

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
MARCH 2006

Upcoming meetings in March & April

3/9 — Fair Housing Coalition
Thursday, March 9, 1pm, Louisville Urban League

3/22 — MHC Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 22, noon, Jewish Family
and Vocational Services, 3587 Dutchmans Lane

General Membership Meetings

4/13 — Dr. Ed Goetz, a national expert, will speak about deconcentration of poverty on April 13 at noon at the Louisville Urban League. This event is co-sponsored by the University of Louisville, School of Urban and Public Affairs.

4/18 — Tracy K' Meyer will speak about the history of the Open Housing movement in Louisville on April 18 at noon at the Louisville Urban League. This is the first of four events taking place through April 2007 on the movement, the marches, and the passage of the local Fair Housing ordinance.



Metropolitan Housing Coalition

CONTACT US!

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Hundreds turn out to support HB 338 in Frankfort

The state and local working groups for the Open the Door Campaign staged a massively successful rally in Frankfort on February 23. Thank you to all of the trust fund supporters who appeared at the rally! It was your volunteer time and effort that will secure a victory for this campaign.

By the time you read this article, House Bill 338, legislation supporting the AHTF, may already have progressed. However, we are proud to report a



Hundreds of volunteers and concerned citizens gathered in Frankfort to support passage of HB338.



State Rep. Jim Wayne (D), flanked by supporters, is the co-sponsor of HB338, along with the other co-sponsor, State Rep. Charles Siler (R) who is not pictured.



major gain — as of February 22, the bill has passed out of both the House Local Government and A&R Committees! The bill has bipartisan support with more than 30 co-sponsors from across the state. The Homebuilders Association of Kentucky recently announced their sponsorship for the bill as well.

The funding sources of both the Kentucky AHTF and the local option changed. Instead of a \$20 increase on the document recording fee for first mortgages and deeds, HB338 now proposes the Kentucky AHTF be funded by a \$10 increase on the recording fee for all mortgages and deeds. Additionally, if a locality passes a local trust fund, then it would receive a proportional percentage of delinquent state property taxes over \$7 million.

Our work is not done yet! House Bill 338 still must gain a majority when it comes to a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives and then it must pass through the Senate, as well.

We will continue to call on your help as we need it — so watch your email carefully and *please* continue to respond. Your voice is critically important to passage.

If you would like to be added to the AHTF Action List, email Nick Braden at nick@metropolitanhousing.org.

MHC *Member* News

Take a look at what some of our member organizations are doing!

Fifth Third Bank is pleased to announce the availability of down payment assistance grants from the Homeownership Opportunities Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. Effective **March 1** and continuing until funds are depleted, income-eligible, first time homebuyers may apply for grants up to \$5,000. *Si habla Espanol, para mas informacion, puede llamar a Terri Reyes (502) 412-9972.* For more information, call Karen Campbell at 449-3297.

The **Louisville Central Community Center** will hold its annual Dr. Lyman T. Johnson Distinguished Leadership Awards and program at 11am at Actor's Theatre of Louisville on **March 15**. The event is free for the community and light snacks will be provided. For more information, call Lela Watson at 583-8822.

Habitat for Humanity invites you to the Habitat ReStore Grand Opening on Saturday, **March 18** from 11am-4pm.

**Welcome
New Members**

MHC warmly welcomes the following new individual members to our organization. They are:

- **Janet Dakan**
- **Robert & Virginia Peck**

The store is located at 2777 S. Floyd Street in Louisville, directly across from Gate I of Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. Come see our inventory of building materials, furniture, tools, and appliances available to the general public at deeply discounted prices. Enjoy refreshments and bluegrass, rock, and jazz music. Call 636-2419 for more information.

The ACLU of Kentucky will host a Youth Rights Leadership Conference on Saturday, **March 25**, from 9:30am-4:30pm at the Muhammad Ali Center, 401 West Main in Louisville. The conference will include workshops on a variety of civil liberties topics of interest to young people and is open to all high school students throughout Kentucky. The conference is free, but registration is required. Registration forms are available online at www.aclu-ky.org or by calling 581-9746.

The Kentucky Derby will soon be here and what better way to get into the spirit than by attending the **Wellspring** Derby Preview Party to be held at Churchill Downs, Millionaire's Row, 6th Floor from 6:30-9:30pm, Tuesday, **April 25**. Attendees can get those important betting tips and mingle with famous personalities such as honorary host Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen who won the last Triple Crown aboard Affirmed in 1978. Call 637-4361, ext. 12, for single ticket or table information.

Who was Bobby Ellis? Find out at the Bobby Ellis Anti-Hunger Family Walk on **October 1** at Waterfront Park. The event benefits **Dare to Care** Food Bank.

Review of the federal budget proposal for FY2007

by Cathy Hinko
MHC Executive Director

Fulfilling the first step in the FY07 budgetary process, the President just released proposed budget. Housing has not done well.

You may recall in last month's newsletter that I told you about how the FY06 budget, passed in December 2005, significantly cut HUD programs. The new budget continues that trend. Still, the irony is that the only part of the budget that increases in his FY07 proposal is funding for homeless assistance.

We have not yet felt the repercussions of the FY06 budget cuts to Community Development Block Grants, but we *will* shortly. In 2004, \$4.331 billion was allocated for CDBG, but in the FY07 budget only \$2.975 billion is proposed — **a decrease of 31%**! HOME money has decreased and, while better than in FY06, the \$1.816 billion proposed is less than the 2004 funding of the HOME program.

