

- - OUR CORNER - -
THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF AMERICUS NEWSLETTER
"Building Bridges For Better Communication"

AUGUST 2019

"SENIOR PROM 2019"
"SPARKLING UNDER THE STARS"



Mr. Donnie Lewis & Ms. Mary Walker enter the prom venue.

The Senior Bingo Club and special guests came together for a night of dancing, food, fellowship, and fun as the Housing Authority of Americus sponsored **Senior Prom 2019**. The theme for the evening was **"Sparkling Under The Stars"**. The rainy weather on the outside was no match for the excitement on the inside of the John C. Anderson Community Building as the seniors and their guests danced the evening away.

The attire for the evening was dressy to formal. The ladies wore beautiful dresses and gowns of all lengths and colors that were beautifully accessorized with dazzling pieces of jewelry and evening footwear. The men wore a mixture of casual outfits to suits complete with coats, ties and matching hats.

Some of the seniors were escorted by their own dates. For the ladies who came alone, there were some special gentlemen on hand to make sure every lady got to dance during the evening. Helping out on the dance floor were Colonel Eric Bryant, Mr. Stephen Woodson, Mr. Henry Roberts, Mr. Roderick Haugabook, and Mr. Johnny Durham. Also, the men from the Senior Bingo Club were in attendance.



Mr. Johnny Evans and Ms. Geraldine Tippins lead the seniors down "The Soul Train Line"

The photographer was Mr. Ray Harris. In addition to taking group shots throughout the prom, Mr. Harris took individual pictures of all the seniors. Each senior received a free 8x10 to commemorate the event. Catering was provided by Mrs. Diane Monts who did an excellent job and provided an array of food items that the seniors thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. Suleania Bryant provided the decorations that transformed the Community Building into a breath-taking prom venue. The venue was decorated in colors of gray, white, and black.



Mr. (Albert) and Mrs. (Dorothy) Dowdell

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Mr. George F. Edge, CEO

Possible Conversion to the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program (RAD)

On September 11, 2018, we held a meeting at South Georgia Technical College to explain our plans to convert all of our housing units from the Public Housing Program to Section 8 Rental Assistance under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program. We had approximately 29 residents in attendance to hear how this change may impact them.

RAD is a voluntary program run by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Under RAD, HUD will change the way it provides rental assistance to the property from Public Housing to a long-term Section 8 assistance contract. The Section 8 Program would make it easier for us to access money to repair and improve the property either now or in the future.

How will RAD Conversion Affect Residents?

Residents' rental calculations are the same under the RAD Program; therefore your rental payment will still be based on 30% of your adjusted income. This conversion will NOT affect your rental assistance eligibility. You will not be subject to new eligibility screenings. In some rare occasions, when a resident's rent

increases to the ceiling rent level, then the increase would be phased in over a period of time.

Your Right to Return

You have the right to return to an assisted unit once any construction work is completed. However, we may need to move you during construction and your post-construction home will be a different unit than your current home.

Your Right to Relocation Assistance

In some situations, we may need to relocate you from your current unit temporarily in order to complete repairs or to do construction. Since we are at the beginning of the planning process, we do not know whether you will need to move. However, if you are required to move, you are entitled to certain relocation protections under the RAD rules, including in all cases, advance written notice and detailed information about the move.

What to Expect in the Coming Months

As a part of the conversion process, we are required to do what is called a Capital Needs Assessment (CNA). The CNA is a thorough assessment of the condition of our Public Housing inventory. We have contracted with a firm to conduct this assessment, and will be required to enter your units and assess the conditions of items like the doors, windows, floors, HVAC units, lighting, and etc. I am asking that when you receive notification about this that you please make every effort possible to cooperate with these accessors.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (229) 924-3386, Ext.211 or ceohaa@gmail.com.

Finally, Without You There Would Be No Me.

**OUR
RESIDENTS
MATTER!!!!**

SENIOR PROM 2019



Ms. Kay D. Jones and Ms. Diana Roberts

A beautiful customized prom photo frame was created by Ms. Priscilla Blakely of *Frame on Life*. The frame was presented to Ms. Kay Dee Jones who recently completed treatment for lung cancer. Ms. Jones had been undergoing treatment which caused her to miss all bingo club activities for a very long time. The seniors welcomed Ms. Jones back and applauded her for her successful battle. Now her laughter can return to the bus on our field trips. There is never a dull moment with Ms. Kay Dee Jones.



Mr. Marvin Reagan & Ms. Margaree Maynard take to the dance floor.



Taking a break from the dance floor, the seniors enjoyed some really good food.

The evening ended with memories of days gone by and of the new memories just made. Thanks to the Housing Authority of Americus for giving the Senior Bingo Club members an evening that they will long remember. Spirits were lifted and if only for a moment; the young-at-heart were suddenly young again. One thing for sure, **"The Senior Prom"** has now been placed on the Annual Calendar of Events for the Housing Authority of Americus. So if you missed it this year.....**we will see you at Senior Prom 2020!!**



Mr. George Edge, CEO and his wife, Mrs. Lindsey Edge enjoyed the fellowship with the Senior Bingo Club members and their guests.



