

# 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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Save the Date

## Help Portrait Returns



The University of Georgia Photojournalism Club will sponsor Help-Portrait again this year at the Rocksprings Community Center on Sat., Dec. 1, 2018, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

On that day, students will take family portraits for AHA residents. Each family will receive one printed photo and a CD with additional photos or

access to a Flickr account to download photos.

This is the sixth year that the Photojournalism Club has sponsored the event for residents.

Help-Portrait is an international program in which photographers gift portraits to those who may not be able to afford professionally done pictures.

Tips from the photojournalism club: arrive early and have all family members ready for their photo session. Students will work as quickly as possible to serve everyone but it may be difficult to serve those arriving late. Photos and CDs will be available for pick up between 1:30 and 2 p.m.

For more information, call 706-425-5367.

## Trees for Broadacres

Keep Athens Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB) and the Community Tree Council (CTC) will receive funds from Keep America Beautiful and the United Parcel Service (UPS) Community and Recovery Tree Planting Grant for 2018. Funds from the grant will be used to plant a variety of trees in the Broadacres neighborhood this spring.

Through the same grant, 58 trees were planted in the Rocksprings

neighborhood last year. Broadacres has lost several large trees in recent years and this grant will provide replacement shade trees for the neighborhood.

Over the next few months, the Property Management team, CTC, and KACCB want to hear about what is important to residents in the neighborhood, suggestions on locations for new trees, and to talk about possible volunteer opportunities to help with tree planting day and taking care of the trees. More information

*continued on p. 3*

# Neighborhood Corner

## No Smoking Policy

Just a reminder, as of July 1, 2018, all AHA properties became non-smoking. This means that smoking is not allowed at the AHA office, inside dwelling units, porches, and, AHA grounds, including parking lots and neighborhood side walks. Residents must also inform their visitors and guests of the policy and areas where they may smoke off AHA property.

So far, it seems as though the majority of residents who are smokers are trying their best to follow the policy and the AHA staff appreciates that. When you do go off the property to smoke, please be a good neighbor and make sure that cigarette butts are not left on someone else's property.

Remember that the No Smoking Policy is a federal regulation that all Housing Authorities must follow. The AHA began to educate our residents about this new regulation a year ago and all residents received information through the *Resident Report*, direct mailings, the AHA web site, social media, and by signing a lease addendum.

AHA staff are required to enforce the regulation by using verbal and written warnings, and potentially lease terminations for continued violation of the policy.

## Mobile Market

The Athens Land Trust Mobile Market and St. Mary's Community Internal Medicine visited Denney Tower in early October.



The Mobile Market program sells fresh produce to the residents and provides recipes and taste samplings of featured products. Staff members from the St. Mary's Community Internal Medicine group discussed the clinic's services. The clinic is located at 1500 Oglethorpe Ave. Suite 200D. The clinic is a program of St. Mary's Healthcare and Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership. St. Mary's medical residents see patients with oversight from hospital physicians.

## Be Ready for Flu Season

As we all heave a collective sigh of relief for the crisp fall weather, we need to remember that flu season is upon us. Changes in temperature can leave people more susceptible to viral infections. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the best way for people aged 65 and older to prevent the flu is by getting a flu shot. Another important precaution to take is the pneumococcal vaccine. Pneumococcal complications with the flu can result in death. Most flu deaths, 70 to 85 percent, occur among people who are aged 65 and over.

Young children between the ages of six months and 5 years of age are also highly susceptible to the flu and should be vaccinated. Flu nasal sprays do inoculate against the flu and are available to people between the ages of two and forty-nine as an alternative to the shot.

The flu vaccine is safe and has saved hundreds of millions of Americans from the flu for over fifty years. Mild side effects can occur but are rare. Talk to your healthcare provider or physician to make sure you are not allergic to any ingredients in the vaccine.

After getting your vaccines, be sure to follow with up with some simple preventative measures to protect yourself such as frequent hand washing, covering your coughs and avoiding people who are sick.

