

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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Get Ready for Summer

In just a few short weeks, school will be out and summer will be here. Organizations in the community are ready to help plan activities to help keep children and youth busy and explore new skills.

The H.T. Edwards and the Joel Smilow Boys and Girls Clubs will host day camps as usual this summer. Activities include swimming, skating, bowling, outdoor games, arts and crafts, and field trips. All Boys and Girls Club members aged 6 - 14 years are eligible to attend the summer day camps. The Summer Camps will run from June 9 - July 25, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with before and after care available. The fee for the entire summer program is \$120 for current Boys and Girls Club members and \$150 for new members. An additional fee of \$20 a week is required for early supervision. To learn more about the Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp, call 706-546-5910 for the Smilow Clubhouse on Fourth St. and 706-357-5368 for the H.T. Edwards Clubhouse on Dearing St. Ext.

Athens Clarke County Leisure Services will also hold a variety of Summer Day Camps that will combine fine arts, physical activities, movies, and field trips. Most day camps will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before and after care available for an additional fee. Leisure Services will hold camp sign ups at the location of the planned camps on the following



Arts and crafts, sports, field trips and plenty of fun are available at summer daycamps.

dates and times:

Memorial Park Day Camp - Sat.,
March 29, from 8:30 a.m. - noon;
Rocksprings Recreation Center -
Sat., April 12, 8:30 a.m. - noon;
Parkview Community Center - Sat.,
April 12, 8:30 a.m. - noon;
Thomas Lay Park - Sat., April 12,
8:30 a.m. - noon;
East Athens Community Center -
Sat., April 12, 8:30 a.m. - noon.

In addition, ACC Leisure Services offers scholarships to families to help reduce the cost of a variety of programs. To apply for a scholarship, families should request a scholarship form at any Leisure Services program site or download the form at www.athensclarkecounty.com/468/Scholarships. Complete the form

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Neighborhood Corner

Campus Kitchens

Campus Kitchens at the University of Georgia will offer adults aged 60 years or more assistance with applying for Food Stamp benefits. Students from Campus Kitchen will help with making the application process easier and work to make sure applicants receive their full benefits. Residents aged 60 years or more may meet with Campus Kitchen volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the AHA main office located at 300 S. Rockspings St. Please bring the following information with you when you meet with the Campus Kitchen volunteers: your income information (Social Security statement, pension information, etc.); housing and utility costs; and, any documented medical expenses such as doctor or pharmacy statements.

Summer Food Service Program

As always, the AHA will organize and deliver the Summer Food Service Program to about 30 day camps, Vacation Bible Schools, and tutoring programs around the community. This is the 24th year that the AHA has organized the Summer Food Service Program in Athens. All serving sites are open to children and youth up to the age of 18 years. Children and youth not enrolled in the summer programs may still receive a meal by arriving at the serving site at lunch time. Additional lunches

are delivered each day in anticipation of serving walk-ins. All meals must be eaten at the serving site. More information about serving sites and serving times will be available from the Resident Support Department in May by calling 706-425-5354.

Fair Housing Meeting

The Athens - Clarke County Department of Housing and Community development will host a Fair Housing Information Meeting on Tues., April 15, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Training Room of the Athens-Clarke County Housing and Community Development Offices, 375 Satula Avenue. The meeting will provide participants with information regarding individuals' rights and the responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. The program is sponsored by the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, Athens Housing Authority, Georgia Legal Services, Athens Land Trust, and Action, Inc.

Farmers Market

The Athens Farmers Market will open at Bishop Park on Sat., April 5, 2014, from 8 a.m. to noon. Fresh produce from local farmers will be available. The West Broad St. Farmers Market, located at the Old West Broad St. School, will open in May. Much of the produce sold at the W. Broad St. Farmers Market is actually grown behind the school through a program with the Clarke County School District

and the Athens Land Trust. At both markets, EBT cardholders are able to exchange EBT funds for tokens to shop for their vegetables and fruits. The tokens double the purchasing power of the EBT cardholder.

