



Preservation of Affordable Housing NEWSLETTER

Construction Will Begin on Woodlawn Center North - occupancy scheduled for mid 2013

With the 67-unit Woodlawn Center South development fully rented up, construction will soon begin on Woodlawn Center North at 62nd Street and South Cottage Grove Avenue - the second phase of the multi-year plan to replace the former 504-unit, all Section 8 Grove Parc Plaza. The new construction will include market-rate and affordable apartments and condominiums plus multiple community spaces including a 10,000 square foot resource center and a playground for children.



Renewing the Greater Woodlawn Community

Woodlawn residents enjoy a community conveniently located near award-winning parks, the scenic lakefront and the bustling University of Chicago campus. The area offers a variety of real estate options for residents of all income levels. Although the most visible efforts are along Cottage Grove, POAH is also contributing to renewal of the entire Woodlawn area by purchasing and restoring vacant and abandoned buildings throughout the neighborhood.

Renovations are near completion on two of the seven building that make up the former **Westwood Apartments** on 62nd street at Rhodes, Vernon, St. Lawrence and Eberhart Streets. Improvements include vinyl windows, roofs and tuck-pointing of the masonry. In addition, the buildings' walls and roof are insulated, creating optimal energy retention. Apartment renovations include new baths, kitchens and floor finishes. When fully renovated, the buildings will create 102 apartments for the community.

Renovations have also begun on the **Renaissance Apartments** in East Woodlawn, and residents have moved into a recently renovated 12-unit, three-story apartment building at 64th and Maryland, a six-unit building on 64th and Ingleside, and a 10-unit, one- to three-bedroom building at 56th and Prairie.

POAH received a \$75,000 **Green Infrastructure Grant** from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to install a system to control storm water runoff in the newly constructed buildings along the Cottage Grove corridor. The new system keeps all storm water on site and uses it in the landscape design to nourish native plantings making it an automatic watering system that reduces pollution and maintenance.

Choice Plan – a community effort

Last year POAH was awarded a \$30.5 million **Choice Neighborhoods Initiative** (CNI) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for this revitalization. The plan entail real estate investments and economic development, school improvement and a broad array of social services to ensure that residents as well as buildings find renewal.

While POAH is the lead grantee responsible for administering the grant, implementing the plan is a community-wide endeavor involving many partner organizations in a community process. POAH is working with the **Woodlawn Children's Promise Community** to address schools, **Metropolitan Family Services** to address family and community needs and the **Network of Woodlawn**, formerly known as NCP, to help facilitate a series of community working groups to act as advisors to POAH and the City as they implement the plan.

Resource Center opens to provide job placement services, financial counseling, and literacy, educational and training opportunities

On June 28, a Job Fair and Open House marked the grand opening of the **Woodlawn Resource Center** (WRC) at 830 East 63rd Street, a community space that is staffed by case managers from **Metropolitan Family Services**. The Center serves as a convenient satellite office for job placement, educational and training services to prepare job seekers to further their careers and will offer a technology center that will host classes for Woodlawn community residents, provide case management and access to other service providers of community classes.