

Westland acquires more homes under federal program

By LeAnne Rogers • OBSERVER STAFF WRITER • July 22, 2010

Seven more homes have been acquired by Westland through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

The council recently approved using money from the federal program to purchase a duplex at 32018-20 Cheboygan for \$13,500, a quadplex at 2211-13-15-17 Emerson for \$18,000 and a home at 2818 Batavia for \$15,500.

At Monday night's meeting, the council also approved the acquisition of a home at 32352 Keewanaw for \$17,000, a home at 32208 losco for \$12,500, a home at 32540 Luce for \$9,900 and a duplex at 33390-92 Belding for \$18,000.

All of the properties are located in Norwayne, and the homes on Cheboygan, Emerson and Batavia are slated for demolition.

"Part of the program is not just to eliminate the worst blighted property, but also to reduce density," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis said.

NSP funds the city's acquisition of foreclosed, abandoned or blighted vacant properties for demolition or rehabilitation in an effort to stabilize neighborhoods. Under the demolition phase of the program, Inglis said the city has acquired 29 homes, of which 17 have already been demolished.

The majority of properties demolished have been located in Norwayne, which initially was much of Westland's designated area of greatest need under NSP. The area of greatest need was subsequently expanded to include about two-thirds of the city.

To date, 26 homes have been acquired for rehabilitation either through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne or by contractors Guy Construction and Home Renewals Systems. The contractors are each to complete rehabilitation of 20 homes by the end of the year.

"We hope to have our first closing by the end of the month," Inglis said.

People will report houses that would seem to qualify by NSP acquisition due to the condition and being vacant, but Inglis said it's not always that easy for the city to purchase a property.

"We can't buy a home unless it's for sale. The city can't just take a property or demolish a home," Inglis said.

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NO, I have some rules!

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