

Asheville Housing . . . WORKS!

Asheville Housing Authority Newsletter • November 2015

Office Hours Change

Effective October 1, 2015, the Asheville Housing Authority's hours changed. Each of the Asheville Housing Authority's offices and properties will open at **9:00 am and close at 5:00 pm - Monday through Thursday**. If you need to meet with the Site Manager during alternative times, please contact them to make an appointment. The new office hours apply to the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) and Project Based Voucher offices as well.

Administrative Offices

165 South French Broad Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
Phone: (828) 258-1222
Fax: (828) 254-2276
www.haca.org
 @AvlHousingAuth

Contact Numbers

Altamont Apartments
(828) 225-1948

Aston Park Tower Apartments
(828) 239-3545

Bartlett Arms Apartments
(828) 225-1948

Deaverview Apartments
(828) 257-2670

Hillcrest Apartments
(828) 257-2666

Klondyke Apartments
(828) 257-2677

Lee Walker Apartments
(828) 257-2668

Pisgah View Apartments
(828) 257-2664

Southside Apartments
(828) 257-2673

Woodfin Apartments
(828) 225-1948

Letter from Our CEO

This year marks the 75th Anniversary for the Asheville Housing Authority. For 75 years, the Asheville Housing has worked to serve the residents of Asheville and Buncombe County by advocating for and providing affordable housing to individuals and families throughout Asheville and Buncombe County.

Asheville Housing began in 1940 when Mayor Bryson and City Council members were finally swayed to support and assist in addressing President Roosevelt's "slum-consciousness." Although the organization was officially formed in 1940, it wasn't until January 3, 1949, that Asheville Housing received federal funding due to the occurrence of World War II, which took place from 1939 to 1945.

In 1950, the Asheville Housing Authority began the construction of its first housing development, Lee Walker Heights, which was named after the late Professor W.S. Lee of Stephens-Lee High School and Dr. J.W. Walker, who was a deceased tuberculosis specialist. Shortly after, the Asheville Housing began its second housing development, Pisgah View Apartments, in 1952 and its third, Hillcrest Apartments, in 1959.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Asheville Housing continued to take on the challenge of eliminating the slums and blight and restoring Asheville's neighborhoods. Nationally, during this period many historically African American neighborhoods were being red-lined, while locally – leaders were here working to increase homeownership rates of African Americans in the Southside and East End neighborhoods through the creation of the dollar lot program.

Today, the Asheville Housing Authority has grown from 96 apartments to over 1,900 units of affordable housing. The Asheville Housing Authority also administers the Housing Choice Voucher Program, which subsidizes housing for more than 1,600 low-income individuals and families.

I am excited about the future of the Asheville Housing Authority due to the fact that we are committed to continuing to offer affordable housing to individuals and families in this community. Additionally, we are going to continue to work with partners like the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and various other for-profit and non-profit entities to help expand housing and employment options for our residents. We will continue to use innovative technology to be more energy efficient and environmentally conscious. And most importantly, we are absolutely committed to planning for the future in close consultation with our residents.

In closing, I am committed to making sure that . . . Asheville Housing Works!

Best wishes,

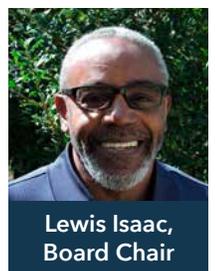
Gene O. Bell
CEO

"I am excited to be Chair of the Board during this transition from traditional public housing to the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) project."

– Lewis Isaac, AHA Board Chair



Gene Bell, CEO



Lewis Isaac,
Board Chair

Bobby McNeil: A Homeowner Story



A snow storm and lack of transportation would stop most people from attending a job interview; however, neither deterred Bobby McNeil from making it the Asheville Housing Authority for his appointment. Despite the accumulation of snow on the ground, Bobby got on his bicycle and rode to the Asheville Housing Authority to meet with Gene Bell for his scheduled job interview.

"I knew that I would hire him. Anyone who would ride their bike in three inches of snow to get to a job interview would be willing to do whatever is necessary to maintain their job with our organization. During the interview Bobby detailed his work and life's experiences to me, which only confirmed my belief in his commitment and dedication," said Gene Bell, CEO of Asheville Housing Authority. Bobby began working for the Asheville Housing Authority in 2009. He was originally hired to assist with the grounds and fill-in on the painting crew; however, today is a Maintenance Mechanic and more importantly, a homeowner!

Since being hired with the Asheville Housing Authority, Bobby has saved his money and worked steadily towards becoming a homeowner. This summer all of Bobby's hard work paid off when he purchased his first home in Eastview Condominiums!

"I am so happy to be a homeowner. I now have enough room for my grandchildren to come visit and stay with me for a while. I appreciate all that Mr. Bell and the Housing Authority have done for me," said Bobby during his closing. Bobby is excited to finally have a place to call his own!



