

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

DECEMBER 2018

The End of an Era, The Turning of a Page



Mr. John C. "Cal" Anderson" (Outgoing CEO) and Mr. George F. Edge (Incoming CEO) of the Housing Authority of Americus

The Board of Commissioners and the staff of the Americus Housing Authority are honored beyond measure to dedicate this publication of our newsletter to our CEO, Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson. A wise man once said *"Choose a job that you love and you won't have to work another day."* After over 30 years of par-excellent service, Mr. Anderson will be retiring from the Americus Housing Authority as of December 31, 2018. We ask that you come journey with us through this publication as we cover the Retirement Celebration; along with some of the numerous accomplishments and highly distinguished honors of Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson for performing a job well done in the area of safe and affordable housing within the City of Americus, Andersonville, Leslie and Plains.



Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson, CEO

WHERE DID ALL THE TIME GO?

It all started on January 4, 1988, when I started working as the third Executive Director of the Americus Housing Authority. Back then, the main office was located on Sumter Circle just off of Parker Street. It was where the current units on Waitsman Drive are located. One of the first major tasks then Board Chairman Arthur Cheokas requested that I work on was to get a new office for the Housing Authority. The old office at that time had been added onto so many times that you almost had to have a map to find your way around the place. So in 1992, we moved into our current headquarters on Mayo Street.

Shortly after we moved to our new offices on Mayo Street, Americus suffered a major flood. It started the night of July 4, 1994, and it left our little town really messed up. Several people lost their lives, others lost their homes, and we even had some mobile homes to start floating off their lots. Then Mayor Russell Thomas, Jr., asked the Housing Authority to help with the rebuilding of Americus by eliminating the mobile home park on Southerfield Road. The City received some Emergency Community Development Block funds and they used some of those funds to help build the infrastructure for the 30 units of housing on Lewis Lowe Court and Tom Gaily Plaza.

That was the beginning of my 30 plus years of working at the Housing Authority of Americus. During my years in Americus, the Housing Authority has had many changes. Old public housing was torn down,

new public housing and locally owned housing was added, units were modernized, some staff members left and new staff members came on board. Programs started and are still in existence and some programs were started and just did not work out. That is the way things are. You never know how well a program will work until you try it.

Two of the best programs during my tenure here have been the *Summer Reading Pals Program* and the *Senior Bingo Club*. You should see the eyes of those first and second grade kids during this program. They really enjoy that program. Our Senior Bingo Club members can get some of those same looks when we carry them to different events or when they play bingo for some of the prizes that are given away.

You know, it is nice to see old worn out housing torn down and new affordable housing replacing it. It is nice to see the faces of all the people who have received housing and know that you had a hand in providing God's children with a place to live and raise their families. It is nice to see neighborhoods embrace their neighbors as family and support each other. It is too bad that we don't see more of that now.

Speaking of families, a management style that I like to use is to treat the staff that work for you as you would your own family. Many of the HAA family members have come and gone. New ones replace the ones that leave. There is only one person that is still working at the Housing Authority that was here when I came. His name is George F. Edge. He has worked his way up thru the ranks and effective 1/1/2019, he will be replacing me as Chief Executive Officer of the Housing Authority.

It has been a pleasure working with the residents, staff, and commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Americus these 30 plus years. Have a great life family! *Where did all the time go!*

**THE END OF AN ERA;
THE TURNING OF A PAGE**

Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson

January 4, 1988 – December 31, 2018

30 Years

Some Accomplishments of Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson

1. Relocated the Central Office from Sumter Circle to 825 Mayo Street in 1991.
2. Formed the Summer Reading Pals Program in 1991.
3. Formed the Senior Bingo Club in 1991.
4. Demolished 159 Public Housing units in Sumter Homes and Northside Homes and replaced them with Section 8 Vouchers.
5. Erected 44 Locally Owned Units at Lewis Lowe Court and Tom Gaily Plaza in 1996.
6. Erected 2 duplexes on Oglethorpe Avenue.
7. Purchased a single family unit on Parker Street.
8. Erected 28 units on Waitsman Drive.
9. Presently embarking upon the development of a Homeownership Subdivision on Mayo Street.
10. Development of Not-For-Profits Sumter Housing Assistance Corporation, Peach Properties.
11. Partnered the development of apartments for Project Based Voucher at East Oaks, Verandah, and Americus Garden Apartments as Tax Credit.
12. Purchased 89 units at Southland Heights.
13. In 1999, along with 11 other public housing authorities, formed the National Compliance; thereby earning the agency over \$10,000,000.
14. Added an additional wing to the Administrative Office Complex and expanded the Maintenance Building in 2001.
15. Installed heating and cooling units in all housing areas in 2001.
16. Established the Housing Authority Security Patrol in 2001.
17. Established the 4 day work week for all employees in 2004.
18. Held the first Back To School Bash for housing authority families in 2016.
19. Established the Housing of Authority of Americus on Facebook in 2017.

