

The Neighborhood Development Collaborative – Denver’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program Announced

Denver’s Office of Economic Development recently announced its launch of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which was created and funded by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

The Denver Housing Authority has been selected to administer the program under a newly created **Neighborhood Development Collaborative, Inc. (NDC)** — a Colorado non-profit corporation.

Through a competitive process, the City of Denver awarded \$3,079,153 to the NDC to fund the acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition of foreclosed and abandoned properties in high impact neighborhoods. The goal of this three-year project is to acquire, rehab and create 178 units of affordable rental and homeownership units throughout the targeted neighborhoods. The NDC targeted neighborhoods include: Montbello, NE Park Hill, Swansea, West Colfax, Villa Park and Athmar Park.

Northeast Housing Services, Del Norte Housing, NEWSED, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and the Urban Land Conservancy are community partners with DHA in the new Neighborhood Development Collaborative, Inc.

More information go to: <http://www.milehigh.com/newsdata/news/press-release/228>

Client Services Department—DHA Supports Youth Activities at the Sun Valley Youth Center

DHA’s ownership of a high percentage of housing in Denver’s Sun Valley neighborhood goes hand in hand with its long-standing partnership with the Sun Valley Youth Center (SVYC), which mostly serves DHA residents.

Ms. Kris Rollerson, SVYC Executive Director, has worked tirelessly in the neighborhood for years. One of the projects that she has organized is the Trash Busters, a program established for middle school youth.

Through the Trash Busters program, young residents pick up trash and clean up the DHA Sun Valley development on a weekly basis during the warm weather months in order to make it more an appealing place for all residents to live. During the month of May, DHA helped sponsor this activity by supplying T-shirts for the participants and such needed supplies as trash bags, hand gloves, etc.

Mural Project a Rude Recreation Center

Two local artists—Delton Demarest and Jeremy Ulibarri—will soon instruct 10-12 year olds from various organizations about how to paint a mural in the pool area at the Rude Recreation Center in the Sun Valley community. Both Demarest and Ulibarri have painted numerous murals throughout the city including murals at the Sun Valley Youth Center, the Swansea, Globeville, and Athmar Recreation Centers and the Santa Fe Arts District.

Denver City Councilwoman Judy H. Montero, the Denver Parks and Recreation department and the Division of Youth Services sponsor the Mural Project.

DHA Homeownership Fair—Over 300 Attend

In recognition of National Homeownership month, on June 13th the Denver Housing Authority sponsored a Home Ownership Fair geared to prospective homebuyers, current homeowners and homeowners who may be facing foreclosure or near home loan delinquency.

Over **300 individuals** walked through the doors of the PPA Center in northwest Denver to meet with more than 45 resource providers and DHA community partners. Many attendees also took advantage of free workshops on such topics as credit repair, how to qualify for a home loan and home repair.

The Colorado Housing Assistance Corporation, a Fair partner, indicated how amazed they were at the numbers of attendees, their level of interest and how beneficial the Fair was for participants and service providers. Representatives from partner homeownership agencies report that they have never seen such a large turn out.

DHA and its Fair partners are following up with a number of individuals who expressed interested in enrolling for homeownership counseling and other available services.

Section 8 Department—2009 Lottery Housing Demand Exceeds Availability

The DHA Section 8 department continues to experience the high demand for affordable housing exceeding housing availability. In February 2009, DHA received over 14,300 lottery entrants. As of June, the DHA Section 8 program was able to pull only 1,176 lottery numbers for processing. According to Section 8 staff, however, this trend is on average with previous years. DHA currently administers 5,756 housing choice vouchers and continues to explore opportunities for increased funding.

Development—DHA Awarded Enterprise Green Community Grant

The Denver Housing Authority recently received a \$75,000 Enterprise Green Community Grant for Benedict Park Place Block 5B, to continue its’ commitment to green building principles and sustainable communities. The mixed-use multiple funding redevelopment plan calls for integrated design, energy efficiency, smart site planning; to services, creating a healthy living environment, walk-able community, and transportation choices. This green transit oriented development is within a 1/2 mile of combined transit services.


Block 5 plan will consist of 150 new construction energy efficient units, incorporating efficient energy design, mechanical, electrical, lighting, water conservation, solar, and energy star appliances.

Project completion date is late 2010.

More information go to: <http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/>

Housing Management Division—Water Conservation Efforts—USE WHAT YOU NEED —Denver Water Department Campaign

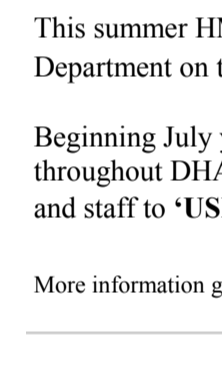
Even though this June has seen record amounts of rain fall through out Denver and the Metro area, DHA’s Housing Management Division (HMD) continues to be proactive and committed to water conservation.



This summer HMD is collaborating with the Denver Water Department on their water conservation campaign.

Beginning July you will see Denver Water yard signs throughout DHA developments reminding residents and staff to ‘USE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED’.

