



It's Down!

Barn at 7 ½ Ridge Street is Razed to Start New House

By Ed Lopez

The property on 7 ½ Ridge Street is finally beginning to shape up for construction in the near future. When the property was donated by Mr. Richard Monahan in 2005, a large, deteriorated barn sat on the property. It had to be demolished in order to assess construction options and since that time, a number of issues have been tackled to reach the point where only a zoning variance is needed before a foundation can be constructed – quite possibly as early as this fall.

According to Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity President Jerry Harrow, the length of time for this project thus far



Site where a condemned barn stood at 7 ½ Ridge Street will become new Habitat home.

“was all related to the *Community Development Block Grant*

(CDBG) process.” This process allowed the City of Nashua to provide federal funds for the demolition and clean up of the building. Including the removal of asbestos on the property, the cost was nearly \$50,000. As long as the property is used for affordable housing, this mortgage does not need to be paid back. The process to get the grant requires many approvals before putting the work out to bids.

GNHFH Building Committee Chairperson Eric Moore also feels the City has been instrumental in overcoming many of the obstacles that had to be

(continued on page 2)

Special Recognition

Nashua Community College presents Community Partner Award

Nashua Community College president Lucille Jordan presented Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity the Community Partner Award. The presentation was made at the annual NH college presidents awards luncheon on April 15. President Jerry Harrow and vice president Ron Dyer accepted the award on behalf of the GNHFH affiliate.

Collaborations between the organization and the college started several years ago when students started working in our office for work-study credit. In June 2007, framing of a house for hurricane Katrina relief was done over a full weekend on the college campus. Shirley Silva-Paige, Director of Service Learning & Career Placement is a volunteer on the organization's Nominating committee.



Inside this issue:

7 ½ Ridge Street (cont.)	2
Simon Evening of Giving	2
Lowe's 1500th Store	3
Take a Hike for Humanity	3
From the Desk of the President	4

Here's How You Can Help

- Help us find affordable land for our future housing projects: join our Site Selection Committee or call 603-883-0295 with leads.
- Become a church representative for your church. Contact us for details.
- Ask us how to become a leader: Volunteer Committee chairperson, fundraising event coordinator, building team leader, etc.

7 1/2 Ridge Street (continued from page 1)

tackled. "The City has been trying to help and it was kind enough to help provide the CDBG grant." This helped Habitat save already limited resources that are necessary for other parts of the Ridge Street project. Eric also points out that: "even if the property was ultimately found to be unsuitable for construction, neighbors wanted to have the barn torn down".

According to Eric, the steps that guided the demolition process included a historical review of the property; an engineering study - to assure the City that once the structure was removed, the stone foundation would hold the side of the hill without risk of collapse. After that, the demolition job could be put out for bids. After the demolition, there were some additional steps to be taken that created further delays: "Once the building was torn down, it turned out that there was asbestos. They had to call in a company to clean it up, but they were very busy at the time. They got them in and then they found more asbestos - and this caused a further delay. There were a couple of asbestos cleaning cycles through the demolition process. Getting the money approved, the engineering study, the historic site thing... it all took over two years. Had Habitat done it on its own it would have been quicker but the City's help actually got the project moving forward in a more economic way. A second or third mortgage was signed in order to demolish the barn - there's a lien that

requires that the property be affordable housing for the lien to get waived. It represents a lien that the City is waiving for prospective families".



Applications being accepted



... now for the new house at 7 1/2 Ridge Street and for a unit at nearby 63 Tolles Street. For an application, please call 883-0295 or download from our website: www.nashabitat.org/familyselection



Neighborhood cooperation was crucial to success. Sylvie Dubois, the owner of the south abutting property at 8-9 Ferrysalls Court allowed GNHFH to bring in machinery as well as a dumpster on her lot, subject to repair of any damage and a condition that her tenants not be disturbed.

The difficulties presented by the lot's location and the required demolition made it difficult for volunteers to be involved in these initial steps. Both Jerry and Eric concur that "the 3-story-high-building was essentially condemned due

to safety concerns and that due to this it did not seem prudent to have volunteers attempt to take down such a structure."

One of the last things being resolved is the redesign of the structure. The initial design has been changed to accommodate more space between the new house and other neighboring structures to provide as much green space as possible on the lot. According to Eric "the original concept changed from a 24 by 36 structure to be a 20 by 40 structure - the 20 depth is north south direction leaving more room on the north and south sides".

So what is next for the Ridge Street project? According to Jerry and Eric, the "next steps are resolving the zoning board variance appeal, the family selection process, and working with the architect on a final set of plans. Early steps in building process will include the excavation work and setting the foundation. The best case scenario would be to get that done this fall to avoid water accumulating over the winter on the property. It would be best to get the basement with under-flooring rather than letting it go until the spring.

If you wish to help on this project in any capacity, please contact our office. We are also still accepting applications for this house.



Purchase Simon Evening of Giving Tickets

Kick off your Holiday Shopping and Support our Cause

The 16th Annual Simon Evening of Giving is a special one night after hours shopping event to be held on Sunday November 23rd from 6:30-9:30pm. There will be fantastic door prizes, holiday entertainment and exclusive one time only discounts and sales. To attend this private evening of festivities just purchase your ticket from Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity. Seven dollars from each ticket will be donated to our affiliate and \$3 to the Simon Youth Foundation. The mission of the Simon Youth Foundation is to foster and improve edu-

cational opportunities, career development, and life skills for at-risk youth through focused programs and initiatives.

Tickets for this event are available until November 19th. You can purchase tickets or help us sell them by calling Marie Matthews in our office at 883-0295 or by sending an email to simon@nashabitat.org to request details.

