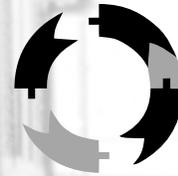


THE VIEW

The Villages of Park DuValle

June/July 2003 Volume 3, Issue 3



The Community Builders, Inc.

Park Duvalle Association Organized To Guide Community's Future

Last summer, Joan Bailey and Sherman Biddix decided to take the lead in organizing a neighborhood association. They took a crucial first step when they gathered about 40 neighbors for a discussion on how the new community has evolved over the past few years and where it wants to be in the future. Monthly meetings over the last several months have finally given birth to the Park Duvalle Association Incorporated.

Association board members were elected during a March meeting. One-third of the members will serve until 2004, one third will serve until 2005 and one-third will serve until 2006. Articles of Incorporation were filed with and approved by the Secretary of State, and by-laws were unanimously approved by the Board of Directors. At its March 26 meeting, the board elected the Executive Committee including officers and two members at large.

The Association includes tenants, homeowners, business owners, service providers, churches, schools and community organizations. Residents are excited about the new sense of community the Association has inspired. Cora Washburn, a Colonial Homes resident for nearly 40 years, is excited about the inclusive nature of the Association.

"It feels like a very cohesive neighborhood now," says Washburn. "People need to know that this group is for everyone in Park Duvalle. Everyone is welcome."

The Board will spend the next several months on leadership development, and strategic planning to identify a community vision. High on the agenda will be the continuation of two signature community events, the Annual Park Duvalle Holiday Festival and Home Tours, and the Jazz Picnic.

The first Park Duvalle Association Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 24 at Duvalle Education Center.

Executive Committee

President: Sherman Biddix
Vice President: Wayne Barbour
Secretary: Rochelle Morgan
Treasurer: Cora Washburn
Parliamentarian: Charles Morris
Members At Large: Margaret Cain
Melvin Hough

Committee Chairs

Executive Comm.: Sherman Biddix
Development: Cora Washburn
Membership: Joan Bailey
Nominating: Leigh Ann Gray

Honoring A Model Community And Those Who Are Models For Our Children

In 1994, I had the privilege of working with the federal government and the Housing Authority of Louisville on



a roadmap for rebuilding one of our community's most important and historic neighborhoods.

That roadmap became the catalyst for what has been a \$200 million investment of public and private funds in the revitalization of Park DuValle. Today, nearly 10 years later, Park DuValle is recognized both nationally and locally as a model neighborhood – an example of what can be accomplished when everyone works together toward a common goal for the common good of an entire community.

Recently, I had the privilege of returning to Park DuValle as the new mayor of a new community – Louisville Metro. The occasion was the unveiling of seven street signs honoring some of our community's most prominent and influential African-Americans, citizens who should be models for our children

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**Park Duvalle Neighborhood Block Watch Organizational Meeting
Monday, July 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Villages Clubhouse**

Continued...

Honoring A Model Community And Those Who Are Models For Our Children

and our community of what civic leaders can accomplish.

The seven street signs honor local African-Americans, who left their mark on diverse areas from education to medicine. Park DuValle was picked because the neighborhood has been transformed from a once impoverished and troubled area into a national model of mixed-income housing. First District Councilwoman Denise Bentley, the driving force behind the naming of the streets, reminded us that this revitalized neighborhood is known as the Villages of Park DuValle. And just as an African proverb reminds us that it takes a village to raise a child, it's important to show children of all races that there are numerous examples of African-Americans who had a tremendously positive impact on this community.

Consider some of the people we honored: William Beckett, who as an alderman in the 1950s and early 1960s let efforts to integrate city

facilities, Mae Street Kidd, who served in the state legislature for nearly 20 years from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s working on legislation to make housing more affordable and accessible, and Dr. William Weathers, the first African-American chief of surgery at Jewish Hospital.

Each of these Louisvillians left an indelible mark on their families and their communities. And their legacy now proudly is marked throughout one of the shining examples – the Park DuValle neighborhood – of what can happen when we're willing to dream together and work together. I'm excited about the future of Park DuValle and the future of our new community. I know that the seven citizens whose names proudly adorn these street signs would be excited as well. They would be honored by the recognition of their life's work. But, more importantly, they would be proud that their efforts and their dreams helped blaze a trail for us who worked to re-build a neighborhood that is now a shining example of what's possible if you dream just a little.

