



E-News Update – September 2008

We Need the People Who Need Affordable Housing

E-News Update is a way to keep you informed about the progress of *Homeownership: A Benchmark for a Vital Community*, a collaborative effort of community and business leaders, local policy makers, nonprofit organizations, and others to expand the supply of affordably priced homes in DuPage. Under the direction of a Steering Committee co-chaired by **Erin Vaughan**, ARAMARK, and **Dave Faganel**, R.A. Faganel Builders, we've been working to raise awareness, advocate for affordable housing and provide technical assistance to policymakers.

What's Happening in DuPage?

DuPage County Proposes Affordable Workforce Housing Regulations

DuPage County Board member Kyle Gilgis is spearheading an effort to propose new regulations that will help encourage the development of affordable housing in unincorporated areas of DuPage County.

Gilgis is proposing a strategy that includes the creation of new zoning categories and an Overlay District for developers who could include affordable units in their developments. Under the proposal, the County would identify appropriate properties that could be rezoned to permit things like increased density or a reduction in bulk regulations if affordable housing is included.

The Affordable Work Force Housing program would offer such zoning benefits as-of-right, eliminating the need to go through a lengthy approval process for any variances that would otherwise be necessary.

The proposed Affordable Work Force Housing program would represent a broad and meaningful county commitment to the creation of affordable housing in DuPage County.

Thanks to Kyle Gilgis and Debbie Olson for their ongoing commitment and leadership. They have continued to champion the important role affordable housing plays in maintaining a vibrant economy for DuPage County.

DuPage Habitat for Humanity Launches Pioneer Prairie and Announces Upcoming Homeownership Application Session

On **September 23**, DuPage Habitat for Humanity will officially launch their three-year initiative to build **Pioneer Prairie**, a neighborhood of 11 homes in West Chicago. Join Habitat at the launch of this exciting initiative!

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

West Chicago Park District

near Pomeroy & Sherman streets

CONTACT: Sheri Schmidt, Initiative Director

630-510-3737

Pioneer@DuPageHabitat.org

DuPage Habitat also has a **Homeownership Application Session** scheduled for:

Saturday, Oct. 18

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Isidore's Catholic Church, 427 W. Army Trail Rd.
Bloomingdale, IL.

Families interested in pursuing homeownership through DuPage Habitat must attend this session. For



more information or flyers (in English and Spanish), visit www.dupagehabitat.org or call (630) 510-3737.

Help Us Spread the Word!

Do you know of a civic, business, professional, religious, or community organization that would be interested in seeing the *Benchmark* power point presentation about the need for affordable homes in DuPage County? If so, contact **Barbara Richardson** at: housingspeaker@comcast.net or (630) 832-3523.

To date, over 800 people have heard the *Benchmark* message through presentations to groups such as the Wheaton Ministerial Association, the Oak Brook, Lombard and Wheaton Rotaries, the Naperville Fair Housing Commission, the Wheaton Housing Commission, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the COD Older Adult Institute, the DuPage Workforce Board and many area churches.

For More Information on the *Benchmark* Effort

Go to www.dhoc.org or www.dhac1.org.

Susannah Levine, Editor
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