

Housing Matters

An official publication of the Butler County Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Spring 2010

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Thanks to a \$500,000 Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development, Neighborhood Stabilization Program activities are well underway in the northeastern communities of Butler County. The funding, administered by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Butler will be used to stabilize communities at risk for foreclosure due to vacant, abandoned, foreclosed or blighted properties.

The Authority is acquiring several properties that will be rehabbed for first time homeownership or demolished and reused for housing or public use. Plans include a newly renovated facility for the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department and a possible facility for a food pantry in northeastern Butler County.



Main Street Petrolia

The Borough of Petrolia in northeastern Butler County is one of the targeted areas for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program

New Authority Board Member

Norman R. Tuck, has been appointed to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Tuck, a Graystone Manor resident is a US Army Veteran and retired from Highmark Health Systems.



Inside this issue:

- VASH Program 2
- Homeownership 2
- Homebuyers Fair 2
- Personnel Update 3
- Habitat Partnership 3
- F S S Graduate 4
- Historic Lafayette 4

Centre City Project Advances

The Housing Authority of the County of Butler was instrumental in assisting with the recent acquisition of the Penn Theater by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler. The Penn Theater is part of the Centre City Project in downtown Butler that will also include a hotel, conference/events center, new parking garage and a mixed use residential/retail housing complex. A \$250,000 loan was made through the Landmarks Community Capital Corp, a subsidiary of the Pittsburgh Historic Landmarks Foundation. The loan enabled the City Redevelopment Authority to gain ownership of the theater and site control of the property for development as part of the Centre City vision.



Authority Assists with Theater Acquisition

Pictured from left- LCCC President and CEO Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., Mayor Margaret Stock and Authority Executive Director Perry O'Malley

Program highlights

VASH Program Successful collaboration with the VA

*Contributed by: Dhana LeFevre, Section 8 Coordinator
Bradley Schaffer, VASH Coordinator*

For the 2 past years, the Veterans Assisted Supportive Housing Program (VASH) has been a successful collaboration between the Housing Authority and the Butler VA Medical Center.

The primary components are VA case management services coupled with Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers administered by the Housing Authority. In 2008, an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans nationwide were specifically targeted so that no veteran who has served and fought for their country should have to live on the streets. Ending veteran homelessness is now more in reach due to this historic federal commitment to provide case management services and permanent housing assistance.

Homebuyers Fair Scheduled

Don't miss the 14th Annual Homebuyers Fair to be held from 3:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday April 21, 2010 in Coleman Hall at the Tanglewood Center. Admission is free and a variety of workshops covering various topics for homebuyers will be held throughout the evening. This year's fair is co-sponsored by The Butler Co Homeownership Program, PNC Bank, USDA Rural Development and the Pa Housing Finance Agency. For more information, call the Authority office at (724) 287-6797.



Locally, there have been 50 housing vouchers awarded to assist homeless veterans. Participation in the HUD-VASH Program is based on a need for housing assistance, meeting eligibility requirements, compliance with VA treatment, adherence to PHA rules and the ability of the VA staff to work effectively with the veteran.

The VA staff screen veterans to determine eligibility. Eligible veterans receive treatment and regular case management to retain the housing assistance voucher. The VA Case Manager also works closely with the Housing Authority Section 8 Department staff to help participants find suitable housing.

Currently, the program is at full capacity. For more information about the VASH Program, please contact Dhana Lefevre, Section 8 Coordinator at (724) 287-

Homeownership Program



Housing Counseling Assistance

Pictured from left- David Hopkins, PNC Bank, Authority Executive Director Perry O'Malley, and James Gutowski, PNC Bank.

PNC Bank recently awarded the Housing Authority a \$5000 check for housing counseling services to first time homebuyers through the Butler County Homeownership and Housing Counseling Program. The Authority provides a full range of housing counseling services including pre-purchase, foreclosure/loss mitigation, rental and homeless counseling with over 900 sessions held annually. To date, over 350 families have become homebuyers through participating in the program.