## AHA Holidays

*We will be closed the following days*

Thanksgiving  
Thurs., Fri., Nov. 22 & 23

Christmas Eve  
Mon., Dec. 24  
Christmas Day  
Tues., Dec. 25

New Year's Day  
Tues., Jan. 1

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Mon., Jan. 21

On-call emergency service will be provided on those days

# Comer Housing Authority

About three years ago, the Athens Housing Authority announced in a *Resident Report* newsletter that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had asked the AHA to provide administrative and management services to the Comer Housing Authority. The CHA was without staff or a Board of Commissioners to carry out day-to-day and long-term activities.

Since that time, the AHA has provided maintenance and management services to the residents of CHA. In addition, the AHA worked with community members to have a new Board of Commissioners appointed.

Early this fall, HUD, the AHA, and the CHA finalized the terms

of a transfer of the CHA to the AHA. The 30 dwelling units of public housing will now become part of the AHA.

What will this transfer mean for everyone? It is still a little too early to tell. Some items will be relatively easy to complete. For instance, Comer residents will have new AHA leases and come under the guidelines of our Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP). Staff will continue to take care of property management issues.

In time, a study will be completed to determine improvements to the property just as we do annually at the AHA.

A small housing authority becoming part of a large housing authority is not unusual.

Several smaller housing authorities around the state have either consolidated or joined with a larger housing authority in recent years. This way, services can be provided in a cost-effective manner for all.

As the AHA makes progress on these new changes and responsibilities, we will keep everyone updated.

## Important Safety Tip

Never use your oven to heat your home! If you have a gas oven, you're putting yourself at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning if you try to use the oven as a heater. Heating your home with a gas oven is not the proper way to use this kitchen appliance and you won't be saving money on your heating bill. Be safe.

## Winter Weather Kit

Fall and winter can often bring serious weather, so prepare for heavy rains, snow or ice in the coming months. To prepare for bad weather, do the following:

- Keep your cell phone charged;
- Fill up your car with gas; and,
- Gather entertainment items that will keep you occupied during power outages such as board games, puzzles, or books.

Prepare an emergency kit with the following items to help your family during dangerous weather or a power outage:

- A battery operated flashlight, clock, and/or radio;
- Plenty of extra batteries;
- Cash;
- First aid kit;

- Any medical equipment/medicine you need;
- Enough non-perishable food for several days (granola bars, crackers, rice cakes, bread, peanut butter, etc.);
- 3-5 gallons of water per person in your home; and,
- If you have children: extra books, games, and diapers.

Having these items ready to go will provide you peace of mind in the event of dangerous weather. Also know that the AHA will provide updates to residents via Facebook and our web site [www.athenshousing.org](http://www.athenshousing.org) and will open shelters in community centers, if necessary.

## cont'd from p.1 Trees



*Rocksprings 2017 tree planting.*

will be available from the Property Management office soon or call 706-425-5350 to learn more about being part of this neighborhood beautification project.

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## *Social Work Interns*



The AHA has eight School of Social Work interns assigned to us this year. Pictured are (left to right) Alaisha Wellons, Brooke Bazemore, Oliva Hamilton, Emily Cesar, and Olivia Tyler. Not pictured are Meera Naqvi and Julia Nailor.

Residents will see some new faces at the AHA during the school year. School of Social Work interns will be assisting Property Management groups with a variety of tasks this year. Currently, they are reviewing documents such as the lease and the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) to help them understand some of the AHA's work. They have also attended court cases for eviction.

In the future, they may be conducting house-keeping inspections and interviewing some families on a variety of topics. This will help them learn about different resources in the community and also work with residents to possibly obtain services. Interviews may happen in the AHA office, community center or in a resident's home.

So, if you get a letter or a phone call from the interns, please reply to their request. This will help them have a learning experience in the profession they have chosen to follow.