COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WELCOMES THE COMMUNITY

The Community Development Department held its first-ever Open House on September 27, 2019, and it was a huge success! Staff engaged our residents and shared information about the work of our four Divisions—Housing & Community Services, Lending, Neighborhood Services, and Code Enforcement. Light refreshments, lively conversation and smiles from staff decked out in black and white created a pleasant atmosphere for citizens and city agencies to learn more about CD services.
In 2016, the Code Enforcement Division had a backlog of 629 cases eligible for demolition. Over the last two years, due to the detailed research of the TNT Team (Tiffany Harris & Tonya Lanier), the Dynamic Data Entry Duo (Donna Hughes & Cathy Jeffreys), all Code Officers and the Environmental Team, most properties have been repaired to comply with the Minimum Housing Code. Only 68 structures were ultimately demolished!

**ACCELARATION!**

The Code Enforcement Division is excited that the City Council has given the green light for us to acquire and implement Accela, a new code enforcement software system. Accela is a fast, flexible and powerful solution that will enable citizens to submit housing code and environmental concerns directly into the cloud-based system via an app on a smart phone or online through the City’s website. Citizens can track the progress of their concerns real-time, resulting in greater transparency.

To learn more, type Accela.com in your search engine and look for Code Enforcement and Civic Solutions.

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Contact the Winston-Salem Fire Department Fire Prevention Services for assistance at 336-773-7965.
The Community Development Department has implemented C.O.R.E. (Collaborative Outreach, Revitalization and Engagement). This initiative was developed to engage residents, build strong communities, strengthen neighborhood associations, and promote resident led action.

A number of new programs fall under the CORE umbrella, and were included in the launch. Initiatives included are:

- **Neighborhood Academy** - Free training workshops are designed to empower residents to become active leaders in or start a neighborhood association. Training classes are held at Sedge Garden Recreation Center. Training is made available to individual neighborhood associations upon request;

- **Front Door Friday** - Teams representing Community Development, Recreation and Parks, Human Relations, Fire Department and non-uniformed Police Department staff go door-to-door engaging city residents. This initiative has been well received by the community. Please click the link for Front Door Friday videos; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVE7u2_sQBk&t=3s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa3yJDt9oas;

- **Connect Your Community** – an online calendar that serves as a common calendar of events where neighborhoods and community agencies can post community-focused events that are free and open to the public;

- **Community Toolkit** - developed to provide resources and general guidance for promoting citizen led action as well as encouraging neighborhood inclusiveness and engagement;

- **Community Coalition** – collective alliance of neighborhood association representatives and community stakeholders. This resident led group officially formed with its own identity: Communities United for Revitalization and Engagement (C.U.R.E.).

Their colorful logo is representative of the diversity of this group. We're excited about the great works to come!
UJIMA Community Development Corporation, Inc. (UJIMA) was formed in 2005 by members of Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC), exclusively for charitable housing, educational and economic needs of disadvantaged residents of the city of Winston-Salem. EBC donated property located off Barbara Jane Avenue in Winston-Salem to UJIMA to provide quality housing for seniors 62 and over.

In January 2017, the City of Winston-Salem and First National Bank (FNB) agreed to provide financing for the development and construction began in April 2018. Phase I, consisting of 42 units was completed on September 16, 2019. A second phase, consisting of 8 more duplex units, a gazebo and a community center building will be completed at a later date.

A ribbon cutting was held on October 25, 2019 at the Emmanuel Retirement Village located at 1687 Village Meadow Circle, Winston-Salem, NC.
After years of working a backlog of cases, staff has successfully processed the immense workload and are ending the year with a bang by taking new applications and helping more citizens in need. Using our newly acquired software “Neighborly”, the Lending Division is now accepting online applications for clients in need of home repairs.

The fall application period has been extended to **November 22, 2019**. The link to place an online application is: [https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/Winston-Salem/Participant](https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/Winston-Salem/Participant)
Employee Spotlight

Community Development Director, Marla Y. Newman’s integrity, commitment, and dedication to making things better has served all the citizens of Winston-Salem and especially those who depend on the department’s programs.

Since joining the city in December of 2017, Marla has addressed challenges facing her department while also enhancing the lives of others. Marla leads by example, sets high standards for herself and her staff, and gives her staff the tools they need to be successful.

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, Marla was awarded the “Employee Excellence Award” in the category of Leadership.

👋 Way to go, Marla! 👋

Coping with Holiday Stress & Depression

- Recognize your feelings
- Plan ahead
- Reach out
- Learn to say no
- Be realistic
- Continue healthy habits
- Set aside differences
- Take a break
- Make a budget
- Get professional help if needed

Mission Statement

The mission of the Community Development Department is to support residents and community-based organizations in making Winston-Salem neighborhoods attractive, welcoming, equitable, and stable. We do this by providing public services, financial resources, and opportunities to enhance neighborhood leadership and community engagement.

In our next edition...

Look out for stories on eliminating Vacant and Deteriorated Properties and the new Affordable Housing Coalition.