



## Fair and Affordable Housing Includes Environmental Issues

MHC's definition of fair and affordable housing includes living in a home that is weatherized and able to capitalize on savings in utility usage to make it affordable and sustainable for the household. It includes safe air, water and soil. It includes the ability to easily connect to all parts of the city through public transit. It also includes the ability to participate in the community, especially in planning and policy decisions.

This month we are updating you on efforts that fit under environmental issues.

- MHC will release the *2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report* on October 27, 2011 at noon at New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 East Liberty Street, Louisville. The focus of the report is on the built and natural environment and the role it plays in fair and affordable housing. Once again, the University of Louisville Center for Environmental Policy and Management has worked with MHC to get the newest data, best practices and policies all in one document.
- In last month's newsletter, we wrote extensively on the two cases before the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) that will affect the costs of utilities- LG&E/KU's proposed changes to their Demand Side Management (DSM) program and their proposed surcharge to cover costs necessary to comply with environmental regulations. With the legal assistance of Kentucky Resources Council ([www.kyrc.org](http://www.kyrc.org)), MHC is an "Intervener" before the PSC in both cases.
- A public hearing was held on September 6 in Louisville on the proposed Environmental Surcharge rates. People are frightened of what such a large hike in costs will mean to them, but also want the quality of life improvements we'll receive through cleaner air, water and soil that the environmental regulations will bring. Speakers at the hearing stated concerns about the impacts of the rate increases on low- and fixed-income households, and they spoke of the need to better integrate energy-efficiency measures and alternative, renewable energy sources into long-term planning for environmental compliance. You can make your voice heard by submitting your own comments to the PSC by November 10.
- To review LG&E/KU's proposal for the environmental surcharge, go to [http://psc.ky.gov/PSCSCF/2011%20cases/2011-00162/20110601\\_Louisville%20Gas%20and%20Electric%20Company\\_Application.pdf](http://psc.ky.gov/PSCSCF/2011%20cases/2011-00162/20110601_Louisville%20Gas%20and%20Electric%20Company_Application.pdf). All documents related to the case, including written public comments, can be found at <http://psc.ky.gov/Home/Library?type=Cases&folder=2011%20cases/2011-00162>.

Submit your public comments by email to [psc.info@ky.gov](mailto:psc.info@ky.gov), by fax to 502-564-9625, or by US Mail to Kentucky Public Service Commission, PO Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602.

- The Louisville Metro Planning and Design Department (P&D) has taken on several big tasks. One was a review of how P&D processes could make things easier for those who want to know what is going on in their neighborhood and for residents and developers to have good dialogue and a more clear process. Former MHC board members Barbara Sinai and Gabe Fritz served on the non-governmental review body, as did many partners of MHC. The outcomes are being finalized but offer some good solutions that can improve P&D services.
- Also, the time to review the Louisville Metro Land Development Code (LDC) is fast approaching and we will keep you informed and ready to contribute to the discussion. In anticipation of this process, P&D is coordinating many partners (MHC included) in a grant application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement the changes resulting from an update to the LDC in Louisville. The sustainable communities grant promotes fair and affordable housing as well as public transit, sustainable growth and input by historically marginalized populations.
- Speaking of which, HUD is also requesting proposals for regional sustainability grants. KIPDA is coordinating the grant application for our region. Ironically, given the public input goals of HUD's program, some of KIPDA's practices effectively bar public participation, especially for those that rely on public transit. For example, KIPDA's Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meetings are most frequently held at 1:00 p.m. on a weekday at Commonwealth Drive- a location where there is no ability for anyone using public transit to easily attend. (Unless one were to leave downtown at about 6:00 a.m., take three buses and arrive three hours early.) Nor are these meetings broadcast. KIPDA should be encouraged to hold its meetings at times and locations that are more accessible.

### **Public Forum to Release the 2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report**

**Thursday, October 27, 2011- 12:00 p.m.  
New Directions Housing Corporation  
1000 East Liberty Street**

## Louisville Metro Appoints the Leader of the New Vacant Abandoned Properties Initiative

Louisville Metro Government has announced the creation of the Vacant Abandoned Properties Initiative, which resulted, in part, from recommendations made at the April 28, 2011 Vacant and Abandoned Property Summit. The Summit brought together over 200 people representing local governments, developers, neighborhood associations, and community activists to discuss how to address Louisville's growing vacant property crisis and strategies to encourage re-use and redevelopment of vacant properties.

Mary McGuire has been appointed the Team Leader of the Vacant Abandoned Properties Initiative. MHC and the Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign (LVPC) would like to introduce Ms. McGuire to our membership, as she will become a valuable partner as we work as a community to address our vacant property problem. Ms. McGuire graciously provided MHC with the following description of herself and her work.

