



ISSUE NO. 3 • FALL • 2016

[www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org)

METROPOLITAN  
HOUSING COALITION

# Newsletter

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## What's Inside

MHC WORKS TO  
"GET THE LEAD OUT"

*Pages 1-3*

GET INVOLVED WITH  
THE COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN

*Page 4*

MAKE ROOM

*Page 4*

VACANT PROPERTIES

*Page 5*

MERCY STUDENTS

*Page 5*

AMAZON SMILE

*Page 6*

COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR

*Page 7*

## MHC Works to "Get the Lead Out"



Mercy Academy Students volunteering for MHC at Louisville Zoo Halloween Event. Who's that in the blue wig?

The last week of October is International Lead Poisoning Prevention week. The focus is on prevention since lead is a cumulative poison, absorbed but not eliminated by the body. Toxic lead exposure remains a top environmental health hazard to young children in the U.S. (per the Center for Disease Control), although most children with exposure are never diagnosed, show no symptoms until later in life, and suffer mild to severe IQ loss, ADHD, and behavior and learning disorders.

***Thank you everyone for your support during  
Give Local Louisville! It was a huge success!***

## Get the Lead Out (cont...)

On November 1, Louisville Mayor Fischer will recognize MHC for an initiative to kick off a lead poisoning prevention year for MHC and its partners. MHC's **"Get the Lead Out"** initiative was selected for a Mayor's Healthy Hometown grant to recruit other community partners to join in promoting recent best practices to raise awareness about the common dangers of lead exposure and empower families and community groups to play a far more significant role in fighting this epidemic.

But the CDC is urging prevention to identify common hazards in the home and take steps *before* a child is poisoned at any level.



*MHC would like to thank Louisville Metro Government and the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement for funding our "Get the Lead Out" initiative!*

It is estimated that 1 in 3 children under the age of 18 in the United States have had measurable lead exposure at some point (visit [leadsafeamerica.org](http://leadsafeamerica.org) for links to research from the CDC and others).

Research shows that children with histories of prolonged lead exposure enter school with diminished reading and learning abilities, and experience learning and behavior disorders at increased rates as they enter adolescence and teen years.

Recently, the CDC dramatically lowered its "action level" for child blood levels, triggering when immediate public health actions should be taken to protect a child and emphasized "there is no safe level of lead in a child."

The leading cause of child lead poisoning is from lead based paint, which was not banned in the U.S. until 1978, after most homes in Louisville were built. Even newer homes can contain lead hazards from old vinyl mini-blinds, painted antiques, and other items, but the majority of child lead poisoning is linked to pre-1978 homes through conditions that create household dust containing toxic lead.

Research shows the majority of children who are poisoned unknowingly ingest microscopic amounts of lead dust from normal hand-to-mouth activity. And it takes only millionths of a gram of lead paint dust to poison a child. New innovative approaches to identify lead hot spots in a home are available along with recommended safe practices to rid areas of lead.

Organizing the community on this issue is a natural fit for MHC, since this entirely preventable epidemic is so linked with housing. **"Get the Lead Out"** will build upon the success of Louisville Metro Government Lead Safe Louisville's home lead test kit distribution.

MHC is enlisting community groups in low-income neighborhoods and partnering with local government, companies, and other nonprofits to empower parents to learn how to easily detect lead in the home through distribution of instant lead kits.

MHC is also helping link families to resources and information on practical and affordable ways to eliminate hazards and protect children from being exposed to lead based paint hazards.

**Download all of our State of Metropolitan Housing Reports and other reports for FREE at our Web site:**  
[www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/mhc-reports](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/mhc-reports)



## Get the Lead Out (cont...)

“Get the Lead Out” enjoyed a great kickoff event on October 22nd at the Louisville Zoo Halloween Event. Partnering with Louisville Metro Health and Wellness and the Lead Safe Louisville Department, MHC sponsored a booth at the event and organized volunteers from Mercy Academy, duPont Manual, LockUpLead, Healthy Home Louisville, Louisville Metro Health & Wellness, and Louisville Metro Department of Housing to help distribute approximately **1000** instant lead test kits provided by Lead Safe Louisville to families living in pre-1978 housing.

Along with test kits, information on how to maintain a lead safe home and child blood testing were also provided along with treats for young children.



duPont Manuel student volunteers with Cathy at MHC's “Get the Lead Out” kickoff event at the Louisville Zoo Halloween night!



duPont Manuel student volunteer handing out LockUpLead test kits for MHC at Louisville Zoo Halloween event

As MHC kicks off our Get the Lead Out initiative, please spread the word and share our stories on social media to help connect us with community groups of all sorts that may be interested in having us come to provide free lead test kits and provide helpful information so that they too can join the efforts to empower families to promote lead free children for a healthy future!