**Under the leadership of John C. 'Cal' Anderson,
the Housing Authority of the City of Americus
has been established as a high performing, highly acclaimed authority
throughout the State of Georgia; all of which reflect great credit to
his administrative and leadership abilities.**

THE RETIREMENT DINNER
December 1, 2018 – The Pope Center
South Georgia Technical College



Mr. Bobby L. Fuse, Jr. greets Mr. & Mrs. Anderson upon arrival



Employees & their guests begin to arrive.



Former Housing Authority Board Chairman, Mr. Albert Cooper arrives with his wife, Mrs. Josephine Cooper



Special guests reminiscing about times with Mr. Anderson.



Housing Authority Board of Commissioners & their spouses seated in the forefront; surrounded by other guests along with Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson and other members of the Head Table



L-R (Housing Authority Employees): Terri Harris (Occupancy Specialist-HCV); Sharon Haugabook (Project Manager); Katina Garrett (Section 8 Manager); and Cherryl Furlow (PH/HCV Compliance Reviewer)



Talking to his *Pop* and *JuJu* is Mr. Anderson's oldest grandson, Bowden. Bowden led the guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance along with Ms. Sandra Mitchell, certified teacher for the Summer Reading Pals Program.



This little cutie is Mr. Anderson's baby granddaughter, Madilyn who is being proudly held by her father, Jay Anderson.



Ms. Shirley Trice (Caterer) assists guests at the buffet line. On the right dressed in royal blue is Mr. Anderson's oldest granddaughter, Callie who is followed her dad, Gabe. On the left are Mr. & Mrs. Michael Boatwright. Mr. Boatwright is President of GAHRA (Georgia Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities)



Board Members, office staff, and guests mix and mingle.



Musical entertainment for the evening was provided by Mr. Jack McPeck; an accomplished pianist. He is also the husband of Mrs. Penny McPeck, the new Manager of Housing with the Americus Housing Authority.



Mr. Johnny Durham (Maintenance Mechanic) and former Maintenance Manager, Mr. Herb Mason



L-R Mrs. Anita Anderson Theiss & Mrs. Amanda Anderson



Mrs. June Anderson addresses the audience.



Mr. Michael Boatwright (GAHRA President)



**The arrival of FLO, guest comedian.
Flo shared many “humorous secrets” about the time
Mr. Anderson spends at the Waffle House.**



**At Flo’s request, Mr. Anderson stands up
as she continues to roast him royally.**



**Mr. Dan McCarthy
(former CEO of the Albany Housing Authority)**

Flo kept Mr. Anderson in suspense; while she kept the audience laughing. For neither the audience or Mr. Anderson knew what she would come up with next. Flo is well known as a comedian and she has performed at several GAHRA events.



L-R Mr. Bobby L. Fuse, Jr. (Board Chairman); Mr. Ricky Arnold (Assistant Chairman); Commissioners Ms. Jessica Wright, Mr. G. Bardin Hooks, Jr., Mr. Bill Krenson, and Mr. Dwight Chavis.



Mr. Ricky Arnold presents a gift to Mr. Anderson on behalf of the Board of Commissioners



Commissioner Jessica Wright pins a red rose corsage onto Mrs. June Anderson.



Mr. Anderson proudly shows off his gift.



Commissioner Mr. Bill Krenson presents a dozen red roses to Mrs. June Anderson.



A brand new 1969 Plymouth Road Runner

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their appreciation of Mrs. Anderson being supportive of Mr. Anderson during all of his years of service to the Americus Housing Authority. She was given a lovely red rose corsage that was complimented with a beautiful dozen red roses.

The Board of Commissioners put forth a lot of effort to find *Mr. Anderson's dream car..... A red 1969 Plymouth Road Runner*. Mr. Fuse gave the order that **the Board would not fall short on giving Mr. Anderson exactly what he wanted**. After all, he had worked over 30 years to get this particular car.



Ms. Shirley Trice (SGTC) catered the event.

The meal was par-excellent. Hats off to Ms. Shirley Trice and her staff from South Georgia Technical College.



All of the guests enjoyed the evening.

Mr. Ray Harris (photographer/videographer) prepared a PowerPoint presentation appropriately set to the tune of *You Are the Wind Beneath My Wings*.



Resident Commissioner Mr. Dwight Chavis and his guest, Ms. Velma Welborn.



Decorations by Tea's Party Planning

Decorations were done by Ms. Triteasha Jones, owner of Tea's Party Planning. Each table included a photo cube showing different pictures involving Mr. Anderson.



Mrs. Virginia Sims (Project Manager) arrives with her husband, Rev. Larry Sims Sr. They were greeted by Mr. George Edge and Mrs. Penny McPeek.



