

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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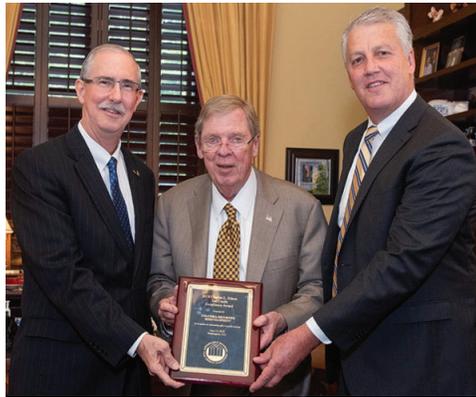
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Award Winning Community



Athens Housing Authority Executive Director, Rick Parker, Sen. Johnny Isakson, and Columbia Residential President and COO, Jim Grauley at the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards ceremony.

Columbia Residential and the Athens Housing Authority were recently recognized as one of the top affordable housing communities in the nation at the 24th Annual Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards (“Edson Awards”). Columbia Brookside, a mixed income, multi-family neighborhood, was selected as the winner of this year’s Public Housing category. The award was presented on June 13th by Senator Johnny Issakson.

The Edson Awards take place each year on Capitol Hill, bringing together members of Congress, businesses and nonprofit leaders to honor Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) developments that are strengthening communities, improving health and

boosting the economy in urban, suburban and rural areas nationwide.

“Several years ago, the Athens Housing Authority had a vision of providing our community with radically different affordable housing. We carefully selected one of the best tax credit developers – Columbia Residential – as our business partner. The result was a complete transformation of an aging public housing neighborhood into a national award winning mixed-income community. Columbia Brookside is now the standard the Athens community points to when discussing redeveloping multifamily housing,” said Rick Parker, Executive Director of the Athens Housing Authority.

Columbia Brookside is located along Hawthorne Ave. and includes residences for those over the age of 55 years and apartment and townhome residences for families and was completed in 2017. Since its opening, the neighborhood has won a number of national design awards.

Congratulations to...

Jazamine Dunnivant, a student at Piedmont College, and Sarah Hemphill, a student at Augusta University. Both Nellie B residents were selected as recipients of a \$1,000 Athens Housing Authority Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship award. The AHA wishes them success as they pursue their education.

Neighborhood Corner

New Driving Rules

While driving in Georgia, you **cannot...**

- Hold or support any wireless telecommunications device with any part of the body.
- Write, send, or read texting of any kind in the form of text or instant messages, email, or internet data.
- Watch a video or movie on wireless telecommunications device.
- Record or broadcast video footage.
- Get out of seat or remove seatbelt to reach for a telecommunications device.

You **can...**

- Use earpieces, headphones, or Apple watch to talk.
- Use voice recognition (like Hey, Siri) to call, text email, instant message, etc.
- Use Maps application and GPS.
- Use one button to activate voice recognition.

Penalties

- First offense: Fine up to \$50 and one point on license.
- Second offense within two year period: Fine up to \$100 and two points on license.
- Third offense within a two year period: Fine up to \$150 and three points on license.

Rent Notices

Your lease with the Athens Housing Authority states the following: "Rent is due and payable in advance, without notice,

during business hours on the first (1st) business day of each month and is delinquent if payment in full is not actually received by AHA by the close of business on the sixth (6th) day of the month." Periodically, AHA rent statements are delayed in the mail. To always have access to your balance with the AHA, residents are encouraged to set up an account on the Rent Line at 706-425-5292. The first time you call, you will need to select a PIN. You'll receive a call back to establish the PIN. After that, you may call 24/7 to check your balance. In addition, if you already have an online payment account, you may access your statement through your email account.

Parking Issues

Most of our neighborhoods were built before many families had vehicles, especially multiple ones in the household. Parking is always at a premium so please let guests know to leave parking spaces close to dwelling units available for our residents. Guests need to utilize on-street parking or spaces at the far end of the parking lot. Residents and guests may not block trash dumpsters or other vehicles in the lot.