*I am a native of Louisville. I have a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Evansville. I received a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame, including one year of international law study in London. I have practiced general civil law in Illinois and Kentucky, including commercial law and real estate law.*

*My first duty as head of the Vacant Abandoned Properties Initiative has been to assemble a team from different departments and across government local-state lines in order to coordinate our efforts. Going forward, we are hoping to work cooperatively with each other and with outside agencies to address this growing problem.*

*Our three leading principles are: Advocacy and Compassion; Consistent, Steady and Actionable Progress; and Research, Redevelopment and Recovery. One of our primary goals is to lessen the number of new abandoned properties. This will require a strong partnership with outside agencies to keep people in their homes. Many of these agencies have been working for years on this issue, but I'm hoping this initiative will offer people a new resource to help them connect with these agencies.*

*We will also be pursuing strategic foreclosures based upon the potential for new development. The ultimate goal is to return as many of these properties as possible to productive uses, for the individuals, the neighborhoods and for Metro Louisville as a whole.*

Keep an eye on the Department of Inspections, Permits, and Licenses website <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/ipl>, for more news about the Vacant Abandoned Properties Initiative.

## The Louisville Rx Housing Campaign- Volunteers and Contributions Needed

Under the leadership of the Coalition for the Homeless, Louisville is going to become a part of the national 100,000 Homes Campaign. The 100,000 Homes Campaign focuses on identifying and housing those individuals and families who remain trapped in homelessness and dependent on costly emergency services. The Campaign aims to bring together organizations and activists from across the country to find and house 100,000 of the most vulnerable and long-term homeless individuals and families over the next three years. (For more information on the campaign, go to <http://100khomes.org>). The Coalition for the Homeless needs volunteers for their local 100,000 Homes initiative, called Rx Housing, which is a prescription to house the 50 people most likely to die on the streets of Metro Louisville.

On September 19, 20, and 21, the Coalition for the Homeless seeks 100 volunteers for a three-day registry of homeless people, for which teams of four will conduct early morning interviews with those living on the street. These interviews will be used to identify those in greatest need and access housing to get them off the street. The Coalition asks that you consider volunteering for the three-day early morning event and Sunday training. If you cannot commit to all three days but would still like to volunteer, the Coalition for the Homeless will find other opportunities for you to help with set up, clean up, data entry, etc.

The Coalition for the Homeless also requests donations of the following items they need for the Rx Housing registry.

- Pizza, soda and paper goods for the Sunday training
- Breakfast items for all three registry days
- Bottled water
- Breakfast or granola bars
- Cash or gift cards to purchase items for those moving into apartments
- Pens
- Copy services for the volunteer information
- Flashlights with batteries
- T-shirts and printing for the volunteers
- Disposable cameras
- New socks and underwear

To volunteer, make a donation, or get further information, please contact Natalie Harris at 502-636-9550, ext. 11 or [nharris@louhomeless.org](mailto:nharris@louhomeless.org).

## Schedule of Events

**September 13 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**September 20- Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign.** Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**October 27- Forum to Release the 2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 12:00 p.m.

**September 13- Fifth Third Bank/New Hope Services Savings and Budget Class.** For more information contact Adam Hall at adam.hall@53.com or 562-5584. New Hope Services, 725 Mansfield Drive, Scottsburg, IN, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**September 13- Spalding University School of Social Work Information Session.** Learn about Spalding's Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in social work. Additional sessions on: **October 11, November 8, & December 13.** For more information, contact Susan Grace at sgrace@spalding.edu or 588-7183. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor student lounge, Mansion East, Spalding University, Library Lane and Breckinridge Street, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**September 15- Network Center for Community Change Network Nite.** Call 502-583-1426 for more information. The Academy @ Shawnee, 4018 W. Market Street, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**September 16- Application Deadline for YouthBuild Louisville Class of 2012.** YouthBuild seeks out of school young adults between the ages of 17 and 24 who are interested in an education and job training program. Please call 290-6121 or visit YouthBuild at 812 S. Preston Street for more information.

**September 18- Dare to Care Hunger Walk.** A fundraising event that supports Dare to Care Food Bank and the World Food Program. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.thehungerwalk.org>. Waterfront Park Festival Plaza, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**September 19-21- Coalition for the Homeless RxHomes "Registry."** Volunteers needed to interview homeless people. These interviews will be used to identify those in greatest need and access housing to get them off the streets. To volunteer or for more information, contact Natalie Harris at nharris@louhomeless.org or 636-9550. Meet at Wayside Christian Mission's Hotel Louisville, 120 W. Broadway. Volunteer training, Sept. 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m., interviews, 4:00 - 6:00 a.m.