The tickets also make good housewarming gifts. Businesses can reward employees and customers with tickets to this event.



Lowe's 1500th Store Opens in Nashua

Milestone Ceremony is Big Benefit to Local Habitat for Humanity Affiliate

Lowe's 1500th nationwide has opened in Nashua, NH. To recognize this milestone, a special event was held on Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2, where Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity was given \$15,000 on a gift card to match the sales of gift cards bought by customers during the two-day celebrations.

During the two-day event, volunteers for the Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity affiliate greeted customers as they entered the store and told them about the special program where any gift cards purchased during the period would be matched dollar for dollar up to \$15,000, and that amount would be donated to the Habitat for



Humanity affiliate. The affiliate also provided information about its activities and signed up new volunteers. One volunteer provided homemade baked goods and hot chocolate for

customers. As well as customers, a number of Lowe's employees signed up to help on future projects.

There was a special ceremony Friday afternoon highlighting the activities for the weekend. General Manager David Lewis thanked everyone and noted that Lowe's is very dedicated to community involvement. This was followed by new mayor Donnalee Lozneau making her first speech at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which turned out to be a board cutting for the home supplies chain. Then, Lewis and the employees donated the symbolic gift card to president Jerry Harrow of Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity.

Take a Hike for Humanity

Change in Dates for Annual Regional Fundraiser Brings Better Weather

By Ron Dyer

After three years of rainy weekends for the annual "Take a Hike for Humanity" fundraiser, organizers moved the event from the weekend before Memorial Day to the first weekend in June. The results were nearly perfect hiking conditions on June 7 & 8. Each day was sunny and dry with moderate temperatures, the big bonus was being past the black fly season.

Despite the great weather, a corresponding improvement in participation did not occur. During the two days, nearly 350 people hiked at either Mt. Monadnock in Jaffrey, NH or at the Blue Hills Reserve in Milton, MA. The move to June for the event seemed to come too close to high school graduations for many families. This seemed to be especially true for the Greater Nashua affiliate where major efforts were taken to get out local high school students, yet only a handful actually participated. The timing for next year's event needs to be reassessed.

The financial results were similar to

the previous year at about \$41,000. This included mostly pledges raised by hikers, some corporate support, the small silent auction, and miscellaneous sales.



For the sixth consecutive year, National Grid was the event sponsor, benefiting all Habitat for Humanity affiliates participating in this event. National Grid recently acquired KeySpan Energy in this area. Nancy LaPolice (event coordinator) said community minded companies like National Grid make a big difference in what we can accomplish, and we wish there were more contributing each year.

The trend continued for more people opting to hike at the Blue Hills Reserve in Milton, MA, where trails are shorter and easier. Part of the boost came from the

Greater Boston affiliate rejoining the event, bring the number of participating affiliates up to nine for this year. The Greater Lowell affiliate also had a substantial increase in hikers at this site.

With the close of the 13th occurrence of the event, event coordinator Nancy LaPolice finds she no longer has the time to lead the event she has headed for the past two years due to increased demands of time from her new job and family. We thank Nancy for the tremendous efforts she has put into making this event a success these past two years. The challenge is on to find new leadership both for the event overall and for the local Greater Nashua efforts. Any persons interested in organizing this event in any capacity should contact us now.

Many thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to this event, including the volunteers. In 2009, we hope our old friend will be back again to the event - the sun! Remember, when somebody says "take a hike!", just do it!

Cars for Homes

Donate an Old Car, Truck, Boat, or Motorcycle and Help Build a Home



Your car donation can help Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity build homes in partnership with families in need of decent, affordable shelter. Donate a car, truck, boat, RV or other vehicle to Habitat for Humanity's Cars for Homes™ vehicle donation program by calling 1-877-277-4344 or visiting www.carsforhomes.org.

GREATER NASHUA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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Nashua, NH 03061

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**GNHFH AFFILIATE NEWS
FALL 2008**

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***Offering folks a hand up
Not a hand out***

**We're on the Web!
www.nashabitat.org**

From the Desk of the President

It is very gratifying to report that the prospects for Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity for 2008 and beyond are looking very promising indeed! With patience, diligence, and Divine Providence we now own two building lots, have a signed P&S agreement on a third lot, and are exploring a promising partnership for additional lots for future development. The final step prior the start of the long-awaited Ridge St. project (see accompanying article) is approval of a necessary variance by the Nashua Zoning Board of Adjustment. The hearing is scheduled for mid-October. If all goes well, we may be able to put in the foundation before winter to enable an early start in the spring. While there are always challenges to overcome, I am confident that next year will herald the arrival of our 4th major house construction project which will result in a simple, decent, affordable home for a family in need.



Starting a new home somehow taps a new source of energy and enthusiasm, and revitalizes us in our mission to eliminate poverty housing. It also increases our need for the volunteers to bring the project to completion. Sure there are the Saturday work crews, but that is just the most obvious need in an all-volunteer organization such as ours. Beyond the obvious are the people that behind-the-scenes are critical to making the whole process work: scheduling construction teams, seeking corporate materials donations, coordinating food for the volunteers, supporting the partner family, ensuring proper supplies are on site when needed, scheduling utilities connections and meeting deliveries, tracking volunteer hours, providing safety training, and finally planning for the house dedication.

No matter what your skills or interests, there is a place for you to participate in the work of Habitat for Humanity. From fundraising, to planning, to public relations, to construction, the opportunities are endless. All it takes is a willing heart and willing hands. We especially need people willing to take ownership of an area and lead the way. If you would like to experience working hand-in-hand with the amazing people of Habitat in the Greater Nashua area drop us an email at volunteering@nashabitat.org or leave a message at our office.

Blessings to you and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim".