



Wayne County CEO

*Robert A. Ficano*

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

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## ***RAP with NAP 3 DELIVERS HELPFUL INFORMATION & COMMUNITY AWARDS***

Community leaders, college students, concerned citizens, and civic developers all gathered and gained a wealth of knowledge at Wayne County's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Rap with NAP, held November 20 in the Wayne County Building Atrium. This year's theme, "Community Participation for a Better Wayne County" was particularly poignant for many in attendance, as shrinking government resources have made it a necessity for citizens to get more involved in keeping their neighborhoods clean and safe.

Professor John Mogk from Wayne State University, Malika Heath, Executive Director of the Detroit Vacant Property Campaign and Lynn Smith, Director of the Southeastern Village Safe Routes to School Program gave excellent presentations to almost 100 attendees. Dinner was also provided.

After the speakers shared their insight, NAP presented its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Community Renaissance Awards** to citizens that completed exemplary rehabilitations of blighted properties that had been the targets of NAP law suits. Developer M.Z. Cohen of Zevco LLC and Terese Ireland of Pewabic Pottery were on hand to receive this year's awards.



*Developer M. Zev Cohen of Zevco LLC receives his Wayne County Community Renaissance Award from NAP Chief Atty. Eric Sabree.*

## **NAP Home sales face tough market**



NAP is having a hard time selling this Arden Park house

"People are being more cautious about the money they spend," says property sales specialist Sandy McMann. This is but one of the reasons that NAP sales of blighted properties have been so tough. The economic conditions in Michigan have made the real estate market very competitive, which has also brought the prices of the homes that NAP sells down considerably in recent months.

With so much uncertainty in the auto and economic industries, it's not hard to understand the concern potential investors and developers feel when contemplating whether to purchase a NAP home. Houses that previously would have been quickly swept up are now more difficult to move. "When you can't sale a house in Arden Park for \$9,000, that tells you how hard times are," said Ms. McMann.

Many people call in for information, but often times want big discounts or properties for just one dollar. Because of the importance of getting these blighted homes into the hands of responsible owners that will fix them up, NAP will sell some for discounted amounts. For more info on property sales call Ms. McMann at 224-7449.

### **REPORT NUISANCE PROPERTY**

If you see abandoned, blighted properties call the Nuisance Abatement Hotline at (313)224-5757. Properties seized through NAP can be bought on the Wayne County NAP website at [www.waynecounty.com/WCAuctions](http://www.waynecounty.com/WCAuctions)

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*Scrappy the NAP Safety Dog (played by Atty. Joe Rogalski) and NAP intern Wynn Sarden. Deliver the message of safety and cleanliness in the community to over 120 k-4<sup>th</sup> graders at Marcus Garvey Academy on Dec.8. NAP provides the students with take home material for the parents along with in school lessons about the dangers that vacant houses create. NAP counted over 60 vacant houses near Garvey School.*

### **Scrappy the Safety Dog Leads NAP into Detroit “Safe Walk It Out” Children’s Program**

Wayne County CEO Robert Ficano and the NAP team have made Safety for the children of Wayne County, and particularly Detroit a high priority; especially when the numbers of vacant houses on some City blocks out number occupied ones.

**B**ecause of this concern, NAP has launched a school safety program and now gone into two Detroit Schools, Charles Drew Academy and Marcus Garvey Academy, to conduct safety training for kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup> grade

students. Wynn Sarden, a charismatic Wayne State intern has been delivering the message to an overwhelmingly warm and enthusiastic crowd of youngsters. When Scrappy makes his appearance doing the “walk it out” dance, the kids attention is completely captured, making it easier to keep them focused on the valuable safety lessons.



### **Community Activities!**

#### **CDAD General Membership Meeting!**

**Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon**

U of M Detroit Center

Woodward at MLK Blvd

Come see the Detroit Sustainable Design Assessment Team presentation developed by Alan Mallach, Research Director at the National Housing Institute entitled, “Leaner, Greener Detroit.”

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#### **City Mission School is having a “Getting to Know Us” Meeting!**

Saturday, December 13, at 11 a.m. for refreshments, a presentation, a tour of the center and meet the staff and families of City Mission. **Please RSVP to felicia.mayes@city-mission.org or call (313) 541-3531.**

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#### **FREE HOME REPAIR WORKSHOPS in '09**

Grandmont Rosedale Development Corp. (GRDC) is hosting a **FREE** 9-week Home Repair Workshop series beginning on **Tuesday, January 6, 6-8:30 p.m.** Topics will include weatherization and energy conservation, introduction to carpentry, basic plumbing repair, electrical repair, wall repair and painting, outdoor maintenance and more. All workshops will be held at GRDC’s offices at 19800 Grand River. All are invited, but there’s a limit of 20 people per session, so RSVP’s are required. To sign up for a workshop, contact Patrick Williams at **387-4732, ext. 104**, or [pjwillia@umich.edu](mailto:pjwillia@umich.edu).