

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Spring is officially here! This is the time of year that the staff of the Asheville Housing Authority begins to look toward partnering with residents and organizations to continue to implement one of the organizational priorities that focuses on food production within the housing developments.

As part of our commitment to ensuring that residents have access to fresh food, the Housing Authority has set aside land for community gardens and orchards in various properties. Currently, there are apple orchards in Deaverview, Erskine and Hillcrest. There is also space in Pisgah View, Hillcrest, Asheville Terrace and behind the Arthur R. Edington Education and Career Center for community gardens. All of the orchards and gardens are maintained by residents and various community organizations and volunteers.



The Housing Authority is also in the process of creating a beautification program for each property. It is the Housing Authority's goals to see residents – take pride in their neighborhoods, increase the number of well maintain yards, and decrease the amount of thrash thrown on the streets in each development. **Each month, our site managers will award a \$50.00 gift card to the resident with the nicest yard beginning in the month of May.** During the month of April, our site managers will be accepting input on what an "award winning" yard should look like. Each property will have a winner each month. If you would like to help create guidelines for the program, please provide your comments to your Site Manager by **April 26, 2017.**

Over the past few years, the Housing Authority has invested in partnerships with residents, organizations and volunteers in order to make our properties better. It is our continued commitment to focus on strengthening our existing efforts, while also actively working to improve the various properties under our stewardship.

Warmest regards,

Gene Bell
Chief Executive Officer