

Resident Report

New ideas. Better communities.

**Athens Housing
Authority**



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

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Winter Safety

It's possible our winter woes may just be beginning. There is still time for winter storms, snow and ice and cold temperatures. The AHA wants all our residents to be as safe as possible during inclement weather. With that in mind, the staff has created the following information list for the winter months:

Setting the thermostat at a steady temperature such as 72 degrees will keep your home warm.

Some residents like the extra warmth a space heater can provide but it should not be running if you are not at home and should be turned off before going to bed.

Never place a space heater below the thermostat. If it is turned on, it will not allow the thermostat to come on as it is signaling that it is warm enough.

Never use the range to heat your home.

Be sure to have a working flashlight, extra batteries, a charged up cell phone, and extra blankets in case the power goes out.

If the power does go out, Georgia Power will be notified. However, we cannot predict how long it will take for the power to come back. Georgia Power must assess the situation which could be ice or trees on power lines or problems with transformers.

In the event of a power outage that lasts several hours, the AHA always works to open community rooms in unaffected neighborhoods so that residents can stay warm.

Have a small bag of rock salt or



Be ready for winter weather by making sure your telephone is fully charged and that extra batteries are available.

sand to spread on front porches and sidewalks to melt the ice. These can be put down after snow and ice have coated the walkways.

If there is a winter storm warning, be sure to have prescription medicines refilled if your supply is low. Also, if you have special health concerns, develop a plan with family members in case you need to stay with someone.

During a storm, there will be emergency maintenance available, but realize that calls may be bundled together to reduce travel time for staff and that the most pressing issues will be taken care of first.

Local station WGAU will carry news of school and business closings. If the Clarke County School District closes, the AHA office will have a one hour delayed opening. If the weather is severe, a shortened work day may be called so staff is not traveling in icy conditions. Check both the AHA web site and Facebook page for information updates and stay safe.

Neighborhood Corner

High Performer

The Athens Housing Authority was recently designated as a High Performer by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Our score of 94 demonstrates that we have achieved financial and management goals set by HUD. Most important to the AHA are the scores that we achieved during the inspections of our properties, both grounds and the interiors of dwelling units. These scores demonstrate a commitment by staff and customers to our neighborhoods.

Tree Plantings



The AHA thanks the Cobham Neighborhood Association for being a great neighbor and arranging for tree plantings at the Hill & Chase neighborhood. Community members were concerned about the loss of trees in the neighborhood over the years. Both the Cobham group and AHA staff were working with the Athens-Clarke County forester to determine tree removal and replacement

strategies. The neighborhood group planned planting areas, purchased trees and worked with a landscaper to have them planted. The AHA staff dug the holes for the trees and will care for them to make sure they are watered and mulched over the years. The AHA is grateful to the Cobham Neighborhood Association for including Hill and Chase in this beautification project.

Columbia Brookside Update

During the past few weeks, new move-ins have started at Columbia Brookside Phase 2. Columbia Brookside is a mixed income multi-family neighborhood constructed by Columbia Residential and the AHA to offer more affordable housing in Athens. Last year, Columbia Brookside Senior Residences opened. Phase 3 will be ready in 2017. When complete, there will be 375 apartments of various sizes for seniors and families. As a mixed income community, Columbia Brookside will offer rents based on public housing eligibility standards, tax credit eligibility and market rate. For more information about Columbia Brookside, call 706- to learn about the community and the application process.

ICC Office

The Inter-Community Council (ICC) held an open house for their new office space at the end of October. The ICC serves as the Resident Council for AHA.

The ICC building has been named for Louise Cameron and Jennie Mattox, both deceased. They were active volunteers and board members of the ICC. Ms. Cameron started a scholarship fund at the ICC to help AHA residents further their education. Ms. Mattox served as the Resident Commissioner on the AHA Board of Commissioners. In addition, the board room was named for Alberta Power. Ms. Power no longer serves as an officer on the ICC board but remains active with the organization. To learn more about ICC, call 706-208-1774 or stop in Monday through Friday.

