



Wayne County CEO

Robert A. Ficano

The Wayne County Nuisance Abatement Program **NAP Newsletter**

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NAP AIMS TO MAKE STUDENT ROUTES SAFER WITH SCHOOL PROGRAM

While government and private interests struggle to find solutions to the rise in home foreclosures and abandonment, the unfortunate reality is that there are going to be lots of vacant houses in Detroit and Wayne County. Many of these empty buildings are scattered along school routes taken by thousands of young Detroit students as they walk to and from school everyday.

Recognizing the dangers that these houses create for young people, the Wayne County Nuisance Abatement Program (NAP) will begin working with area community groups and elementary schools to teach kindergarten through 3rd grade children about the hazards of being in or around vacant structures.



Scrappy the NAP Dog is the new mascot for the NAP school awareness program.

The primary goal of the program is to teach school children the importance of keeping clean, safe communities with particular emphasis on the health and safety problems regarding vacant and blighted buildings. This will be done by focusing on the “3 rules of vacant house safety”: (1) Vacant buildings are dangerous; don’t ever go inside a vacant building, (2) Don’t litter because

vacant buildings are part of our community and need to be kept clean, and (3) Report all unusual activities and crimes in or around vacant buildings to parents, teachers or police.

Students will be taught through a 2-part initiative: The first part is an in school active lesson with the NAP mascot -“*Scrappy the NAP Dog*”. This part will include learning about the 3 Rules of Vacant House Safety through visual presentations and sing-along songs. The second part requires the parent to take an active role in learning about school route safety, as the child is given take home materials for parents to review and sign that will include the addresses of all known vacant houses around the school. When the material is signed by a parent and returned to the school the child is given a prize.

While this program cannot guarantee the safety of all school children, it is a step toward making kids and their parents aware of the dangers associated with vacant buildings. The first school session is scheduled for November 7, at Drew Academy in Detroit. In keeping with the “young person” theme, Wynn Sarden, a NAP intern from Wayne State University is scheduled to assist Scrappy in delivering the lesson to the students.

WAYNE COUNTY HOSTS RAP with NAP on NOV. 20

Wayne County will host its 3rd annual community forum on vacant property, entitled Rap with NAP, on **Thursday, November 20, at 6pm** in the Atrium of **Wayne County Building** located at **600 Randolph** in downtown Detroit. This year’s theme is “*Community Participation for a better Wayne County*” and will focus on self-help ideas as well as government solutions to vacant property challenges facing Wayne County. NAP will also be presenting the 2nd annual **Community Renaissance Awards** to citizens and community groups that do exemplary work on rehabilitation of vacant blighted property that has been the subject of a NAP law suit.

