



## LOKL Forum on Property Taxes

Tuesday, February 19, 5:30 p.m.  
Louisville Free Public Library, Centennial Room  
301 York Street

MHC is a member of Local Options for Kentucky Liens (LOKL), a coalition of agencies formed to combat the growing blight of vacant and abandoned properties in both urban and rural counties by advocating for legislation that will give local governments the ability to use a best practices approach to land banking, tax-delinquent properties, and tax foreclosure. LOKL is hosting a February 19 informational forum on past due property taxes and the sale of property tax liens. Come to this public forum to learn more about property taxes and the importance of paying tax bills before liens for those taxes are sold to third-party speculators. Representatives of Legal Aid Society, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Network Center for Community Change (NC3), KIPDA, AARP-Kentucky, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office will participate in the forum. **This forum will serve as the February 2012 meeting of the Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign.**

## Passing the Torch

by Cathy Hinko

We have lost two great advocates for fair housing recently, Blaine Hudson and Dennis Bricking. One thing they had in common was their commitment to prepare others to be able to keep the work for justice strong.

**Dennis Bricking** was the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society through thirty sometimes tumultuous years. He represented people who protested unfair treatment to keep people out of jail. Dennis was a leader in equality in education, in fair treatment in prisons and in justice without regard to income or race. On a personal note, I was at Legal Aid in 1985 when I got a case that became a rent strike over conditions at Beecher Terrace. Not the typical case, but Dennis was extremely supportive ranging from making sure we had good bookkeeping for the case to participating in the marches. Dennis continued his work as an advocate for safe and decent housing through his longstanding membership on the St. John Center board and his work with other organizations far too numerous to name.

**Dr. Blaine Hudson** was the Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville and taught the Saturday Academy. Suzy Post told this wonderful story about Blaine and his early support of MHC. Blaine was one of the early speakers at the MHC Annual Meeting - which was then a lunch. But he drew such a large crowd that Suzy knew the event had 'arrived' and switched it to a dinner. In a twist of fate, Blaine once again served the cause of fair housing and his support of MHC's work before his illness. As part of the 20-Year Plan for Fair Housing, Blaine was interviewed by the U of L Anne Braden Institute at and that tape is now part of their archive.

## The LAHTF Needs Your Help to Make Affordable Housing A Reality

The Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (LAHTF) was established by Metro Council to invest public funds in the kind of housing our community desperately needs: housing for people on fixed incomes like seniors and people with serious disabilities; for young families starting out; and for working people whose wages are not enough to live in Metro Louisville.

The LAHTF needs Metro Council to vote **before March 23** to approve a dedicated ongoing public revenue source that will generate nearly \$10 million a year to refurbish vacant & abandoned homes and support and sustain affordable housing projects. The LAHTF board and supporters of the fund are asking Metro Council to enact a 1% insurance premium tax increase to fund the LAHTF. With this proposed increase, the average homeowners insurance cost would increase by \$7.60 annually and the average automobile insurance would increase by \$7.52. This is roughly 63¢ per month for each, about the cost of a 2-liter bottle of soda. This would raise an estimated \$9.7 million annually for funds that would help provide affordable housing to low- and moderate-income households.

Under Metro ordinance, at least half of any public funds supporting the LAHTF must serve households at or below 50% of area median income according to family size. Remaining public funds must serve households earning no more than 80% of area median income.

### How You Can Help:

- Sign up for the LAHTF free Housing Advocate speakers bureau training on January 30 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at LAHTF Offices, 1469 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Email [info@louisvilleahtf.org](mailto:info@louisvilleahtf.org) or call 637.5372 to sign up for more information.
- Call your Metro Council representative at 574-1100 and tell them to support Affordable Housing!
- Write a letter to the editor at [cjletter@courier-journal.com](mailto:cjletter@courier-journal.com) supporting a renewable funding source for the LAHTF.
- Wear yellow and fill the chambers in support of Affordable Housing at Metro Council meetings at 6pm on February 14, February 28 & March 14.
- For more information, call 502.637.5372, email [info@louisvilleahtf.org](mailto:info@louisvilleahtf.org) or go to [www.facebook.com/louisvillehousingtrust](http://www.facebook.com/louisvillehousingtrust)



## First Community Conversation on Fair Housing a Success!

*Next Conversation on Sunday, February 10, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
Yearlings Club, 4309 West Broadway*

On January 8 at the Louisville Free Public Library, over 60 people joined MHC, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, and the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission for a Community Conversation on Fair Housing. Participants helped identify issues and action steps for *Making Louisville Home for Us All- A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing*.

The Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, in partnership with MHC and the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, is developing a new project -*Making Louisville Home for Us All- A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing*. This Fair Housing Action Plan, funded by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), aims to offer a fuller understanding of how our current housing problems came to be, and develop clear action steps that take that history into account. We will outline a concrete vision with action steps for Louisville to become a fair, welcoming, and diverse home to all of its people.

The meeting opened with presentations by Carolyn Miller-Cooper, Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission, and Dr. Cate Fosl of the Anne Braden Institute on the purpose of the project and the historic legacies of segregation and the policies that supported it.

After the presentation, attendees divided into four small groups to discuss issues affecting fair housing in Louisville and possible action steps. Thanks to the volunteer facilitators and note takers who led these small group discussions

We appeal to elected officials, policymakers, social service providers, educators, housing advocates and ordinary Louisvillians in every walk of life to work together toward greater housing opportunities for all.

Go to <http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/LMHRC-20-Year-Action-Plan-for-Fair-Housing-2013-Handout1.pdf> to download a flyer to learn more about *Making Louisville A Home for Us All: A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing*.

We want your input on the action steps for the 20-year plan! Join us for the second Community Conversation on Fair Housing on February 10 at the Yearlings Club. More community conversations will be held. Keep an eye on [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org) to stay informed.

If you can't attend a community conversation, you can also give your ideas for action steps for the 20-year plan to Metropolitan Housing Coalition by emailing [info@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:info@metropolitanhousing.org)

## Coalition for the Homeless 2013 Street Count

*Thursday, January 31, 4:00 - 6:00 A.M.  
Meet at Hotel Louisville, 120 West Broadway*

Every year, the Coalition for the Homeless conducts a "street count" to compile a census of people who are living on the street. This census helps us determine the amount of funding needed for homeless services in the community. The Street Count is conducted at the same time nationally for the same purpose. The Coalition for the Homeless does four point-in-time counts a year, but this is the only one that includes a street count. Based on the success of last fall's Rx:Housing Outreach Census, the Coalition is doing the Street Count a little differently this year. They still needs lots of volunteers on January 31.

This year, the count will be on the morning of **Thursday, January 31, 2013 from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.** Yes, you read that correctly. The change in time gives a better opportunity to find some of our most vulnerable people who are sleeping out, as they are often missed when the count is done in the early evening hours. Traditionally, the census has been done in the evening, but this year many communities, including ours, decided to switch to the early morning time because they were not catching people in their camps in the evening hours. They know that the people they find in the early morning hours will be the folks who are sleeping out on the streets. It also eliminates the concern of duplicating numbers of people who may have been out during the evening hours, but then went into the shelter to sleep where they were counted again.

For 2012 they had over 150 volunteers in the pouring rain and we were able to get to a lot of people. This show of support is invaluable to the homeless community.

Start out 2013 by giving back to your community! More volunteers for the 2013 Street Count are still needed.

**To volunteer or for further information, please contact Susanne Binford at [sbinford@sevencounties.org](mailto:sbinford@sevencounties.org) or 589-8600 ext .1280.** (No one under 18 years old, please.)

The Street Count organizers are asking all volunteers to meet for a short time to prepare for the census on the evening of Wednesday, January 30th at 6:00 p.m at Hotel Louisville (120 W. Broadway).

## State of Fair & Affordable Housing in Lexington Report

*Release Forum on February 6 at 12:00 p.m. at the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Center, 200 E. Main Street*

In partnership with the U of L Center for Environmental Policy & Management, MHC has produced a new housing report for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission. Join us on February 6 in Lexington for a public forum for the report's release!

## Schedule of Events

### Save the Date!

#### Highlands Tap Room Grill

#### “Thanksgiving Tuesdays” Fundraiser for MHC

Tuesday, March 12 11:00 a.m. -11:00 p.m.  
1058 Bardstown Road

Highlands Tap Room Grill has generously selected MHC for its “Thanksgiving Tuesday” on March 12. Thanksgiving Tuesdays is a how the Highlands Tap Room Family says “thank you” and give back locally to the great organizations and charities serving Louisville. They will donate 15% of the day’s sales (excluding sales tax) from 11:00 a.m to 11 :00 p.m. to MHC. We will host our next MHC Housing Happenings Hour at the Tap Room from 5:15 – 7:45 p.m. that night too! Come out to the Highlands Tap Room Grill, have some great food and drink, meet fellow supporters of MHC, and help raise money for the united voice for safe, fair, and affordable housing in Louisville. Thanks to Highlands Tap Room Grill for their generous support of MHC. For more information about the restaurant and to see a menu, go to <http://www.highlandstaproom.com/grill.htm>

**February 11 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**February 18 – LOKL Public Forum on Property Taxes and Tax Liens.** This forum will serve as the **Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign** meeting for February 2013. Centennial Room, Louisville Free Public Library, 301 York Street, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**January 28- District 1 Community Garden Meeting.** Hosted by Councilwoman Attica Woodson Scott. For more information, call 574-1101. Maupin Elementary School, 1321 Catalpa, 6:00 p.m.

