

OPINION

New Haven Register

FOUNDED 1812

INCORPORATING THE JOURNAL-COURIER, FOUNDED 1755

A Journal Register Company Newspaper

Journal Register

EDWARD S. CONDRA
Publisher

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NeighborWorks attacking blight in Fair Haven

NeighborWorks New Horizons opened an office at 235 Grand Ave. in New Haven while working on the blighted area behind the office. We built 14 new units, rehabbed nine and built a family learning center for the community to come together and to provide education programs.

We did not want to stop there, because the next block was infested with drugs and illegal activities. It took us about a year to clean up the properties and put a plan together. We were able to assemble 17 units, got predevelopment work done and a year and a half ago received funding approval. The next day, we received a notification no funding was available due to the state budget deficit.

We have been dealing with this setback while we maintain blighted properties, keep squatters out and clean up when there is illegal dumping. We also pay taxes on all our properties.

Fair Haven is a beautiful neighborhood, very diverse and welcoming, but it has challenges and so we are here. Revitalization is not easy, we are not doing a house at a time. Unfortunately, resources are not easy to obtain and, once approved, they are not easy to get in a timely manner.

But we are not giving up. We provide jobs to contractors and provide opportunities for training in the construction field.

We do our work by building partnerships with all segments of the community and we try to communicate and be open. Sometimes, we are not as successful as we want to be, but we are always looking for better ways.

Seila Mosquera
 New Haven

Editor's note: Seila Mosquera is executive director of NeighborWorks New Horizons.

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