Resident Advisory Board

The ICC recently appointed the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) to work with staff on the development of the AHA's annual plan which must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The following residents will serve on the 2016 RAB: Donna Jackson, Robert Long, Emma Hunter, Gerald Jackson, CiKeitha Sapp, Keanna Brightwell, Pamela Spinkston, Christine Isbell, Sonya Fears, and Dabriah Brown. The annual plan will be published for review by February 15 with a 45-day comment period. At the end of the period, the AHA Board of Commissioners hold a public hearing. Any comments are considered and may be incorporated before the submission to HUD in mid-April.

Leisure Services Program Registration Information

Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department will now take online registrations for classes and programs offered at parks and community and art centers. For the first time, individuals will be able to sign up online for Department programs using a computer or smartphone.

Before registering, individuals must establish a free online account at www.athensclarkecounty.com/leisure. Payment may be made using a debit card, MasterCard, Visa, or a MasterCard or Visa gift card.

Individuals who received a Leisure Services Department scholarship after July 1, 2015, may use the scholarship when registering online; however, in order for the scholarship to be active for online registration, scholarship recipients must set up an online account. Discounts will be applied by staff after the account set-up is complete.

Individuals with expired scholarships and new scholarship applicants must visit a Leisure Services Department facility office to apply for a scholarship or to renew an expired one. Applicants will receive an email within five business days notifying them whether or not the scholarship has been approved. This email will include the amount of discount and the expiration date and will take the place of the previously laminated cards. All applicants must provide a valid email address.

To allow for processing time, parents must apply for a scholarship at least one full week prior to registering for a program. Applying for a scholarship and registering for a program may not be conducted at the same time.

Applicants must provide a current and reliable photo ID, along with verification of dependency, income, and residency. A list of approved documentation is available at www.athensclarkecounty.com/scholarship.

Those without access to a computer or smart phone may register online using the computer labs at East Athens Community Center at 400 McKinley Dr., Lay Park at 297 Hoyt St., or Rocksprings Park at 291 Henderson Ext. during regular hours of operation.

For more information, call 706- 613-3580, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Picture Day



Families even enjoyed the wait during the annual Help Portrait Day sponsored on December 4th by UGA photojournalism students. Families received a free printed portrait and a CD with other pictures to share with family and friends.

Housekeeping Tip

With our homes closed up tight in the winter time, certain areas, such as the bathroom tub and tile and around windows are affected by mildew and mold. In damp areas such as the bathroom, a lack of air circulation contributes to its growth.

The best way to combat the problem is also the least expensive. White vinegar is a natural acid and is non-toxic (after all, it's in salad dressings and pickles). It can be purchased in the grocery store and a large bottle is generally about \$2 - far less than speciality cleaners.

To clean with vinegar, just pour it into a spray bottle and spray on tubs, tile, grout, and window sills and frames. Wet a sponge and sprinkle with baking soda to scrub areas stained by mildew and mold. Let sit for about 30 minutes and re-apply vinegar to dampen area and rinse away.

To inhibit the growth of mildew, reapply vinegar to surfaces such as shower curtains, tiles, grout, etc. after a shower or bathing. Open bathroom windows after a shower to circulate air and reduce the possibility of mildew growth. Open blinds and curtains during the winter to let in sunlight to help curtail mildew as it enjoys damp, dark places.

Vinegar can also be used to clean kitchens and tile floors to keep everything clean and germ free.

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Party Time



It's not a party without some dancing. Denney Tower residents danced the evening away at the annual Christmas party in early December. There was great food, amazing prizes, singing, a DJ and plenty of socializing and fun. Everyone will be dancing again in February when the Denney Tower Resident Organization hosts the Senior Prom.

Scholarships

Graduating seniors planning to attend college in the fall have an opportunity to apply for several different scholarships over the next two to three months. The Georgia Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (GAHRA), Housing Authority Insurance (HAI), the Inter-Community Council (ICC) Louise Cameron Scholarship and the Board of Commissioners Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship offer AHA residents a variety of scholarships to assist with college. Application dates vary, but most will be due in February and March.

All application information will be available through the Executive office of the AHA. Interested students should contact Carol Kirchman at the AHA immediately at 706-425-5401 or scholarships@athenshousing.org for more information and application forms. In addition, adults pursuing a college education may also apply for scholarships through GAHRA.