**September 22- Dr. Tim Wise- Beyond Diversity: Challenging Racism in an Age of Backlash.** Presented by the Spalding University Diversity Consciousness Action Group (DCAG) and sponsored by Spalding University and the U of L Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. Email jjewell@spalding.edu for more information. Spalding University Auditorium, 824 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 7:00 p.m.

**September 24- Moving Planet, Moving Louisville Beyond Fossil Fuels.** A rally outside the Mayor's office to support reducing Louisville's transportation carbon footprint. For more information, contact Drew Foley at bdrewf@yahoo.com or 644-0659. 527 W. Jefferson, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**September 25- St. John's Center for Homeless Men Open House.** Tickets are free, please contact Jennifer Nickel at 298-9677 or email [findhope@stjohncenter.org](mailto:findhope@stjohncenter.org) to RSVP by September 16. 700 E. Muhammad Ali Blvd. 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**September 25- CoffeeStop Concert to benefit the Dona O'Sullivan Fund to Fight Homelessness.** Features the Harry Pickens Trio. For more information, contact Linda Bowman at 452-9151. Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, 1722 Bardstown Road, 7:00 p.m.

**September 28-October 2- Fuller Center for Housing of Louisville Build Days.** Build sites are 242 South 41<sup>st</sup> Street, and 32, 108 and 123 Boston Court. Also, Fuller Louisville seeks qualified applicants for homeownership of 118 Boston Court. For more information or to volunteer, contact Renita Rosa at 272-1377.

**October 4- Louisville Metro TRIAD Senior Day Out.** An event that allows seniors to gather information on services, access health screenings. Lunch (if registered in advance), music and dancing, door prizes, and Bingo will be offered. Call 574-5092 for additional information or visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanServices/OfficeforAging-DisabledCitizens](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanServices/OfficeforAging-DisabledCitizens) for a registration form. Kentucky International Convention Center, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**October 8- First Annual Schnitzelburg History Walking Tour.** Availability is limited, so please RSVP before October 1. For more tour information or to RSVP, call Steve Cambron at 636-4287. You can also register at the front desk of Goss Street Antiques or by sending an email to [germantownpast@yahoo.com](mailto:germantownpast@yahoo.com). Meet at 946 Goss Avenue, 11:00 a.m.

**October 12-13- Kentucky Housing Corporation 2011 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference.** This year's theme is "Housing is the Key." Judge Jeff Choate is featured as keynote speaker. For more information, go to <http://www.kyhousing.org/conference/kahc2011.aspx>. Lexington Convention Center.

**November 1- Center for Non-Profit Excellence Annual Conference: Breaking Boundaries for Breakthrough Results.** Features New York University Professor Paul Light as keynote speaker and facilitator. Luncheon features presentations of CNPE's 2011 Pyramid Awards for non-profit excellence and a speech by Mayor Greg Fischer. One can attend the whole conference or just the luncheon. For more information go to [www.cnpe.org](http://www.cnpe.org) or call 315-2673. Galt House, 140 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Conference- 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Luncheon- 12:00- 2:00 p.m.

**November 10- 5th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture.** Features Dr. Michelle Alexander (author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*). Free & open to the public. For more information, contact Amber Duke at [agduke01@louisville.edu](mailto:agduke01@louisville.edu) or 852-6142. Speed Art Museum Auditorium, doors open at 5:30 p.m.

**October through January- Project Warm Service Activities.** Project Warm Blitz helps seniors over 60 and those with disabilities prepare their homes for winter. Energy Management Workshops will teach people how to winterize their homes. For more information about these programs, call 636-9276 or email [info@projectwarm.org](mailto:info@projectwarm.org). Volunteers are needed to assist with activities, especially in October and November.



## Help Strengthen the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing- Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!

As we look at the cuts to federal, state and local budgets, MHC asks for your support, both financially and in helping MHC increase membership. Our need is two-fold: MHC needs to replace funds that have been decreased; but equally important is that MHC wants to make our voice stronger as the same budget cuts affect policy in providing fair and affordable housing for our most vulnerable populations.

### As an MHC Member you:

- **Support** the creation of long-term solutions to our community's affordable housing crisis.
- **Join** the diverse coalition of over 300 individual and organizational members which make up our far-reaching base.
- **Receive** our monthly newsletter and published reports on timely housing issues that touch the Metro Louisville region and beyond.
- **Most important of all**, you will have your voice heard at this historic and critical time!

For membership questions, please call the office at (502) 584-6858 and speak with Curtis Stauffer.  
To make an online donation, visit us on the web at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org).



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