

Resident Report

New ideas. Better communities.



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Resident Report is a regularly published newsletter for and about Athens Housing Authority residents

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Salute to Graduates



Jeremy Collins, Clarke Central HS graduate, Nicky Cooper and Shanequia Cooper, both Athens Technical College students received the Louise Cameron Scholarship 2014 awards. Jeremy will attend Athens Technical College. Nicky studies Medical Assisting and Shanequia is majoring in Business Administration. Other award winners included Xavier Echols and Tempestt McWhorter.

The AHA honored high school and college graduates at a recent ceremony held at the central office. Valdón Daniel, Chairman of the AHA Board of Commissioners and former Clarke County School District teacher and principal encouraged the students to set new goals for their futures and to strive to achieve them.

College graduates honored included:
Renaldo Billups, Fisk University;

Keithyn Mize, University of Georgia;
Carey Parrot, University of Georgia;
Amber Seagraves, Athens Technical College.
High School Graduates include:
Marquez Barnette, Cedar Shoals; will attend ATC;
Jeremy Collins, Clarke Central; enrolled at ATC;
Xavier Echols, Clarke Central; enrolled at Oglethorpe University;

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Neighborhood Corner

Summer Lunch Program Success

Not too many restaurants can brag that they delivered 45,510 meals to a lunch time crowd over eight weeks, but that's just what this year's Summer Lunch Program did. The AHA has organized the Summer Lunch program for the past 24 years for the Athens community. When school is out for the summer, Summer Lunch Program staff spread throughout the community delivering lunches to day camps, church camps, and tutoring programs. The Summer Lunch Program combats hunger and ensures that all children in the community have access to a healthy lunch when school is out.



Summer Lunch Program staff takes a break on the last day of providing lunches in Athens-Clarke County.

Maintenance Repairs

Does the faucet leak? Is an eye not working on the stove? Does the bathroom door not latch? What to do? Call in your repairs to your Property Management office! When you call, your request will be written up as a work order, prioritized, and provided to the maintenance staff. You will be assigned a

work order number. You do not have to be home for the repairs to be completed. By calling in the repair, you are giving us permission to enter your home. For most maintenance repairs, there is no charge. For repairs beyond normal wear and tear (*i.e.*, hole in wall, sink fell off wall, etc.), there will be a charge for labor and materials. Other charges include:

False Emergency Call	\$40
Unstop Drain or toilet	\$35
Unlock Door	\$15
Unlock Door after hours	\$35
Lock Change	\$25
Lock Change after hours	\$50
Smoke Detector Tampering	\$50
New Door or Mailbox Key	\$10

If an appliance needs to be replaced due to resident damage, the charge will be based on the age of the refrigerator, range, or air conditioning controls. See list on the right to call for maintenance issues for your property group.

Time for a Change

Maintenance staff will be making the rounds of all properties over the next several weeks to change furnace filters and check smoke detector batteries. This is done annually to make sure your furnace is checked before heating season begins. In addition, smoke detector batteries will be changed if necessary. Your safety is important to us, so please remember that removing the battery from your smoke detector or damaging the smoke

detector will result in a \$50 fine.

CLIP and SAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Property Management Phone Numbers

Recently, Property Management Groups re-aligned and you may no longer have the same AHA staff serving you. To make sure that you are calling the right telephone number for service, please check the following list for property groups:

Group 1: Parkview, Parkview Ext. - 706-425-5355

Group 2: Broadacres, which now includes Hancock Apts., and Rocksprings - 706-425-5350

Group 3: Denney Tower and Scattered West which now includes College & Hoyt, Hill & Chase (Hill, Chase, Billups and Lee streets and Jefferies Crt.) and Newtown (Atlanta, Athens, Augusta, and Macon avenues) - 706-425-5365

Group 4: Bonnie Lane, Nellie B, Towne View Place and Scattered East - 706-425-5360.

If you need to request a work order or have a question about rent, work orders, or charges, please be sure to call the right property management group to help you.

Inter-Community Council News

The Inter-Community Council, Inc., (ICC) recently held elections for the 2014 - 2015 year and selected representatives from the different AHA neighborhoods (see chart). The ICC engages residents to participate in their neighborhoods and promote programs that help residents become more self-sufficient.

This spring, the ICC awarded five new and returning college students scholarships to continue their education. Early this summer, the ICC hosted the annual Opportunity Fair to give AHA families the chance to learn about community services and to have some fun. During monthly meetings held at Denney Tower, residents frequently learn about new regulations and guidelines that the AHA must follow and how that information may impact them.

Coming up next on the ICC's agenda is a move from office space at Denney Tower to newly renovated space at Parkview later this fall. The ICC will take over the space that was once used by the Parkview Play School. The larger space will provide more space for meetings and training programs. More information about a grand opening will be coming soon and residents may check out the new space and learn about new ICC programs.