Take One, Leave One Free Libraries are in Housing Developments

This summer the staff of the Asheville Housing Authority worked with the Residents' Council, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Read to Succeed, The POP Project and teenagers of various developments to create little free libraries. *Asheville Citizen Times* donated old newspaper boxes for the project. Teenagers who participated in the Residents' Council's My Community Matters Summer Enrichment Program helped to decorate the boxes.

The libraries are placed in Deaverview, Pisgah View, Hillcrest, Lee Walker Heights and the Edington Center. Anyone is welcome to take a book and to leave a book. Volunteers from The POP Project, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters have agreed to keep the libraries filled with books. Children First and the Literacy Council recently donated boxes books for the libraries.



HILLCREST RESIDENTS!



Due to a lack of active representation for the Hillcrest community nominations and elections are being held to nominate and elect community members who want help our community. The nominations and elections will be for ALL SEATS including:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
SECRETARY
SERGEANT OF ARMS

***** You must be a resident on the lease to be able to vote.*****

WHEN: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015 @ 6PM (Please be ON TIME.)

WHERE: Carl E. Johnson Community Center @ Hillcrest

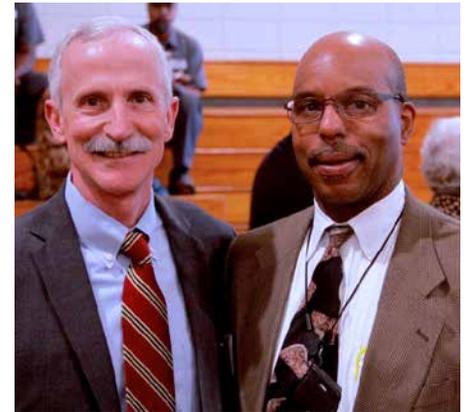
Let your voice be heard on the kind of leadership you want for your community! Come out and VOTE!

75th Anniversary Celebration

The Asheville Housing Authority celebrated 75 years advocating for and providing affordable housing in Western North Carolina on Thursday, August 27th. The event was held at the Arthur R. Edington Center. Featured guests speakers included CEO of Asheville Housing Authority, Gene Bell, Former CEO of Asheville Housing Authority, David Jones, Buncombe County Commission's Chairman, David Gantt, City of Asheville's Mayor, Esther Manheimer, and AHA Residents' Council President, Sir Charles Gardner.



Gene Bell, CEO of Asheville Housing Authority, said, "Over the course of the past 75 years, Asheville Housing has helped thousands of individuals and families to have an affordable place to live and call home. Each day, we are committed to working to improve as an organization, while we also collaborate with our residents, partner agencies, governmental entities, contractors and community members to address housing related issues. As we celebrate our successes and milestones within our organization's history, we will also pledge our continued commitment to be an important component to addressing the affordable housing needs within our community."



Pictures from the milestone celebration are included - more available online via Asheville Housing Authority's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AVLHA>.



Basic Computer Skills for Job Seekers

M/W/F

9:00 am - 12 noon

November 2-16

(no class on Veteran's Day)



With most of the job search being done online now, a basic understanding of computers is essential. In this class, you will learn:

- The mechanics of the pieces and parts of computers
- Basic keyboarding
- Basics of emailing
- Basics of online job applications
- Basic grammar for emailing and online job applications

NCWorks
career center
Asheville

HRD classes are offered at **no charge to the student!**

Sign up today! Call 828-251-6200

Class is offered at NCWorks Career Center Asheville

48 Grove Street

“Schools Out Power Up for Summer Fun” Meal Plan Program

During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-priced breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs; however, when school lets out many of those children are at risk of hunger, which is why the Summer Meal Program was established.

The Summer Meal Program was a collaboration between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools and partner organizations that provided lunch to students who would otherwise have limited access to nutritional lunches during the summer months. The majority of the students who took advantage of this program came from families who relied on their child’s school lunch program during the school year.

The program ran from June 16th to August 8th, Monday through Friday from 11:30 - 12:30 pm at various sites. The Asheville Housing Authority hosted this program in the following sites Pisgah View Apartments, Hillcrest Apartments, Deaverview Apartments, and Lee Walker Heights.

Making sure that every child is fed throughout the year is not only a goal of parents, but also of the USDA, Asheville City School System, Buncombe County School System and the Asheville Housing Authority.



Recycling in the Southside Community

Through a partnership between City of Asheville’s Sustainability Office, Sanitation Department, the Asheville Housing Authority (AHA) and Asheville GreenWorks, returned recycling to the following housing developments Erskine, Livingston and Walton. After weighing the pros and cons of the previous efforts by AHA, and incorporating resident input, the team of partners structured a recycling pilot program that began in October in the Southside Communities. The recycling effort is a component of the City of Asheville’s sustainability initiative, Zero Waste, which has a goal to re-design resource lifecycles so that materials are reused and waste is minimal.