SUMMER READING PALS 2019 (#28YearsOfSuccess)



Ms. Jessica Sinclair (guest reader) & Reading Pals



Ms. Sandra Mitchell distributes work assignments.



Ms. Jessica Sinclair (left) brings "new" **FREE BOOKS** to the Reading Pals from **Sumter County Family Connection**



Summer Reading Pals line up for "Snack Time".



Mr. George Edge, CEO, gives out high-fives after reading to the class.



L-R Ms. Sandra Mitchell (*Instructor*) and Ms. TiAsia Brown (*Bus Monitor*), along with the Reading Pals outside of Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse in Albany. Year #28 was a **SUCCESS!!**



Reading Pals are all smiles while wearing their personally designed and crayon colored summer hats.



It's time to start on another classroom project!!



Mr. Bill Krenson is always a hit with the Reading Pals as a guest reader. Ms. Sandra Mitchell presented him with a "*Book of Thanks*" filled with hand-written thank you notes from the class.



Last Day of Class = CLASSROOM PARTY!!!



The Reading Pals eagerly await "*The Fire*" to flame up as the chef cleans the grill. Ms. Mitchell gave adequate warning of what to expect but it still was quite a shock when the tall flames suddenly appeared right before their very eyes.



**WE WILL MAKE YOU
PROUD OF US WHEN WE
RETURN TO SCHOOL!!**

SENIOR BINGO CLUB MEMBERS DISPLAY THEIR TALENTS

There are so many talented seniors residing in the Housing Authority of Americus. Each month prior to our monthly bingo games, the seniors are given time to display their talents (*poetry, crochet, painting, etc.*). These are just a few, with more to come.



Mr. Johnny Evans

First up was **Mr. Johnny Evans**. His fellow members of the Senior Bingo Club were just blown away to find out that Johnny is an incredible **writer**. He read one of his original writings entitled "*The Doors of Life*". Johnny enjoys writing in his spare time and he has quite a collection of beautiful pieces. We suggested to Johnny that he should begin looking for an avenue to discover if some of his work can be published. Yes, he is just that good. **GO FOR IT JOHNNY!! We believe in you.**

Ms. **Doris Robinson** took on the task of teaching the seniors her favorite hobby of **crocheting**. The group had lots of fun trying to master the art of crocheting. Some of the seniors mastered the task easily; while others are still learning. Ms. Doris display a beautiful throw blanket that she had made at home. Ms. Doris is quite an expert; having been actively crocheting for several years. It was fun for everyone.

THANK YOU MS. DORIS!!



L-R Ms. Shirlene Johnson, Ms. Margaret Maynard,
Ms. Sharon Williams



L-R Ms. Etta McDonald, Ms. Geraldine Angry (**Ms. Doris Robinson**),
Mr. Dwight Chavis and Ms. Pearl Kinnebrew



L-R Ms. Lucille Robbins and Ms. Beverly Davis

One of the best kept secrets that we had among us was that we were playing bingo month after month with *an aspiring artist*; none other than **Ms. Geraldine Tippins**. Shown here are several pieces of art work that were displayed during her presentation. Ms. Tippins has sold several paintings and have had her work on display at various art exhibits in the area. Ms. Tippins uses *pencil, charcoal, colored pencils, oil crayons, and pastels* in her art work.



Ms. Tippins gives out some drawing tips.



Ms. Tippins showed a variety of paintings; Assisting her is Mr. Johnny Evans



Ms. Tippins explains the "inspiration" behind her artwork.

If you are a senior and would like to share a particular gift or talent that you have, please contact Diana Roberts at (229) 924-3386, Ext 240 to get placed on our monthly schedule. We are eagerly looking forward to sharing in the cooking gifts of our seniors as well.

***We are all gifted; we just
unwrap our packages at
different times!!!***



Ms. Tippins inputs "purpose" in all of her work.

Most of Ms. Tippins' paintings are of actual people that she has met at some point in her life. She lived in New York City for several years and some of her artwork captures people and circumstances from that time period of her life. Ms. Tippins currently accepts painting requests.

HOUSING AUTHORITY GETS NEW BUS



**Ms. Diana Roberts (Resident Services Coordinator)
Mr. George Edge (CEO)**

If you think there is something different about the Housing Authority's bus.....there is. It is a brand new **2019 Ford F550**. The Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of a new bus to replace the retiring 2007 Ford E450 bus which was purchased new in March 2007.

The new bus was ordered to our own specifications. It will continue to be used for our Senior Bingo Club field trips and our Summer Reading Pals Program. Our Resident Services Coordinator, Diana Roberts, was consulted and helped Mr. Edge select the final specifications.



