



# Community Connection Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 3

MARCH 2015

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Attendance at these events will count as community hours

### MARCH 2015

#### Parent Education Classes

Thursdays, from 10—12PM  
March 19, and 26

#### Cooking Class

“Stretch a One Pot Meal Into Three Dinners”  
Tuesday, March 24 10:30-12PM

#### Crime Watch Meeting

Thursday, March 26 6—7PM

#### MONTHLY RESIDENT MEETING and Career Source Presentation

“Overview of Services”  
Tuesday, March 31st 11— 12:30PM

### APRIL 2015

#### Parent Education Classes

Thursdays, from 10—12PM  
April 2, 9, 16, and 23

#### Habitat for Humanity

Monday, April 13 5:30—6:30PM

#### Crime Watch Meeting

Thursday, April 16 6—7PM

#### Cooking Class

“The Importance of Breakfast”  
Tuesday, April 21 10:30-12PM

**All you wanted to know about becoming a “first time home buyer” plus tools on how to manage and repair your credit**

Wed, April 29 10:30-12PM



Attention children Ages 5—12; assistance to attend

the Joe Lee Smith Summer Camp will again be available this 2015 summer. Dates TBA. To qualify: (1) you must have a 2.0 GPA or higher (2) bring your most current 2015 report card (3) household in good standing with no rent delinquency. All registration will be done at Joe Lee Smith Parks and Recreation center. More details to come!

## Exciting news from the Cocoa Housing Authority... (by Herb Hernandez, Executive Director)

Greetings from the Cocoa Housing Authority! These recent months have brought a lot of new developments and we take this opportunity to share some exciting news. Several meetings have been held to discuss possible plans for the redevelopment of some of our vacant land. The idea is to build single family homes and sell them as affordable homeownership opportunities. The meeting attendance and outcome were better than anticipated. At our neighborhood meeting at the Harry T. Moore Center, we shared a bit of history, pictures of the land and developments owned by public housing, and the adjacent neighborhood which encompasses what is known today as Diamond Square Redevelopment Area (DSCRA). During the meeting we discussed upcoming plans for the two to three homes to be built on Barbara Jenkins Street. This will give the opportunity to anyone who resides in public housing or has a housing choice voucher (Section 8) and meets the bank’s lending criteria the chance to apply to become first time homeowners. We have also organized a design committee which has met with our architect, John Zwick, who will be responsible for the design of some of the new homes. We will have two more meetings with Mr. Zwick to finalize the design. Also, during the meeting at the Harry T. Moore Center we informed area residents of our application for tax credit funding to build 80 senior housing apartments on our lots at Fiske Boulevard and Stone Street and at Pineda and School Streets. In the upcoming weeks we will be applying



for a second tax credit application. This preservation tax credit will provide funding to modernize existing public housing apartments (tax credits are a government program to encourage the development and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing).

I would also like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date regarding an addition to our CHA family. Michael Butler has joined our team as an Investigator. Mike brings 30 plus years of experience as a former police officer and 13 years as an investigator assigned at various public housing authorities. Mike will be working very closely with the Cocoa Police Department (CPD) in order to reduce and prevent crime in public housing; ensure our applicants will be good neighbors by performing background checks; and meeting with residents who are disrupting the neighborhood in one way or another.

This brings us to another piece of news we have regarding the new porch lighting to be installed on some of our buildings. It is our hope that this will help deter suspicious activities as well as safeguard the well-being of our residents. We have also applied for a Safety and Security grant which could fund security cameras.

As mentioned above we have been busy planning and envisioning new and exciting projects aimed at the betterment of our community. In light of all the good news, we ask you to stay tuned – the best is yet to come!

HAPPY 2015 EASTER FROM THE HOUSING AUTHORITY STAFF



**Habitat for Humanity**  
**Monday, APR 13th**  
**5:30—6:30PM at**  
**Pineda Senior Center**  
**1053 Fern Avenue**

**Do you ever dream of owning your own home? Are you interested in making this a reality?** If you have answered yes to these two questions then we encourage you to attend the upcoming meeting. All are welcome!

