**The VIEWpoint**

 ***(printing courtesy of the City of Dayton)***

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

This past January I began serving what may be my last year as President of the Dayton View Triangle Federation.  I was elected President in December of 2015.  I remained President for 2017 by default.  When we held elections in December of 2016, our neighborhood association did not have enough volunteers willing to step up as officers or trustees!

I bring this up because in my opinion there is a deep need for involvement by you, the residents, in your neighborhood association (the DVTF) and if possible as leaders (trustees and officers).

I have heard many of you express concern about certain issues in this neighborhood:

* Empty/neglected/abandoned houses
* Drug activity
* Trash on vacant properties
* Street maintenance
* More of the City’s budget going to downtown than to the neighborhoods.

Other neighborhoods report similar concerns.  If you are dissatisfied with the minimal attention and explanations you get from your City government relative to these issues, you must express your concerns to them.  In order to find solutions, you have to participate in your community and become active in your neighborhood association.

If possible, we need you to volunteer to become a leader (trustee or officer) in the DVTF.  Your neighborhood is secure and is coming back, but it has changed.  We must continue to work hard if the Triangle is to remain secure and grow.

I also want to mention that there is a new and substantial presence in our neighborhood.  Omega Baptist purchased the campus that originally belonged to the United Theological Seminary.  Omega has also formed the Omega Community Development Corporation (OCDC), and I'm a member of the OCDC board. The OCDC has developed exciting plans for the land.

Another exciting proposed improvement is the Gem City Market, a food cooperative, which will build a community-owned grocery store on Salem Ave.  I have

explained to the organizers that they must include the local residents in their planning.  But you need to take the time to be present to hear their presentations, express your concerns, and ask questions.  If we have your e-mail, we can contact you to share information on the Gem City Market and other interesting developments coming your way.

This year is close to ending, and 2018 will be here soon. In the upcoming year, please dedicate a few hours monthly to your neighborhood and the DVT Federation.  We really want to include everyone that lives in the Triangle in our planning, and work together for continued progress for all of us. Also, if you have any concerns and suggestions about how the Federation operates, I want to hear them.  Please contact me on **ezraknox@aol.com**, or (937) 278-9150.

*-- Ezra Knox, President*

UPCOMING FALL COMMUNITY MEETING

It has become very obvious over the last year that the Triangle residents’ top concerns (after crime and drugs) are now the ***declining condition*** of some of the properties and alleyways in our neighborhood, and some of the tenants who are moving into the ***rental properties***. Your trustees have planned a meeting for everyone to come together and share the problems they see, ask the City what can be done about them, and brainstorm to find some solutions we ourselves can undertake!

So we have asked the City to arrange for some of their knowledgeable staff to join us on the evening of **Friday, October 20th** to give us some answers. So far Commissioner Jeffrey Mims and our Community Development liaison, Verletta Jackson, have agreed to be present. Ms. Jackson is exploring the possibility of lining up representatives of other City departments as well.

This community meeting will be held in the Community Room of the new **Northwest Library**. We have asked the Rev. Vanessa Ward, of Omega Baptist and the Omega Community Development Corporation, to kick off the meeting at **6:00 PM** with a briefing on the OCDC’s plans for the Harvard Campus. She will cover the roles of both the church and the CDC, and present an update to the master plan for campus improvements.

Rev. Vanessa will explain the role of the OCDC’s current main project, the Hope Center for Families (it does NOT overlap with the Princeton Rec Center!), and will take any questions you have. After that, Commissioner Mims and City staff will address whatever concerns you bring to the meeting – uncaring or absentee landlords, trash, mowing, potholes, the foreclosure process, maybe even how the City is allocating its budget. We have the library room for 3 hours if we need it!

If you can’t make the meeting, please send me a note at **efrice927@att.net** about the issues that are bugging you, and I’ll make sure they’re included in the discussion. We want to get some ANSWERS and some ACTION! But the more residents we have present at the meeting, I believe, the more the City will try to respond to our concerns.

IT’S ALMOST THAT TIME AGAIN

Goodness only knows when the leaves will come down this year – some of September has felt more like July! But the Monday leaf pickup dates are coming up before long: October 23rd, November 6th, November 20th, and December 4th. If you have any questions, **http:// www.daytonohio.gov/353/Leaf-Collection-Service** has all sorts of information. The short version is:

* If you want the City to pick up your leaves, you must put them into **giant paper bags** (should be 5 for $2) and put those at the curb at the start of a pickup week.
* Alternatively, you can take your leaves to one of the **composting dropoffs** yourself, and not have to worry about the schedule or bagging them. (The closest one is on Gettysburg, a little south of Cornell – or use the one at the County dump.)
* **Plastic bags** are **NOT** acceptable, either at the curb or at the dropoffs. (They don’t decay.)
* Putting loose leaves in the gutter will get you a **fine!** (But I miss being able to just rake….)

I swear that coming home very late one night I glimpsed an elderly woman sweeping leaves into the storm drain – exactly what we’re trying to keep them out of! Please clue your neighbors in if they need it – you could be also saving them a fine.

Mowing and mulching leaves are still recommended – I have too many to mow effectively, and I’ve worn out one mulcher already! But if you have lots of trees, it makes a huge difference to how many bags of leaves you have to deal with. And I have gotten to know the County brush/leaf dropoff all too well…. Also, call 333-4800 if you want to bundle your brush and leave it out on leaf pickup day, rather than taking it for composting.

YOU’RE INVITED!

The Omega Community Development Corporation cordially invites you to our community fall festival! The **Harvest of Hope Festival** will take place on **Saturday, October 14th** from 3 to 7 PM on the grounds of Omega’s Harvard Campus (the former seminary).

The festival is free, and open to everybody in the Triangle and nearby neighborhoods! Bring the whole family – we’ll have something for all ages: hayrides, yard games, face painting, pumpkin decorating, raffles, a bounce house, a silent auction, music entertainment, free food and apple cider, and tours of the chapel. It will be capped off with a bonfire and s’mores.

But for the grownups, the festival will also offer information briefings on Omega CDC’s activities and plans, including the Hope Center that will be built in the area where Bonebrake and the library were. Please come – we’ll all have a great time together!

*-- Rev. Vanessa Ward, Omega CDC*

NEXTDOOR REMINDER

A growing number of people are now using Nextdoor for everything from reporting a lost kitten to asking how best to handle neighbors that have set up a very noisy generator. Please consider signing up for it; you can do it on your computer or your smartphone!

And I’ll mention once more that Dayton Delivers, which can also be used on either one, is the best way to get a complaint in to the City. It creates a record of who is taking responsibility for addressing it, which you can then check on. (You can still call 333-3800, of course.)

WE’VE GOT A LITTLE LIST…

If you’re not getting an e-letter every couple of months (and you do have e-mail), please get in touch with Secretary Ellen Rice at **efrice927@att.net**! We want to be able to tell everyone possible when the City makes changes, or we have a chance to influence policy, or we want to try for a grant.

Or, for that matter, when Gem City Market wants to report progress, and give you a chance to buy a share in the co-op! Or when some of the energetic new young people in town start a new tradition you might enjoy – like dinner at The Longest Table on the Third Street Bridge. Or….

E-mail is by far the most effective (and cheapest) way for us to get the word out – we can’t afford frequent mailings. Please help us keep you in the loop!