

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Your HOUSE Your NEIGHBORHOOD Your GREENSBORO

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 10 – AUGUST 2018

Storm Recovery Alliance

The Storm Recovery Alliance (SRA) is a coalition of representatives of City Council, City staff, and local nonprofit agencies that formed to coordinate the community's response to the April 15 tornado and other severe storms. The SRA is committed to strengthening public outreach, and prioritizing and coordinating services to those with the greatest need by working in the following capacities: direct assistance; rehousing and case management; home repair; and volunteer coordination and community outreach. The SRA meets weekly at the Greensboro Housing Hub, 1031 Summit Ave.

Donations for tornado recovery efforts are being received by the United Way of Greater Greensboro and the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and administered under the direction of the City of Greensboro. Donations for tornado recovery efforts have surpassed \$700,000. These funds are being disbursed to agencies to provide resources, which include rental assistance, security deposits, utility assistance, food and transportation expenses, and household supplies. Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing assistance with more than \$650,000 going to housing and other needs. To date, FEMA has approved 222 registrations and Housing assistance in the amount of \$341,110 with another \$308,137.04 covering Other Needs assistance. FEMA is no longer providing assistance as of July 9; however, local agencies are still providing assistance. Call 2-1-1 for more information and to be connected to services.

Visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/RecoveryResources for the latest tornado recovery updates.

City Council passed a resolution on July 17, 2018 approving updates to rehabilitation program guidelines for the Disaster Relief Homeowner Repair Program. The City can assist homeowners who have financial gaps related to tornado damages to their homes. Funds will be offered as an unsecured loan at 0% interest up to \$40,000. The funds are to be forgiven over a five-year period, as long as the homeowner remains in the home. For homeowners whose properties have been destroyed, additional funds will be offered as a grant for the portion of reconstruction or the project, which does not add value to the property. This may include demolition, site clearance, and the difference between the cost to construct and the property value.

Contact Neighborhood Development at 336-373-2349 for more information.

Homeownership Spotlight: Ebony McCoy

"I crossed something big off my bucket list," says Ebony McCoy. She was the first Greensboro resident to purchase a home through Housing Connect GSO's new down payment and closing cost assistance program (DPA). "Purchasing a home has been a goal I've been trying to accomplish for a long time."

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Housing Connect GSO is the City of Greensboro's newly remodeled homeownership program, which includes a new down payment and closing cost assistance program (DPA). This program provides up to \$10,000 in down payment assistance and closing costs. If a potential homeowner chooses to purchase a home in one of the City's redevelopment areas, an additional \$5,000 is available for down payment assistance. All participants are required to complete a homeownership class.

Ebony first became aware of the City's down payment assistance program in 2016. She saw an advertisement in the Melvin Municipal Office Building. She then met with Rhonda Enoch, the City's Housing Program Coordinator, to discuss the program and next steps. Rhonda reviewed her credit and recommended that she take some steps to resolve a few credit issues.

Ebony stated it did not take long to resolve her credit issues and build her credit. Once she reached that goal, she reached out to a lender and was pre-approved to purchase a home. She then contacted a realtor and started the homeownership class.

She admitted there were a few challenges along the way. She had recently separated from her husband and she was raising three children alone with no extra financial support. Nevertheless, she did not allow any of her issues to deter her from seeking homeownership and taking advantage of this program. Ebony said, "If it hadn't been for this program, I would've had to come up with more money on my end. The program was a big help to me."

Ebony shared how being a homeowner gives her freedom to do as she pleases with her home. "My children have more space to run and they have a backyard to play in. My children love our new home."

Ebony has motivated her friends to purchase a home. She has referred a realtor and others to Rhonda Enoch. "Everyone who assisted me was great. I sent them all Thank You cards. I know they're just doing their jobs, but they all just helped me achieve my goal of homeownership."

Learn more about Housing Connect GSO by contacting the City's Housing Program Coordinator Rhonda Enoch at 336-373-4146.

Homelessness Prevention Services

On January 31, 2018, Partners Ending Homelessness conducted the 12th annual Point in Time Count. The Point in Time count, required by HUD, is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Guilford County on a single night in January. These results showed: 15% increase in overall homelessness; 71% increase in chronic homelessness; 7% decrease in homeless veterans; 8% increase in the unsheltered homeless population; and 13% increase in family homelessness.

The City administers funding for nonprofit agencies to provide homelessness prevention services. The funding is provided annually from local and federal grant sources. Partners Ending Homelessness serves as a project sponsor to provide administrative services for City-funded annual homelessness prevention service contracts. To receive funding, agencies respond to a Request for Proposals and submit applications to Partners Ending Homelessness. Partners Ending Homelessness receives the applications and submits the information to the Guilford County Continuum of Care and System Performance and

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Evaluation Committee (SPEC) for review. The SPEC evaluates the performance of each agency, reviews the applications, and gives recommendations for funding to the City. The City then reviews and submits recommendations to City Council for approval. Programs the City funds include rapid rehousing, emergency shelters, transitional shelters, disability assistance, day centers, emergency winter shelters, and housing information and referral services. The City has an initiative to target chronic homelessness and veteran homelessness.

To learn more about community partners who are working to end chronic homelessness in Guilford County, please visit <http://pehgc.org/>.

Housing and Urban Development Allocations for FY 2018-19

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated the City of Greensboro \$3,968,607 for fiscal year 2018-19 for the following grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$2,161,061; Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - \$177,564; and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) - \$419,625; and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) -\$1,210,357.

Planned grant program uses include: affordable housing development; citywide housing rehabilitation; redevelopment/economic development; homebuyer education and counseling; fair housing activities; homelessness prevention; planned section 180 repayment; rental assistance for persons with HIV/AIDs; and program administration.

Lead Prevention

Mark your calendars! National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is October 22-28, 2018. NLPPW aims to help individuals, organizations, and state and local governments work together to reduce childhood exposure to lead.

In 2018, HUD awarded the City of Greensboro a \$2.9 million grant for lead-based paint remediation and healthy home repairs. The City's Lead Safe Housing Program uses the grant funds to prevent lead poisoning, remediate other health hazards, and provide community education activities. So far, nearly 1,000 homes have been made lead-safe. Homes built before 1978 probably contain lead-based paint and pose a risk to children under six years of age living in the home or who visit frequently. Childhood lead poisoning can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning behavior problems, and hearing and speech problems. Lead poisoning is 100% preventable.

Contact Jennifer Freeman at 336-373-2530 for more information on the program.

Meet Our New Mascot

Neighborhood Development's new mascot, "Homey," made its debut last week on National Night Out, accompanying department staff to community events celebrating this annual event. To say the least, Homey was a hit with the community, as parents and children flocked to ask questions and take pictures. Homey engaged with residents across Greensboro, making a lasting first impression and

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representing the department well.

Homey isn't your average mascot. It represents a safe, affordable home, which the Neighborhood Development Department works to provide to the residents of Greensboro. This may have been Homey's first appearance, but it sure will not be the last. Be on the lookout for Homey at upcoming department and community events.

Our New Facebook Page

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www.facebook.com/GSONeighborhoodDevelopment/