Contact the Community Housing Initiative through Habitat for Humanity at, 321-253-0053, for a telephone pre-screening.

Herb Hernandez	Executive Director	Ext. 103
Lynda Elmore	Dir. of Housing Operations	Ext. 114
Shauna Ginn	Director of Development	Ext. 115
Cynthia Ezzell	Receptionist	Ext. 100
Christina Falero	Program Technician	Ext. 101
Lisa Bundy	Program Technician	Ext. 102
Sheena Heitzman	Community Resources	Ext. 109
Mike Butler	Investigator	321-626-7861



**Maintenance repairs:** In the event you need to request maintenance services, please call the work order number at, 806-3971.

**Attention Youth Ages (9—18 years old ): “Summer Camp Scholarship Opportunity”**



The Women’s Business Center at Florida Tech in collaboration with the Junior Achievement of the Space Coast will hold an Entrepreneurial Summer Camp. The camp is held in two separate groups. **One Scholarship** is being set aside for a Housing Authority resident.

- Group 1:** Ages 9—13 attending school full time. Dates: June 15—19, from 9 am—1 pm. The cost is \$200 per student, includes lunch each day.
  - Group 2:** Ages 14—18 attending school full time. Dates: June 22—26, from 9 am—4 pm. The cost is \$250 per student, includes lunch each day.
- IMPORTANT:** Transportation is **NOT** provided. Parents or guardians are responsible for providing their children transportation to and from the summer camp each day.

Please submit a one page essay telling us **why you would like the opportunity to attend this exciting Entrepreneurial Summer Camp.** Please type or hand-write your essay neatly so that it is easy to read. **Deadline for submittals: MAY 1st, 2015.** For details call Sheena Heitzman at, 321-636-8535.

The Cocoa Police department, in collaboration with the Housing Authority, will hold a Crime Watch meeting. Come meet your neighbors, get some updates about your neighborhood. There will be popcorn and snow cones being served out of the Mobile Unit also known as the Lemonade stand. All are welcome! Meeting dates:



**Thursday, March 26 6-7pm D/E/F/G and Rosa L. Jones**  
**Thursday, April 16 6-7pm A/B/C Streets**



**BREVARD HEALTH ALLIANCE**

The Housing Authority of the City of Cocoa has partnered with Brevard Health Alliance (BHA) and is pleased to share the great news that starting April, BHA will be onsite with the mobile unit. The **Brevard Health Alliance Mobile Medical Van** provides professional medical care to Brevard's residents “where they are” - on the streets, in shelters, at soup kitchens and at drop-in centers. **No Appointment Necessary – first come, first served basis.** We have worked diligently to make this a reality. Much needed professional medical services will be provided. The mobile unit will serve public housing residents as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. Due to the large span of the Housing Authority’s geographical area, the mobile unit will alternate between North and South of 520. Details are still being discussed and we will share the information as it becomes available.

**Upcoming Events...throughout the community**

**VITAS Healthcare** VITAS proudly presents Health Care Decision day. Join them for information on advanced directives at the Harry T. Moore center on April 14, 2015 from 6:30-7:30. Light refreshments will be served. Please

**BREVARD COUNTY CENTRAL AREA PARKS AND RECREATION: PARENTS NIGHT OUT FOR COCOA RESIDENTS**

Plan a date and leave the kids with us! For children 5 - 12 yrs.; \$12 for the first child and \$10 each additional child in the same household. From 6 - 11 pm staff will entertain your child with pizza, games, movies and crafts.  
 WHEN: Last Friday of the month WHERE: Travis Park  
 2001 Michigan Ave., Cocoa 321-633-1871



**Saturday, March 28 from 4—7PM:** Bring your favorite recipe for a chance to win top prize at the Cocoa Village Chili Cook-off event from 4-7pm at Riverfront Park. Vendors will be set-up along Riverfront Park to display their favorite recipe and offer samples. It will be a day of fun with entertainment and great food.



**2015 Juneteenth celebration** is scheduled for Saturday, June 20th. **Stay tuned!** Details to come.