



Miami Township partners to demolish blighted properties

Montgomery County Land Bank overseeing project

Miami Township has partnered with the Montgomery County Land Bank to demolish blighted properties, help renew neighborhoods and protect property values. Demolition of two homes in the Chautauqua neighborhood in the southwest part of Miami Township is now complete and several more projects are planned. The properties were selected from township submissions to the Montgomery County Land Bank, who assists with tax foreclosure and demolition. The Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) secured funding of up to \$25,000 per property.

The first two selected sites, at 6022 Third Ave. and 6049 Second St. in Chautauqua, were demolished in August. Both sat empty and deteriorated for years. After demolition and debris removal, the land is graded and seeded for future use. Six other locations are set for demolition within the township. The exact work dates are pending.

“Our goal is to get these properties back in the hands of dedicated homeowners who will maintain the properties and help their neighborhoods thrive,” Chris Snyder, Miami Township director of community development, said. “The Land Bank can help us do that.”

The township began its partnership with the Land Bank in April 2016 as part of its strategic plan to revitalize aging homes and businesses.

“Cleaning up eyesore properties is a top priority for our citizens,” Andrew Papanek, board of trustees’ president, said. “The township administrator can now declare a nuisance property, so it should help speed up the process of getting these blighted areas renewed. It’s a real benefit to the community.”

The Montgomery County Land Bank was launched in 2012 during a housing crisis that saw a significant increase in the number of abandoned properties. It coordinates the tax foreclosure process with public and private entities, and helps turn them into marketable acreage. The foreclosure process can take anywhere from nine months to two years.

