

-- OUR CORNER --

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF AMERICUS NEWSLETTER

"Building Bridges For Better Communication"

JANUARY 2018

HAA SENIORS ENJOY SIP & PAINT PARTY



Senior Bingo Club members attending Sip & Paint party.

The members of the Senior Bingo Club ended 2017 with their first "**Sip & Paint Party**", sponsored by the Resident Services Department. The painting instructor was Mrs. LuShunda Walker from Fayetteville, GA.

Mrs. Walker provided hand-drawn pictures relating to the Christmas season (*candy canes, Santas, ornaments, ginger bread houses, ginger bread men, Christmas trees, etc*). Each senior was allowed to pick out his or her own painting. Mrs. Walker also provided 5 paint colors, paint brushes, and an easel for everyone.

As the seniors were enjoying the fellowship and letting their creative juices flow, they "**sipped**" on individual bottles of Sparkling Grape Juice of various flavors and ate chips. The after-party menu included various flavors of wings, cupcakes, punch, and cheese trays with crackers, honey ham, and turkey.



Santa Claus arrives with gifts for all.

To the seniors' surprise, Santa Claus dropped in from the North Pole bearing gifts for everyone. At the sight of Santa, the seniors immediately began singing Christmas carols. The singing was a total surprise to Ms. Roberts and Ms. Garrett. *What were the seniors really sipping on?*



Resident Commissioner, Mr. Dwight Chavis displays his painting.

(More Sip & Paint Party pictures on Page 4)



**Greetings from Mr. John Cal Anderson
(CEO, Americus Housing Authority)**

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had great holidays, a very Merry Christmas, and are looking forward to 2018. My family and I had a very good Christmas. I am sure I ate too much. What about all of you? It was great to spend time with family and friends during the holidays.

What's in store for the Housing Authority of Americus in 2018? HUD is always making changes; some are good and some are bad. One that hit my desk early in 2018 is a new Triennial Recertification. This new rule, when adopted by the Housing Authority, will allow families solely on a fixed income (SS, SSI, TANF, Retirement, etc.) be required to complete their re-examinations only once every three years. The Housing Authority would apply a cost-of-living adjustment to their benefits, the family would certify about their household members, and the re-examination would be complete. That would be great for everyone involved. HUD's budget (as of the writing of this article) has yet to be approved. Therefore we do not know if we will be getting more or less operating funds and modernization funds. We will just have to wait and see.

Another change we are looking forward to is a newly adopted Ceiling Rent. The Ceiling Rent will be equal to the flat rent for your unit. Some of our residents have had hard times when they began working on a temporary job and could not claim the flat rent. This caused their rent to go very high and

some residents had retro rent charges. The new Ceiling Rent would limit the increases in rent to the maximum amount set by the flat rent schedule. Another change is the adoption of a new Maintenance Charges Schedule that added a very high charge for having a satellite dish installed on a roof. Residents wanting to get satellite TV should make sure they get approval for the installation from the Housing Authority first. The approval letter will spell out how the satellite dish should be installed. If a resident has a dish installed on a roof, maintenance has been instructed to remove the dish and charge the resident for the installation.

What are our plans for Resident Services this year? We want to continue with our senior activities such as Bingo and trips to the Farmers Market along with all the other great things they do together. We also plan to continue our Summer Reading Pals Program for our 1st and 2nd grade children. We had a great time at our Back to School Bash held for the first time in partnership with Phoebe Sumter and a long list of vendors. We gave away a lot of school supplies and book bags. We tried to have a Health Fair, but not many of you came. So we are going to be planning another Health Fair and offer some good prizes for those that attend. Do you need a new TV or games for your Xbox or Play Station? Maybe you just need some new clothes or kitchen supplies! Well the gift cards to be given way at the Health Fair just might help you get some of those needed or wanted items. Our monthly Community Service Workshops will continue and who knows.... we might even come out with some new programs.

Well I guess I have said enough to start off 2018. I sincerely hope all of our residents will have a healthy, happy, and prosperous year.

Live *life*
Laugh *lots*
Love *power* ♥



Officer Daniel Whitt with the Americus Fire Department conducted the monthly Community Service Workshop for December. With more house fires taking place during the month of December due to cold weather, combined with the use of space heaters, the Americus Fire Department always conducts our final workshop of the year.

Fire Safety is the best way to avoid accidents caused by fires. If you ever catch on fire, remember these three things: **STOP**, **DROP**, and **ROLL**. This can save your life. Practicing is important

1...If you are on fire, **STOP** moving immediately. Don't panic and run. This will only make the fire spread more quickly.



Officer Whitt demonstrates how to properly aim a fire extinguisher at a fire.

2....DROP to the ground, lying down if possible, covering the face with hands to avoid facial injury.

3.... ROLL on the ground in an effort to put the fire out by depriving it of oxygen.



Officer Whitt prepares to show how to properly handle a fire extinguisher.

As we are experiencing a much colder winter this year, all of our residents are asked to be mindful of fire safety rules.



Residents stand outside the Cherokee Community Center and look at a safety demonstration by Officer Whitt.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment, like a portable space heater. Always remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed. Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around all space heaters.

