



To: Melrose East Community

From: Melrose East Community Association (MECA)

Subject: A “New” Beginning for Melrose East

If you haven't noticed, there are exciting changes happening in Melrose East. After a few concerned business owners got together Sept. 1, it was decided that the time has come to make a “real” change in the way we take care of the neighborhood where we live and work. These business owners stepped up and donated over \$125,000 to clean up and police Melrose East in a way that has never been done before. All blighted properties will be cleaned and kept mowed. In addition, MECA has hired the Baton Rouge City Police Department to patrol Melrose East an extra 4-8 hours per day in an effort to make our neighborhood as safe as any area in Baton Rouge. MECA has also hired a full-time employee, Catherine Moses — a long-term member of the Melrose East community — to come visit you along with BRPD to listen to your concerns and ask how MECA may serve your community better in the future. MECA will also develop a new Melrose East website over the next few months with a goal of keeping members informed of the various MECA meetings, budget, fundraising efforts, projects and special events going on in Melrose East.

In December 2009, the East Baton Rouge Community Development Entity, a partnership between the City of Baton Rouge and the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority (RDA) was awarded \$60 in New Market Tax Credits. Melrose East is one of four (4) neighborhoods in Baton Rouge that has been targeted for New Market Tax Credits by the RDA for making new investments in our community. This is financial and redevelopment support like we have never seen before. Please visit [www.ebrra.org](http://www.ebrra.org) for details.

It is MECA's goal over the next year to show everyone in our community that we are serious about this new beginning. Although a few can get the ball rolling, we can't do this alone. Over the next few months, we will make an effort to visit each and every business, church and nonprofit in Melrose East to hopefully gain your support. Please look around and notice what is happening — we need your support!

Sincerely,

Lewis Dill  
Lewco Specialty Products, Inc.  
Melrose East Board Member and Investor