

Month of Reported Progress:

September

PACE EH Coordinator/Contact Name:

Julianne Price

CHD Name:

Indian River

EH Manager/ Administrator:

Cheryl Dunn

Has EH Manager/Administrator reviewed and approved this report?:

No

Is your PACE EH survey complete?:

Yes

If your PACE EH survey is complete, list your PACE EH community's top identified issues.:

Top identified issues: lack of housing choices, transportation, neighborhood lighting, lack of business opportunity, and expanding community parks

Concisely summarize this month's activities.:

"The art of leadership is saying no, not yes. It is very easy to say yes." -Tony Blair

September PACE EH activities included much talk of change in the Hall Carter James community. Physical change is slated to occur any day now with drainage, paving, and park improvements. Residents are being cautious not to show their elation until the actual improvements occur as they have worked for such progress over the past year and some find it hard to believe the improvements are finally occurring!

The community meeting went well this month and although I still led the meeting, I have now structured the meeting so that the two main civic groups give their updates. My plan is for this format to continue, but for the community to take ownership of the meetings entirely and for my presence to become that of support. At this month's meeting, the Fellsmere Civic League reported that Mrs. Thomas, the registered agent for the organization, perhaps wasn't the best person to represent the organization. Mrs. Thomas originally created the Fellsmere Civic League many years ago and accomplished many things; however, she is not able to put enough effort into the civic league now (according to community members). There was discussion from young men at the meeting that if Mrs. Thomas was not able to orchestrate the operations of the Fellsmere Civic League, that they would like to start their own organization. This was well received by the community as the young men were very energetic and positive in how they wanted to be leaders and actively continue to improve their community. I asked them to report back at the next meeting and also gave them the contact info. for someone who can legally help them create a civic organization.

Also at the community meeting, Annie Mae Brown gave her update and reported that one house will be painted soon. She signed up volunteers for the project and also discussed getting the churches together to provide Thanksgiving dinner in the community park. The mayor was in attendance and gave an update of community events coming up and encouraged Hall Carter James to attend.

I was generally pleased with the activities this month as I feel like the community now has the reins and is driving their own fate. I'm just a passenger, along on the ride with them. Of course, this is how PACE EH should ultimately end and it surely can continue with the community carrying on what they've learned. It is evident, however, that I need to facilitate communication between groups in the community and help them with formalizing their civic organization. I am particularly encouraged by the two civic groups that aim to improve their community.

The Wabasso community meeting also went well. A local developer attended and offered information and support to the community. There are two streets in the community that never got streetlights; however, forms were passed out to property owners and if they sign and return them, the MTSU can be expanded and streetlights will be installed. As of today, only two forms have been returned.