

- - OUR CORNER - -

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF AMERICUS NEWSLETTER

"Building Bridges For Better Communication"

July 2011

SUMMER READING PALS 2011



(Reading pals visited the mobile computer lab from FVSU)



(Reading pals received free books from Ms. Teresa Mansfield)

The Summer Reading Pals completed another exciting summer of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and fun field trips. The program was housed in the Lakeview Community Center. Ms. Sandra Mitchell from Cherokee Elementary School transformed the Lakeview Center into a total environment of learning and enjoyment. The 1st and 2nd graders listed below attended the Reading Pals Program this summer.

Thomas Angrish Jr.
Bre'Arion Brown
Elijah Burton
MaKayla Clark
Aviyonna Clemons
DeMarcus Deriso
La'Shia Dowdell
Eric Hardy
Rikaya Hart
Markarious Hollis
Seyvion Mitchell
ZiKiya Mitchell

Ejarius Moore
Jamari Moore
Jamiya Moore
De'Onte Redmond
DeAsia Reese
Ajayla Rogers
Shirliya Sampson
Kenneth Thomas Jr.
Kiara Thomas
Knatural Thomas
Jaheim Walker
T'Kai Westbrook

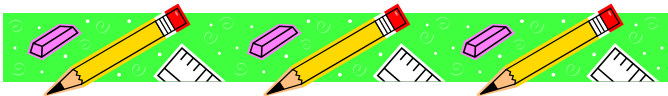


(Reading pals made their own fish while studying water animals)

Field trips for the summer included going to Tokoyo Grill for lunch, the local library to see storytellers, and the Family Fun Park in Albany. The Housing Authority provided free transportation, snacks, and tee shirts. The program was held June 6th thru June 30th.

FROM THE DESK OF
John C. Anderson, CEO

The Housing Authority of Americus is working with an Energy Services Company, Honeywell International, to bring more energy saving measures to our residents. Over the next several months the Housing Authority will be completing the contracts and getting prepared for the upgrades. Some of the upgrades will include changing all lighting fixtures to accept ONLY the compact florescent lighting. We will also be changing all toilets to a dual type flush. The shower heads and faucet aerators will also be changed out to a low flow type. Some of our units will be receiving new electric heat pump heating and cooling units that will save on electricity. Some of our units will also be getting tank-less gas water heaters which can save on the consumption of gas. All of these effects should help reduce our residents' utility bills. A part of the contract includes conducting training classes for all our residents to help them understand how to be more conservative of utilities and therefore reduce their utility bills. We will be updating all of you in the very near future about these changes and the training. The cost of instituting these energy saving measures will be approximately 1.4 million dollars.



WATCH OUT FOR OUR KIDS



SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION!!

PLANNING FOR A NATURAL DISASTER

Natural Disasters have been in the news a lot lately, from the flooding along the Mississippi River to the tornados sweeping across North Carolina and elsewhere. Preparing for disasters can help you and your family be safer and more ready for dealing with an emergency.

Here are some tips:

- *Go to interior rooms and halls, especially central stairwells during a hurricane or tornado. Elevators are bad because if your building loses power, you may be stuck in an elevator for a long time. Stay away from glass walls and windows.
- *Always have batteries, a flashlight, and candles available.
- *Know the escape routes if you need to evacuate your building. Practice these routes with your children at various times throughout a year.
- *Keep a supply of water and canned goods (with a can opener). At least a 3-day supply is recommended; that's a gallon of water per person per day.
- *Have a charged cell phone. Make sure that all family members have the phone number of out-of-state relatives or friends (out of the disaster area) to contact in case you are not all together.
- *Choose a place outside your neighborhood where family members should meet in case you are not together.
- *Have an emergency supply kit and make sure all family members know where it is. It should include a flashlight, extra batteries, a portable radio, bottled water, and some cash. If there is room, include some canned food.
- *If you have to leave your home, make sure each family member is dressed and has on shoes in case you have to stay away from home for any length of time.
- *Have contact information on paper for young children and put it in their shoes.

