Sophomore Report Back
Athens, Georgia

September 19-20, 2017

Welcome!
GICH
Georgia Initiative for Community Housing
to
RICH
Rockmart Initiative Community Housing

Team Up to Clean Up and help make our city a safer and more beautiful place to live!
Rockmart’s efforts to improve housing continues as part of their program with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, and plans are in the works now for a day to give the city a good scrubbing.

ReThink Rockmart’s committee is organizing volunteers to help with a Community Cleanup Day for local citizens on Saturday, June 10 with work set to start around 8 a.m. with a project to clean up neighborhood areas. Volunteers are being asked to gather at Hilburn Field behind the City Complex on Elm Street starting at 8 a.m. to register and take part in work through noon.

Lunch will be provided to those who take part in helping to beautify Rockmart’s neighborhoods in the cleanup campaign. According to a release from the ReThink Rockmart committee, residents can also bring old appliances to the parking lot on College Street across from Hilburn Field.

Those participating in the drop-off for old appliances will need to bring a utility bill to prove residency, and Paper Recovery will also be on site to provide document shredding for local residents as well.

The primary focus for volunteers who wish to help with the June 10 clean-up efforts will be to pick up litter, help homeowners who need assistance with trimming shrubs, and cutting the grass. Volunteers are asked to bring clippers, mowers, and weed eaters to help with the work.

Homeowners, landlords, and tenants are encouraged to participate as well by trimming overgrown shrubs, cutting overgrown grass, and discarding unused appliances and vehicles.

The City of Rockmart Public Works Department will pick up clippings brought to the curb. The Community Clean up Day is part of the overall strategy of ReThink Rockmart and the City of Rockmart to enhance the quality of life of the citizens, by encouraging beautification of our neighborhoods and helping the City of Rockmart to be the most attractive city in Northwest Georgia for its citizens to live, work, and play.

Those interested in participating in groups, or want more information can call 678-982-6853.

ReThink Rockmart is also providing information to help residents dispose of old automobiles, campers and boats they want to get rid of as part of the cleanup day. Working cars can be taken to a number of organizations, but they suggested the Habitat for Humanity’s Restore in Rome, who will take it as a donation to benefit Habitat projects. Call 706-378-9857 for more information.

Also, Kars for Kids, Nobisworks.org and others will take vehicles that can be donated.
Neighborhood Crime:
- Heavily littered neighborhoods experience more vandalism and other crimes
- The perception is that residents don’t care about what happens in their neighborhood making the neighborhood more vulnerable
- Littered places attract more litter
- People feel safer in a clean neighborhood vs. a littered one
Getting rid of rubbish in Rockmart

The walk down College St. to meet with the Rethink Rockmart group on Saturday was ultimately satisfying. Looking to my left I could see paper, drink bottles, soda cans. To my right were evident flannel shirts that had some objects I knew couldn't be degrading in my life time. As the walk was satisfying because litter is annoying and fun to look at, the trip was satisfying because the Rethink Rockmart group and its volunteers were prepared and ready to do away with road side filth and litter.

With an arsenal of trash bags, buckets, gloves, water, and hedge clippers, a mixture of Rethink Rockmart group members and volunteers made teams of three or four and set out into the city streets to clean up and perform maintenance.
Community Engagement – Block Party
# Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP)
## 2018 Grant Application

### Section 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Applicant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIP 2018 Funding Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Non Participating Jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Participating Jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Nonprofit 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Public Housing Authority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUNs Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicant Tax ID Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### A. Contact Information

**Executive Officer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Contact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grant Administrator (if applicable)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The City of Rockmart

and

Habitat for Humanity - Coosa Valley, Inc.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the City of Rockmart (City) and Habitat for Humanity-Coosa Valley (Habitat) to guide the funding and construction of three new homes in Rockmart, GA.

Background
The City and Habitat are both members, along with others, of the Rockmart GICH Team, also known as RICH. Both have an interest in improving the housing stock in Rockmart and in eliminating blight.

Purpose
This MOU will guide the process and funding of removing three blighted properties and replacing them with three new homes within the two-year timeframe governed by CHIP funds for which the City is in the process of applying.

