

Housing Matters

An official publication of the Butler County Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Summer 2006

West End Community & Learning Center Under Development Soon!

The City of Butler's West End neighborhood will soon see the construction of a special community and economic development project that will provide easy access to much-needed and essential community services.

The West End Community and Learning Center will house, among other programs, the return of the Pennsylvania State Health Office and the Butler County Children's Center/Headstart Program. After school and at-risk youth programs, human services, a possible Neighborhood Community Development Organization (CHDO) and multi-purpose learning center and gymnasium will complete the project.

According to Housing Authority



Executive Director Perry O'Malley, "This project is vital to the continuing growth and stability of an already vibrant city neighborhood."

The 22,000-square-foot pre-engineered building will be two-story with masonry and glass and will be located on Beckert Avenue. ■

New Plans for Cranberry Seniors Kellaur Pointe Offers Affordable Housing

The Butler County Housing Authority recently announced that an application was made to the PA Housing Finance Agency for Kellaur Pointe, a 72-unit high rise in Cranberry Township for affordable senior housing.

Kellaur Pointe will provide 72 spacious one bedroom apartments for individuals aged 55 and older with access to comprehensive supportive services and amenities. The apartment building will include a laundry room, community room, beautifully landscaped property and 24-hour emergency service.



Residents in the new building will have all of the convenience that the growing Cranberry area has to offer in

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10th Annual Homebuyer Fair a Success

Thursday, April 27, marked another successful Homebuyer Fair for the Butler County Housing Authority. Hundreds of county residents participated in the event held at the Butler Days Inn.

Major sponsors of the event included National City Bank, USDA Rural Housing Service, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), Sky Bank, and Federal Home Loan Bank. All Hitz 97.7 FM was also on hand to broadcast live throughout the afternoon event.

The annual Homebuyer's Fair is a unique opportunity for residents to learn more about the joys of home ownership and features exhibits by local realtors, banks, mortgage lenders and other homeownership services.

From financing opportunities to a better understanding of mortgages, attendees were given a chance to interact

with experts who could answer questions and provide information.

Cheryl Palyash was the day's big winner, scoring a \$50 Monroe Hotel gift certificate. ■



FSS Coordinator Deborah Broderick presents Cheryl Palyash with her \$50 Monroe Hotel gift certificate.

High Performer Status Achieved

High Performer!

The Butler County Housing Authority recently received a rating of High Performer from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS).

To receive this distinction, an Authority must receive a combined score of

90 or higher by the Department. The assessment evaluates how well public housing properties are being managed and maintained by the Housing Authority. ■

Kellaur Pointe . . .

in addition to the ability to use Butler Area Rural Transit (BART) to get to and from important appointments. Each 540-square-foot apartment will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

Groundbreaking for Kellaur Pointe may happen in early 2007. For more details on the project, contact Perry O'Malley at 724.287.6797 or view our website at www.housingauthority.com. ■

Housing Matters is published quarterly by the Housing Authority of the County of Butler.

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Brownfields for Housing (BFH)

Receives Funding

The Butler County Housing Authority has been awarded from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development additional funding in the amount of \$371,000 for Brownfields for Housing Rehab assistance.

The funding of this project is an important component to the City of Butler's continuing revitalization. The program allows for the acquisition, rehab and resale of homes for first time low to

moderate income homebuyers. The program will become a revolving fund, which will keep funds and homes available for first-time buyers as each time a home is sold, the money will be put back into the fund.

The BFH project has been made possible because of the commitment of the Butler County Commissioners to dedicate \$125,000 in Act 137 funds as a matching contribution. ■

Cliffside to get Major Renovations Over \$1 Million Planned for City Apartments

The Cliffside Apartment Building in the City of Butler will soon be the site of a major renovation project that will convert 26 efficiency apartments into 13 single bedroom apartments.

The renovations will also bring central air conditioning to the entire build-

ing and several changes to the building's exterior. Residents will also enjoy an expanded and updated community room.

Displacement of residents will be minimal, with the project planned to get underway later this year. ■

Expansion of Deshon Place

Since December, 2001, 50 individuals have received housing at Deshon Place--a true milestone for the first transitional program ever to be located on federal property.

Now, five years later, Deshon II is expanding the assistance available to the homeless by adding ten additional units. \$800,000 in construction cost funds were awarded to the Housing Authority from HUD and DCED. These units are available to any homeless person ages 18 - 62 and being a veteran is not a requirement. Currently, 60% of those served are veterans.

According to Kevin Boozel, additional grant awards of \$114,614 were recently received for operating costs at Deshon Place II, and Deshon Place received a \$141,750 grant renewal.

"With no emergency shelter in Butler County, this program is critical to helping the homeless," said Boozel, adding that the Deshon program also serves women who more than ever before are in need of homeless assistance.

For more information on the Deshon programs, contact Special Project Coordinator Kevin Boozel at 724.287.6797. ■

New Staff Members Join Authority

The Butler County Housing and Redevelopment Authority is pleased to welcome two new staff members.

Kevin Boozel joined the authority in January as a Manager/Special Project Coordinator. The former Executive Director of Catholic Charities in Butler, Boozel's primary focus is on the Deshon Place program. In addition to working on Deshon Place, and the Deshon Place II, he will also be doing grant writing for the Authority as well as working on the Family Savings Accounts.

Boozel and his wife Renee reside in northern Butler County with their two children.

Joining the Authority as a work study student for the summer is Kody Steffy of Kittanning. Kody is a Senior majoring in

Sociology at St. Vincent College in Latrobe. While he plans on continuing his education in hopes of being a college professor one day, Kody is enjoying the opportunity to learn about the "real world" while he works full-time this summer.

Kody will be working on a variety of projects, but his main focus is Deshon Place. ■



Pictured left to right, Kevin Boozel and Kody Steffy.

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