



# OTRCH Resident Newsletter

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing

Summer 2008

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- How to avoid high summer utility bills
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## Become a Volunteer!

Get more involved in day to day activities as an OTRCH volunteer.

## Children's Creative Corner

As summer wears on kids start to run out of things to do and become antsy, as many parents know. OTRCH supports the Children's Creative Corner, which can offer a solution for this summer boredom.

The Children's Creative Corner is a youth art class that meets every Monday and Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm at Buddy's Place (13<sup>th</sup> and Vine). The class is open to community members ages 4-14 at no cost.

It is a great opportunity for kids to channel their creative energy into



The kids got together and decorated a chair in April.

unique, exciting art projects. The students have recently worked on designing and building bridges, making robots out of recyclables, and creating works in the style

of famous artists such as Picasso and Jean Michel Basquiat.

The class is run by a group of volunteers from different organizations around the community who provide full-time supervision for the children.

So if you're looking for a fun, safe, enriching activity for your son or daughter, be sure to check out the art class this coming week!

For more info contact Josh Spring 513.381.1171.

## OTR Festival



The summer is in full swing which means the Over-the-Rhine Festival is coming up soon. This year the festival will be held on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12-6pm in Washington Park. The day will include live entertainment

and booths offering games, drinks and food. Kids can enter in a talent contest and show their special talent for the chance to win a prize! Be sure to stop by and say hello at the OTRCH booth.

# OTRCH Resident Newsletter

## Simple Ways to Lower Utility Bills

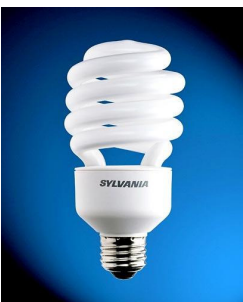
Utility bills can start to add up in the summer as we turn to fans and air conditioners to combat the heat. By making a few simple changes you can easily lower your bills and conserve energy at the same time. Here are a few tips to help you get started!



**An air conditioner uses lots of electricity.**

**Join your local block club!**

**Work with other residents on specific neighborhood events and issues.**



**A fluorescent bulb can reduce electricity bills and last longer than standard bulbs.**

### Cooling

- Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster.
- Use curtains and shade to give your air conditioner and energy bill a break.
- Set your air conditioner to no cooler than 78 degrees and use fans whenever possible.
- Don't air condition an empty room and turn your air conditioner off when you leave home.
- Clean or replace air conditioner filters at least once a month.

### Lighting

- Use tube fluorescent and energy efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent (standard) bulbs and last about 4 to 10 times longer.
- Turn off the lights in any room you aren't using.
- Keep bulbs and fixtures clean.
- Use bright lights only where you read or work. Otherwise, use 25- or 40-watt bulbs.

### Kitchen

- Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold, and make sure the doors seal tightly.
- Loosely store food in the refrigerator so air can circulate. In the freezer, pack items tightly. If there is extra space, add bags of ice.
- Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean; you will save energy.
- Use microwave ovens and other small appliances whenever it is convenient to do so. They will save energy.
- When it's time to cook in the summer months, grill outside and keep your oven off.

### Miscellaneous

- Repair leaky faucets promptly: a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short amount of time.
- Take showers rather than baths, and use low flow showerheads. Showers use less water.
- Unplug appliances and equipment when not in use, including TVs, cable boxes, computers, and cell phone chargers.
- Wash your clothes only when you have a full load and use cold water.
- Dry two or more loads of laundry in a row to take advantage of heat from the previous load.

## New & Upcoming OTRCH Developments



**Elm Street Elderly Housing:** fourteen units of affordable rental housing for seniors. This building will be LEED-certified and utilize a large outdoor space in the back for recreation for the tenants. This project will allow seniors in OTR to “age in place”.

**City Home:** Ground has been broken for this mixed income homeownership development! Twenty-two units of both new and rehabbed homes will be included.



**North Rhine:** We will be taking over management of approximately sixty units in the E. Clifton area. The units are all affordable rental units and were originally



rehabbed fifteen years ago as part of a Low-income Housing Tax Credit project.

**Odeon Permanent Supportive Housing** consists of twenty-five units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals. There will be fulltime social services available for residents to help them in their journey to wholeness.



### Join the Board!

**Residents make up a percentage of OTRCH’s Board of Trustees to ensure that the resident voice is heard in monthly decision making.**



**Mulberry Vistas:** Ten units of new construction, LEED-certified homes on the Mulberry hillside. Three of the units will be affordable. The design was done by GBBN architects. Funding still needs to be secured.

**Consulting services:** OTRCH is working with a local West African dance company named Bi-okoto in order to develop a building in OTR that will house the city’s first West African cultural center. The center will include offices and rehearsal space for Bi-okoto, as well as a large performance space that will be used by Bi-okoto and rented out to other interested performance groups in the city.





**Over-the-Rhine  
Community Housing**

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*We're on the web!*

[www.otrch.org](http://www.otrch.org)

## **Over-the-Rhine Community Housing**

OTRCH was born out of the merger of ReSTOC and Over-the-Rhine Housing Network - two long standing affordable housing organizations in Over-the-Rhine. ReSTOC was founded in 1978 and Over-the-Rhine Housing Network in 1988. Both organizations were founded out of the same movement now recognized as the Over-the-Rhine People's Movement. In order to secure and sustain affordable housing and promote community based development in Over-the-Rhine the two organizations joined forces in April 2006.

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing is determined to make Over-the-Rhine a welcoming place - where a diverse group of people live, work and build an engaged and inclusive community. We can't do this alone and we do not want to do this alone. We hope you will join us in our efforts.

### **Resident Picnic**

OTRCH is hosting a Summer Resident Picnic. This year the picnic will be held on Saturday, August 9th at Nast Trinity Church (1310 Race Street) Be sure to save the date!