**PLANNING AHEAD CAN
SAVE LIVES.
BEGAN PLANNING TODAY!!**

SUMMER READING PALS 2011 IN PICTURES



(Reading pals busy at computers in mobile computer lab)



(Ms. Mitchell observes reading pals hard at work in classroom)



(Reading pals wait to see the storyteller at local library)



(Reading pals participating in 'centers')



(Reading pals pose around a finished puzzle with bus monitor, Johnny Merritt Jr.)



(Reading pals enjoy a game of golf at Family Fun Park)

EBONY BRYANT
(GAHRA 1st Place Scholarship Winner)



(Pictured with Ebony is her mother, Rosa Bryant; Commissioners Bobby Fuse Jr. and Mark Latimore; CEO John Cal Anderson, and Commissioner Chairman, Bill Krenson)

The Housing Authority of Americus is pleased to announce that Ms. Ebony Bryant of Hanson Drive was recently awarded the 1st place scholarship in the Technical/Vocational School division by GAHRA. As the 1st place recipient, Ebony was awarded \$1,200.00 to be used toward continuing her educational career. Ebony will be attending South Georgia Technical College where she will major in the field of Criminal Justice. When you see Ebony out and about, give her your sincere congratulations. ***We are so proud of you, Ebony!***



MONDAY - SEPTEMBER 5TH

LABOR DAY!!!!

Resident Evictions & Lease Terminations
April 2011 thru June 2011

Bozeman Circle

1 (Non-Payment)
 1 (Drug Activity)
 2 (Lease Termination)

Reddick Drive

1 (Non-Payment)
 1 (Lease Violation)

Cherokee Street

1 (Lease Violation)

Thomas Street

1 (Skipped-Out)

**Individuals Banned From
 Housing Authority Property**

Windsor Hill Subdivision,

bounded by Douglas Circle and Ridge

Indefinitely

Candice Fuller & Diane Ross

Hawkins-Dykes Apartments, bounded by
 N Lee, Brinson, N Jackson, Reddick & Masonic

1 Year

Chester Mann, Jacquail Johnson
 Kelvin Gordon

ALL HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTIES

Indefinitely

Quincy Johnson & Damion McCoy

Bozeman Circle – Indefinitely

Stanley Lockhart & Winfred Floyd

East Oaks Apartments – Lonnie Lane

3 months

Renta French

Leila Barlow Apartments, bounded by
 Barbara Battle Way & Patterson Street

Indefinitely

Roy Lowe

Northside Homes, bounded by
N Lee, Brinson, N. Jackson Reddick & Masonic

1 year

Kedrick Williams Javone Mahome
Da'Rik Edge Travis Jones
Drelle Ferguson Kimberly Evans
Shanneshia Reynolds

Seniors Are Busy Learning

Our senior residents have been doing a lot more than playing bingo and taking field trips. They have been attending a variety of informative workshops and having a great time while learning new things.



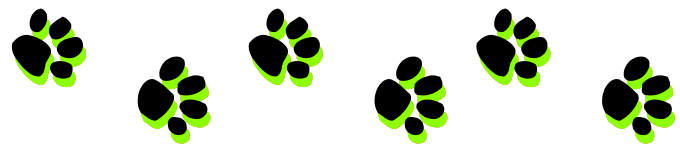
(Eschonda Blue, CEO of Innovative Solutions seated beside Ms. Mary Raines of Lakeview Circle)



(Susan Kyle, RN with Innovative Solutions)



(Keishon Thomas with Fort Valley Corporate Extension)



TIME OUT...

This year we will experience four unusual dates: *1/1/11*, *1/11/11*, *11/1/11*, and *11/11/11*. This year only, it also happens that if you take the last two digits of the year you were born, and add the age you will be this year, the results will be **111** for **everyone in the whole world!**

“YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN”

“It is only the first step that is difficult.”



