PRESS RELEASE
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BEYOND ONE HOME:
MAYOR BALLARD AND PAUL ESTRIDGE ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR MARTINDALE-BRIGHTWOOD AREA

INDIANAPOLIS -- On March 30, Mayor Ballard, Paul Estridge, President, The Estridge Companies, and community leaders announced improvements already underway for the neighborhood surrounding the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition build site.

To start, The Estridge Companies are working to demolish four to five vacant and abandoned homes in the neighborhood that have been eyesores and magnets for dangerous activity. On Sunday March 29, they were able to demolish the first house and they are continuing to work with the property owners to get approval to take down the others this week.

Furthermore, hundreds of volunteers in addition to the building team are cleaning up the streets and alleys. They’re focusing on the area bounded by Keystone on the west to Sherman on the east, and 25th on the north and I-70 on the south. That totals to 190 acres – 6.6 miles of street plus all of the alleys. Since so many neighbors have brought attention to the alleys, later this week, The Estridge Companies will begin grading them, and, with the help of generous contractors they will pave the alleys.

On top of that, on Tuesday and Wednesday, volunteers will plant 1,200 trees throughout the neighborhood. The Estridge Companies and volunteers are also going to help the neighbors on Oxford Street improve their properties, too, from new paint to siding and windows. More than 180 companies from all over Central Indiana have donated labor and supplies for this effort. From restaurants supplying meals for volunteers, to concrete, lumber and window companies and all the great landscaping that’s coming to beautify this neighborhood. In addition, more than 5,000 individuals stepped up to fill 1,500 volunteer spots.

“This is truly a community project, and it demonstrates the kind of volunteerism that makes our city great,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “Let’s hold this out as an example of what can happen through public-private partnerships and through real community engagement.

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Efforts like the one taking place here today will serve as a catalyst for restoring this neighborhood to its once-vibrant state – creating an outward reflection of the positive spirit that exists here.
The Mayor hopes this will spur creativity and commitment in other neighborhoods around Indianapolis as well. The general public is invited to come out and watch how this community works together to honor and support its everyday heroes. Spectator parking is at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, and free shuttles – also provided through generous donations from local businesses – are ready to bring people to the build site.

The Mayor also encourages all spectators to participate in a food drive for local food banks like Gleaners and Second Helpings. Bring non-perishable food to the State Fairgrounds when you get on the shuttle, and help amplify the positive impact of this transformation for our community.

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