Signature Wall Construction Near Completion

Construction is almost complete on a beautiful signature entrance at the corner of Russell Lee Drive and Algonquin Parkway. The walls are stone veneer and will include lamps on each side. A similar entrance area will also be constructed at the Towne Centre. Special thanks to all residents who provided input and support throughout the building process.



4th District Reports Crime Is Down

Strong community relations with the police can have a positive impact on crime, and the numbers from a recent Crime Stats Report prove it. Compared with the same dates last year, reported crime in the 4th District for the period of Jan 1 – Mar 25 for 2003 was significantly down:

Property Crime: down 62.5% from 2002

Violent Crime: down 60.4% from 2002

The 4th District covers much more than Park DuValle. It covers the area south of Broadway to Algonquin Parkway, and from 7th Street west to approx. 44th Street.

According to Sgt. Tracie Shugart,

these results are a direct effect of the positive relationship between police officers and the community. "I can't stress enough that it really is a partnership between the police and the community. We get our information from the citizens, and that's how we can help. We can't get around 24/7, but if you live here, you can."

The police continue to work diligently in the Park DuValle area and encourage residents to get involved in keeping the community the safe place to live that it is today. Representatives from Fourth District regularly attend Park DuValle Association meetings and residents have been very helpful with calling in

information that assist police in doing a better job.

Efforts are currently underway to increase the number of neighborhood Block Watch clubs. An organizational meeting is planned on July 21, 6:00 p.m. in the Club House. Interested residents should contact Joyce Spotts, 778-8970.

Remember, if you witness anyone involved in criminal activity, you can call in a report and you do not have to identify yourself. The police just ask that you be as detailed as possible.

If you have any comments, questions, or issues of concern, please contact Sgt. Tracie Shugart at the 4th District at 574-2478.

DuValle Education Center, Real Hope Brings Real Changes

What motivates people to make significant lifestyle changes is a clear understanding of the how and why. Many of us recognize the need for improvements in our life but we are not likely to take the first steps toward change until we see real possibility and embrace hope that our situations will change. Then we are willing to reach out and take advantage of opportunities to change our lives, the lives of family members, and our futures.

These basic beliefs support and sustain the DuValle Education Center located at 3610 Bohne Avenue, in the heart of the Villages of Park DuValle. Findings from a community survey conducted by the Jefferson County Public Schools and subsequent community assessments were used to develop and maintain a comprehensive, coordinated mix of programs and services designed to meet the specific needs of residents in the Center's service area. Programs and services include but are not limited to Early Head Start and Head Start, DuValle Learning Center, L.I.N.K.

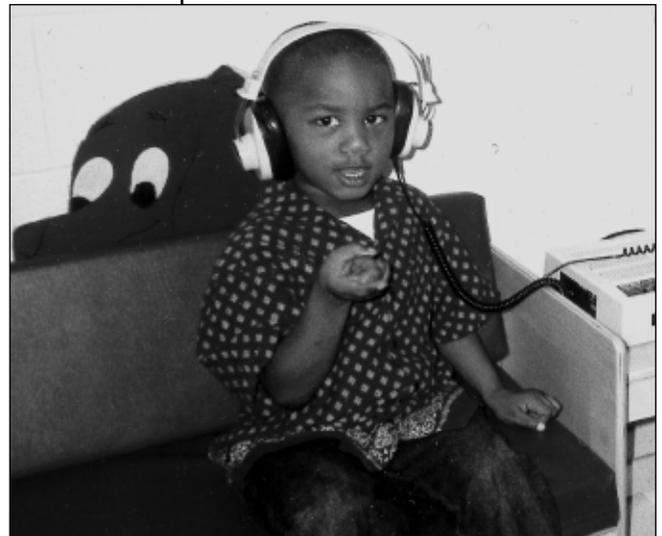
(Linking Instruction with Neighborhood Kids), Salvation Army Boys' and Girls' Club, DuValle Community Performing Arts Program, SCORE Job Training Program, I-CUE and OASIS programs, the Broader Visions Program and the DuValle Volunteer Reading Program. A broad range of activities is available for children, youth, adults and families.

Since the early summer of 1986, thousands of community residents from infants to seniors have enrolled in programs and received services through the DuValle Education Center. If you're ready to make changes in your life, visit the DuValle Education Center where staff can help you assess your options as you create a new future.

