



Weed & Seed Program Newsletter

Spring 2009



City of Huntington Receives Weed and Seed Grant

In October, the City of Huntington was informed that they would receive \$1 million over the next five years from the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed and Seed initiative.

The grant funding will be applied to an area between 8th and 28th streets between 2nd Avenue and as far south as 13th Avenue and Roby Road. The target area for the Weed and Seed program represents only 7 percent of the city's size and 20 percent of its population, but it has accounted for at least 50 percent of various crimes in the city in recent years.

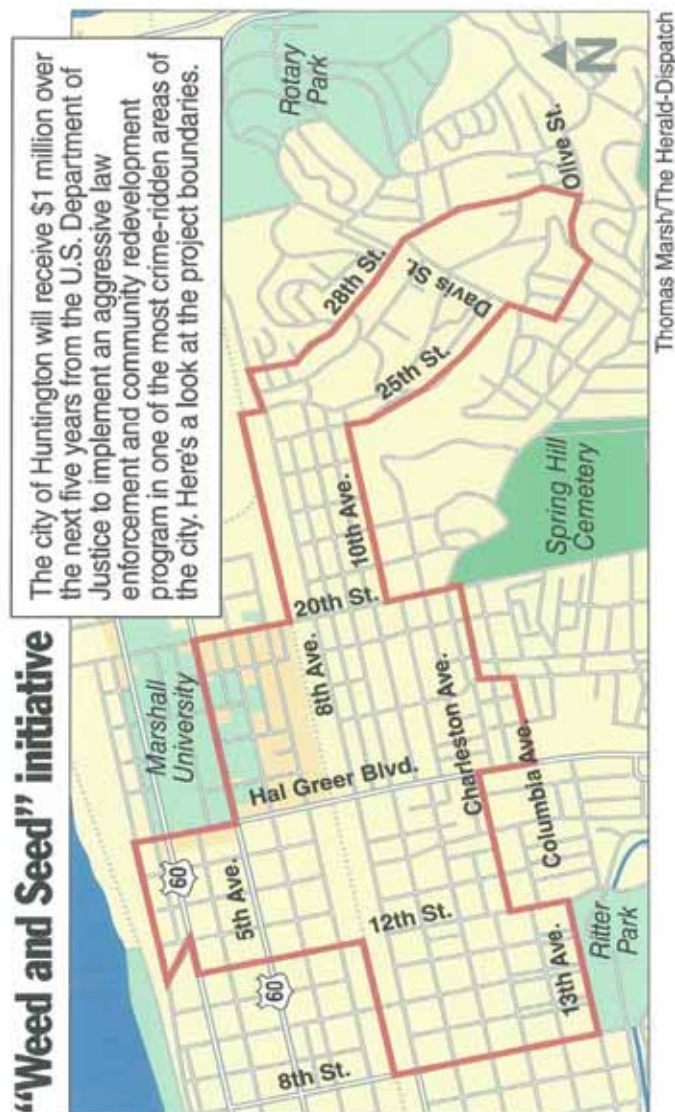
According to the city's grant application, it will reduce violent crime and drug sales by providing additional patrols to the Weed and Seed area as well as bolstering undercover drug operations. Funding also will be provided for an additional assistant prosecutor to make sure cases are strong and move quickly through the legal system.

A community-policing component will increase the frequency of bicycle patrol officers working in the Weed and Seed area and educate residents in crime-prevention techniques. The city also will expand after-school programs and recreational activities at the A.D. Lewis and Fairfield East community centers.

The neighborhood restoration component of the grant will improve housing conditions through neighborhood revitalization plans such as the one already under way on Artisan Avenue. Financial

incentives also will be provided to increase home ownership.

Revitalizing the business district on 4th Avenue between 12th Street and Hal Greer Boulevard also is targeted in the grant application.



Barnett Center Reopening - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Scheduled



The former Barnett Child Care Center, 524 10th Ave. which closed last year will officially reopen as the New Weed and Seed Office and the Huntington Police Department Field Office on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 11 AM.

The City's plan to renovate a former day care center into a multi-agency, multi-purpose facility will be highlighted with a community-wide "Get to Know your Neighbor" picnic and information fair on the same day from 11AM – 2pm.



This renovated facility now houses the Weed & Seed Office, Computer/Technology Center, a dance studio, a multiple purpose room with pool tables, ping pong tables, lending library, meeting rooms and conference room facilities.



The rear of the building will house the HPD Canine unit, bike patrol, special emphasis unit, along with providing afterschool tutoring and mentoring programs.



Space is available for neighborhood organizations and groups to hold meetings, attend and conduct training, host parties and activities that promote a drug free, violence free lifestyle.