Mr. Eric Salter (Maintenance Mechanic)



**Mr. Anthony Dunning (Maintenance Mechanic)
and his wife, Mrs. Edna Dunning**



Mr. Richard & Mrs. Jeanie Collins



Mrs. Eric Salter, Ms. Gail Watkins, Ms. Bernice Johnson



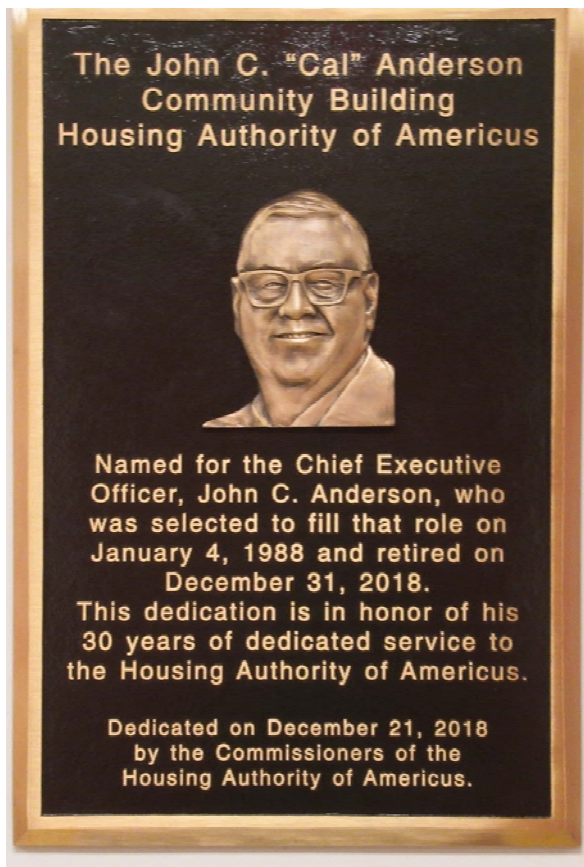
**L-R are Mr. Roger Lowe and Pastor Kevin Brown.
Pastor Brown pastors Cornerstone Church in Americus
and he is the Pastor of the Anderson Family.**



Mr. Gary Woods, Manager of Maintenance

The Pope Center was filled with family, friends, employees, board members, vendors, and well-wishers. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and love..... all for the honoree, Mr. John C. 'Cal' Anderson.

THE JOHN C. "CAL" ANDERSON COMMUNITY BUILDING



There was a hush across the room when Board Chairman, Mr. Bobby L. Fuse, Jr. took to the podium to make a presentation to Mr. Anderson from the Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners. After asking all of his fellow commissioners (*Ricky Arnold, Jessica Wright, G. Bardin Hooks, Jr., Dwight Chavis and Bill Krenson*) to join him the podium, Mr. Fuse then asked for Mr. & Mrs. Anderson to join them on the stage.

Mr. Fuse said in part..."***In April 2014, the Americus Housing Authority completed construction on its Cherokee Community Center. This 3,000+ square feet facility is located at 117C Hanson Drive. Effective on this date, December 1, 2018, under the direction of myself and my fellow Board of Commissioners; we hereby recognize and honor the achievements of our honoree by renaming the Cherokee Community Center to the "THE JOHN C. "CAL" ANDERSON COMMUNITY BUILDING".***

Everyone in the audience joined in to give a thunderous round of applaus, as Mrs. June Anderson unveiled the bust of her husband.



The bust revealed!!

It was hard to find a dry eye in the Pope Center as both Mr. & Mrs. Anderson beamed with pride as their children, grandchildren, Housing Authority staff, and special guests continued to applaud and give nods of approval for a great recognition that was so well deserved.

Mr. Fuse went on to say"***This bust will be placed at THE JOHN C. "CAL" ANDERSON COMMUNITY BUILDING on the next business day of the Housing Authority of the City of Americus.***"



Mr. John C. "Cal Anderson" and Mr. Bobby L. Fuse, Jr.

For as long as the Housing Authority of Americus remains, this will be a reminder that Mr. John C. "Cal" Anderson once passed this way.

"THE TURNING OF A PAGE"



Incoming CEO, Mr. George F. Edge

Effective, **January 1, 2019**, Mr. George F. Edge will replace Mr. Anderson as the Chief Executive Officer of the Housing Authority of Americus. ***Congratulations Mr. George F. Edge, CEO.***



Pastor Kevin Brown (Cornerstone Church)



Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson; Pastor Kevin Brown

The memorable evening of recognition, celebration, fellowship, smiles, laughs, tears, and good food ended with a *Prayer of Blessing* from Pastor Kevin Brown of Cornerstone Church where the Anderson family are members.

FAREWELL MR. ANDERSON
CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!!



**Mr. John Anderson, Mr. George Edge,
Mrs. Lindsey Edge, Mrs. June Anderson**

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

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

The End of an Era,
The Turning
of A Page!!

Best Wishes to both
Mr. John C. Anderson (*in retirement*)
&
Mr. George F. Edge
Newly Appointed CEO

