



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5 MAY 2009

WELCOME

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. As a legislator, advocate, and citizen, I have come to see the truth in this nugget of wisdom. Much of my work at Columbus City Council revolves around not just addressing the needs of the community when they reach the crisis point, but anticipating these issues and empowering a variety of organizations to pursue strategies as a preemptive measure – or at least reduce their impact on the people of Columbus. This means things as diverse as ensuring access to primary health care for low-income citizens, improving job-training opportunities, and promoting responsible homeownership to stabilize communities.

This ethic of prevention encompasses health, personal development, and the strength of the community. In this issue of my newsletter, we highlight not just organizations that are funded by the City, but broader efforts to increase awareness. Raising the public profile of such efforts is a critical preventive effort because it arms you, the community, with the knowledge you need to make the decisions that can impact you, your families, and your community.

I encourage everyone who reads this newsletter to think about this ethic of prevention as we go into the spring and summer. Take the time to prepare for changes in economic circumstances and the invariable growth and changes that occur in life to prevent changes from causing major upheavals.



Sincerely,

Charleta B. Tavares
Charleta B. Tavares

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CHORES PROGRAM



The before and after of a home that received Chores help from the Clintonville Resources Center.

A major issue for elderly and disabled members of the Columbus community is making sure their homes remain safe and well-maintained. If one has mobility issues or lives on a fixed income, it can be difficult to keep up with home maintenance needs.

The Chores Program provides minor home maintenance and repair services to low/moderate-income elderly and disabled homeowner-occupants in the City of Columbus. Examples of program services include replacement or repair of leaking faucets and commodes, faulty light fixtures and switches, loose or

missing sections of porch decking or steps and installation of handrails, smoke detectors and deadbolt locks. Eligible homeowners receive home repair services, including materials and labor, free of charge. Clintonville Resources Center, Rebuilding Together Central Ohio, Economic and Community Development Institute, and Lifecare Alliance are the program providers to neighborhoods within the corporate limits of Columbus.

On April 20, Councilmember Charleta Tavares passed legislation through Columbus City Council that allocated \$100,000 for the Chores Program from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund through the Columbus Housing Division's Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund.

"The Chores Program is a cost-effective way for the city to help vulnerable citizens cope with small problems that could add up and become overwhelming," said Tavares. To apply for Chores funds, call (614) 645-8526.

JAMES CANCER HOSPITAL AND MINORITY RECRUITMENT FOR DRUG TRIALS



Councilmember Charleta Tavares with Dr. William Hicks, MD, the Director of the Diversity Enhancement Program at the James Cancer Hospital.

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute is made up of researchers and doctors working together to discover new and better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. Although medical understanding continues to advance the treatment and survival rates of cancer, racial and ethnic minorities suffer a disproportionate burden of the disease. For example, according to the American Cancer Society, African-American men have a 40% higher death rate from cancer, compared with Caucasian men.

While research has proven to be the most effective way to discover new lifesaving drugs, diagnostic, prevention and treatment methods for diseases like cancer takes place, minority patients have had historically low participation rates. According to the coalition of cancer cooperative groups, between January 2003 and June 2005 approximately 89% of those patients enrolled in cancer treatment trials were white, compared to 8% African American, 2.8% Asians/Pacific Islander and 5.6% Hispanics. Low participation rates contribute to the gap in health disparities as many of today's most effective treatments and prevention approaches are based upon previous clinical trials.

For clinical trials to be beneficial to all populations, individuals from all racial/ethnic groups, ages and locations need to participate. The Diversity Enhancement Program at Ohio State's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute is dedicated to increasing cancer awareness in the community, with an emphasis on increasing participation in cancer clinical trials, especially by minority participants. They plan to accomplish these goals by networking with diverse groups in the community, attending

community events and conducting educational sessions. The program is co-directed by Electra Paskett, PhD, and William J. Hicks, MD.

