

President/CEO's Report

Housing Authority Of The City Of Orlando, Florida
Vivian Bryant, Esq., President/CEO
Ed Carson, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DESK

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- PHADA 2012 Annual Convention and Exhibition
Seattle, WA
May 6-9, 2012
- FAHRO Executive Directors Forum
Daytona Beach, FL
May 15-17, 2012
- PHADA Legislative Forum
Washington, DC
September 9-11, 2012



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
PRESIDENT/CEO

The past couple of years have been challenging for many families in the Orlando area. Our agency strives to house families in an efficient manner that complies with the regulations of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Even with our best efforts, it is difficult to serve every family that seeks assistance from our agency. We make every effort to

assist our applicants and residents with regard to their housing needs.

In the midst of the many demands and stressors we face each day, I realize how important it is to take a moment to breathe and concentrate on the small pleasures of life. I pause just a moment and was informed that April is "National Gardening Month." Many garden clubs and homeowners use this month to change out flowers, redo and update lawns and even start new gardens. Although, I will not be starting a new garden this April, I did buy a new plant. Taking the time to read about the plant I purchased and how to care for it, brought me a moment of relaxation and enjoyment. Gardening is not just about pretty plants. It is also about fruits, vegetables and community gardens.

The First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Michelle Obama, has taken on the initiative to encourage schools and communities to plant gardens of fresh vegetables and herbs and to use them for meals. The Orlando Housing Authority, through a matching grant from the City of Orlando, has also adopted this initiative. Currently, several of our public housing sites maintain a combination of vegetable and flower gardens. The families of these communities pull together to fertilize, weed and maintain these gardens. Additionally, the Orlando Housing Authority presented each of our volunteer agencies with a gardening gift bag filled with seeds and

tools to inspire them to plant gardens.

Gardeners know, and research confirms, that nurturing plants is good for us: attitudes toward health and nutrition improve, kids perform better at school, and community spirit grows. Join the celebration and help to make America a greener, healthier, more livable place.

The National Gardening Association gives the following helpful tips when thinking of starting a new garden or planting project.

- ◆ Design and plant a garden to attract pollinators.
- ◆ Plant a cutting garden so you can enjoy freshly cut bouquets all season long.
- ◆ Plant a kitchen garden near your back door with greens and herbs for convenient harvesting. Design and plant a bird-friendly garden.
- ◆ Install a window box and fill it with brightly colored annual flowers.
- ◆ Plant a garden that has special meaning regarding you and your family.

Oftentimes, when someone that we love and appreciate passes on we use the term, "God came and picked a beautiful flower from the garden. The Orlando Housing Authority was blessed for many years to have Matilde Roman as a Resident Commissioner on our Board. She bloomed and gave off the fragrance of a beautiful flower to all that knew her. On March 31, 2012, God came and picked her from our garden. I thank her family for sharing her with us for many years and for assisting her with all of the wonderful acts of kindness she bestowed upon our residents and our staff. I will miss her greatly! I am certain that the seeds that were sown by her on behalf of this agency will bloom and grow for years to come. Each of us should strive to leave behind us a beautiful garden filled with good works. As President/CEO of the Orlando Housing Authority, I will continue to offer hope and joy to the families that we serve.

Inside this issue:

Highlights from the Desk	1
Calendar of Upcoming Events	1
Board of Commissioners	1
Living Healthy with Diabetes Workshop	2
Mayor Buddy Dyer's Summit	2
Community Outreach	2
Residents Welcomed Former Police Chief Demings and Congressman Clyburn	3
Community Family Fun Day	3
Capital Improvements	4
Vote 2012	4

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its regular Board Meeting, Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the OHA's Administration Building, Board Room, 390 N. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803.

Orlando Housing Authority residents interested in attending the meeting who need transportation, and/or have special needs, please call the Community Affairs and Communications Department at (407) 895-3300, extension 6001.

LIVING HEALTHY WITH DIABETES WORKSHOP



Ten residents from Johnson Manor completed the Living Healthy Spanish Diabetes Workshops Monday, March 19, 2012. The workshops were held every Monday, starting February 6, 2012 and ending March 19, 2012. The workshops were held in the Johnson Manor activities room from 9:30a.m. - 12:00p.m. The participants learned how to use medications effectively, and to communicate better with their doctors. They also learned how to eat healthy, fight fatigue, lessen stress, manage symptoms, monitor their blood sugar, and to communicate effectively with family and friends about their health.



MAYOR BUDDY DYER'S SUMMIT

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's Neighborhood and Community Summit took place at the Double Tree Hotel located at the entrance to Universal Orlando, Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The Summit offered attendees an opportunity to meet the City's elected officials, staff and other residents who share a passion for sustaining strong neighborhoods and creating an engaged community.

The Summit brought together neighborhood and community leaders for a day of learning, exchanging information and networking. Fifteen (15) residents from various residential communities of the Orlando Housing Authority attended the Summit. The residents were able to attend various workshops offered throughout the day. They also received information from representatives of the many agencies which had booths. The event included lunch, a chat and chew, with Mayor Buddy Dyer and Orlando City Council members.