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

The City of Rockmart will:
1) Obtain three already identified blighted properties by means of ???;
2) Remove blighted structures by use of NSP funds;
3) Transfer vacant lots to the Polk County Land Bank for the purpose of being transferred by them with clear title to Habitat;
4) Transfer $45,000 from CHIP funds to Habitat when ground is broken on each of the three proposed houses;
5) Transfer up to an additional $45,000 from CHIP funds to cover the full cost of construction of each house upon receipt of a CO;
6) Support Habitat in the construction of the houses by appealing for volunteers and in other ways through the RICH Team.

Habitat for Humanity-Coosa Valley will:
1) Accept the transfer of the three aforementioned lots from the Polk County Land Bank;
2) Obtain insurance on the property and its activities on the property upon receipt;
3) Select three families to purchase the proposed homes according to Habitat policies and procedures;
4) Construct three homes in Rockmart, GA during the 2-year cycle governed by the CHIP funding, contingent on the receipt of CHIP funds;
Accomplishments to date are as follows:

- Adopting the Urban Renewal Redevelopment Plan
- Enacting Abandoned Property an Blight ordinances
- Enforcing codes more consistently and utilizing Municipal Court to ensure compliance
- Conducting community impact days to pick up litter and beautify the revitalization efforts. Next neighborhood cleanup will be October 14th
- Conducting community information meeting and public hearing
- Collaborating with Keep Polk Beautiful on surveying problem areas
- Applying for and being selected for GICH program
- Creation of GICH Team and committees on Code Enforcement, Community Engagement and Grants/Land Banks
- Currently the Asst. County Manager has been tasked with working with City of Cedartown and the City of Rockmart to complete the formalities in making the Land Bank of Polk County a reality. Tax Commissioner and School Board are supportive.
Accomplishments to date are as follows:

• Partnering with Habitat for Humanity Coosa Valley to implement *A Brush with Kindness* program and developing volunteers for home building. Project scheduled to begin Fall 2017

• Communicating with builders/developers about our revitalization plan to develop interest in acquisition, rehabbing and/or building new quality, affordable single family homes in the revitalization area. Currently 3 contractors are working on projects with more planned for the future

• Working with Rockmart City Public Works to maintain rights of way and streets in the revitalization area

• Utilizing local press and social media to promote our vision, goals and successes

• Communicating with owners of abandoned property to determine interest in selling property

• Completing process to demolish abandoned homes (8) to date – 5 of which were done voluntarily

• Completed inventory of abandoned and vacant properties
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Partner</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Pray for Habitat on a regular basis and as special needs arise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-a-lot</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Youth group maintains a vacant lot owned by Habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Brush with Kindness</td>
<td>None required; $500-$1000 suggested</td>
<td>Exterior painting, yardwork and minor repair; Also includes building ramps and sheds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building on Faith</td>
<td>$4200 to partner; any amount to participate</td>
<td>New home construction or rehab; Partners guaranteed one workday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Sponsor</td>
<td>$25,000 new home construction; $15,000 rehab</td>
<td>Co-sponsors guaranteed 1/2 of workdays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Sponsor</td>
<td>$50,000 New home; $30,000 rehab</td>
<td>Full sponsors guaranteed all group workdays; Help available if needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firm Foundation Circle</td>
<td>A monthly undesignated gift in any amount</td>
<td>Church will be notified of workdays and encouraged to participate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReStore</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Volunteers help clean, price, display, run register, and pick up donations. ReStore has become a critical stream of income for Habitat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Brush With Kindness Project
Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants in Georgia
Program 101

Fact Sheet

Program Status: Open

What does this program do?
Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

Who may apply for this program?
To qualify, you must:

- Be the homeowner and occupy the house
- Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere
- Have a family income below 50 percent of the area median income
- For grants, be age 62 or older and not be able to repay a repair loan

What is an eligible area?
Applicants may check the address of their home to determine eligibility.

How may funds be used?

- Loans may be used to repair, improve or modernize homes or remove health and safety hazards
- Grants must be used to remove health and safety hazards

How much money can I get?

- Maximum loan is $20,000
- Maximum grant is $7,500
- Loans and grants can be combined for up to $27,500 in assistance

What are the terms of the loan or grant?

- Loans can be repaid over 20 years
- Loan interest rate is fixed at 1%
- Full title service is required for loans of $7,500 or more
- Grants have a lifetime limit of $7,500
- Grants must be repaid if the property is sold in less than 3 years
- If applicants can repay part, but not all of the costs, applicants may be offered a loan and grant combination

Is there a deadline to apply?