Never use candles as a source of heating your home. A candle is an open flame which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

More Sip & Paint Pictures



Finished paintings placed on the stage to dry.



The seniors took their painting tasks very seriously.



Senior paints a Christmas ornament..... BELIEVE.



Ms. Pearlie Kinnebrew with her portrait and Santa.



Mr. Joe Monts shows off his signature portrait with Santa.



The seniors hard at work letting their creative juices flow.



November 11, 2017
Cherokee Community Center

In conjunction with Phoebe Health Care Center, the Americus Housing Authority sponsored a Health Fair in November 2017. With attendance not being as high as expected, plans are now underway to host this event again in March of this year.



Residents stop by vendor information booth sponsored by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.



Phoebe Sumter employees share health information with residents.

All residents should be on the lookout for information regarding our 2018 Health Fair. The Housing Authority will be giving out substantial gifts and door prizes to those in attendance.

The Housing Authority looks forward to sponsoring this and other events with Phoebe Sumter. Along with the upcoming Health Fair, we will again take part in the Annual Back to School Bash on a date that is yet to be determined. All residents are encouraged to take part in the various events that are provided to you and your family through our Resident Services Department. For more information, contact Diana Roberts @ 924-3732.



Resident receives finger stick to check sugar level.



Resident sits still for blood pressure reading.

HEALTH FAIR 2018 – Date to be announced

**Resident Eviction and Lease Terminations
October thru December 2017**

Wilson Street
1 (Non-Payment)

Graham Street
1 (Unauthorized Member &
Disturbing Neighbors)

Thomas Street
1 (Disturbing Neighbors,
Criminal Activity, and
Pattern of Alcohol Abuse)

Douglas Circle
1 (No Utilities)

Ridge Street
1 (No Utilities)

Please obey the rules & regulations that are outlined in your lease agreement. They have been put into place for the safety of your family and guests. It is a privilege to live in the Housing Authority.



**BARRED FROM THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY**
December 2017

Lorenza Journey
Indefinitely

***All Housing Authority Properties**

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SUMMER READING PALS

2018

JUNE 4th - JUNE 28th

1st and 2nd Graders

"Reading is FUNdamental"

JOB INTERVIEW CHECKLIST

Preparation

- *Learn something about the company, including where the company is located, what the company's products or services are and how the company has grown.
- *Have a specific job or jobs in mind.
- *Review your qualifications for the job.
- *Be prepared to answer broad questions about yourself.
- *Take along your social security card, a pen, and a current resume.
- *If you wear glasses, be sure to have them with you.

Appearance

- *Be well groomed.
- *Be suitably dressed.
- *Use makeup in good taste.

Test

- *Listen to instructions.
- *Read each question thoroughly.
- *Be well-mannered.
- *Be confident.
- *Be enthusiastic and cooperative.
- *Use proper grammar and good diction.
- *Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- *Don't forget to thank the interviewer for his or her time and consideration.

Questions You May Be Asked

- *What do you know about our company?
- *Why do you want to work for our company?
- Why would you like this particular job?
- *Why do you think you are qualified for this job?
- *What school courses did you like best? Least? Why?
- *What school activities interested you? Why?
- *What do you think determines a person's progress in a company?
- *What kind of boss do you prefer?
- *Do you prefer working with others or by yourself?
- *What do you expect to be doing five years from now?

RECIPE CORNER

GRILLED PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH



You will need:

- 2 teaspoons butter
- 2 slices white bread
- 1 teaspoon peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons any flavor fruit jelly

Directions:

- *Heat griddle or skillet to 350 degrees.
- *Spread butter on one side of each slice of bread.
- *Spread peanut butter on unbuttered side of one slice of bread, and jelly on the other.
- *Place one buttered slice down on the griddle.
- *Top with other slice, so that peanut butter and jelly are in the middle.
- *Cook for 4 minutes on each side, or until golden brown, and heated through.

**"This is peanut butter with a twist.
The kids will thank you for them."**

Note: Increase ingredients to match the number of sandwiches you are preparing.

GEORGIA CHILI



You will need:

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1 chopped onion
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon shortening
- 2 cups tomato juice
- 2 stalks diced celery
- 1 diced green pepper
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 1 can kidney beans

Directions:

- *Season ground beef with salt and pepper to taste.
- *Brown ground beef and onion; mix with 1 tablespoon chili powder, and shortening
- *Add tomato juice, celery, green pepper, and remaining 2 tablespoons chili powder
- *Simmer slowly for 45 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

(If mixture cooks down, add more tomato juice or water).

- *Add tomatoes and simmer 15 minutes longer.
- *Add kidney beans and simmer 2-3 minutes or until beans are tender.

NOTE: Ground beef can be replaced with turkey or ground beef and turkey can be used together. Using stew beef with the ground beef enhances the overall taste of the chili. Two cans of pinto beans can be used and the shortening can be omitted. If your family isn't big on celery, try using one stalk instead of two. Also, feel free to experiment with different kinds of canned beans.

Your family is sure to enjoy this dish!!

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR



*2018 Scholarship Applications for
High School & Adult Students*