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NUTS & BOLTS

News from The Fuller Center of Northwest Louisiana

Distributed to volunteers & donors
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Park to provide gathering place

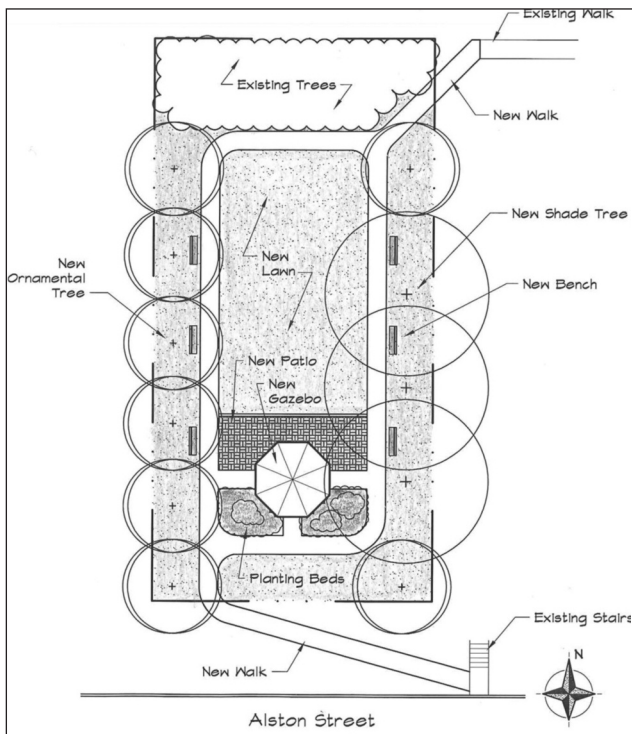
Ground breaking for the Millard Fuller Memorial park on Alston Street will be March 20, coinciding with the dedication of the 5th Anniversary Build homes.

The park will be a safe place for home owners and volunteers to fellowship with one another. The open green space will have picnic tables, and the trees will shade a variety of benches.

FCHNWLA is seeking sponsors for the benches. Each bench can be different and unique to the sponsor.

Shreveport Green is providing the trees, and Home Depot is helping with the park. Over \$6,000 has already been donated.

SPRING 2010



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Two new houses goal of 5th Anniversary Build

Although in modern times the Ides of March is associated with the assassination of Julius Caesar, the date was originally an auspicious and festive one in the Roman calendar.

And so, it is auspicious that the 5th Anniversary Build begins on March 15, the Ides of March.

The build will provide two houses on Alston Street for Yolanda Braziel and Delisa Brown Robinson. These houses represent the 41st and 42nd houses built by FCHNWLA in the Allendale neighborhood. They will stand next to the two houses built in late summer and dedicated in October.

The two new houses will

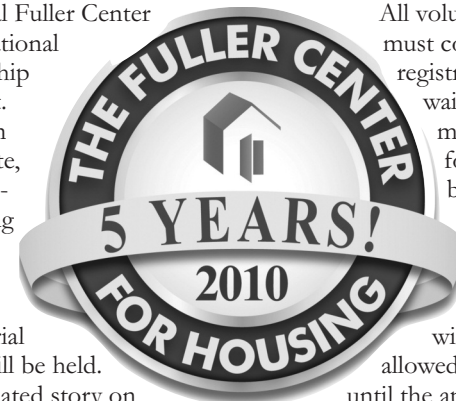
be dedicated on March 20, with Linda Fuller and the national Fuller Center International leadership present. Also on that date, ground-breaking for the Millard Fuller Memorial Park will be held. (See related story on Page 4.)

Volunteers are needed for the build and for daily cleanup activities. Also needed are house captains who have building skills; captains will supervise vol-

unteers and work with contractors.

All volunteers must complete registration, waiver and medical forms to be on the build site. Volunteers will not be allowed to serve until the appropriate documents have been completed.

The registration deadline is March 10, 2010. Forms are available at the FCHNWLA offices, 1512 Clay St., or by phone, 318-221-7474.



Online registration: <http://fullercenternwla.org/fifth-anniversary-build-2010>

Leaders from Cameroon to participate in build

March 22-24 marks a coming together of cultures and ideas in Shreveport when Africans from at least 26 nations meet.

According to Community Renewal International, "The African Renewal Summit is an opportunity for nonprofit practitioners, African civic leaders and others to learn a new approach to improving life in communities in Africa using the CRI Community Renewal Model."

FCHNWLA partners with CRI. This partnership has ignited a desire in some Cameroonian tribal leaders to give back; they are bringing a group to participate in the 5th Anniversary Build.

Because they are traveling at their own expense, FCHNWLA wishes to lessen their financial burden by providing meals and hous-

ing. The center has beds for volunteers but has no bedding because volunteers in the past have been able to travel with their own bedding.

You or your organization can provide sheets, blankets, towels, pillows and toiletries for our African guests. In addition, different groups are needed to provide meals – breakfast and/or dinner – from March 15-21.



Partners' Conference draws over 90, educating, inspiring with new ideas



Linda Fuller (above) joins other participants for Friday's gumbo dinner. Gohar Paylan (below) describes volunteer opportunities in her native Armenia.



"Having the Fuller Center leadership here gave us an understanding of their commitment to eliminate substandard housing," Lee Jeter, FCHNWL A executive director, said while reflecting on the benefits of hosting the 2nd annual Partners' Conference in January.

Jeter said FCHNWL A has built on the momentum from 2005. He thought the leaders observed the local commitment to Millard Fuller's initial vision and also the city of Shreveport's commitment to improving infrastructure, such as replacing water lines on Alston Street.

In addition to the benefits of hosting the conference, local FCHNWL A board members also collected a wealth of ideas. Kitty Jo Boyd, treasurer, liked talking with presenters and other attendees to see how to do things better and more efficiently.

She said, "I enjoyed

hearing David Danel, CPA, who is the head of the Northshore, La., group, speak on financial compliance and to know that we are doing our accounting correctly."

Boyd also found sessions on insurance and how to ask donors for contributions helpful.

Hosting the event allowed many local board members to attend with no travel costs. "Therefore we had many different individuals learning from the talks and bringing ideas back to our local FC," said Becky Cooksey, co-chairman of the FCHNWL A board and co-coordinator of the conference.

Cooksey thought three areas of discussion were of greatest importance locally: strategic planning, development and homeowner selection.

Jeter said he valued learning from other partners' experiences and best practices.



David Snell, FCH president, and Mack McCarter, CRI founder, share ideas. Peter Moncrief, FCHNWL A board member, serves the gumbo he made for the Friday dinner.



FCHNWL A homeowner Phyllis Davis shares her experiences at the Friday night dinner. Dennis Yates, Neil Brown, Donna Yates and Merle Brown, from FCH in the New Jersey Pines, peruse bandouts.



Mayor Cedric Glover, with Lee Jeter, visits with the Michael Dunn family, FCHNWL A homeowners who assisted with registration. At right, Glen Barton, Fuller Center International vice president for U.S. field operations, offers suggestions to Mark Stewart of Southeast Neighborhood Development, Indianapolis, Ind.



WISH LIST

Help FCHNWL A with needs

bookshelves
8-foot folding table
6-foot folding table
round folding table
folding chairs
bottled water
volunteers

OSB board
lumber
roofing materials
storage space
tents
in kind or monetary support