: may:

- 4 City Council Meeting
- 7 Rhythm & Noon Concert Series begins
- 9 Mother's Day
- 11 City Council Meeting
- 15 Armed Forces Day
- 18 City Council Meeting
- 22 Family Day at Warner Park
- 25 City Council Meeting
- 26-29 NUSA Conference, Hollywood FL
- 28 NightFall Concert Series begins
- 31 Memorial Day

JUNE: june:

- 1 City Council Meeting
- 8 City Council Meeting
- 11-19 Riverbend Festival
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 City Council Meeting
- 20 Father's Day
- 22 City Council Meeting
- 29 City Council Meeting

4 four

Upcoming Events

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ROAR 2004 Brings Results, Improvements

Chattanooga residents care about the cleanliness of their neighborhoods, as demonstrated by the success of the ROAR (Report Offenses Achieve Rewards) 2004 program.

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Services Department, ROAR 2004 kicked off Feb. 3. The program encourages citizens to report illegal dump sites in their neighborhoods. Since the kickoff, the NSD has seen a dramatic increase in citizen reports regarding illegal dumping to the city's 311 hotline, says Mark Kleiner, special projects coordinator for the NSD.

"Chattanooga residents take pride in their neighborhoods and are tired of unsightly trash heaps near their homes," Mr. Kleiner says. "ROAR 2004 gives them an opportunity to help the city eliminate this ongoing problem."

Started in 2002, the goal of ROAR is to encourage a sense of stewardship, ownership, and initiative in neighbors throughout Chattanooga. The program provides financial incentives for citizens who report illegal dumping in the city. Chattanooga residents earn \$50 for testifying in City Court as an eyewitness to illegal dumping activity.

The NSD is exploring ways to enhance surveillance techniques at illegal dump sites so more violators can be caught, Mr. Kleiner says. Many callers who report activity at dump sites are willing to go to City Court and testify, but they must be an eyewitness to the actual dumping. Surveillance will enhance the possibility of catching a violator in the act, he explains.

To report illegal dumping activity, citizens should simply call 311. Callers should try to get a license tag number of violators if possible.

The ROAR 2004 program works cooperatively with the Strategic Neighborhood Initiative (SNI). The SNI is a partnership between the city of Chattanooga and 19 high-priority neighborhoods to transform them into clean, safe, vibrant communities with thriving small businesses and strong neighborhood associations.



Dear Neighbor,

As we move into spring, it's time to celebrate some of our successes over the past few months in the Neighborhood Services Department and introduce you to a new program that we're sure will have a positive impact on the youth of Chattanooga.

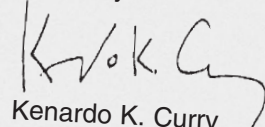
In this issue, we'll update you on the new ROAR 2004 campaign which fights illegal dumping. We are proud that through the cooperative efforts of our department and concerned neighbors across the city, progress is being made, as citizen reports regarding illegal dumping have increased substantially.

This summer, we will kick off our "Dunk, Don't Dump!" or "D3" campaign. We want to target a new demographic for our department--the youth of Chattanooga. We will be working cooperatively with the Department of Parks and Recreation and its popular Midnight Basketball program. As students enjoy the competition on the basketball court, we will have an opportunity to educate them about how they can protect Chattanooga's environment and become responsible citizens. D3 will also feature a dunking contest and clinics with well-known local basketball players. We'll be sharing more details as plans are finalized.

We're also proud of our recent national exposure through a cover story on the NSD in Downtown Idea Exchange, a popular publication with city planners across the country. Visit our Web site, www.chattanooga.gov/neighserv, to read the story.

Our Web site is a valuable tool for information on our department and other city services. We encourage you to visit it often. Let us know what new information you would find helpful as we seek to meet the needs of you and your neighbors.

Sincerely,


Kenardo K. Curry
Administrator



Watch Kenardo Curry on "Neighborhood Matters" airing this spring on WTCI-TV45/DT29.

Life Experiences Help Kleiner Meet Needs of Chattanoogaans



Mark Kleiner, Special Projects Coordinator, Neighborhood Services Department

Born in Brazil and raised in Chattanooga, Mark Kleiner finds his own diverse life experiences an advantage in his work as special projects coordinator with the Neighborhood Services Department.

Mr. Kleiner's mother is a native Brazilian and his father is American. He speaks three languages—English, Spanish, and Portuguese, the native language of Brazil. His multi-cultural upbringing is a plus in his role with the NSD, he believes.

"The Lord has blessed me with an opportunity to live amongst and work with many types of people from different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds," he says. "My own cultural diversity helps me understand and hopefully meet the needs of the people we serve in an effective way."

A graduate of the Baylor School, Mr. Kleiner earned a bachelor's degree in

communications from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1998. He earned a master's of public administration (MPA) degree in 2003.

Mr. Kleiner joined the NSD in 2002 as an intern while in graduate school. He assumed his present responsibilities in July 2003. He serves as the department's public information officer, conference planner and program developer. He is the liaison for the department's Hispanic Initiative, maintains the NSD Web site, and coordinates all department publications.

The NSD is vital to the city because "it represents the forefront of progressive thinking in Chattanooga," says Mr. Kleiner. "We are committed to grass-roots level work in the community, but at the same time, we advocate a broad vision for the good of the entire city."

Before joining the NSD, Mr. Kleiner

worked as an English instructor in the Bay Islands of Honduras for a Florida-based shipping company, teaching the children of employees how to speak English. After returning to the United States, he served as export director and company spokesman for Andalan Confections, a Fort Oglethorpe-based candy manufacturer. While in graduate school at UTC, he worked as an NCAA-sanctioned tutor for the athletics department and with at-risk elementary school pupils through a federal reading mentorship program.

CNAC CONTINUES WORK... Continued from page 1



Kenardo Curry, NSD administrator, recognizes CNAC President Bob Graham for the work of the organization.

The organization enjoys a strong relationship with the police department. CNAC representatives spoke on behalf of the department during its recent accreditation process.

CNAC received a \$6,990 grant from the city of Chattanooga's Neighborhood Services Department to assist with home repairs. Often when homeowners are cited to City Court for code violations, they cannot afford to make repairs needed to correct the problems. The funds will be used to correct minor problems for these property owners.

Mr. Graham says he is proud of CNAC's work in assisting the Hamilton County school system with truancy problems. The organization provided guidance in the development of a truancy program involving the Chattanooga Housing Authority.

The organization plans to continue monitoring zoning situations and work with City Council members to correct zoning

problems. And CNAC is always available to help a new neighborhood association get started. "Nine times out of 10 someone in our organization has had experience with the types of problems people are having," says Mr. Graham.

The Neighborhood Services Department enjoys a hand-in-hand partnership with CNAC, says Kenardo Curry, NSD administrator.

"We value CNAC's presence in the community because they share a component of the Neighborhood Services Department's mission, which is ultimately to better the quality of life in all Chattanooga neighborhoods," Mr. Curry says.

CNAC meets the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Community Foundation's office at 1270 Market Street. Openings are currently available for district representatives. All meetings are open to the public. For more information on CNAC, call Mr. Graham at 629-8827.