

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority Purchases West Side Properties

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority recently purchased and began renovating vacant buildings located in the 1500 block of West Washington Street. Two of the buildings will be the future home of Charleston-Kanawha Housing's administrative and operations offices which will house approximately 42 staff. Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority has been instrumental in the revitalization efforts on the West Side of Charleston beginning with the demolition of 230 units of obsolete public housing in Orchard Manor in 1998.

Throughout 2003 – 2005, 20 new units were constructed in Orchard Manor giving the community a total of 150 units. In 2007, 44 new townhomes were constructed on three separate locations on the West Side of Charleston and thirty-six additional townhomes are currently under construction, all part of the continuing efforts of the housing authority to reinvent public housing throughout the City of Charleston. The overall revitalization will be completed in five phases and will lead to the complete overhaul of two of the oldest public housing communities in the State of West Virginia, Littlepage Terrace and Washington Manor.

Once completed, the renovated office buildings will be another significant investment in the West Side community. These buildings have been sitting vacant and deteriorating for a number of years. The renovations will give the main street a much needed face-lift and will contribute to a changing climate for residents and visitors of the West Side of Charleston.

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority's plan to relocate staff into one centralized location is the result of the current locations being less accessible to our clients. Staff currently provide services in four separate locations. In addition to consolidating services, this new location will:

- Be convenient to the public
- Be located on the city busline
- Be fully handicap accessible
- Connect two currently vacant buildings creating a large waiting area
- Will contribute to revitalizing the West Side

“Not only are we going to be able to position Charleston-Kanawha Housing to be a more accessible and efficient operation with the merging of all administration functions, but we will also improve a part of the city that is in much need of improvement in a lot of areas. My hope is that other property owners in the area will see this as the first step in the rebuilding of that entire part of our community and will join us in continuing efforts of revitalization” Allan McVey, Vice-Chair, Charleston Kanawha Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

In August 2006, Charleston Housing Authority and Kanawha County Housing Authority reorganized operations to become the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority. Executive Director Mark Taylor said, “We were aware of the need to accommodate the increasing number of clients and staff and began researching buildings in the area. The idea of adding to the revitalization of the West Side appealed to us and we decided to go in that direction. We hope to serve as a catalyst to attract other businesses to the area.”



Current Look above and Proposed Look below

