

Orchard Acres HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHAT: Grant application for home repairs in Crozet's Orchard Acres

AHIP and Albemarle County are applying for a state grant that would help income-eligible Orchard Acres homeowners rehab, repair and upgrade their homes. Funds could help repair or replace: roofs, siding, flooring, plumbing and electrical systems, windows, doors, insulation, heating/cooling systems. Funds could address moisture and drainage problems, insulation and other weatherization needs and accessibility needs.

WHERE: Orchard Acres subdivision in Crozet

The proposed 2012 project will focus on the following streets:

- Alberta Drive
- Belle Drive
- Cling Lane (6200-6230)
- Orchard Drive
- Peach Tree Drive
- Winesap Lane
- York Road

WHO: AHIP, Albemarle County and Orchard Acres residents

- AHIP and Albemarle County are applying for this grant
- Orchard Acres residents who (1) own their own home or are in the process of buying their own homes and (2) are income-eligible, would be the beneficiaries of this grant
- AHIP would provide construction services

WHEN: Now through Fall of 2012

- AHIP and County staff are interviewing Orchard Acres residents NOW to determine interest and income eligibility. Homeowners must fill out the "Household Information Survey" by March 1st in order to be included. If the household is eligible, AHIP will schedule an initial home repair inspection.
- AHIP and the County will apply to the state for this grant in March, 2012.
- The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to approve AHIP as its funding partner for this grant on March 14, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the County office building on McIntire Road. Community support—in the form of emails, letters and calls to the Supervisors, or commenting during the public comment period at the start of the meeting—would help this project move forward.

- If our grant application is successful, funds would be available Fall of 2012 and work on homes would begin then.

WHY Orchard Acres?

Orchard Acres is a lovely, well-maintained neighborhood in the heart of Crozet. Driving through, you would not immediately think there was a pressing need for rehabilitation services. But there are many unseen issues with thirty- and forty-year-old homes that aren't obvious at first glance—and may not be obvious even to people living in those homes.

We selected Orchard Acres as our first neighborhood site for a number of reasons. It is a distinct neighborhood with set boundaries. There were a number of families awaiting AHIP's help with home repairs already living here. The neighborhood is large enough to hopefully achieve a "critical mass" of interested, eligible households. Most importantly, the homes are of a certain age where many will need major repairs, systems upgrades and energy upgrades. For families on a limited budget, these repairs and upgrades often get deferred, which can lead to major problems down the road. Where energy upgrades are concerned, it can lead to bigger heating and cooling bills, which dig deep into household budgets.

Home repair is the core of AHIP. We help families care for homes that are worth caring for. And we are delighted to be able to do what we do best for the residents of this long-standing Crozet neighborhood.

HOW to sign up, learn more and get involved

► **Sign up:** If you are an Orchard Acres homeowner (or you are in the process of purchasing your home), please fill out the Household Information Survey. AHIP will then be in touch to schedule an initial home inspection.

You can **mail** the forms to AHIP: 2127 Berkmar Drive, Charlottesville VA 22901. You can also **fax** them to us at 434.973.3730 or **scan and email** them to jdudek@ahipva.org.

► **Learn more:** If you have any questions about the survey or the project, please contact Joyce Dudek at AHIP at: 434.817.2447 x32 or jdudek@ahipva.org.

► **Get involved:** The Orchard Acres Home Improvement Project will be successful only with the enthusiastic support of Orchard Acres residents. To learn more about becoming a project volunteer, please contact Joyce Dudek. To encourage the Board of Supervisors to support this project, please write to them in advance of their March 14, 2012 board meeting. You can send letters by mail to Board of Supervisors, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville VA 22902 or email them to ejordan@albemarle.org.