Park Duvalle has experienced a tremendous amount

of growth and change. The DuValle Education Center has also shifted and realigned programs and services to meet the changing needs of the community it serves. The Center benefits the entire community by showcasing new, pilot, and special programs, projects, and events while serving as a cornerstone for capacity-building in the community.

For additional information, call the Center at 485-3558.



CASA Community Health Mobilizes Community Around Tobacco And Substance Abuse Issues

The Villages of Park Duvalle has received a \$240,000 grant from Columbia University's National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) to conduct a new research demonstration project. CASA Community Health (CCH), developed for three Hope VI sites, focuses on reducing tobacco and substance abuse while addressing a host of complex interrelated issues such as job development and retention, truancy, family safety, domestic violence crime and mental health care. The initiative calls for participation from residents, community organizations, social services agencies and policy makers

to plan, design and implement strategies that respond to the unique needs of the Park Duvalle community.

According to Kathy Mayberry Brent, CCH Project Coordinator, the CCH project provides Hope VI communities, service providers, individual residents, and families with the tools to more effectively respond to the cost of tobacco, alcohol and drugs to their communities.

"CASA Community Health is a community-based prevention and treatment model that will engage the entire community in addressing a myriad of public health issues

related to the use of tobacco, alcohol and other illicit drugs," says Brent. "

To achieve success, CASA Community Health must be community-based, involving people in their homes, their places of work and worship, schools, community centers, businesses and social and civic organizations. CCH staff is seeking the participation of residents, community organizations, social service agencies, and policy makers to plan, design and implement strategies that respond to the unique needs of the Park Duvalle community. For more information contact Kathy Brent at (502) 774-9093.

Seven African-American Leaders Honored with Street Signs in Park DuValle

In May, Mayor Jerry Abramson and First District Councilwoman Denise Bentley unveiled seven street signs in the Park DuValle neighborhood honoring the lives of seven of the community's most influential African-Americans. "Park DuValle is a model neighborhood for our entire

community – an example of what we can do when we work together," said Abramson during the unveiling. "It's only fitting that we honor people who are models of civic leadership for our children and our community."

Those honored with street signs included: William Beckett, a city of Louisville Alderman from 1951-1961, led efforts to integrate city facilities and organizations; Lyman T. Johnson, a civil rights activist and educator, was the first black student to attend the University of Kentucky; Mae Street Kidd, a state legislator and civil rights leader, sponsored legislation to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s

birthday a state holiday and to provide open housing and low income housing in Kentucky; Lois Morris, a community activist and founder of the Louisville chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and National Black Women for Political Action, served three terms

as 12th Ward Alderman; Frank Stanley, Sr., a distinguished educator and journalist, was co-founder of the National Newspaper Publishers Association; William E.

Summers III, a community leader and broadcast owner, was the first African-American to own a radio station in the State of Kentucky; and, Dr. William G. Weathers, pioneering medical doctor, was the first African-American Chief of Surgery at Jewish Hospital and helped open the Park DuValle Health Center to address the need for improved medical treatment for residents in West Louisville.



Following the presentation ceremony, family and friends of those honored with street signs gathered for a photo with Mayor Abramson and Metro Councilwoman Denise Bentley.

Who's New At The Community Builders

Kathy Mayberry-Brent recently joined the TCB Park Duvalle team as CASA Project Coordinator. She has an extensive background in community health. Kathy had been with the University of Louisville for 25 years, and most recently served as Grants Management Specialist.

Vincent Fewes, is the new Maintenance Supervisor. He is responsible for overseeing the entire maintenance operation for the Villages of Park Duvalle.

Shalonda Samuels is the latest member of the CASA team where she serves as Youth Outreach Specialist. Before joining TCB, Shalonda was Community Health Services Coordinator for the Louisville Metro Health Department.

Carol Sandelin is bookkeeper for the property management staff.

Renee Smith joined the property management staff in November as Assistant Property Manager working with market rate applicants. Renee is a former Housing Authority of Louisville employee.

Vickie Trammell is the new Administrative Assistant in the property management office.

