

Housing Authority's Woodlawn receives award

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From broken bottles to landscaped yards, Woodlawn Homes Community Center in Painesville is starting to become a thing of beauty, according to the Painesville Community Improvement Corporation.

During Monday night's Painesville City Council, Lake Metropolitan Housing Authority representatives were awarded with the Commercial Honorable Mention for PCIC's annual Pretty in Painesville Contest, which recognizes businesses and residents that try to beautify Painesville.

"The work that we do is not attainable. It is a growing effort here in the city," PCIC 1st Vice President Scott Muharsky said. "We can't do what we do without your help."

LMHA Executive Director Steve K. Knotts said they are very proud of the 70-unit complex, which serves a portion of Lake County's 1,664 low-income households.

"This is a big award for us," Knotts said. "We've been working hard. We're trying very hard to be a good part of the community."

Aside from the Sanders Avenue complex, the Housing Authority also oversees public housing at Jackson Towers and Washington Square. Through the Housing Authority, Knotts handles the administration of two federal pro-

grams, including the Housing Choice Voucher Program formerly known as Section 8.

Although it's been a gradual process, Knotts said residents have taken notice.

"The feedback — I think — is overwhelmingly positive. People, who moved out years ago, want to move back in," he said.

Part of the appeal is revitalizing and updating the properties, said Mike Cody, operations manager for the Housing Authority.

LMHA is in the process of replacing concrete stoops and installing porches onto a majority of Woodlawn's apartments, Cody said. Along with new planting beds with mulch, he added it's a way to restore the area.

"We ask our tenants to be a good stewards of the property, and I think that's a two-way street," Cody said. "If we don't care, they don't care."

Knotts said they also have plans to replace the shingles on all the buildings in Woodlawn and make paving repairs, where needed.

Other Pretty in Painesville winners include:

■ Ward 1: Juan Flores, Sanford Street.

■ Ward 2: Norman and Pat Conti, Eastwood Drive.

■ Ward 3: Louis A. Mio, Gillett Street.

■ Ward 4: Joan Spence, Mentor Avenue.

■ Commercial: Spear-Mulqueeney Funeral Home, Mentor Avenue.