Public housing cannot be supported with the cuts in funds for capital improvements (replacing roofs, boilers, rehabilitating units) and operations (management and daily repairs). Louisville has experienced a net loss of public housing units for which there is no plan to replace. Section 8 vouchers seem stable, but remember, the loss in 2006 has not yet been felt. The FY06 budget will result in a loss of funding for 1,793 vouchers in Kentucky compared to the FY05 budget. 🏠

Dave Armstrong joins the MHC Board of Directors



We are pleased to welcome David L. Armstrong of Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald PLLC to fill a vacancy on our board this month.

Mr. Armstrong has a long and distinguished history working to promote affordable housing. During his tenure as County Judge Executive, the county government received HUD's *Creative Housing* award for developing workforce housing in Riverport. During this time, Mr. Armstrong helped to develop the first Fair Housing program in Kentucky.

Under his mayoral guidance from 1999-2002, the Park DuValle and Liberty Green projects were initiated. He created the Mayor's Downtown Housing Fund and led the development of the *Cornerstone 20/20* land use plan, which was the first substantial review since 1967. He was also awarded President Clinton's *Innovation in Housing* award.

Of his involvement with housing, Mr. Armstrong says, "It's been my good fortune during my career in public service to have the opportunity to create or initiate projects and programs dealing with affordable housing, market-rate housing and Kentucky's first Homeowner Training Programs."

Welcome, Dave! 🏡



Foreclosure Working Group Update

As many of you remember, MHC highlighted an alarming increase in foreclosures in our *2004 State of Metropolitan Housing Report*. Because of that, we formed a community work group to study the issue for one year. MHC released the group's recommendations to address in the issue in November of 2005, in a paper entitled *Homeownership at Risk: Our Community Responds to Home Foreclosures*. The group, along with a host of community volunteers, is implementing the recommendations.

One subcommittee is working to collect the data. Members are currently analyzing data from 2005 foreclosures and preparing to do individual interviews with households that are being foreclosed upon in 2006. Many thanks to the hard work of the **Community Resource Network**, **John Borders of Borders & Borders, LLC**, the **Kentucky Housing Corporation** and **Making Connections Louisville**.

A second subcommittee has drafted two brochures for community education. One will be distributed with all foreclosure notices, and the other is for distribution at closings. Thanks to those people who created the brochures and to **Chase Bank** for financial support of the project. The brochures will be printed and ready for distribution soon. 🏡



Tickets on sale TODAY for MHC's 17th Annual Meeting on May 9!

Tickets are now on sale for MHC's May 9th bash — one of the largest networking opportunities of the year. It will be held at the Downtown Marriott at 280 W. Jefferson again this year. Social hour begins at 5pm, and the program starts at 6pm. Harvard professor **Dr. Gary Orfield** will speak about the intersection of school desegregation and affordable housing. **Carmichael's** bookstore will host a book-signing to be held immediately after the event.

Send pictures of your work in our community to MHC today! They will be included on collaged vases for the centerpieces. Foundation, Cornerstone, Keystone, and Groundbreaking sponsors get a vase tapered with their organization or business' logo and pictures for free.

For more information, visit www.metropolitanhousing.org or call Nancy at 584-6858. 🏡

TAKE A LOOK AT MHC'S WEBSITE!
www.metropolitanhousing.org

FYI: Affordable Housing Advocates



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HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH ...

Upcoming Meetings/Hundreds Turn Out to Support HB338 in Frankfort/MHC Member News/Welcome New Members/Cathy Hinko Addresses Federal Budget for FY2007/Dave Armstrong Joins the MHC Board of Directors/Foreclosure Working Group Update/Tickets on Sale Today for MHC's 17th Annual Meeting on May 9/March is Women's History Month/MHC Will Miss Nick Braden!

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from



Let's celebrate! March is Women's History Month

Celebrate International Women's Day on Wednesday, March 8! The event will begin at 5:30pm at Jefferson Community College.

Nana Yaa, storyteller and activist, will lead the program. The Squallis Puppeteers and Middle Eastern Dancers will provide entertainment. The event is sponsored by the Louisville Metro Office for Women and other community partners. For more information, call Jill Adams at 213-2364.

Project Women, Inc. announces its 2006 Women of Wisdom Art Show Exhibit and Gallery Opening. The show, entitled *Wise Women of Myth, Legend, and History*, is a free event open to the public and will allow community members to pay tribute to famous women of history, myth, and legend, as well as honor the talents of local female artists. The exhibit is being hosted by the Louisville Free Public Library Bernheim and Guttenberg Galleries and the gallery opening is scheduled for March 9 at 5:30-7:30pm. The artwork will be on display and for sale from March 9 to May 9.

MHC will miss Nick Braden!

Nick Braden, our administrative assistant, has recently been offered a position on the campaign staff of Andrew Horne, Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in Kentucky's 3rd congressional district. After a year on the staff of MHC, he will leave us to devote more time and energy to that position and to his web development work.

"MHC is a great organization doing important work. I am proud to have been a part of that work as a staff member and I look forward to continued involvement with MHC as an active member and supporter," said Nick.

MHC thanks you for your hard work above and beyond the call of duty. We'll miss you, Nick!

Want to receive MHC's newsletter by email?

If you would like to receive MHC's newsletter by email only, contact Nancy at (502) 584-6858 or email her at nancy@metropolitanhousing.org

