

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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New Home for Inter-Community Council

It's getting close. The walls are painted, the supplies are in, the furniture is almost here, and the organizing of space is beginning. This Spring, the Inter-Community Council (ICC) will make a move that will provide more room and help deliver more services to residents at their new office location at 156 Parkview. The office will relocate to the former site of the Parkview Play School which moved out of the space about two years ago.

The space has been renovated and will offer a computer lab where residents may practice computer skills, develop resumes, complete job searches, and set up and access COMPASS accounts through the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS). In addition, the extra space will allow for meetings and health information fairs and screenings in the future.

What won't change are the services that the ICC has always offered, said ICC coordinator Patricia Stephens. ICC will continue to provide notary services, make copies and/or faxes for residents, run the household supply pantry, and continue the scholarship program.

The ICC will announce a celebration and open house shortly after moving into the Parkview space. All residents will be invited to attend. For more information about the ICC, including meetings and services, call 706-208-1774.



The ICC is moving and growing. In April, the ICC office will move to a larger office at Parkview Homes. The larger space will provide room for training classes, a computer lab and other activities. Watch for more information regarding a grand opening and activity schedule.

Summer Activities

With the end of school just weeks away, summer day camp signs begin this month. Because some day camps fill up quickly, it is important to have children signed up as early as possible. The following is a list of camps offered this summer in Athens-Clarke County:

ACC Leisure Services

Sat., March 21: sign up for Memorial Park Day Camp and Zoo Camp;

Sat., March 28: sign up for Sandy Creek and Sports camps;

Sat., April 11: sign up for Lyndon House Art Camp, Teens in Action,

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Neighborhood Corner

HIGH PERFORMER

The Athens Housing Authority has been designated a High Performer by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We achieved a combination score of 93 percent for our Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) score which reviews a public housing authority's financial management systems, procedures for Admissions and Occupancy, and the Physical well-being of our properties. Our score is a reflection of staff and residents working together to make the Athens Housing Authority an excellent place to live and an example of affordable housing for the community.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Athens Housing Authority is gearing up for the Summer Food Service Program which will bring lunches to specified sites throughout the community when school is out for the summer. The Resident Support staff is currently recruiting serving sites at local day camps, tutoring programs, and faith communities. Entering its 26th year, the Summer Food Service Program is a dependable way to ensure that children and youth receive a healthy, balanced meal at least once a day throughout the summer. In addition to establishing serving sites when the program begins May 26th, the Resident Department will be hiring

part-time workers to drive vans to deliver food and audit sites. These positions are extremely important for the success of the program. For more information about jobs and serving sites with the Summer Lunch Program, call the Resident Support Department at 706-425-5404.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNER CLASS

The Athens Health Network will hold a Community Health Partner Class from March 19 - April 21, 2015 at the H.T. Edwards Complex. The class will teach participants about wellness, disease prevention, nutrition, and many other topics. Participants will then be trained to share information with family and neighbors to promote community wellness. There is no cost to attend. Call Gale at the Athens Health Network at 615.828.6263 for more information.

MONEY MANAGEMENT CLASS

Athens Land Trust and SunTrust Bank will host a fee workshop to help participants learn about money management and saving. Participants will learn about credit scores, interest rates, credit card usage, and resources for budgeting. The class will be held at the Downtown Academy at 165 Pulaski St., March 28th from 10 a.m. - noon. Reserve your spot by calling 706-613-0122.

FAIR & IMPARTIAL POLICING

Each year the ACC Police Department hosts classes for police officers and the public on Fair and Impartial Policing in the community. The public is invited to attend to learn about practical skills to effectively deliver effective policing. The next classes will be held on Fri., March 27 from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Fri., April 24 from 8 a.m. - noon; May 29 from 8 a.m. - noon; and Fri., June 12 from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 706-613-3330 to confirm the class location and reserve a place.

RENT PAYING OPTIONS

Remember, you can pay your rent online each month by going to www.athenshousing.org. Click on the "Pay Online" button on the tool bar. You may use a debit or credit card to pay or set up an automatic payment each month. Residents may still pay by check, money order, or debit or credit card in person, Monday - Friday. Check or money order payments are also accepted by mail. All rent payments must be paid no later than 5 p.m. on the last day to pay rent.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Graduating from high school or college this spring? Please call the Resident Support Department at 706-425-5404 and share your success and future plans with the AHA.

School Conferences

A parent–teacher conference is a time when the most important people in a student’s life can talk about how that student is doing in school. It’s a chance for you, as a parent or guardian, to ask questions about the class or your child’s progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter.

Checklist before the conference:

- Sign up for a conference time. Look in your child’s bookbag or take home folder so you can sign up for a conference slot. Review your child’s work, grades, and progress report.
- Talk to your child about his or her progress in school.
- Talk with others - family members, after school staff, mentors, etc. - about your child’s strengths and needs.
- Make a list of questions to ask during the conference.
- Think of ways you would like to be involved in your child’s learning so that you can discuss them with the teacher.

Types of questions to ask at the conference:

- What is my child’s reading level?
- Does my child have any incomplete assignments?
- Can he/she make up any missing work?
- How can my child improve his/her writing?
- Does my child interact with other students, especially when doing group work?
- Does my child pay attention in class?
- What can we do over the summer to keep reading and math skills on track?

School conferences are always important, but the March ones help to make the final weeks of school positive for everyone.

Conference Schedule

Eastside Schools

Barnett Shoals, Coile Middle, Fowler, Gaines, J.J. Harris, Hillsman Middle, Stroud, Whit Davis, Winterville

Elementary conferences are from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wed., March 25, and from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 26 and 27.

Middle School conferences are from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 25, and from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 26 and 27.

Westside Schools

Alps, Barrow, BHL Middle, Chase, Clarke Middle, Cleveland, Oglethorpe, Timothy, Whitehead

Elementary conferences are from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 25 and 27, and from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 26.

Middle School conferences are from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 25 and 27 and from 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 26.

Remember early dismissal is at 12:20 p.m. for elementary students and 1:20 p.m. for middle school students all three days.

Artists in Residence



RaRa Williams helps Broadacres youth learn about slatter painting at a recent art class. RaRa has been teaching art to youth this semester each Thursday at 4:30 p.m. All youth in grades 3 - 5 are welcome.

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Summer Activities

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East Athens Community Center, Parkview, Rocksprings, and Lay Park day camps. All day camp registrations will take place from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the camp location. Scholarships are available for ACC residents. Parents must apply for scholarships before camp registration. Call 706-613-3800 for more information.

The **YWCO Girls Club** Day Camp will take registrations for girls ages 5 - 12 years. The camp will meet at Alps Rd. School from June 1 - July 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., with extended care available. Registration begins May 1. For information about cost, scholarships, and transportation, call 706-354-7880.

The **Boys and Girls Clubs** will also host day camps at all locations in Athens - The Club @ H.T. Edwards and the Joel E. Smilow Club on Fourth St.. Call 706-546-5914 to learn about activities, cost, schedule, and registration information.

Pet Policy

Spring is a time when the AHA staff sees many families acquire puppies and kittens. A word of advice, please check with your Property Management team before you bring a pet home. Several years ago, the AHA developed a Pet Policy with the assistance of residents. Important areas of the Pet Policy include:

- Dogs and cats must be registered.
- Some animals and breeds are not allowed in accordance with the policy.
- The pet deposit is \$200 due at registration (\$100 at designated elderly sites with are Denney Tower and Vine Circle). There is also a \$120 annual fee which must be paid at registration.
- All pets must be neutered or spayed and have up-to-date vet records.

So the best policy when it comes to pets is ask first and see if it's the right thing for you and your family.