**January 28- Bank On Louisville Individual Development Account Orientation.** For more information, email [adam.hall@53.com](mailto:adam.hall@53.com). Interpreters will be present. Americana Community Center ,4801 Southside Drive 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**January 29- Legal Aid Society Free Foreclosure Clinic.** Attorneys will be on hand to answer questions about foreclosures and provide advice on alternatives to foreclosure. Reservations are required. For more information, or to register call 584-1254 to make your reservation. Legal Aid Society 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., 11:00 a.m. **Foreclosure Clinics will also be held every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. and every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. through March 28.**

**February 2- Kroger Shop n’ Share.** Kroger stores in Jefferson, Bullitt, Oldham, and Shelby Counties will be collecting donated goods to benefit The Center for Women and Families. First Lady Beshear began this annual drive in 2008 to provide domestic violence shelters across the state with needed goods, such as canned goods, toilet paper and soap. To volunteer at stores or help with pick-up, email [shopsharelouisville@gmail.com](mailto:shopsharelouisville@gmail.com) or go to [www.thecenteronline.org](http://www.thecenteronline.org). Kroger stores, 8:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

**February 8-9- Tag Sale & Treasure Hunt: A Benefit for Rx: Housing Dollars for Deposits Fund.** You can support this event by: donating items to be sold; signing up to work the event ; and/or coming out and shopping. Items being accepted are new and vintage clothing, jewelry and accessories, handbags, shoes, household items. To volunteer or for more information, email [jrolwing@spalding.edu](mailto:jrolwing@spalding.edu) .Hotel Louisville, 120 W. Broadway. Donation drop off: Thursday starting at 9:00 a.m. Sale: Friday 12:00 - 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**February 9- Preservation Louisville Hands on History Workshop- Planning Your Project.** Uses two examples to demonstrate project planning: 1) repair or replace historic windows, and 2) designing a new kitchen. Learn where to find information and resources, when to involve Landmarks, and how to think through project scope. Advance registration is required.. To register or for more information, email [director@preservationlouisville.org](mailto:director@preservationlouisville.org), call 540.5146 or go to [www.preservationlouisville.org](http://www.preservationlouisville.org). The Brennan House Historic Home, 631 S. 5th St. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**February 16- Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville Ground Blessing for 4506 Sunset Circle.** For more information contact Jaleesa Wells at [jwells@louisvillehabitat.org](mailto:jwells@louisvillehabitat.org) or 805-1656. 11:30 a.m.

**February 19- Kentucky Habitat for Humanity 20th Anniversary Celebration at the State Capitol.**Gov. Beshear, Lt. Gov. Abramson, Congressional leaders, supporters and friends are all invited. After the rally, Tom FitzGerald, ED of the Kentucky Resources Council will be facilitating a workshop on advocacy. For more information or to RSVP, contact Mary Shearer at 608-7041 or [mary@kyhfh.org](mailto:mary@kyhfh.org). State Capitol, Frankfort. Rally, 10:00 a.m.; workshop 11:30 a.m.

**February 19 through March 9- The Fifth Third Financial Empowerment Mobile will be in Kentucky & Southern Indiana.** It will be making stops in Southern Indiana, Louisville, Shelbyville, Frankfort and Lexington. For more information, email [adam.hall@53.com](mailto:adam.hall@53.com).

**February 21 - Network Center for Community Change Network Nite.** Enjoy a family dinner while networking with your community and learning about events and opportunities. For more information, call 583-1426 or email [jpotish@makechangetogether.org](mailto:jpotish@makechangetogether.org). West End School , 3628 Virginia Avenue), 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**February 27- ACLU of KY Immigrant Rights Advocacy Day- “New Kentuckians at the Capitol.”** To register or for more information, go to [www.aclu-ky.org](http://www.aclu-ky.org) or call 581-9746. State Capitol, Frankfort, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Press conference at 9:00 a.m.

**April 15- Wellspring's 15th Annual Derby Preview Party.** Save the date! Go to <http://www.wellspringky.org/content/wellspring-derby-preview-party> for more information. Millionaires Row, Churchill Downs.



# MHC NEWSLETTER

Page 4

January 2013

## Strengthen the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing in 2013!

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.

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All donations to MHC, a 501 (c)(3) organization, are tax deductible within IRS regulations.



Metropolitan  
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