



Habitat for Humanity exploring housing development

August 25, 2009

Delaware County Habitat for Humanity, the non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry, (habitatdelawareco.org) is exploring what board president Tom Whitney describes as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Habitat leaders will meet with community residents at 6 p.m. today, at Church of Christ in Christian Union, 162 Belle Ave., to discuss plans to expand its outreach efforts through the purchase of a seven-acre tract of land near the south side of the city.

The property under discussion is currently owned by Oak Grove Cemetery Association, and is located between Pickaway Street and the Delaware Bible Church baseball field.

Habitat's plans call for up to 20 homes of various styles which could be built on the property, according to Whitney.

"As we all know, property on which to build homes in Delaware County remains at a premium, even in this downturn economy," Whitney explained in a written release. "The opportunity to provide a 'hand up, not a hand out' (Habitat for Humanity slogan) for deserving families in our community is a once-in-a-lifetime dream."

Local residents will have the opportunity to learn more at today's meeting, which is open to the public.

Since its inception in 1989, Delaware County Habitat for Humanity has worked in partnership with community volunteers and local families to build 36 homes for qualified low-income earners. Homeowners and family members are required to invest a minimum of 200 hours each of sweat equity in the building process.

"As soon as we were made aware of this opportunity, our board of directors began discussing the acquisition of the land," Whitney added. "It has such great potential for furthering our goal of building four houses per year with partner families."

newsroom@delgazette.com