



*The new home at 216 W. Pease Ave. was recently sold.*

Oct. 24, 2007

### **News Release**

## **REVITALIZATION OF WEST PEASE AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD YIELDS DECREASE IN POLICE CALLS**

WEST CARROLLTON, Ohio – Code enforcement officer Dane Brierly spends much of his time in West Carrollton neighborhoods.

When doing recent home inspections on homes on West Pease Avenue, Brierly said that he's noticed the revitalization projects in the "Olde Downtown" neighborhood are paying off.

"I have had conversations with two resident owners in that block," he said. "They both spoke about the neighborhood looking up and criminal activity in the area slowing way down."

The City of West Carrollton is working with CountyCorp to renovate or rebuild several houses in the 'Olde Downtown' neighborhood of the city.

The improvements have also spurred local owners to make improvements on their residences or rental properties that they own in the area. A recent CountyCorp survey showed that residents in the neighborhood have made \$200,000 in home improvements to their homes since CountyCorp's revitalization effort began, according to Jim Martone, vice-president of CountyCorp.

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Martone said that 216 W. Pease Ave. is the most recent of the CountyCorp properties in the area to be sold. Two new 1,512 square-foot houses were delivered in four pieces and constructed at 216 and 222 W. Pease Ave. in late August.

The money from the sale of the homes will be used to continue work on additional properties in the area.

West Carrollton Police Chief Rick Barnhart said the police department's statistics back up the observations by neighbors.

"To date, the calls for police service on West Pease Avenue have taken a drastic drop and allows officers to focus their attention to other areas where citizens have needs," he said.

From 2002 to June 2007, police were called to 216 and 222 W. Pease Ave. 45 times. "When you look at these numbers they may not appear to be high but most of the calls at 216 and 222 W. Pease Ave. required more than one officer and many times three officers," Barnhart said.

"Along with the time spent on those properties, we would also issue 'Special Attentions' and 'Park & Walk' campaigns for the area, which required more of the officers' time to be dedicated to this block," Barnhart said.

Barnhart said the drop in police calls in the area can be directly attributed to County Corps' purchase and renovation of the selected blighted properties.

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For media interviews, call **Rick Barnhart**, West Carrollton Police Chief, at (937) 847-4668. Call **Dane Brierly**, in the West Carrollton planning department, at (937) 847-4642. Call **Jim Martone**, at CountyCorp, at (937) 531-7030.