FREE

The Villages of Park DuValle Summer Youth Program

June 9 - August 1 • 10 am to 4 pm Daily • Ages 5-18

Free Lunch (Monday- Friday) Health and Fitness Activities

- Health Department
- YMCA
- American Red Cross

Tobacco & Substance Abuse Prevention

Activities Field Trips

- Kentucky Kingdom
- Louisville Science Center
- Louisville Slugger Museum

- Louisville Zoo
- Broadway Cinemas

Other Activities Include

- Skating, Bowling, Swimming, Arts and Crafts and More!

For more information, contact Shalonda Samuels, Summer Youth Program coordinator at 774-9090
Sponsored by CASA Community Health and the Community Builders

Don't Lose Your Home To Predatory Lenders

You've heard the term before, but what does "predatory lending" mean? Generally, it is a term used to describe a range of financial practices that deceive people into taking out loans they cannot afford, most often against the equity of homes, or there is misleading terminology in the loan documents. This puts the homeowner at extremely high risk of losing his/her home to foreclosure. Testimonies are being heard across the country in alarming frequency of people who have fallen prey to abusive lenders.

"It (predatory lending) has become almost an epidemic," says Stella Adams, Executive Director of the North Carolina Fair Housing Center.

"Predatory lending threatens to turn the American dream of homeownership into an American nightmare," William Apgar, former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Last year, AARP, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the needs and interests of persons 50 and older, launched a nationwide campaign to educate homeowners.

The campaign follows a series of interviews with more than 100 victims across the country. Its theme, "They Didn't Tell Me I Could Lose My Home," comes directly from the words those people used most often. Below are guidelines taken from AARP's June 2001 Bulletin.

Guidelines For Avoiding Predators

1. Think twice before borrowing money against your home.
2. Get independent advice from a nonprofit housing counselor or a lawyer you trust before seeking a loan or signing any documents.
3. Obtain your credit score to help you negotiate.
4. Shop around. Get at least three written quotes for up front costs, interest rates, terms of the loan and monthly payments.
5. Avoid loan pitches received by phone or mail or seen on TV.
6. Avoid lenders recommended by home improvement contractors. Find a separate lender to pay for repairs or improvements.
7. Don't borrow more than you can

afford to repay each month. Don't let a lender make you give false information about your income or expenses on a loan application.

8. Ask a lot of questions. If the answers are not clear, ask a counselor or lawyer for help.
9. Beware of balloon loans, prepayment penalties, and loan flipping.
10. Remember that single premium life credit insurance is voluntary – it should not be made a condition of your loan. You can probably buy cheaper insurance elsewhere, without paying interest on it.
11. Don't rush into a decision. Beware of lenders who offer "next day approval" or try to make you sign documents quickly.
12. Remember you can back out of a loan any time before signing the contract and, by law, up to three days after signing.

Local HUD-approved housing counseling agencies are Home Ownership Partners, : 585-5451 and Louisville Urban League, 561-6830, ext 120.

Discover Your Green Thumb...At The Community Garden

Spring is here, and you could join the Park DuValle/JFK Montessori Community Garden in its fourth gardening season. According to Sherman Biddix, the Community Garden Manager, the garden has 15 participants, but there is room for more, especially this year as JFK Montessori has been kind enough to give more space for additional garden plots. Also this season, the Community Garden is talking to the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club to start a youth gardening program, which will teach kids how to grow flowers and fresh vegetables.

Here's the low-down on the Community Garden:

- There are no fees for gardening itself, but there is a \$1 fee for access to the tool shed. The Garden furnishes all the cultivating tools plus guidance through on-going instruction provided by master gardeners.
- Plant whatever vegetables or flowers you want. Past seasons' plantings have included tomatoes, broccoli, greens (kale, collards, turnips), green onions, green beans, okra, strawberries, cucumbers, tulips, day lilies, hostas, and "beneficial flowers" which attract good insects that prey on the harmful insects.

- The Garden is for the most part organic, mainly using compost, not chemical fertilizers. Chemical pesticides are also limited due to the garden's proximity to a school.
- Operation Brightside has provided in-kind donations including compost, wood chips, and a watering source.

Now is prime time to be preparing for that summer and fall bounty. If you are interested in growing your own fresh produce, please contact Sherman Biddix at 640-3845 or Joan Bailey at 776-4208.

The View–Villages of Park DuValle
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Presented in Partnership by:



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All Comments should be directed to:
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