Housing Matters is published quarterly by the Housing Authority of the County of Butler.
Executive Director Perry O'Malley
Editor Rebecca Veith
Please direct all newsletter inquiries and submissions to:
Butler County Housing Authority
114 Woody Drive
Butler, PA 16001
724.287.6797
www.housingauthority.com
bcha@housingauthority.com

News Around the Authority

Personnel Update

The Butler County Housing Authority welcomes 2 new staff members to the **Resident Initiatives Department**. They are **Barbara Sarvey** and **Kristin Dersham**. Ms. Sarvey is a Slippery Rock University Graduate and Ms. Dersham is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. Kristin will be providing housing counseling services, and Barb will be assisting Martha Brown with service coordination and

homeless counseling services.

Dean Barnhart, was recently promoted to **Acting Foreman** in the **Maintenance Department**. He will be responsible for the overall daily operations of the department. Congratulations Dean!

Terry McElroy, Maintenance Technical Specialist recently retired after 24 years of dedicated service to the Authority.

A retirement party to honor Terry was held in December with family in attendance, including several grandchildren.

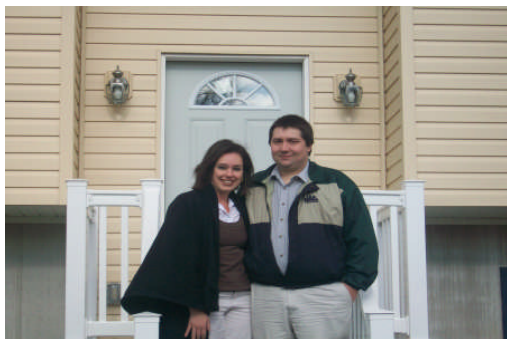
We wish Terry the best of luck as he enjoys retirement with his family.



Successful Partnership




with Habitat for Humanity



Through a successful collaboration between the Housing Authority and the Butler Habitat for Humanity, another area family has achieved their goal of homeownership.

Paul and Justine Howe along with their four children now call this lovely brand new house in East Butler “HOME”. By combining sweat equity through volunteer labor with Habitat and receiving housing mortgage assistance through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program, the Howes were able to attain their dream of owning a home.

As a condition of both programs, the Howes also participated in housing counseling through the Authority’s Homeownership and Housing Counseling Program, which will ensure that they will be able to successfully maintain their home for many years to come. 




Congratulations to Kristyl Doody, FSS Graduate (pictured here with Resident Initiatives Department Head Kevin Boozel)

FSS Graduate

Kristyl Doody, a Section 8 HCV participant, recently graduated from the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Ms. Doody, a single mother of two children, received a check in the amount of \$2,659.11.

She is currently employed full time as a Shift Manager at Taco Bell and will be using her funds to purchase a car. Residents of Section 8 and Public Housing programs are eligible to apply. For more information contact the **RI Department** at (724) 287-6797.

Northwest Savings Bank Advances Renovation Project

With the commitment made by **Northwest Savings Bank** to provide a Low Income Housing Tax Credit's equity investment totaling \$3,104,942 and additional purchase of Historic Tax Credits, renovation of the **Historic Lafayette Apartments Development** will be able to proceed. The funding commitment was crucial for the project to advance. Construction is slated to begin early summer. 



Historic Lafayette Apartment Complex
The beautiful Historic Lafayette Apartments, located on Main Street in Butler, PA, adjacent to the Court House

Butler County Housing & Redevelopment Authority

114 Woody Drive • Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724.287.6797 • FAX: 724.287.7906
E-mail: bcha@housingauthority.com
Web: www.housingauthority.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Perry O'Malley

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Margaret M. Clawson, Chair
George Michael Kelly, Vice-Chairman
Erma J. Mowry
Jerry Andree
Norman R. Tuck