(Gail Adams with Fort Valley Extension Office)

INSTRUCTIONS...
Back to School Safety Tips
Helpful Advice for Children,
Parents and Drivers

With the start of each new school year, students are once again rushing to be on time, parents are getting them on their way, and drivers are going about their business, but all of them could heed some advice on safety.

Tips for Walking or Biking to School:

- Walk with a friend.
- Pay attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Never cross the street against a stop light.
- Cross only at crosswalks, and never run into the street from between parked cars.
- Look left, right, and over your shoulder for traffic before crossing a street, and continue to check each direction.
- Make sure drivers see you by making eye contact with them.
- Always wear a helmet while biking, even for very short distances.
- Walk your bike when crossing a street.

Tips for Riding the Bus:

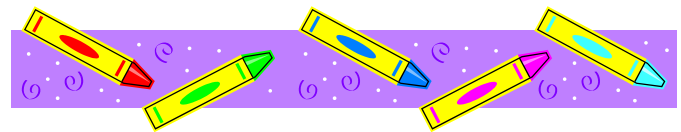
- Do not play in the street while waiting for the bus.
- Line up facing the bus, not alongside it.
- After getting off the bus, move out of traffic.
- Wait on the bus driver to signal you to cross the street.
- Walk away from the front of the bus so the bus driver can see you.

Tips for Parents and Drivers:

- Everyone should wear a seatbelt, and children should be in age and size appropriate car seats.
- Stay focused on driving and don't be distracted by kids in the car or with other activities such as cell phones.
- Slow down in school zones. Driving just 5 MPH over the speed limit increases both the risk of hitting a child and the severity of any injuries.

- You never know if children crossing the street are paying attention, so remain stopped until the child has crossed not only your lane of traffic, but the adjacent lane as well.
- Never pass a vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk, as they may be waiting for someone to cross.
- Do not pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing, even if it is on the other side of the street.
- Use extra care in areas where children may enter the road from between parked vehicles or other things that block drivers' view of the road.
- Watch out for bicycles.

For more information on driver and passenger safety, go to the Website, www.teachers.com/safety.



DID YOU KNOW???

**Thousands of children die each year from chemicals stored and used improperly in the home.

**Nearly one-half of households with a child under age 5 have pesticides stored within reach of that child.

**Very young children and older adults are the people most likely to get hurt at home.

**It's unsafe for children to be around smokers. Second-hand and environmental tobacco smoke can raise children's risk of ear infections and breathing problems; as well as trigger asthma attacks too.

**Children depend on adults to make their homes safe!

It's up to you.

HELP YOURSELF TO A HEALTHY HOME!

RECIPE CORNER

Chocolate Chip Banana Bread



½ cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 ripe bananas, mashed
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon of baking powder
½ teaspoon of baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
¾ cup semi-sweet chocolate mini morsels
½ cup of chopped nuts

Cream butter; gradually add sugar, beating well.

Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition.

Stir in bananas.

Combine flour, baking powder and baking soda.

Gradually add to creamed mixture, beating until blended.

Stir in chocolate morsels and nuts.

Spoon into greased 9x5x3 inch loaf pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour 10 minutes or until done.

Cool in pan for 10 minutes.

Remove from pan and cool.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY WORKSHOPS

If you are a public housing resident required to meet the Community Service Hours Requirement as set by HUD, please contact Diana Roberts in Resident Services for the next upcoming workshop. We continue to bring in a variety of speakers that cover a wide range of topics. There is something for everyone.



(Marie Bryant, Underage Drinking Initiative)

Mrs. Marie Bryant from the Council on Alcohol & Drugs conducted a very informative workshop on “*Underage Drinking*”. She is part of a statewide prevention campaign to prevent underage drinking. Mrs. Bryant informed the residents that Georgia has a serious problem with underage drinking.



(Attendance continues to increase)

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR US!!



School is now in session!!

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