Mayor Wolfe and Chief Holbrook also want to implement a Citizen's Police Academy which will allow citizens to be educated and informed as to police policies and procedures.

Cabell County has also been designated as a county to implement and expand the Drug Court. From the Drug Court concept a Teen Court hopes to be established and can be housed in this field office.

Other programs and activities to be housed in the field office will be parenting classes, scouting

programs, diversion programs and activities, job training and placement programs, linkages to other service providers such as college placement, employment and career training, family support services, drug education/prevention programs, home ownership classes, and creative arts programs.

A major revitalization project is underway throughout the Weed and Seed area. This revitalization project is designed to remove abandoned, dilapidated homes and structures and replace them with modern, energy efficient, affordable housing and provide for integration of new home owners, rental property and low income housing throughout the weed and seed area.

Neighbor revitalizations cannot and will not be limited to new homes and apartments being built. There must be a fresh infusion of new attitudes, volunteerism, ownerships, neighbors taking care of neighbors, in the hearts and lives of those who live and work within the weed and seed area.

Youth United Meet



Every Thursday from 6-8PM youth ages 11-21 gather at the Barnett Center for times of games, food, fellowship and drug free and tobacco free activities.

Some of the upcoming projects the members of Youth United are undertaking are recycling, Adopt a

Block Litter Gitters project, also sponsoring positive events and activities for younger youth to attend, and creating their own Dance Crew.



Community Gardens Planting Seeds of Hope

A group of volunteers have taken on the task of turning the back part of the Barnett Center back yard into a training center for gardening.



Free weekly classes will be offered to any one on such topics as organic gardening, composting, how to make a flower, vegetable, water and/or a butterfly



gardens.

The goal of the group is to help beautify Huntington and turn empty lots in to beautiful, lush green spaces.

For more information on how to get involved with the community garden project, contact Jenn Williams at 304-840-2500.

Upcoming Events

****Flowers and vegetables for sale** – Every Friday and Sat. Ebenezer Medical Outreach - Douglass Center

****RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AT BARNETT CENTER – “Get To Know Your Neighbor” Community Picnic and Information Fair** – Barnett Center – Sat. May 16th – 11AM – 2PM

****Day of Hope** – Saturday, May 16 – Hope House – Charleston Ave. 2-4

****Juneteenth Celebration** – AD Lewis Center – Sat. June 20th

Weed and Seed Steering Committee

Charles T. Miller - United States Attorney
Skip Holbrook - Chief of Police - (304) 696-5510
Dennis Bolum - Resident Agent in Charge - Drug Enforcement Agency - (304) 347-5209
Thomas Kincaid - Community Resident - (304) 525-0727
Rebecca Glass - Community Resident - (304) 529-0753
Sandra Clements – Council Representative from the Weed and Seed area and Coordinator of Disabled Student Services at Marshall University- (304) 697-7335
Yvonne Jones - Executive Director - Ebenezer Medical Outreach - (304) 840-1483
Rev. Reggie Hill - (304) 525-1588
Charles T. Holley - Executive Director of Development and Planning - (304) 696-4486
Chris Chiles - Prosecuting Attorney - (304) 526-8653
Brandi Jacob Jones – Director of Administration and Finance – City of Huntington - (304) 360-3415
Ann McGee - Project Director for the Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership. (304) 523-8929
John Mendez – President – Cabell County Coalition for the Homeless (304) 523-2764
David Michael Executive Director/CEO - Habitat for Humanity (304) 523-4822
Mike Woelfel - Juvenile Referee - Cabell County (304) 526-8617
Suzan Oxley - School Board Member - Cabell County - (304) 525-6853
Kim Miller - Manager of Women’s Addiction Services – Prestera Center for Mental Health -(304) 525-7851 ext 4506
Larry Ellis - Director of Development - (304) 751-6248
Rev. Darrell Buttram - 10th Avenue Church of God in Weed and Seed Area and Mission Tri-State (304) 522-7160 (304) 523-6203
Jason Metzger - WV Div of Criminal Justice Services - (304) 558-8814 ext 285
Evelyn Young Operations Specialist - US Department of Housing and Urban Development - (304) 522-4068
Joe Ciccarelli - Special Agent – FBI - (304) 526-3960
Joe Adams - Assistant Prosecuting Attorney - (304) 526-8653
Kenny Burner - Deputy Director – AHIDTA - (304) 522-0901
Christal Perry - Administrative Assistant - (304) 696-4486

For more information on the Weed and Seed Program contact **Tim White, Weed and Seed Program Coordinator** at 304-751-6251 or via e-mail at whitet@cityofhuntington.com

Special thanks to River Cities Printing Company for sponsoring this newsletter.