**Tough on Lead Dust.**  
*Gentle on Your Family.*

*MHC also wants to thank our major partner in this initiative LockUpLead!*

Like MHC on Facebook and Twitter!  
<https://www.facebook.com/mhclouisville/>  
<https://twitter.com/mhclouisville>

## How to get involved with the Comprehensive Plan

MHC strongly encourages you to sign up for the Comprehensive Plan process. Remember this is the plan for the built environment of Louisville for 20 years! Whatever your passion - fair housing, affordable housing, healthy neighborhoods, transit and modes of transportation, how we prepare for our aging residents, environmental issues, heat islands, trees, there are 6 work groups. They are:

- Mobility (Transportation)
- Community Form
- Community Facilities
- Housing
- Livability and Environment
- Marketplace (Economic Development)

Metro Government is hosting a kick-off meeting for all work groups on:

**Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9:00 - 10:30 am  
Memorial Auditorium (970 S. 4th Street) in the  
2nd Floor Ballroom.**

Ample parking should be available in the lot at 5th St. and W. Kentucky St. Attendance is not mandatory but is highly encouraged for all work group members.

If you are able to attend the meeting on November 5th, please RSVP to Kelly Probus at [kelly.probus@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:kelly.probus@louisvilleky.gov)

At the meeting, they will provide background on the Comprehensive Plan and an overview of the process. Each group will go over its work plan and discuss future meeting dates and times.

If you cannot make the meeting that day, you can still join a committee by visiting:

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/planning-design/work-groups>

For other ways to get involved, visit:

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/planning-design/comprehensive-plan-community-input>

## Make Noise. Make Change. Make Room

*From our coalition partners Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK)*



The Make Room campaign is working to put the 11 million American families whose rent consumes more than half their incomes on the national agenda.

Today, 20 million families are struggling to keep a roof overhead. It's time Congress turned its full attention to solving this problem.

Please join the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky to send Congress 1 million messages to get housing affordability on the agenda by Election Day.

Sign the national letter today and learn how you can help mobilize others at [www.makeroomusa.org/take-action-organizations/](http://www.makeroomusa.org/take-action-organizations/)

We hope you'll join us. We can't achieve our ambitious goal of 1 million messages without you!

Like Make Room campaign on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MakeRoomUSA](http://www.facebook.com/MakeRoomUSA)

Follow Make Room on Twitter [@MakeRoomUSA](https://twitter.com/MakeRoomUSA) & Instagram [www.instagram.com/makeroomusa](https://www.instagram.com/makeroomusa)

Sign up your email on the website to stay informed <https://1-million-messages.makeroomusa.org/> and hear about new ways to act.



Subscribe to our newsletter electronically and read them on your phone or tablet!

<http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/newsletters>

## New Tools and Strategies for Reclaiming Vacant Properties

There are some new tools to help reclaim vacant property, and your neighborhood may be interested. The Louisville Vacant Property Campaign worked with Louisville Metro's Vacant and Public Property Administration and the Louisville Metro Council's Ad Hoc Vacant Property Committee to present the new abilities to reclaim property in a great presentation on September 26.

The first new tool- the spot condemnation law was amended to make it a useful tool in reclaiming deteriorated property. Formerly, it had been so expensive it was rarely used. The change is that when the mandatory appraisals are done, the appraiser can also factor in the cost of bringing the property to code. For instance, if the property is appraised at \$20,000, in the past Metro government would have had to pay \$20,000. But under the new rules, if it is appraised at \$20,000 but it would cost \$15,000 to bring it up to code, the cost to Metro is \$5,000.

So if your neighborhood has a property deteriorating, but still salvageable, this may be a useful tool and your group should contact Metro's Vacant Property Administration. FYI, all the notice requirements and protections for owners are still in place and it still requires Metro Council approval and then a court case. Only the appraisal part changed.

The second new tool- the city now has the ability to declare census tracts, in areas that meet strict criteria, to have a moratorium on selling property tax liens to third parties. This really is about neighborhood revitalization. Any time a tax lien is sold to a third party they get all the privilege of government without any of the responsibility.

The sale of the tax liens has been a really big impediment to neighborhood revitalization. By being able to declare a moratorium on selling the liens, there is local control and strategy on being able to make the property useful.

The responsibility to pay property taxes is still as strict and the consequences for non-payment can be loss of ownership, but the process is locally controlled. Your neighborhood may have census tracts where this new tool can help keep properties attractive to improvements and reuse.

There is the possibility of more useful tools becoming available, but these are things that require changes to the law at state level. MHC will present its legislative agenda for the 2017 state legislative session in November.

## Mercy Academy Students

MHC has been working with students from Mercy Academy for their senior project: "Helping Others Live Mercy." They will be having a special event "Help Others Live Mercy Night" on Tuesday, November 29th at 7 p.m. at Mercy Academy, 5801 Fegenbush Lane. You can learn more about their project by visiting:

Instagram: H.O.L.M.2017

Twitter: Holm2017

Facebook: H.O.L.M.2017

And check out the amazing video they made titled "H.O.L.M. - How the homeless are affected in our very own community" by visiting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjGVUEtHHaM&feature=youtu.be>

**On behalf of MHC's Board of Directors & staff, thank you to everyone who donated to MHC in honor of Kenny Lanham, Jr. Kenny was a great advocate for fair & affordable housing and a former MHC board member. He will be greatly missed.**

Mary Gail Bryan  
Bernard & Mary Ellert  
Daniel Garvey  
Kathryn Hagerty  
Kenneth & Sharon Bohnert  
Mary & James Henry

Martha McIntire  
Jim Mims  
Tom Miron  
New Directions Housing Corp  
Lisa Osanka

Candice Payton  
Sally & Richard Johnson  
Sandra Riley Bryant  
Vision Homes LLC  
Judie Westmeier



## Support MHC through Amazon Smile



If you shop on Amazon.com, you can support MHC! Log-in to your existing Amazon account and go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), then search Metropolitan Housing Coalition. Or, you can type in the following link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1201545>  
Below is more information from Amazon.

### *What is AmazonSmile?*

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

### *How do I shop at AmazonSmile?*

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return.

### *Which products are eligible for charitable donations?*

Tens of millions. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

### *Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?*

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### *How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?*

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

### *How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?*

AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

### *Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?*

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

***It's almost the end of the year. Are you in the giving spirit? Help MHC continue the fight for fair & affordable housing by making a donation!***

***Donate online by visiting:***

***<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/MetropolitanHousingCoalition/Online-Donation.html>***

# Community Calendar

## **Louisville Fair Housing Coalition**

Meets each 2nd Tuesday at 2pm at  
New Directions 1000 E. Liberty

## **Louisville Vacant Property Campaign**

Meets each 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm  
at the Shelby Park Community Center,  
600 E. Oak St

## **2016 Sustainability Summit**

This year's theme is ACTION! Join us  
as we jazz Louisville's sustainability  
community to action by highlighting  
inspiring national champions who drive  
measurable success, and boldly connect  
participants to shovel-ready projects that  
together contribute to meeting our goal  
of being recognized as one of the top ten  
most sustainable communities by 2025.  
Keynote Speaker Dr. Shahzeen Attari,  
School of Public & Environmental Affairs  
Indiana University

Saturday, October 29th

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bellarmino University

2001 Newburg Rd.

*Registration is required. Visit:*

*[www.louisvillesustainabilitycouncil.org](http://www.louisvillesustainabilitycouncil.org)*

## **Project Warm - Blitz 2016**

### **This Winter Stay Warmer**

In November, Project Warm volunteers  
will be installing clear, interior window  
covers (plastic) in homes of seniors (60  
and over) or disabled.

Call 502-636-9276

Project Warm is located at 1252 S. Shelby St.

Free service provided to all qualifying households.

First Come, first Serve.

## **First Model UN at U of L & Refugee Presentation by Andrea Risotto & Board Meeting**

Andrea Risotto is the Communications  
Director for the Better World Campaign  
at the United Nations Foundation. Her  
speech is titled "One Humanity, Shared  
Responsibility: Addressing the Refugee  
Crisis"

Friday, November 4th

10 am -10:45 am

UNA - USA KY Board Meeting &  
Invocation

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

UN Day Proclamation; Rotary Governor  
Addresses

U of L Alumni/University Club

Barry Bingham Room. 200 E. Brandeis

## **10th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture featuring Angela Davis "Freedom is a Constant Struggle"**

Tuesday, November 15

6 pm

Brown & Williamson Club in Cardinal  
Stadium

2800 S. Floyd St.

*For more information contact the U of L Anne  
Braden Institute for Social Justice Research at  
502-852-6142 or [www.louisville.edu/braden](http://www.louisville.edu/braden)*

## **United Nations Human Rights Day Program. Human Trafficking Conference: Local to Global**

Tuesday, December 6th

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, December 7th

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

U of L University Club, Ballroom

200 E. Brandeis Ave

**DONATE TODAY!**

# Strengthen the United Voice for Fair & Affordable Housing!

Make your donation online at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org) or  
 mail this form to MHC, P.O. Box 4533, Louisville, KY 40204-4533.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual/Family \_\_\_\_\_ Organization/Business

Membership Level

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring Member - \$1,000 or more

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Member - \$75-\$199

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Member - \$500-\$999

\_\_\_\_\_ Assisting Member - \$1-\$74

\_\_\_\_\_ Anchoring Member - \$200-\$499

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like your donation to be anonymous

\_\_\_\_\_ One-Time Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Recurring Credit Card Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month OR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter

Method of Payment (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Amex \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



MHC would like  
 to thank  
 Louisville Metro  
 Government  
 for its continuing  
 support of  
 our outreach efforts.



Return Service Requested  
 MHC's Monthly Newsletter is  
 underwritten by a generous  
 grant from



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