

Emerson Park News



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Emerson Park Development Corporation

EPDC Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Dear Friends:

The year 2005 marked 20 years of business for the Emerson Park Development Corporation. These two decades brought new partners into the neighborhood and made partners of many who were already there. The year began with sadness as we lost two of our longstanding members – our Vice President Henry Peete and founding member Sarah Johnson, as well as one of our precious YouthBuild participants, SanTonio Raper.

The year ended, however, with great joy as we began leasing 102 units in Parsons Place II, welcomed the first three new homeowners into River City

Place Phase I, and graduated 30 more young adults from our Charter School, all of whom left either employed or enrolled in college. As a validation of the viability of Emerson Park, the East St. Louis Housing Authority has begun to move in new families to Central City.

Over the past 20 years, our neighborhood has come a long way – but in the next twenty we are hoping to take it even further. We want people to think of Emerson Park as the Gold Standard of East St. Louis and the entire metro-east area. And we are going to need your help to do it. Thank you for a great twenty years...



Richard M. Suttle, Sr.
President



Vickie Kimmel Forby
Executive Director

River City Homes Continue to Sell

The River City Homes Project in Emerson Park has been a smashing success. Maybe you've seen the sign on the corner of 17th & Exchange advertising the new single family homes being built in our neighborhood?

Well, if you're interested, you had better call fast because there are only two homes left at the printing of this article. Emerson Park took homes that normally sell between \$155,000-\$185,000 and is offering them for \$75,000-\$100,000 using

grant money from several sources. So when you get a chance, drive by the site and see what all the excitement's about!

Call Jeff at 618-874-1671, ext. 109 for more information.

Emerson Park Quick Fact

Did you know?

The Parson's Place Project added a total of 276 units of affordable housing to the Emerson Park Neighborhood?

Emerson Park Info:

Address:

1405 State Street
P.O. Box 6126
East St. Louis, IL 62202

Phone:

618-874-1671

Students Act as Election Judges

For the past two years, students at Emerson Park's Tomorrow's Builder's YouthBuild Charter School have been actively involved in the Election Process. In a continued effort to get our students involved in the political process and further improve their leadership skills, five students 18 and over who meet certain qualifications are selected to be trained and work as Election Judges. Students are trained at a special judges training and attend this civic project with the confidence of knowing that they are representing Emerson Park and their city.

As election judges, students are required to open the polling place, be responsible for election materials, and register and sign-in voters. They also distribute ballots, obtain votes and close the polls at the end of the election day. So when you went to the polls on April 4th, it might have been an Emerson Park student acting as your election judge!



Emerson Park Development
Corporation

We're on the Web!

<http://www.emersonpark.org>

Students Corner: "What the Emerson Park Charter School is Really About"

By Kestulis Murphy

Why is it that when anyone speaks Emerson Park in our community the first thought that comes to mind is "the school for bad kids" or "the school for dumb kids"? Why? I'll tell you why. It's because people hear and listen to what other people say about the school, but never attempt or even think to see what this school is really about. So I guess I'll just leave it up to myself, an actual student and representative, to let you all know the truth about Emerson Park.

Now as you may know growing up in this city isn't easy and there aren't many opportunities that occur and when they do we're too "caught up" in the streets to take those opportunities. Many of the youth drop out of school because they feel that hustling is more sufficient when it comes to getting what you need. Emerson Park is here for those of us that feel like were all alone, those of us who feel helpless or without any motivational support.

Emerson Park is here for those of us that have lost all faith in the hopes of a second chance. How many schools do you know of that give second and third chances or a school that literally hands out an almost limitless supply of opportunity? Emerson Park offers its students job placement - helping us to become responsible adults. We join leadership programs to allow us to better prepare ourselves for future careers that we may conquer. On top of that, they build homes for those in need in our community. A great English novelist by the name of George Eliot once said "Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds". The Youthbuild leadership corporation is the largest of its kind in the entire country with "A" class students...YES students making a difference in their community. This school is still young and there may be some mistakes made down the line and some might try to shut us, but they won't succeed. YouthBuild has been here for eight years and we'll be here for eight more years...I guarantee it.