Graduating?

Graduating from high school or college this spring? Please let us know so we may celebrate your achievement! Call Resident Support at 706-425-5404 and leave a message with your name, telephone number and where you are graduating from and what your future plans are.

Snow Scenes



Just a few short weeks ago, there was snow. With school and businesses closed, some residents used their time off creatively to make snow angels.

Rent Payments

We all understand that the payment of rent in full and on time each month is vital to lease compliance. However, a good payment history is also important to your ability to successfully secure housing in the future-whether it's with us, another assisted housing property or in the private market.

This is a reminder of the importance of this portion of your lease and also explains and reinforces the AHA's rent collection procedure now in place.

Rent is due the first of each month. Payments received during the first six business days of the month are accepted as on-time and without penalty as agreed upon in your lease. However, if you fail to pay your rent during this collection period, will be assessed a \$30 late fee and are subject to the issuance of a "14-Day Notice of Lease Termination" and subsequent court action.

Under certain circumstances-and totally at the AHA's discretion-a "Delinquency Notice" may be issued prior to a "14-Day Notice of Lease Termination" allowing an additional ten days for rent payment before legal action is taken. Again, please understand that you are in violation of your lease for non-payment of rent as of the seventh working day of each month and subject to lease termination. Additional time to pay through the issuance of a Delinquency Notice is not a "right" and is not guaranteed. The allowance of additional time to pay through a "Delinquency Notice" one month, does not mean that you will be given this same "grace period" the next time you have not paid by the sixth working day.

A "14-Day Notice of Lease Termination" informs you that your lease has been terminated and you have 14 days to move. Because your lease has been terminated, the AHA will not accept your rent payment during these 14 days. At the end of the 14 days, if you have not moved, you will be served with a Dispossessory Warrant and a "Demand for Possession of Property" will be issued. From this point, further action will be in accordance with the Court.

The AHA wants to work with you to be a successful resident. We understand that unforeseen circumstances; e.g. hospitalization, loss of job, etc., can occur that interfere with your ability to pay on time during a particular month. We en-

courage you to meet with your property manager before you become delinquent to develop a plan of action to resolve your outstanding balance. Your property manager may refer you to the Resident Support Department for a referral for assistance. In addition, the Resident Support Department is prepared to work with you one-on-one to develop a budget and establish good bill paying habits-a practice that is a positive step toward self-sufficiency and peace of mind.

Spring Arrives



Springbreak started out rainy but the sunshine finally came out letting children have some play time at Parkview..

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Summer Camps

and turn into any Leisure Services site with proof of income, residency and dependency. Your AHA lease or tenant accounting worksheet, or, your current income tax form will provide this information. Scholarships help to reduce the cost of the day camp and some families may qualify for a 100 percent scholarship. Scholarships should be applied for **now** as families need to apply before camp sign-ups. To learn more, call ACC Leisure Services at 706-613-3800.

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Check Your Balance 24/7

Need to learn your balance for rent and utilities? Please try our automated system which you can call 24/7 to learn what's on your account. Follow these directions to set up your PIN number to have access to the automated system.

Make sure we have your correct telephone on file. If you have changed your phone number, first call the Admissions and Occupancy office or your Property Management office to update your phone number in our system.

From your phone number that is on file with the AHA, **call 706-425-5292. Listen to the message, then press 1.**

The system will read your phone number back to you and ask you to confirm it is correct. **Press 1 to confirm.**

Enter your PIN number. **If you do not have a PIN number, press #.** You will be asked "Is now a good time to call?" **Press 1.** Listen to the complete message and the call will end.

You will receive a call back from the system within one minute. During that time, think of a pin number. Answer the call, **listen to the message and press 1 to set your PIN number.**

When prompted, **enter a PIN number of four or more digits and then the # key.**

At the prompt, confirm your PIN number by re-entering it and press #.

Once you have done this, the system will connect you to the main menu and you can learn about your balance.