"By creating this program, the James is showing that their doctors are exceptional practitioners and they are devoted to being effective community partners and advocates," said Councilmember Charleta Tavares.

If you or someone you know is diagnosed with cancer, ask your doctor about clinical trials. Questions can also be answered by questions today by calling (866) 627-7616, or by going online to <http://www.jamesline.com/trials/Pages/index.aspx>. Your answers will be used to help see if you match a clinical trial. You may then talk to your doctor about your results. Call (614) 293-7020 to schedule an educational session.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS, HEALTHY FAMILIES

The Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families (HNHF) is focused on creating tangible outcomes through a broad-based effort that is responsive to the needs and desires of the community. It will build on existing efforts by targeting neighborhoods in the area around the new Livingston Avenue Elementary School and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Affordable housing is one of five components identified by HNHF as integral to strengthening neighborhoods to create the best environment to nurture children and families. The other four components are education; health and wellness; safe and accessible neighborhoods; and workforce and economic development. HNHF Realty Collaborative is the non-profit housing arm formed by Nationwide Children's Hospital as part of the initiative.

HNHF Realty Collaborative is poised to introduce their first renovated home. The newly renovated property resides directly across the street from the new Livingston Avenue Elementary School. The property has been upgraded from a 3 bedroom one bathroom home into a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath house with a great room, walk in master bedroom closet, and a patio. The home boasts many green features and energy efficiencies that will work to keep energy costs down.

"Nationwide Children's Hospital is continuing to be a great south side neighbor and we look forward to more projects like this in the community," said Charleta Tavares, chair of the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee of Columbus City Council. For more information on HNHF Realty Collaborative, please contact Robert Williams, Project Director, Nationwide Children's Hospital at (614) 355-0828, or Robert.williams@nationwidechildrens.org.



HNHF home at 770 Carpenter Street.

PREVENTION FIRST LOBBY DAY



Tavares presenting the resolution to the organizers of Prevention First Lobby Day.

Ohio has the 28th highest teen pregnancy rate in America, with nearly 29,000 girls age 10-19 getting pregnant each year. And according to a 2009 report by Community Research Partners and The Women's Fund of Central Ohio, girls going to high school in Franklin County, are 38% more likely to get pregnant than their peers elsewhere in Ohio. In addition to these mostly unplanned pregnancies, tens of thousands of Ohioans are diagnosed each year with preventable sexually transmitted infections. To combat these trends, the Ohio Prevention First Act was first introduced in 2006 to increase access to birth control, emergency contraception, and comprehensive sex education. The law would require insurance companies to cover birth control and pharmacies to dispense all medications and prescriptions, and establish a teen pregnancy prevention task

force.

For the fourth year in a row, supporters held Prevention First Lobby Day at the State House to support passage of this legislation. This year, the event took place on April 22nd. Councilmember Charleta Tavares introduced a resolution at Columbus City Council on April 20th to support the goals of the Ohio Prevention First Act and lend Council's voice to the chorus pressing for enactment of the law.

"In order to confront these public health challenges in our community, we must act in a comprehensive, science- and evidence-based way to address the behaviors leading to them," stated Tavares. To access these services in Columbus, one can contact Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers at (614) 645-5500 or the Department of Public Health at (614) 645-7417.

THRIFT STORES SELL BARGAINS, FUND SOCIAL SERVICES

After parting ways with her non-profit job, Alyssa Grovemiller starts a new job this month. Couple that with the fact that she has lost weight recently, and she needs to add to her wardrobe.

Grovemiller, and many like her, are now thinking about how to make their dollars go farther. She can buy several pieces of clothing, even some high-end brands she wouldn't splurge on at the mall, for a fraction of the cost of new by shopping at local thrift stores. Today she buys two suits and never-worn shoes for under \$11.

However, there is even more reason behind her second-hand shopping strategy. "I want to invest in non-profit programs that do real good in our community, like Goodwill, The Salvation Army, and Volunteers of America." By shopping at their thrift stores, patrons help fund the work and services these groups provide.

