



Community Connection Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 6

JUNE 2015

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Attendance will count as
community hours**

JUNE ACTIVITIES

Pre-REAC Inspections

Continue to Wednesday, July 15
.....

BHA Mobile Unit

Every Monday in June at the
corner of Fiske & Barbara Jenkins
.....

Hurricane Preparedness

Brevard County ER Management
Thursday, June 25 10 - 11:00AM
at the Pineda Senior Center

JULY ACTIVITIES

Pre-REAC Inspections

Continue to Wednesday, July 15
.....

BHA Mobile Unit

Every Monday in July at the
corner of Fiske & Barbara Jenkins
.....

Goodwill JOB CLUB

July 14, 15, 16
.....

HUD Inspections

July 16 - 23
.....

Like Skills , Tools for Managing your Household and Everyday Chores

Tues, July 21 11 - 12Noon
.....

United Way - Series of Three Wealth Building Sessions

Wed, July 22 and 29, 10 - 12Noon

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

United Way - continues Wealth Building Session

Wed, August 5, 10 - 12Noon
.....

Health Literacy by United Way

Wed, August 12, 10 - 11:30 AM
.....

Cooking Class

Pre-registration is a must

Tues, August 18, 10:30 - 12Noon

Medical Services are available right in our neighborhood!



The Brevard Health Alliance, provides medical care for Cocoa residents at their mobile health unit every **Monday from 8AM-4PM** located at the corner of Barbara Jenkins Street and Fiske Blvd. Whether or not you have health insurance they are ready to assist you. All services are provided on a sliding fee scale, based on income. BHA provides extensive primary health care service to Brevard County's residents regardless of their ability to pay. No appointment is necessary, just stop by the mobile health unit on Mondays!

The Cocoa Housing Authority has partnered with BHA in order to provide much needed medical services to the Cocoa area residents. It is CHA's goal to dedicate a permanent site for BHA. Through resident participation we can demonstrate the need for medical services in our area. During our six month "trial period" we hope to meet the BHA goal of helping up to 18 patients per day. The community efforts to support BHA are crucial since the closest facility is located in Rockledge and there is nothing North of Barton Blvd., and South of Washington Avenue in Titusville, especially West towards Cocoa. Please come support this worthy cause - we are counting on you!



"Peachtree Street Public Meeting"

Information Meeting will take place on **Thursday, July 9**, at the Pineda Senior Center: 1053 Fern St., Cocoa, 5:30 PM open house followed by presentation at 7:00PM. Come join us and learn more about the plans the city has for improving Peachtree St. from Pineda St. to Blake Ave.

The project will include reconstruction of the roadway, continuous sidewalks, new crosswalks, drainage improvements, pedestrian lighting, landscape, and benches.

Construction in this area is scheduled to begin is **June 2015** and be completed by **winter 2016**.

This project is funded by the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Cocoa as a **Complete Streets projects**. For more information please contact Charlene Neuterman, City of Cocoa Project Manager, at 321-433-8773 or via e-mail:

cneuterman@cocoafl.org .



HAPPY

FOURTH OF JULY



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 Relations	Ext. 109
Mike Butler	Investigator	Ext. 108



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

IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ

Pre-REAC Inspection: Beginning **Thursday, May 14 - Wednesday, July 15, 2015**, we will be preparing for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) inspections. [These will take place from July 16 - 23, 2015.](#)

Our Maintenance Staff will visit your home to conduct a Pre-REAC Inspection check. Items that will be inspected are: stoves, refrigerators, smoke alarms, electrical outlets, etc.

Residents will need to have their homes and yards cleaned. For safety reasons please make sure that at least ONE window in each room is “unblocked” free of any obstacles. Charcoal grills will need to be on the back porch. Gas grills and any flammable liquids are prohibited in the inside and outside of your homes. Interior furniture is not permissible on your porch. If you have any questions contact the Maintenance Department at, 321-806-3970.



FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Annual July 4th Celebration with Brevard Symphony Orchestra. Come out to Riverfront Park to enjoy a FREE concert from the Brevard Symphony Orchestra as they play along with an awesome fireworks display over the Indian River. Concert starts at 8pm, fireworks at 9:15pm. Remember to bring your lawn chairs or blankets and get here early to find a spot. Food and beverages will be available for sale at the park and admission is FREE!



Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

will be hosting their Annual Health Fair on Saturday, AUG 1, from 10 AM - 3PM, at 231 Stone St., Cocoa. The day will be filled with activities including crafts, interactive games, demonstrations, informational booths, and over 350 attendees. ALL are welcome, come join us!

Employee Spotlight



Jesse Hanks, Maintenance Aide A,
...“Public Housing helped me grow and molded me into the person I am today”

Jesse joined the CHA team in 1983. Jesse had been living in housing for four years prior to joining the team. As a former housing tenant he recalls the times he struggled to find work but never gave up.

At the time the housing manager noticed Jesse and decided to help him get his life on track, he says: “Ms. Moss would take the time to go over my finances, to teach me how to manage my money and stay ahead, pay my rent, and save. She knew I was struggling, I could not find work.” Not long after, he was offered a temp position and a year later became full time. He lived in public housing for approximately four years and then he moved out. A position as Resident Manager (RM) became available and he was invited to come back to live in housing. This would require that he stay active and be vigilant if any crime and/or drug issues would arise. His biggest accomplishment as a RM is that he helped clean up the neighborhood and make it a safer place by reporting the crime, and keeping management abreast of what was taking place in the neighborhood. “Back then crime was not as vicious, yet it was still scary, but people worked together. Tenants were loyal to each other, they were active in the community, they would have cook-outs, picnics - it was like a family,” says Jesse. Today things are different and he is disappointed how tough it is to let people know that housing has more to offer than just a place to live; housing is a place where one can grow and learn how to do better in life. After ten years serving as a RM his contract expired. Eventually, Jesse decided to pursue a program for first time homebuyers. He went through the City of Cocoa and a year later he purchased a house in the community where everybody knows him. Jesse’s biggest inspiration is his mom. She empowered him to be the best he could be, to always tell the truth. She taught him to be a good person, a helping hand to others, and to help people face the situation they were in. She always told him to keep himself motivated and to never give up, “she was a flower, so nice and wonderful. She raised other kids from the neighborhood and gave them a place to stay. She was always helping people”, Jesse said. What keeps Jesse strong - “my faith in the Lord and gratefulness for all the years I was able to spend with my mom.” If Jesse could change one thing - “how to better serve the community by letting people know that public housing has a lot of opportunities to help them become better citizens, to live, to work, and educate themselves.”



Hurricane Preparedness
 Are YOU Ready?

Hurricane season (JUN 1 - NOV 30)

Brevard County Emergency Management will be presenting “Myths and Misconceptions” about Hurricanes. This info session will take place on **Thur, Jun 25, 10 – 11AM**, at the Pineda Senior Center (1053 Fern Ave) *Please join us!*