Bibliobike Visits

Chase Street Elementary School third grade teacher Cameron Brooks visited the Summer Food Service Program at the Broad-

acres Community Center with his Bibliobike in July. A dedicated cyclist, Cameron spends his summer pulling a cart filled with books behind him as he visits a variety of neighborhoods around the community.

He came up with the idea to get books into children's hands as a



way to prevent "summer slide" and to make sure students are ready to start the next grade level. He times his Bibliobike visits to community centers with the Summer Food Service Program serving schedule or in the evenings when parents may be able to participate with their children. Often, his students have suggested neighborhoods he should visit with the Bibliobike. He has also been to the Leisure service Rocksprings Recreation Center.

Books for Keeps has provided many books for the Bibliobike and other books are from Cameron's classroom collection and he is also able to purchase books with funds raised for the Bibliobike. We appreciate the visits by the Bibliobike and Cameron and his efforts to keep children reading all summer long.

Remember, AHA is Smoke Free!

By now, all residents have received and signed the lease addendum stating that AHA is smoke-free. This policy is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As of July 1, 2018, smoking is prohibited in and on all AHA property. This includes, but is not limited to, all dwelling units, interior areas, hallways, administrative offices, community centers, day care centers, and laundry room; and, exterior areas of AHA property including porches, patios, parking lots, lawns, and AHA owned sidewalks. This policy refers to all AHA employees, residents, household members, guests, and service persons. Please remember that you will need to monitor your visitors and guests on this issue.

E-cigarettes, nicotine inhalers, and vaping devices also known as Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) may be used but only within individual dwelling units.

So, if you are a resident or a visitor, where can you smoke?

Again, ENDS may be used but only within the confines of your individual dwelling unit. Otherwise, you and your guests will need to go off the property. There may be a public sidewalk in your neighborhood where you can smoke or you may need to take a walk to a place that is not AHA property to smoke. However, please be a good neighbor and not leave cigarette butts on the sidewalks. Take an ash tray with you when you smoke off the property.

I can smoke in my car in the parking lot, right?

No, because the parking lot is AHA property. You would need to leave your neighborhood in order to smoke.

What resources are there to decrease or stop smoking?

St. Mary's Healthcare and the American Lung Association held a free stop smoking program at Denney Tower during May and June. Instructor Todd Drake explained that some individuals may be successful the first time and others may need additional support and classes to continue on the path to being smoke free. Another class is planned for August and will be posted on the AHA web site and Facebook page.

Your healthcare provider may offer some suggestions and resources. Help is also available through the Georgia Department of Health and the 24-hour quit smoking hotline which offers free assistance at 1-877-270-7867 or www.dph.georgia.gov/ready-quit.

Breathe Easy, We're Smoke Free!



Jackie Smith of Nellie B and Arlene Stern and Robin Kircher of Denney Tower participated in smoking cessation classes held at Denney Tower during June. The American Lung Association and St. Mary's Healthcare sponsored the program at Denney Tower. Todd Drake, a respiratory therapist at St. Mary's was the instructor. Participants were charged a \$5 fee. Those who attended all the classes received their \$5 back. The American Lung Association provided a gift card to CVS to those who completed the class.

School Begins

August 7th is the first day of school for the Clarke County School District. Watch for students as they walk to school or wait for the bus. Remember, when a school bus displays a stop sign and/or flashing lights, all traffic in both directions must stop.

For parents who must make arrangements for care when school is closed, the following dates are school vacation times: Sept. 3 (Labor Day), Oct. 26, Nov. 19 - 23 (Thanksgiving Break), and Dec. 21 - Jan. 4 (Winter Break).

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Surprise Lunch



Thank you to UGA graduate student Jim Heneghan for recruiting friends and acquaintances to donate funds, time, and talents to cook and serve a lunch to Denney Tower residents in June. He became interested in Denney Tower through a friend who volunteered with another project and decided to share what he likes to do - cook and meet new people.

Summer Lunch



The Summer Food Service Program operated at 28 serving sites throughout the community from May 29 - July 13. This year, 41,892 lunches were served during that seven - week period. This was the 28th year the AHA organized and administered this program for Athens. For the second year in a row, the Foodbank of NEGA assisted with the program.