Goodwill Columbus provides services, community living experiences, and employment opportunities to assist individuals who have disabilities or other challenges and help them to enjoy full participation in the community. Each year, Goodwill Columbus' vocational, personal, social, and community services assist more than 1,500 people with disabilities or other special needs to attain a new level of independence.

The Salvation Army's Thrift Stores and Adult Rehabilitation Center work hand-in-hand to help men overcome addiction and reclaim their lives through counseling, work therapy and spiritual regeneration. The sale of items in the stores allows The Salvation Army to offer their entire rehabilitation program without cost to men with drug and alcohol dependencies. In return, the men collect, sort and process donated materials to The Salvation Army's Thrift Stores.

The Volunteers of America ministry of service, funded in part by thrift store sales, has supported and empowered the most vulnerable groups including at-risk youth, the frail elderly, men returning from prison, homeless individuals and families, people with disabilities, and those recovering from addictions.

Councilmember Charleta Tavares, chair of the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee, as well as the Workforce Development Committee, reminds all of us, "These thrift stores do offer affordable products, but they aren't just for low-income people. The money that anyone spends is invested back into the organizations that help some of our most vulnerable people in Columbus and the environment." Grovemiller agrees, "I can afford to shop elsewhere, but prefer to spend my money in a way that helps others in my community."



Alyssa Grovemiller shops at Salvation Army on South High Street.



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNIOR LEAGUE AND THE HOOPS FOUNDATION

The Junior League of Columbus and the Valerie Still Foundation will sponsor HOOPS! 2009 on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for middle-school-aged girls to feel safe, valued, and loved, gain confidence, and play basketball. Councilmember Charleta Tavares will participate both as a motivational speaker and as a member of the celebrity basketball team.

I KNOW I CAN FOUNDATION

The *I Know I Can* Foundation has recruited Councilmember Tavares as one of more than 70 volunteers for National Right to Read Week, which is May 11-15. The volunteers with the I Know I Can Foundation will read copies of the book *I Know I Can* to second grade students in Columbus City Schools. The book builds aspirations among these young students and lays the foundation needed to help make college part of their future. In addition to community leaders such as Tavares, McGraw-Hill has chosen this activity as their official philanthropy project this spring.

EITC VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

This spring, hundreds of volunteers fanned across Columbus to assist low-income people in applying correctly for the earned-income tax credit, a completely refundable tax credit that each year raises hundreds of thousands of American families – including many in central Ohio – out of poverty. Each year millions in EITC funds are not claimed, so it is important that people know the benefit is available. On Thursday, May 7, at Columbus State Community College, the Franklin County EITC Coalition will celebrate both their volunteers and the hundreds of thousands of dollars they helped return to Central Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

0591-2009 DEAF SERVICES CENTER, DEAF MODIFICATION PROGRAM: This legislation authorized the Director of the Department of Development to enter into a contract with Deaf Services Center. The contract will provide \$40,000 from the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the administrative and equipment costs necessary to eliminate environmental barriers in the residences of low and moderate-income individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Deaf Modification Program will provide communication and adaptive equipment necessary to increase the independence and safety of deaf or hard of hearing individuals in the City of Columbus. Examples of the equipment to be provided include amplified telephones, communication devices, answering machines, motion detectors, strobes, smoke alarms, bed vibrators, baby monitors, individual alert receivers, carbon monoxide detectors and alarm clocks. The Deaf Services Center will provide equipment to approximately 30 eligible applicants citywide.

0042X-2009 COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF MORPC: This resolution recognized 40 years of service to the central Ohio community by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. It serves as a catalyst for regional change and growth through sound planning practices, innovative services, forums and programs for the Columbus community and their membership has grown to include over 40 local governments, representing over 1.6 million citizens in the region. MORPC's work is seen every day through planning, programming and public policy in the areas of economic development, energy, environment, housing, transportation and land use.

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