

COMMUNITY CATCH UP

SHREVEPORT'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Ollie S. Tyler
Bonnie Moore—Department Director
JULY/AUGUST 2015

Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan : An Update

HUD approved the Shreveport Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan, developed through a FY2010 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant awarded to the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments and the City of Shreveport, in August 2013. Shreveport's Choice Neighborhood (CN) encompasses 1,736 acres (2.7 square miles) immediately west of the downtown. Shreveport's CN includes 3 sub-areas known as Allendale, Ledbetter Heights, and West Edge. Allendale is a 150-year-old, low-density neighborhood; Ledbetter Heights is listed as a historic district for its role as an African-American entertainment, music, and commercial center in the 1940s and 1950s; the West Edge is an emerging arts district.

Galilee Baptist Church



Sprague Street Row Houses

- **Heritage Place**
 - Shreveport's Department of Community Development has been acquiring land, centered around the historic C.C. Antoine Park, in the Allendale neighborhood to redevelop as a new residential community, creating a critical mass of new investment to spur additional private development.
 - This urban renewal project encompasses 34 acres of land. The master plan includes affordable housing options, food resources, on-site security, recreation facilities, and more.
 - The expansion of C.C. Antoine Park is in the design phase. Nicholas & Associates has been engaged as the landscape architect.
- **Civil Rights Museum**
 - The historic Galilee Baptist Church on Williamson Street (where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in 1958) will be redesigned to house the museum.
 - The 1st design phase and feasibility study should be complete by mid-August.
- **Ledbetter Heights Townhomes**
 - The construction of 12 affordable town homes (Phase I) will begin within the next 30 days.
 - 4 units additional units (Phase II) are planned after the completion of Phase I.
- **Sprague Street Row House**
 - A Victorian era row home will be reconstructed on Elvis Presley Blvd.
 - Plans have been submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), and construction is expected to begin in September.
 - The completed reconstruction will be used as a commercial and fine arts incubator.
- **J.S. Clark School-Based Health Center**
 - In partnership with Christus Health, the City of Shreveport's Department of Community Development, Dr. Ruby Scroggins (principal of Joseph Samuel Clark Elementary), and Superintendent Dr. Lamar Gorree have been working to develop resources for a school-based health center (SBHC) at J.S. Clark.
 - With major funding approval from Christus Health, on July 28th the Caddo Parish School Board approved a proposal to allow a SBHC to be developed.
 - A SBHC will provide convenient access to preventative, primary, and comprehensive, physical and mental health services for the almost 900 students at the school site.

World Changers

World Changers is an event known mostly to the Department of Community Development. The housing bureau hosts this event for one week, with the first day being Monday and the culmination on Friday. Volunteers from the Southern Baptist Convention come from all over the United States to participate. This year, 150 volunteers joined the effort. The groups consisted of youth ranging in age from twelve to early twenty-year-olds. These volunteers come with willing hearts and are eager to serve.

The volunteers serviced a total of six homes this year. The homes were located in the Mooretown area here in Shreveport. Five homes were painted, and the sixth home was serviced with a renovated porch. The sixth home was located in the MLK area of Shreveport.

Holley Mims believes that World Changers is one of the housing bureau's better programs. Because of the length of the program, the homes that are serviced receive more attention. All of the residents were very satisfied with the services they received.

By: Cheyenne Wilson

SYETP Career Fair

Friday, July 17th marked the end of this year's Summer Youth Employment Training Program (SYETP). The program title is self-explanatory—young people aged 16 to 21 gain real-world experience, establish skill sets, and earn a paycheck as they work for local employers over the course of six weeks. In the words of participant Adam Dodd, a Louisiana Tech engineering student, "I think the summer program was a great opportunity for me to boost my resumé, and it gave me real world working experience that I can use in the future."

At the conclusion of the program, all 331 participants attended a career fair held at Riverview Hall in downtown Shreveport. After a brief introduction and overview of the day, the program coordinator, Ms. Janice Evans, divided participants into two groups. While one group listened to a presentation on financial aid for college and funding options, the other group spent time at the career fair in

an adjacent room. Program participants introduced themselves to university recruiters and perused course study pamphlets. About an hour into the morning-long program, Mayor Ollie S. Tyler made an appearance, speaking to the youth about the importance of higher education and offering her support in their endeavors. At the end of the event, a boxed lunch was provided, and final pay checks were distributed. The SYETP Career Fair challenged youth to pursue a higher education, and it equipped them with the knowledge and tools to do so.

By: Alida Soileau



Mayor Ollie S. Tyler & Participant Adam Dodd



A Brief Farewell

Our time here at the Department of Community Development has been very rewarding. Alida and I will take away invaluable lessons from this internship. We have learned about all that the Department of Community Development has to offer, and we have discovered new programs that we would not normally know about.

As our time in this department ends, it would be improper if we did not express our gratitude for having this opportunity. We have both been impacted by those in this department. We are truly grateful for this experience, and we will miss everyone dearly. Thank you for opening your department and your hearts to us for the past seven weeks.

By: Cheyenne Wilson



BIRTHDAYS!

- ◆ 25 July - Penny Butler
- ◆ 13 August - Iva Youngblood
- ◆ 20 August - Mary Meeks
- ◆ 31 August - Delores Wright