More information go to: <http://useonlywhatyouneed.org/>



Housing Management—Field of Dreams—DHA Executive Director Cup Challenge

This year the Housing Management Division rallied to the call of the newly established DHA Director’s Cup. This initiative was designed to promote teamwork throughout the housing management division in the areas of property management, maintenance, reporting and employee achievement.

Any Housing Management Division employee can submit award nominations to the Field of Dreams Team. Award categories include:

- Going the Extra Mile
- Customer Service
- Best Attendance
- Problem Solving
- Cost Savings and Efficiency

Additionally, the “Development of the Month” award is based on criteria such as Best Vacancy Turn-Around Time, Most Housekeeping Inspections Completed Year to Date, Best REAC Score (when applicable) and Fastest Work Order Completion Time.

The 2009 Employees of the Month thus far include Keith Laff, Larry Knox, Oliver Bochantin, Eddie Simon and Barbara Hammond. The Employee of the Month plaque is on display in the Housing Management Division on the 6th Floor.

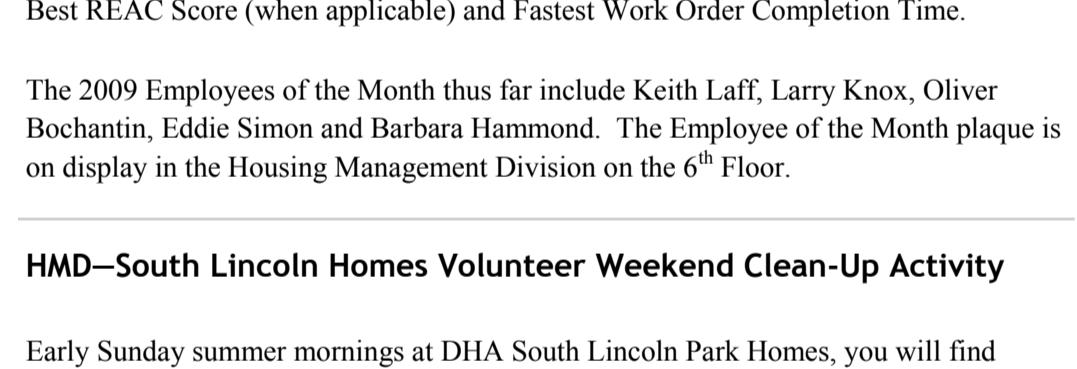
HMD—South Lincoln Homes Volunteer Weekend Clean-Up Activity

Early Sunday summer mornings at DHA South Lincoln Park Homes, you will find parents and youth doing volunteer work side-by-side with minor clean up of the common grounds. According to South Lincoln resident Ms. Amanda Areteaga, “Children were more than happy to help around the development”.

Over the past 5-years, Ms. Areteaga has seen big improvements at South Lincoln Homes. With maintenance doing a very good job keeping up with everything at the development. Ms. Areteaga’s assumed the task of organizing this early morning volunteer work clean-up project. Her goal was to show the value of volunteer work, help youth learn that where they live and play—they have a role in their keeping their environment clean and attractive

Working with DHA Maintenance Supervisor, Ms. Cathy Martinez, who arrives early each Sunday morning at 8 a.m., before all the volunteers arrive ready for their volunteer work. Ms. Martinez sets-out all the needed yard supplies such as water hoses, rakes, brooms and buckets for a early morning weekend clean up.

Monday mornings brings a fresh new day and when the youth walk the grounds, they find it is well maintained, reduced litter, flowers beds clean and the children take great pride in their volunteer activity. Plus, a kind word from neighbors to the youth workers, instills great pride and community recognition of their Sunday morning volunteer work.

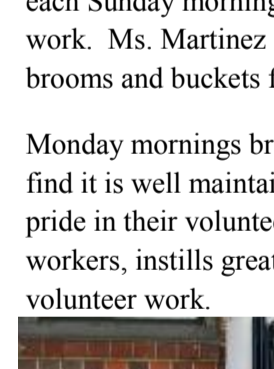


Elevator Upgrades Completed at Grant Street

DHA General Services elevator contracts recently completed comprehensive elevator upgrades at 777 Grant Street, DHA Administrative Office.

Please refer to website for Elevator Do’s and Don’ts—*a friendly reminder for all visitors, residents and staff.*

<http://hubpages.com/hub/Elevator-Escalator-Safety-Dos-And-Donts>



Upcoming News and Events

- **DHA submits competitive grants for 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**
- **DHA South Lincoln Park Homes Redevelopment Planning Update**
More information go to: <http://www.denverhousing.org/DHA/Development/Under+Lincoln/>
- **July 15-26, 2009 Rocky Mountain Communities Playhouse Project at the Children’s Museum Outdoor Plaza 2121 Children’s Museum Drive**
More information go to: www.RockyMountainCommunity.org
- **July 17, 2009 10:00 a.m.—3 p.m. Quigg Newton Homes Resource Fair 44th & Navajo Street**
- **July 24, 2009—DHA Hosts 2009 Housing Colorado! Summer Luncheon & Tour Event at A.B. Hirschfeld Towers**
More information go to: <http://www.housingcolorado.org/>
- **DHA Strategic Plan Operational Team (SPOT) Update**

