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South Euclid addresses foreclosures...

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Green new-home construction

South Euclid's fifth project and home is going to be a home built from the ground up "green." It's being designed by Doty & Miller Architects. The ground breaking is scheduled for May, and it should be completed in a month or two.

"Bill Doty is known for green architecture in Cleveland. We approached him and said, 'We can't pay you much because we don't have a lot of money but here is the situation. In a lot of the inner-ring suburbs, there is a lot of demolition going on because of foreclosures and toxic titles. So those suburbs have infill lots that are empty. I'd like you to take on the challenge of creating a design that fits on a R40 infill lot that is 40-foot wide, which is typical for inner-ring suburbs. It has to be green from the ground up, and it must be able to be built by anyone for \$150,000.' He loved the challenge!" she said.

At present, a builder has not been selected.

"As we get more program income, we'll do additional homes," indicated Martin. "We would eventually like to have a program where we would be able to give a resident the lot and plans. All they'd have to pay for is the build, and they would en-

joy seven-year 75-percent tax abatement."

Visit www.idealhomesc.com to find all of the NSP homes that are available in Cuyahoga County, including the South Euclid homes.

The community gardens

South Euclid has already created two community gardens. The gardens each have 24 plots, which are handed out to residents based on a lottery system.

"It's really been a popular program, and it's not just about growing fresh vegetables and herbs. It gets neighbors out and interacting with other neighbors. People love the socialization, and it brings a sense of neighborhood back into South Euclid," said Martin.

The city is in the process of building a pocket park.

"We're focusing on the Bexley Roland area, which was hit the hardest by foreclosures. That's from Fenwick Road to the east to Halsey Road to the west. We are working with Biohabitats to create a meditation garden at Colony and Halsey Roads. It's a riparian area, which means that it's in a watershed and is by the water, which in this case is a creek.

"A lot of South Euclid is a riparian area. Our goal is to protect the watershed.

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One of South Euclid's community gardens that has been created on an infill lot.

In order to do that, we've passed an ordinance that tells homeowners who live in a riparian area how they can use their property and what needs to be done. Essentially, you want to leave a lot of native plants and a setback," said Martin.

The community garden component was co-sponsored by Whole Foods Market. Employees helped the city with a lot of the planting and building the compost systems. Whole Foods also has its own garden where it grows produce and herbs for its in-store restaurant Osteria.



Linda Chojnacki specializes in real state, home building, and city economic development. She can be reached at lchojnack@plained.com.