- Home loans are available year round as long as funding is available
Polk County Intergovernmental Committee Meeting
August 23, 2017
Rockmart City Hall, Rockmart, Georgia
12:00 Noon

Agenda

Welcome and Invocation
Missy Kendrick

Lunch

Community Updates/Topics
Missy Kendrick

Development Authority of Polk County
• Updated Incentives Policy
• Transportation Committee
• GASB77 Submission

City of Aragon
Garry Baldwin

City of Cedartown
Bill Fann

City of Rockmart
Jeff Ellis

Polk County Commission
Matt Denton

Polk County School System
Greg Teens/Laurie Atkins

Polk County Water Authority
Jack Damron

Next Meeting – November 15, 2017
Missy Kendrick

Thank you to the Rockmart City Council for providing lunch!
Before and After
Before and After
Before and After
Rockmart city council taking a look at tethering ordinance

Posted: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:40 am

Rockmart Mayor Steve Miller promised the city council will look into a proposed ordinance that would make tethering pets outside for long periods of time illegal.

The City of Cedartown took up the issue in past months and passed an ordinance explicitly forbidding animal owners from leaving their pets tethered up outside without adequate access to food, water and shelter with penalties involved for those who break the new rule.

Now Cedartown Humane Society president Charlotte Harrison wants the City of Rockmart to follow suit.

Harrison said she came to the meeting on the invitation of council member Sherman Ross to speak to other members briefly about the problems of tethering, specifically what harm it does to the community.

"Dogs feel the cold and the heat just like you," she said. "They experience isolation and neglect just as you would if you were tethered. They die just as you would when starvation and neglect rave run their course."

She contends that along with the harm it causes to animals, it also does serious harm to neighborhoods, especially with "children, who are likely to learn from it and inflict similar acts of cruelty on their pets and playmates."

Harrison also pointed out that when pets are tethered, specifically dogs, they become aggressive since they don’t have usual human contact. When these dogs get loose, they often become a threat to pedestrians and neighbors alike, and are never seen again.

She also provided the council with sample legislation much like the one Cedartown passed in January, with the goal in mind that the City of Rockmart can move forward quickly with the proposal.

Right now, Cedartown is the only municipality in Polk County to bar tethering of pets outdoors, with the other three local governments still allowing the practice.

See more from the Rockmart City Council meeting on Feb. 14 in the coming edition of the Standard Journal.

City of Rockmart approves Northwest Georgia Housing Authority Project
Abandoned/Vacant Housing & Vacant Lots Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street #</th>
<th>Street Name</th>
<th>Size of Lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>809</td>
<td>Wilson St</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>703</td>
<td>Forrest Ave</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>519</td>
<td>Hogue Ave</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>620</td>
<td>Pearl St</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610</td>
<td>Pearl St</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>604</td>
<td>Pearl St</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>530</td>
<td>Pearl St</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>326</td>
<td>Pearl St</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>Pearl St</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>505</td>
<td>Sciple St</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520</td>
<td>Sciple St</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>526</td>
<td>Sciple St</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>409</td>
<td>Long Ave</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Beech St</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>509</td>
<td>College St</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>514</td>
<td>College St</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>Piedmont Ave</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>445</td>
<td>E. Elm St</td>
<td>0.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>318</td>
<td>E. Elm St</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>843</td>
<td>MLK Jr./Euharlee St</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>702</td>
<td>MLK Jr./Euharlee St</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>MLK Jr./Euharlee St</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404</td>
<td>Williamson St</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>402</td>
<td>Williamson St</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>714</td>
<td>W. Church St</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>805</td>
<td>Church St</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Street # Street Name Lot Size

- 807 Wilson St 0.23
- R15-056 Clark St 0.53
- 591 Lane St 0.17
- 504 Pearl St 0.21
- 404 Sciple St 0.54
- 118 Beech St 0.18
- 626 Jackson St 0.13
- 623 Jackson St 0.31
- 448 Jackson St 0.17
- 420 Williamson St 0.18
- R10-151A Polk St 0.35
- 807 Church Str 0.33
- 240 E Elm St 0.23
Goodyear Village Creation - 1929
Goodyear Village Centennial Project
THANK YOU!