

RESIDENTS OF GARDEN VALLEY RECEIVE UPDATE ON CMHA'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

CMHA and partners talk to residents about the development of Garden Valley Phase III project

On Tuesday, October 6, 2009 a jam-packed house with standing room only, flooded CMHA's Garden Valley Community Room. Residents who couldn't get inside listened to the discussion from outside the building. Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) representatives announced to the residents that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the Authority \$17.7 million for Phase III of Garden Valley's revitalization. The funds are provided through *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and are specifically designated for the creation of energy-efficient communities through substantial rehabilitation or new construction of public housing developments. The funding will reduce energy costs, generate resident and housing authority energy savings, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions attributable to energy consumption.

"This has been a long time coming," said Anita Kennedy, resident who is nick-named mother of the estate. "The people of Garden Valley truly believe now. They see it happening right in front of their eyes. And for the families it means a better, brighter future. A better life."

Joined by Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, CMHA Chief of Staff and Operations Jeffery K. Patterson, Project Architect, August Fluker, and Executive Director of Bell Burton Carr Development, Tim Tramble, the group discussed modernization efforts, timelines, and some of the design ideas for the project.

CMHA Real Estate and Development Administrator Donovan Duncan talked about the history of the Garden Valley plan as well as the progress residents will be seeing as they move forward. Karen Lexington of the CMHA Construction Department informed residents that each of them will be receiving individualized relocation assistance from CMHA. CMHA CSS Operations Manager Lisa Enoch and Youthbuild Coordinator Robin Holmes discussed opportunities for Garden Valley residents to participate in educational and job training programs as they strive toward self sufficiency.

"The residents of Garden Valley are really looking forward to this new development. It means employment and educational opportunities and a whole new way of life for them," said CMHA AMP Leader, Janet Allen. "Dreams can come true."