



JULY 2019

An Update on Our Town St. Helena

Affordable housing initiative: Preserving the diversity of our community

Our Town St. Helena (OTSH) is a local nonprofit that began working together in 2008 with the goal of preserving existing housing and identifying new housing opportunities for the people vital to the economic health and wellbeing of St. Helena.



Emergence of the Brenkle Court Townhomes

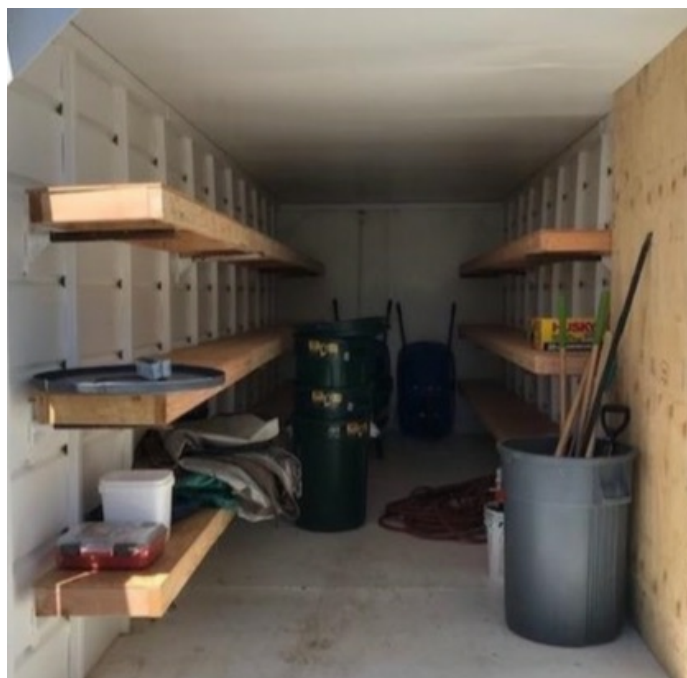
The USDA Rural Development Agency provided low-interest mortgages and the City of St. Helena donated property at 684 McCorkle Ave. Eight low-income families qualified for home ownership under the Mutual Self-Help Program, which means they're responsible for 65% of the work on their homes. [Read more about the Brenkle Court project](#)





Project Update: Construction Has Begun!

Construction began on July 13. Project Manager Larry Vermeulen is turning a group of 30+ people with no construction experience into his crew. He's been training our eight families over the last few months on basic construction skills. The team has cleared the job site and built shelves to store tools. The new homeowners and their teams will be working every weekend for the next 18 months. [Follow our blog for project updates](#)



"This is also about teambuilding. We're not just building homes, we're building community. We need to learn to work together, to trust each other. Everyone moves in at the same time "

How You Can Help

We need tools and volunteers, especially those with construction experience. We also need donations that will help defray the cost of materials and subcontractors.

- Our website makes it easy to [donate](#).
- We've created a list of tools that we still need in the [Wishlist app](#) on our website. You can purchase or donate funds toward these items. We encourage you to buy locally.
- **SignUp**. Beginning the weekend of August 2-3, we're going to need volunteers. [Sign up for a shift on SignUp](#): [<https://signup.com/go/UeZmYwr>].
- **Volunteer for a half-day or a full day any Saturday or Sunday**. Contact Project Manager Larry Vermeulen with questions about tools or volunteering: 707.287.0843, projectmanager@ourtownsthelelena.org

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