COMMUNITY



Faith World Church Outreach Ministry came to Omega Apartments March 10, 2012 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. to re-activate their partnership with the community. Faith World members brought music and food. They danced, provided raffle gifts, played games, and fellowshiped with the community. The Residents welcome the presence of Faith World. We look forward to having them as community partners.



RESIDENTS WELCOMED FORMER POLICE CHIEF DEMINGS AND CONGRESSMAN CLYBURN

Residents at The Villas of Carver Park welcomed Former Police Chief Val Deming's and Democratic Congressman Jim Clyburn Sunday, March 11, 2012. The esteemed guests participated in discussion and shared valuable information on Medicare with our seniors. The residents had an opportunity to give input and share ideas in an intimate setting with the full attention of Chief Deming's, Congressman Clyburn and our very own CEO/President, Vivian Bryant. The event proved to be very informative. Residents are looking forward to their next visit.



COMMUNITY

FAMILY FUN DAY

The Griffin Park Resident Association held a Community Family Fun Day March 30, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The day's festivities was filled with food, cotton candy, icees, popcorn and Easter eggs. Kids of all ages enjoyed the bounce house, water slide, music, magic tricks, games, face painting, and a clown. They are looking forward to the next community event.





HUD's Mission Statement: To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.



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Orlando Housing Authority Mission Statement: To offer a choice of safe and affordable housing options and opportunities for economic independence for residents of Orlando and Orange County.

Capital Improvements Report

Complex 4-1 Griffin Park Apartments: Supply and Install New 16.6 CU FT Refrigerators and Salvage Existing

A Request for Quotes (RFQ) was issued February 3, 2012. The bid opening took place February 6, 2012. The lowest bidder was General Electric. The work was completed April 9, 2012.

Complex 4-9 Ivey Lane Homes: Bath Tub Refinishing

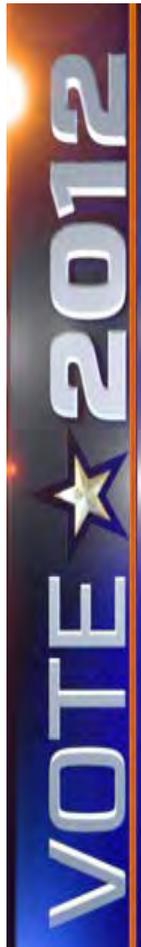
A Request for Quotes (RFQ) was issued January 10, 2012. The bid opening took place January 31, 2012, The contract was awarded to Absolute Magic Refinishing, Inc. The work began February 13, 2012 and is 82% complete.

Complex 4-11 Meadow Lake Apartments: Supply and Install Gas Water Heaters

A Request for Quotes (RFQ) was issued January 6, 2012. The bid opening took place January 25, 2012. The contract was awarded to Stones Unlimited. The work began April 4, 2012 and is 95% complete.

Complex 4-11 Meadow Lake Apartments: Re-roof Fourteen (14) Buildings

An Invitation For Bid (IFB) was issued April 9, 2012. The bid opening is scheduled for May 2, 2012.



Election Myths vs. Facts

MYTH: The address on the driver license must match the address in the voter registration record in order to be able to vote.

FACT: The address on the driver license does not need to match the address in the voter registration record. If you have moved and haven't changed your driver license to reflect your new address, that's okay. What is important is that you vote in the precinct where you currently live, no matter what your driver license says.

MYTH: If your house is under foreclosure, you will not be able to vote.

FACT: A foreclosure notice does not necessarily mean that a person no longer resides in the home, as people often remain in the home after foreclosure begins and are sometimes able to refinance the home. Voters whose homes have been foreclosed but who remain in their homes may continue to vote in their assigned precinct. Voters who have physically moved from their foreclosed residence with no intention of returning to that address as their residence may still vote, but should provide a change of address to the supervisor of elections. You must vote in your correct precinct.

MYTH: If you are Florida college student, you have to change your permanent residence to your college address.

FACT: If a college student registers with a legal residence in a Florida county, then no further proof of residency is required, regardless of where the college student's parents reside or whether the student intends to move back to where the parents are located.

MYTH: Absentee ballots are only counted when there is a close race.

FACT: All absentee ballots are counted if properly executed, which includes making sure that the return envelope is signed and that the signature matches the voter's signature on record.

MYTH: If a voter owes child support or has pending warrants against him or her, the police will arrest the voter at the polls.

FACT: The voter registration rolls at the polls have no indicators whether a voter owes child support or has outstanding warrants against him or her. Furthermore, law enforcement personnel are not allowed in the polling place without the permission of the election board, so ordinarily there will not be any law enforcement personnel in the polling place to identify a voter who may have outstanding child support payments or warrants against him or her.

MYTH: If the voter is homeless and has no legal residence, the voter may not vote.

FACT: State registration laws may not discriminate against the homeless in voter registration as long as the homeless applicant for voter registration intends to remain in a locale and has either a place where he can receive messages or an effective mailing address. The homeless person will vote in the precinct where the applicant receives messages (e.g., rescue mission), or the precinct in which the applicant's effective mailing address is located.