**Ms. Diana Roberts & Mr. George Edge with
Ms. Karla Lynch (Transit Sales Coordinator with
The Bus Center)**



2019 II HD on Ford F550 Chassis

Some amenities of the new bus are Driver's Side Running Board, Passenger Entry Door Activated Interior Lights, Full Color Back Up Camera System, Driver's Storage with Lock, Overhead Luggage Rack on Both Sides, Rear Cargo Net to Include Roof Hatch, Back Up Alarm, Rosco Back Up Camera with 7" Monitor, Parallel Entry Grab Rail at Passenger Door, Electric Passenger Entry Door with Exterior Key Switch, High Back Rigid Passenger Seats, Mid Back Notch Back Three Step Foldaway Seats, Upholstered Flip Up Armrest, Recliners for High Back Passenger Seats, Aisle Side Sliders, and Retractable Seat Belts.....and more.



Main Office Number
(229) 924-3386

Maintenance Department
(229) 924-9073

Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

WALK-IN WEDNESDAYS (Every Wednesday)

Our Maintenance Department is open for "emergency work orders ONLY" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

RECIPE CORNER

CHOCOLATE OATMEAL NO-BAKE COOKIES



You will need:

2 cups sugar
½ cup cocoa
1 stick butter
½ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups quick-cooking oatmeal
½ cup peanut butter (optional)

Preparation:

-Combine sugar, cocoa, butter and milk in a saucepan.

-On medium heat, bring to a boil for one full minute.

-Remove from heat.

-Stir in peanut butter (*optional*), vanilla and oatmeal.

-Drop by spoonful onto wax paper.

-Let cool for at least 30 minutes.

Yields 2 dozen cookies

(Excellent with a glass of cold milk!!)

BEEF STROGANOFF



You will need:

1 ½ pound beef (tenderloin or top sirloin)	
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour	
1 clove garlic, minced or pressed	
Hot buttered noodles (4 servings)	
1 teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons butter
1 small onion, minced	1 teaspoon paprika
¼ teaspoon pepper	¾ cup sour cream

-Cut meat into ¼ x 4" strips.

-Mix flour with the salt. Toss meat with the mixture. Heat butter in heavy frying pan. Add garlic and onion. Sauté garlic until lightly browned. Spoon out and set aside.

-Add meat to same pan, a few pieces at a time. Brown quickly and keep pieces as separate as possible to prevent "stewing" the meat.

-When all meat is browned, return onion and garlic to pan. Sprinkle with paprika and pepper.

-Blend well. Fold in the sour cream.

-Heat slowly; do not boil.

-Serve over hot buttered noodles. Garnish with parsley and butter sautéed mushroom caps.

HOUSING AUTHORITY WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES



Mr. Robert C. Hawkins (Maintenance Mechanic)

The Housing Authority Family continues to grow. We are honored to present to you our two newest employees, Mr. Roberts Hawkins and Mr. Reginald Carter. Both of these employees came aboard in August and have already proven to be excellent additions to our workforce.

We welcome **Mr. Roberts Hawkins** into the family as a **Maintenance Mechanic**. Mr. Hawkins comes to the Housing Authority by way of Tyson Foods. While at Tyson, Mr. Hawkins worked as a maintenance technician. He is married to Mrs. Jacqueline Hawkins and they are parents to 5 girls and they have 7 grandchildren. Mr. Hawkins loves sports; in particular *Step Curry* and those *Golden State Warriors*.



**Mr. Reginald D. Carter
(Maintenance Mechanic Assistant)**

We also welcome **Mr. Reginald Carter** into the family as a **Maintenance Mechanic Assistant**. Mr. Carter comes to the Housing Authority by way of Tyson Foods also. Formerly, he worked as a machine operator. He is married to Mrs. Jennifer Carter and they are the parents of 3 boys, 6 girls and they have 9 grandchildren.

Yes, both new employees worked at the same Tyson Foods location. However, they worked different shifts, different departments and had never met each other prior to coming to work for the Housing Authority of Americus. *Now just how cool is that?*

Join us in welcoming our new family members. When you see them around in the housing locations, take the time out to introduce yourself and welcome them into our family.



**"ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM
SENIOR PROM 2019"**



Ms. Doris Robinson receives a door prize from Ms. Roberts



Mr. Stephen Woodson & Ms. Kay Dee Jones



**Mr. Johnny Durham and Ms. Theresa Sanford
played an excellent mixture of music
throughout the evening; while
occasionally taking to the dance floor themselves.**



Seniors & their guests



**Ms. Sharon Haugabook (*Public Housing Project
Manager*) takes a turn on the dance floor.**



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AMERICUS, GEORGIA 31709
PERMIT #447

Our corner is a quarterly publication of the:
Housing Authority of Americus
825 North Mayo Street
Americus, Georgia 31709

CEO..... George F. Edge
Photographer..... Diana H. Roberts

Board of Commissioners:

Bobby L. Fuse Jr.	G. Bardin Hooks, Jr.
Ricky Arnold	Dwight Chavis
Jessica Wright	Bill Krenson

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



CENSUS 2020

SUMTER COUNTY

“COUNT IT UP”