

# Community Briefing

News from Montgomery County Land Bank  
Spring 2022

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## UD, Land Bank Partner to Reforest Vacant Lots



*Interns from UD's Prairie Internship program, Maddie, Libby and Valerie, help clean up a vacated Carillon neighborhood site in preparation for a Trees to Twigs hazelnut planting.*

The Land Bank's reforestation efforts recently received a boost from a trio of UD students. The three environmental biology students, participants in the university's Prairie Internship, brought their energy and enthusiasm to the Trees to Twigs program in Dayton's [Carillon neighborhood](#), near the UD Arena.

Before planting could begin on a lot vacated by the Land Bank's demolition of an abandoned, dilapidated house, the interns cleared invasive honeysuckle shrubs and picked up wind-blown litter. One neighbor was so appreciative of their work on a cold day, she brought them a warm-up of hot tea.

"The students have enjoyed contributing their efforts to the community," said Leah Ceperley, [UD's sustainability planning](#) manager. "I try to introduce them to a variety of folks in the field of environmental biology so they can experience the work and learn from the experiences and vision of others, as they craft their own paths forward."

The students were also among the volunteers – including staff and residents from the nearby opioid addiction rehabilitation center, [OneFifteen](#) – who helped to plant 90 hazelnut seedlings.

The Land Bank's partnership with the Prairie Internship program was forged through a connection with the [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#), which helps to sponsor the Trees to Twigs program.

## **Grant Project to Tell Story of Historic Dayton Attraction**

# CONGRATULATIONS!



A grant from the [Ohio History Fund](#) to [CityWide Development Corp.](#) will be used to preserve the story of an historic West Dayton attraction located in the Pineview neighborhood, a focus area of the Land Bank's Thriving Neighborhoods Initiative.

Located at Gettysburg and Lakeview avenues on land opposite today's [VA Medical Center](#), Lakeside Amusement Park was opened in 1890 and closed in 1967. Its concert venue and dance hall, the Palladium, continued to operate for a number of years.

A [Dayton.com](#) article states, "Thousands rode the Derby Racer wooden roller coaster, spun on a carousel made of 48 hand-carved horses and were delightfully drenched on a water ride called Shooting the Chutes."

CityWide will use the \$12,750 grant to install five interpretive signs telling the park's history. Grant funds will also be used for research on the park.

In 2017, residents and community partners joined in a larger effort to restore Lakeside lake, a Pineview neighborhood priority. The project resulted in a major cleanup and investments in a new fishing pier, park signage, iron benches, a walking path and other amenities.

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## **290 Properties Submitted for State Demolition Program**



The Land Bank submitted a grant request to the state's [Demolition and Site Revitalization Program](#) for the removal or gutting of 290 dilapidated residential and commercial properties in 11 Montgomery County communities.

Last summer, the state of Ohio allocated \$150 million for the statewide demolition of dilapidated residential and commercial structures not located on brownfields. The Land Bank's request would tap into a \$500,000 program set-aside designated for each county. The funds not distributed statewide as part of the set-aside, if any, will be awarded later, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program rules require that county land banks, where they exist, serve as a lead entity to apply for and receive funds on behalf of its participating jurisdictions.

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## Land Bank Announces Staff Moves



Best wishes to **Susan Considine**, who retired on March 31 after seven years as program manager overseeing the Do-It-Yourself Renovation and Commercial Redevelopment programs.



Welcome to **Paul Bradley**, recently named to the new position of operations manager with responsibility for the DIY Renovation and Commercial Redevelopment programs. Over the past decade, Paul worked in federal and local government in the Dayton region, most notably with the office of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and as Montgomery County treasurer.

Paul earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Dayton and has served on many local boards, including the Dayton Human Relations Council, Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and the City of Dayton Plan Board. He can

be reached  
at [pbradley@mclandbank.com](mailto:pbradley@mclandbank.com).



Welcome also to **Emmy Fabich**, who has been hired as program assistant for the DIY Renovation program. She brings 12 years of experience working at non-profits and local public agencies, including residential rebuild/repair projects as part of the Memorial Day tornado recovery effort with the Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Group. She previously had managed regional cycling initiatives and programs and worked for Five Rivers MetroParks.

Emmy earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Hiram College and is a graduate of the city of Dayton's Neighborhood Leadership Institute. She can be reached  
at [efabich@mclandbank.com](mailto:efabich@mclandbank.com).



We also introduce **Crystal Thomas** as program assistant. Her 25 years of professional experience in various fields prior to joining the Land Bank include community engagement through various local and regional activities while serving as president and vice president of her neighborhood association.

Crystal earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Wright State University graduate and a graduate of the city of Dayton's Neighborhood Leadership Institute. She can be reached at [cthomas@mclandbank.com](mailto:cthomas@mclandbank.com).

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