

RESPOND, INC. RECEIVES USEDA GRANT FOR AUTO REPAIR SHOP

By Judy Everts, Respond, Inc.

Since its opening two years ago, Respond's Automotive Technology Training Center has many requests from friends and neighbors for maintenance and repair of personal vehicles. That need is being answered! Respond recently received funding from the USEDA for expansion of its Automotive Technology Training Center. With the funding, Respond will develop an auto repair shop at the Training Center at 8th and Erie Streets, growing the facility to more than 4,000 continuous square feet dedicated to automotive training and repair.

Work is expected to start on the fit-out of the building for the shop this fall, and the center is expected to be open within 6 to 8 months. The shop will provide employment to selected graduates of the 24-week training program, where they will gain vital experience not only in repairs but in customer relations, cashing, ordering of parts and materials for



Pictured from left to right: Willie Taylor, Regional Director, USEDA; Wilbert Mitchell, Executive Director, Respond, Inc; and Matt Erskine, U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development

specific jobs, and other work skills that are critical to their advancement in the industry.

COMING SOON FROM LAEDA

By Ray Lamboy, Latin American Economic Development Association, Inc. (LAEDA)

Please join the Latin American Economic Development Association, Inc. (LAEDA) at the following events:

ABC'S of Starting a Small Business

Wednesday, November 6, 2012 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Attend this seminar to learn the ins and outs of starting a small business, the challenges you'll face and the resources available to help you get started! Topics covered will include: 1) How to start your business legally; 2) Six questions that you should ask yourself before starting a business; 3) Practical steps for launching a business; 4) Why writing a business plan is the key to your success; 5) What it will take to secure a business loan!!

Networking for Success

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

You've been invited to numerous holiday parties, so you have a stack of business cards, your best suit and memorized your elevator speech, now what? Learn how to develop strategic relationships with people who will promote your business. Learn what to say and more importantly what not to say when engaging potential contacts. Learn practical tips on how to start conversations effectively and end them gracefully. Never go to a networking event without a game plan ever again!



S.T.O.P CAMPAIGN STARTS THE HEALING

By Father Jeff Putthoff, Hopeworks 'N Camden

On October 1st, the S.T.O.P. campaign--Stop Trauma On People--began with the creation of two memorial fields of crosses. Each cross represents one of the 55 individuals killed this year in Camden as well as symbolizing the over 1000 people who have been assaulted in our city in 2012.

The violence, abuse and poverty that are rampant here in Camden create a situation of vast trauma. However, most damaging is that in order to heal, the violence, abuse and poverty MUST be acknowledged. The pain and wounds must be spoken of. What happens in Camden though is that the violence is normalized. People are taught and treated that the abuse that is done to them is "normal." The S.T.O.P. campaign is planned as a three-month program that will allow us to speak the pain so that we can begin the healing.



Memorial crosses planted at Roosevelt Park on October 1st

To submit an article for consideration, please contact Rod Sadler, Executive Director of Save Our Waterfront at (609) 238-4031. All articles must pertain to North Camden, are subject to editing, and should be 100-250 words in length.

NORTH CAMDEN

Moving Forward

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CHANGE COMES TO NORTHGATE PARK

By Sarah Bryant, Cooper's Ferry Partnership

Saturday, October 20 was a transformative day for Northgate Park. On that day, over 300 volunteers of all ages, from Camden and beyond, came together to build a brand new, state-of-the-art playground in Northgate Park. The new playground was brought about through an exciting collaboration between Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, KaBOOM! and numerous local partners, including the Friends of Northgate Park, YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties, the New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids and Cooper's Ferry Partnership.

On the build day, volunteers, including many North Camden residents, worked tirelessly from dawn to dusk to ensure that the playground and many other side projects aimed at enhancing Northgate Park were complete. The day had a festive tone, with music from a DJ and local band helping to keep everyone's spirits high. Following the installation of the safety surface, the playground opened on Saturday, October 27 to rave reviews from neighborhood children.

Today, the transformation of Northgate Park is well underway. When entering the park, visitors are greeted by two peace poles at each entrance, recycle bins, arbors, stages, picnic tables with chess tops, and lush gardens. What's most exciting is that the playground build is only one of many projects planned for Northgate Park. In the coming months, partners will be work together to reconstruct the basketball court, trim the trees, and repair the fence. Coupled with the recent programming of Northgate Park by the YMCA and the NJ Partnership for Healthy Kids (see page 3), this major renovation is one step in a series of positive changes coming to Northgate Park.



Volunteers celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the new playground

Save Our Waterfront (SOW), a 501(c)3 organization incorporated in 1990, is a coalition of individuals who live, work or worship in the North Camden neighborhood. Its mission is to serve as a unified and coherent voice for North Camden. SOW spearheaded the creation of the 2008 North Camden Neighborhood Plan. For more information, or to find out about volunteer opportunities, please contact Rod Sadler, Executive Director, at (609) 238-4031.

FALL FORWARD

By Rodney S. Sadler Sr., Executive Director, Save Our Waterfront

Greetings from Save Our Waterfront! We are coming into the Fall, having completed or progressing with many ongoing projects, including completion and occupation of the Meadows, continued discussion of METRO police, a successful season of the North Camden Little League, Pyne Poynt Park restoration, the Cooper House, discussions about rampant violence, out of control drug sales...wow, what a mouthful! All the foregoing are true and accurate and can be verified through the local press.

I am most concerned about perceptions of public safety. I think as we move forward with the METRO policing, the citizens deserve a clear and concise plan. We should have the ability to weigh outcomes. There is an agreed need to have better policing and more involvement in whatever system succeeds. As I am writing, I'm listening to CNN in the background. It almost seems that we are experiencing very similar issues and agendas to many other third world countries. I hope that this is just a coincidence and we will be back on track in the very near future.