Inter-Community Council, Inc. Board of Directors

Officers

Chiquita Moses	President
Laurie Scott	Vice President
Michele Sanders	Secretary
Mary Hay	Asst. Secretary
Sonya Fears	Treasurer
Diane Foot	Asst. Treasurer

ICC 2014 – 2015 Board Members

Denney Tower and Scattered West

Emma Hunter	Denney Towers
Chiquita Moses	Scattered West
Mary Stephens	Scattered West
Laurie Scott	Scattered West

Mary Hay	Scattered West
Alberta Power	Scattered West

Rocksprings and Broadacres

Michelle Sanders	Broadacres
Sherry Payne	Rocksprings
Marquitta Campbell	Broadacres
Linda Stephens	Rocksprings
Jennine Labuzan-Delane	Rocksprings

Parkview and Parkview Ext.

June Barrow	Parkview
Jennie Mattox	Parkview Ext.

Nellie B, Bonnie Lane, Scattered East, Towne View Place

Dabriah Brown	Nellie B
Shanequia Cooper	Scattered East
Sonya Fears	Towne View Place
Diane Foote	Nellie B
Carey Parrott	Nellie B

Friends of ICC

Milton Carter

Thank You ICC Volunteers!



Though no ICC meetings were held in the summer for residents, the ICC Board met to make plans for the year. Remember, the next ICC meeting will be held on November 3, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. at Denney Tower. Your attendance is appreciated and will help keep you informed about new programs and events.

Home Buying Opportunities

During the last several years, the AHA has been involved with creating more affordable homeownership options in Athens-Clarke County. A number of families have gone from just thinking about buying a home to the excitement of opening the door to their new homes.

Our ACT I Homes program has helped families earning a modest combined annual income to purchase houses constructed through this program. A variety of people working in the public or private sector have purchased homes with this program. Most of the households earn between \$25,000 - \$35,000 annually. For many, their monthly payments including principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI) range from \$615 - \$710; or, in many cases, not more than what it would cost to rent an apartment in the private sector.

Our Down Payment Assistance Program offers buyers with slightly higher incomes an opportunity to purchase a home



Affordable homeownership opportunities are available through the AHA's ACT I Homes and Down Payment Assistance programs. Learn about eligibility facts by contacting the AHA at 706-425-5413.

in the affordable Savannah Heights neighborhood. Monthly payments for these homes range from \$750 - \$800 for PITI. Again, these payments are similar to rents that many families pay in Athens.

All homes in the ACT I Homes program and the Down Payment Assistance program are low maintenance construction with energy efficient features to enable the new owner to easily take care of his or her home.

Several affordable homeownership opportunities are avail-

able now to AHA residents and other community members who may be ready to buy a home.

Interested in learning more? Call Rachel Deal in the Construction and Affordable Housing Department at 706-425-5413 or email at rdeal@athenshousing.org to learn or to share information with family and friends about the AHA affordable homeownership programs and to have your questions answered. If qualified, you might actually celebrate the holidays in a home of your own.

Homeownership Classes

Is homeownership right for you? One way to find out is attend the Athens Land Trust home buyer education workshops that are held throughout the year. The next series of workshops will be held on Sat., Oct. 11 and Sat., Oct. 18, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A \$10 refundable deposit is required to reserve your place. Great information is available when attending these classes. Instructors will help review credit reports, discuss solutions to improving credit scores, and assist with learning to budget before and after purchasing a home. The classes are designed to assist families with learning about the purchasing process and determining readiness for purchasing now or in the future.

Classes are generally held on a monthly basis and fill up fast. These classes are a requirement for purchasing through the AHA's programs. So if you miss the September series, ask to be placed on the list for upcoming fall classes. To learn more about these classes or to sign up, call 706-613-0122.

Be a Good Neighbor

Imagine having a child woken up by excessive noise in the parking lot at night. Or, how would you feel if your neighbor's guests left drink cans in your yard area? What if you worked a long shift and arrived home to find no parking near your home and that non-residents were parked there?

The golden rule applies to being a good neighbor - make sure that you and your guests treat everyone the way you would like to be treated. Your behavior and the behavior of your guests should not disturb next door neighbors nor the community in which you live. Your lease with the AHA states that residents have the right to the "...peaceful enjoyment of the community." That means residents need to control excessive noise from music, TVs, and guests in neighboring apartments or the parking lot.

Guests should be entertained within the confines of your home. Though the AHA wants to encourage residents to visit with family and friends in their homes, please remember that the size of AHA dwelling units do not lend themselves to entertaining large groups. Often, gatherings get out of hand when friends begin to tell other friends where an intended small gathering will be held. The event mushrooms out of control and creates issues in the neighborhood. Events like this are subject to Athens Clarke County ordinances for open containers and noise. The resident hosting such an event could face a lease violation.