This recycling pilot is a step towards reducing the amount of trash put into the landfill, while it also assists in making recycling accessible and convenient for residents. Thanks to the support of the community members who participated in the recycling surveys, there will be an option between two different kinds of in-house bins, which were delivered to residents the week of September 21-25, 2015. The Big Blue outdoor bins were delivered on September 28, 2015. The first pickup of recycling began on October 7, 2015, and will continue every other Wednesday.

“As an employee of Asheville GreenWorks and a resident of Erskine Apartments, I am so excited about this program and the opportunity to have this within my own community. I look forward to working with the residents from each of the Southside communities as this pilot program moves forward.”

– Dewana Little, Asheville GreenWorks
Community Engagement Coordinator/
Water Quality Educator

Residents can participate in feedback sessions that we will be hosted by Asheville GreenWorks throughout the pilot program. Residents will be asked questions regarding the program’s effectiveness, including what’s working, what’s not, and what changes need to be implemented to strengthen this program and reduce contamination. This pilot program will help determine the feasibility of implementing recycling into all Asheville Housing Authority’s communities.

PLAYING FOR SUCCESS

A free kindergarten readiness class for kids age 0-5 and their caregivers.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11am

Where: Hall Fletcher’s YMCA Room

Info: (828) 301-1841
thewendydean@gmail.com

Snacks and Spanish support provided. Need transportation? Call (828) 257-2677

What should I recycle?

PLASTIC

containers #1 through #7 including:
bottles • clamshells • jugs
yogurt cups • lids • food trays

PAPER

cereal boxes • cardboard • newspapers
junk mail • milk & juice cartons • office paper
magazines • juice boxes • post it notes
wrapping paper • brown paper bags

METAL

soda cans • soup cans
aluminum trays • empty aerosol cans

GLASS

bottles • jars
blue, green, brown, and clear glass

DO NOT PUT THESE IN THE BLUE BIN:

window glass • light bulbs • plastic bags
plastic wrap • aluminum foil • paper towel or
tissues • dishes and drinking glasses
microwavable food tray • used cooking oil
styrofoam • motor oil bottles

These items contaminate the recyclables!
Please visit <http://www.ashevillegreenworks.org/hard-2-recycle.html>
for more information on how to keep them out of the landfill.

For customer service regarding recycling pickup,
please call Curbside Recycling at 828-252-2532

City of Asheville
Public Works Department – Sanitation Division
161 S. Charlotte Street, Asheville NC 28801
ashevilenc.gov/sanitation
828.251.1122



City of Asheville

RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

Recycling Guide



For residents
of Southside:
Erskine, Walton
& Livingston
Apartments

Beginning October 2015



PHADA Scholarship Program

In order to encourage academic excellence and community responsibility among high school students, PHADA has implemented a scholarship program for graduating seniors who are preparing to enter college. PHADA will award three (3) scholarships to deserving youth currently residing in a PHADA member agency.

Stephen J. Bollinger Memorial Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$7,000)

Freedom & Civil Rights Scholarship*
(One scholarship available: \$5,000)
**Additional Essay Required*

SACS Software/Scott Accounting & Computer Services, Inc. Scholarship
(One scholarship available: \$5,000)

The scholarship fund will be administered by the PHADA Scholarship Committee. The money will go directly to the school that the recipient will be attending. The school will deposit the money into the student's account. The money may only be used to pay for tuition, books, and activities directly related to the student's education. If the student discontinues his or her education, the unused portion of the scholarship will be returned to PHADA. For further information, contact PHADA at (202) 546-5445.



Application form and additional information available at http://www.phada.org/scholarship_program.php.

Asheville Housing Authority

165 South French Broad Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801

Asheville Housing Authority's mission is to provide safe, quality, and affordable housing, to expand available resources, and to collaborate with the community to create opportunities for resident self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Tenant Mobility Voucher Requests Available December 1

Effective December 1, 2015, Asheville Housing Authority will begin taking requests for tenant mobility vouchers from current residents of our Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) properties. Forms will be available beginning on December 1 at the management office for your development. The form is an official notice that you intend to terminate your lease with Asheville Housing Authority and apply for a tenant mobility voucher. To be eligible, residents must have resided in the RAD property for at least one year. We expect to begin issuing tenant mobility vouchers in January. If a waiting list is necessary, it will be based on the date and time your written notice and application is received (after December 1).

parent u is back!
take a look at our upcoming classes.

November 3 - Math Today, Healthy Eating, Hassle Free Shopping

November 4 - College Readiness: The JUNTOS Method

November 5 - Understanding the Affordable Care Act

November 10 - Darkness to Light Training

For more info...

call 828-350-6162

visit <http://www.bit.ly/acsparentu>

email marta.alcala-williams@acsgmail.net



FREE TRANSPORTATION & CHILDCARE PROVIDED!