The struggle continues.

The holidays are quickly approaching. If you are interested in helping to organize the SOW holiday celebration, please contact Rod Sadler at (609) 238-4031.



Volunteers install a new swing set at Northgate Park



Moving Forward



INTERNS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Mike Morgan, DeSales Service Works

Located in the old Holy Name Rectory on State Street, DeSales Service Works has been hosting college and high school volunteer groups in North Camden for the past four years. This past summer 11 interns from across the country came for a three-week service immersion program. They served together at various ministries in Camden, such as New Visions, Hopeworks, Cathedral Sandwich Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, and others.

Each intern also had individual ministries, including Northgate II's summer program, tutoring at Hopeworks, painting the mural at Esperanza Community Garden, and running Camp Camden, a two week summer sports camp in Northgate Park. The camp provided a safe and active space for kids to play every afternoon. While here, the interns learned about the city's history, what it's like to live in North Camden, and the systemic issues that cause urban centers of concentrated poverty. Empowered by the knowledge they gained during their three weeks in Camden, the interns hope to continue to serve those in need back home.



Mural at Esperanza Community Garden, by DSW interns Tim Gillen and Maddy Mudd. Photo by Maddy Mudd

CRA MENTORING PROGRAM DEBUTS IN 2012

By Donna Helmes, Camden Redevelopment Agency

In 2010, the Camden Redevelopment Agency (CRA) received \$11.9 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program II (NSP 2) to build housing, clean and green municipally-owned vacant lots, and demolish vacant problem properties in the City of Camden. In 2012, the CRA partnered with the Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) to create the CRA Mentoring Program, which places graduates of the HACC's YouthBuild program on NSP 2 funded projects to gain knowledge about and develop familiarity with the construction and landscaping trades.

HACC's YouthBuild program provides youth between the ages of 16-24 academic instruction towards receiving their high school diploma or GED as well as basic construction training. Completing this training makes these students good candidates for the NSP 2 positions. Currently, the CRA Mentoring Program has four YouthBuild trainees- Kahlil Cooks, Shahiem Cook, Baniesha Lewis, and Donte Custis. Although each trainee comes from a different background, they are all Camden residents who enjoy YouthBuild for the opportunity



Triangle Park at 3rd and Elm Streets, which is maintained by Respond's Lawn Care Crew.

to green abandoned lots while utilizing construction skills. Each trainee is also active in other North Camden projects, like the new housing on 2nd and State Streets by Camden Lutheran Housing, or with Respond's Lawn Care Crew.

For more information about the CRA's Mentoring Program and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 please contact Donna Helmes at 856-757-7038. To learn more about the Housing Authority of the City of Camden's YouthBuild program please contact David Goodman at 856-756-0241.

STRUCTURED FREE PLAY ARRIVES AT NORTHGATE PARK

By Bryan Morton, YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties

Recently, the YMCA of Burlington and Camden Counties, in partnership with the New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids and local stakeholders, launched the Structured Free Play Program in Northgate Park. The program, directed by North Camden resident Bryan Morton, provides needed afterschool programming for youth, addressing a gap in afterschool activities available during the school year.

Prior to launching the program, the YMCA recognized that one of the major barriers to a healthy lifestyle in Camden is the lack of safe places to play. The program was implemented to bring activities and resources directly to the children of North Camden. Launched in Northgate Park in September, the program offers organized activities like tennis, basketball, and flag football from 3-6 pm Monday-Friday.

To support the program, the City of Camden Department of Public Works, Respond Inc. Lawn Care Team, and the Camden Special Services District have committed to a revolving cleaning and maintenance schedule at Northgate Park. Additionally, the Camden Police Department has created safe corridors between Northgate Park and Molina and Holy Name Schools to ensure that children are able to travel safely to the park after school.



Neighborhood youth play flag football after school at Northgate Park under the watchful eye of volunteers from the Structured Free Play Program

Looking for a safe place for your kids to play? Sports equipment is available on week days between 3 and 5 pm at Northgate Park, weather permitting, and adult supervision is provided.

STAKEHOLDERS CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE HISTORIC JOSEPH COOPER HOUSE

By Sarah Bryant, Cooper's Ferry Partnership

Located at the foot of Pyne Poynt Park, the historic Joseph Cooper House is the oldest known structure still standing in Camden and formerly the home of one of Camden's founding families. The home was built in 1695 by Joseph Cooper, who established the Cooper Point Ferry there. Although the house still stands today, 300 years of aging and several fires have left little of the original structure remaining and it has become a nuisance property. A community driven effort is now underway to explore the future use of the Cooper House.

With funding from the New Jersey Historic Trust, Cooper's Ferry Partnership, Save Our Waterfront and numerous North Camden stakeholders are completing an adaptive reuse study to develop future plans for the Cooper House. The goal of the project is to develop a plan that will commemorate the important history this house played in North Camden while creating an engaging decorative cornerstone for the park. In July, Cooper's Ferry Partnership hired Jibe Design to study the building's history and current conditions and develop the plan for the property with extensive guidance from the community. Since then, Cooper's Ferry and Save Our Waterfront have hosted a community meeting and steering committee meeting to obtain the ideas and insights of members of the community. The project partners hope to develop a design for the Cooper House by early 2013.



Conceptual plan for the renovation of the Joseph Cooper House.

If you would like to be involved in the community process, please contact Sarah Bryant of Cooper's Ferry Partnership at (856) 757-9154 or bryant@coopersferry.com.