AHA residents are expected to provide guidance to their guests. Guests should leave spaces closest to buildings for residents and should park at the end of the lot or on the street. Residents and guests should not play loud music outdoors in cars or with portable speakers. Trash, including cigarette butts, drink cans, food wrappers, and especially glass bottles should not litter the parking lot or lawns. It's best to host large parties or reunions at local parks or entertainment areas that can handle groups. Residents need to make it clear to others that non-residents do not decide to host events at AHA properties.

So, invite friends and family to your home, but remember, keep things neighborly.

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Graduates



Graduates Jeremy Collins, Jarvis Hannah, Amber Seagraves, Marquez Barnette, and Carey Parrot.

Jarvis Hannah, Clarke Central; employment at UGA

Yasmin Hudson, Classic City HS; will attend Piedmont College;

Bryan Morton; Cedar Shoals; military enlistment;

Jamarez Parrish, Clarke Central; undecided;

Tycresha Ruckerr, Clarke Central; undecided;

Jewell Strother, Classic City High School; undecided.

In addition, Nicky Cooper, Shanequia Cooper, Xavier Echols, and Tempestt McWhorter all were awarded with both the AHA Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship from the Board of Commissioners and the Louise Cameron Scholarship from the Inter-Community Council. Jeremy Collins was also a recipient of the Louise Cameron Scholarship. The Louise Cameron Scholarship is named for a former AHA resident who encouraged youth and adults to pursue educational opportunities. Ms. Cameron spearheaded game day football parking in AHA neighborhoods near UGA to raise scholarship funds.

Congratulations to all our graduates and scholarship winners. The AHA staff and residents wish them the best as they begin the next phase of their lives.

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all these.

-George Washington Carver

Coming Soon



Resident Stacey Degutis helps the AHA staff test the new payment kiosk center in Tenant Accounting.

In the next few months, the AHA will introduce methods to make paying rent, utilities, and other charges easier for residents. The new online portal system will be set up to accept credit and debit card payments. Like to pay your bills with online banking? That will be available as well.

There is a sign-up process so we can keep your personal banking information secure, but once you are in the system, you will have access from anywhere you can access the internet – personal computer, smartphone, or computer lab.

Residents paying with a debit or credit card will be able to use a kiosk station in the Tenant Accounting office in order to access the system. This should help reduce waiting in line at the Tenant Accounting window for those who have a limited amount of time to take care of their bill payment needs.

This new system does not replace any other forms of payment, and no one will be required to use it. However, if it sounds appealing to you, we are looking for volunteers to test the program. Ask about it the next time you are in the office, and we will help you through the sign up process.

Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines.

-Robert Schuller

SCHOOL SAFETY

- The speed limit in a school zone is 25 mph for 45 minutes before and after the school day begins and ends.
- Motorists must stop for school buses while students are loading or unloading. If there is no median in the roadway, all lanes of traffic must stop. If there is a median, only traffic traveling behind the bus must stop.
- Many buses have stop-arm cameras that will record vehicles failing to stop. Drivers are subject to a fine for not stopping.
- Instruct children who walk to school to always cross streets at the crosswalk and with the light.

Thank you, Kurt



The AHA says good-bye and thank you to Kurt Genteman who ran the Nellie B computer lab for the last five years. Kurt transformed the computer lab into a learning space for youth and adults. He provided guidance, took advantage of teachable moments, and made sure homework was done. With computers more accessible and assigned to students at the Clarke County School District, the need to have an on-site computer lab has diminished. Shortly before the start of the new school year, Nellie B families honored Kurt with an appreciation party for his years of service to them. and the AHA.

Opportunity Fair



The annual ICC Opportunity Fair featured fun and education for all AHA residents earlier this summer. Organizations from the community such as Athens Transit, Teen Matters, the Clarke County Health Department, Prevent Child Abuse Council, and many others provided information to residents on health, education, transportation, and community matters. Music, lunch, children's activities, and raffle prizes were provided. A great time was had by all who attended. The Opportunity Fair is sponsored by the ICC as an event for residents to get to know one another, talk about neighborhood or community issues and to have an afternoon enjoying one another's company. To learn more about this event and other ICC activities, call 706-208-1774.

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Denney Tower Events



The Denney Tower Resident Organization has organized several events during the past few months. In July, residents displayed arts and crafts at the 2nd Annual Art Fair. A talent show held in August gave residents the opportunity to demonstrate skills in acting, singing, stand-up comedy, playing musical instruments, and reciting poetry. Next up is a Good Neighbors Day in October that will begin with a breakfast, a scavenger hunt, events on each floor throughout the day, and some other surprise events.