

# 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

- NAHRO Legislative Conference  
 Washington, DC  
 March 26-28, 2012
- PHADA 2012 Annual Convention and Exhibition  
 Seattle, WA  
 May 6-9, 2012
- PHADA Legislative Forum  
 Washington, DC  
 September 9-11, 2012



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.  
 PRESIDENT/CEO

This week, we were awakened to hear and see the news about the devastating unexpected tornadoes in several States. These storms have been characterized by meteorologists as early and out of season. Many lives were lost, but many were spared due to their preparedness. Stories of survival and heroism surface

daily.

The Orlando Housing Authority has always stressed the importance of keeping our properties well-maintained. Well-maintained properties decrease the amount of damage to the units in the event of hurricanes, tornadoes and thunderstorms.

Although, we are several weeks away from the official beginning of spring, for Florida winter is basically over. It is time for spring cleaning! It is during this time that we release the dreariness of winter and get ready for summer. It is time to clean the windows, blinds, carpets, doors, etc. While cleaning, take time to do a self inspection of your apartment/home. If you find any deficiencies, request a work order from the Site Manager for repair. As President/CEO, I am committed to ensuring that the Orlando Housing Authority remains a stellar agency.

Protecting our residents is an even higher priority for the Orlando Housing Authority. In order to assist households, I am including a preparedness list provided by FEMA (Federal Emergency

Management Agency). Additionally, you can visit their website at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information.

### Basic Disaster Supplies Kit

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- ◆ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ◆ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ◆ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Whistle to signal for help
- ◆ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ◆ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ◆ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ◆ Manual can opener for food
- ◆ Local maps
- ◆ Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- ◆ Keep important documents in safe waterproof container that can be accessed quickly.

Following these simple steps will assist you and your family in case of an emergency. I leave you with this quote from President Abraham Lincoln, "To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own".

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### Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its regular Board Meeting, Thursday, March 15, 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.

### GAME DAY AT LORNA DOONE APARTMENTS

Thursday, January 12, 2012, seven residents at Lorna Doone Apartments began meeting between 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M. for "Game Day." Game Day is an activity geared towards facilitating the socialization of the Lorna Doone residents while participating in a fun filled activity. Since January 2012, Lorna Doone residents play "Bingo" on Thursdays. They enjoy these activities and are motivated to meet once a week for "Game Day": they want to add more games in the future as resident participation increases.



### VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON AT JOHNSON MANOR APARTMENTS



February 10, 2012, Johnson Manor Apartment residents held a Valentine's Day Luncheon from 3:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The residents enjoyed food, fellowship, fun, and love. They enjoyed themselves and look forward to even more residents attending the next event.

### VALENTINES DAY WITH MAYOR DYER

February 14, 2012, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer visited the Villas at Carver Park and Jackson/Division Court. The mayor came to spread some love and distribute Valentine's Day cards, as well as I love Florida buttons to everyone in attendance.



## TAX PREPARATION WORKSHOP



February 9, 2012, the Central Florida Credit Union held a Tax Preparation workshop for Orlando Housing Authority residents from 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This event was held at The Landings at Carver Park in the Neighborhood Network Center but was open to all OHA residents. Residents were able to get their taxes done free of charge and learn the best ways to maximize their tax credits responsibly.

## LIVING HEALTHY WITH DIABETES WORKSHOP



Monday, February 6, 2012, Johnson Manor Apartments held its first "Living Healthy with Diabetes Workshop." This class is part of a six-week workshop program that is offered in English and Spanish to inform residents of strategies and techniques that will control their diabetes. The purpose of the program is to teach residents ways to manage diabetes and the issues associated with it. Twelve residents attended the workshop.

## TAX SCAM WARNING!!!

### **The Internal Revenue Service sent out a press release asking everyone to beware of Phony Refund Scheme; Senior Citizens, Working Families and Church Members Are Targets**

The Internal Revenue Service today warned senior citizens and other taxpayers to beware of an emerging scheme tempting them to file tax returns claiming fraudulent refunds.

The scheme carries a common theme of promising refunds to people who have little or no income and normally don't have a tax filing requirement. Under the scheme, promoters claim they can obtain for their victims, often senior citizens, a tax refund or nonexistent stimulus payment based on the American Opportunity Tax Credit, even if the victim was not enrolled in or paying for college.

In recent weeks, the IRS has identified and stopped an upsurge of these bogus refund claims coming in from across the United States. The IRS is actively investigating the sources of the scheme, and its promoters may be subject to criminal prosecution.

"This is a disgraceful effort by scam artists to take advantage of people by giving them false hopes of a non-existent refund," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We want to warn innocent taxpayers about this new scheme before more people get trapped."

Typically, con artists falsely claim that refunds are available even if the victim went to school decades ago. In many cases, scammers are targeting seniors, people with very low incomes and members of church congregations with bogus promises of free money.

The IRS has also seen a variation of this scheme that incorrectly claims the college credit is available to compensate people for paying taxes on groceries. The IRS has already detected and stopped thousands of these fraudulent claims. Nevertheless, the scheme can still be quite costly for victims. Promoters may charge exorbitant upfront fees to file these claims and are often long gone when victims discover they've been scammed.

The IRS is reminding people to be careful because all taxpayers, including those who use paid tax preparers, are legally responsible for the accuracy of their returns, and must repay any refunds received in error.

To get the facts on tax benefits related to education, go to the [Tax Benefits for Education Information Center](#) on IRS.gov.



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

**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 order was placed with General Electric March 6 2012. The expected delivery date is March 26, 2012. The installation will begin April 2, 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 48% 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 will begin March 16, 2012.

### Trade-In and Purchase of Nine (9) OHA Vehicles.

Thursday, March 2, 2012, a representative of Bartow Ford, under the State of Florida term purchasing contract #071-000-12-1 effective November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012 as authorized automotive dealer, appraised nine OHA fleet vehicles for replacement with new 2012 Ford F-150 6 cylinder trucks. A purchase order in the amount of \$86,637.00 charged to Capital Fund 711 will be generated and delivery will be four to six weeks after approval of purchase order. The six trucks purchased under capital Fund 711 will also require lift gates. Quotes are being obtained for these gates. The other three vehicles (Ford F150 truck/6 cylinder) are replacements for the three 1998 Ford Windstar Vans used by Section 8 inspectors, do not require lift gates and are not charged to Capital Fund.

## VOTE 2012

Below are a few checklist items to help you prepare for the upcoming 2012 election:

- ◆ **Make sure you are registered to vote:** You can apply to register to vote any time. However, to vote in an election, you must be registered by the book closing date, which is normally the 29th day before each election.
- ◆ **Make sure you have proper identification:** Photo ID laws require voters to present a government-approved photo ID before they may cast their ballots.
- ◆ **Update your voters registration information:** If you have already registered to vote, but need to change your name, address or party affiliation, update your signature, or apply for a replacement card.
- ◆ **Make sure your absentee ballot is still active:** Absentee voting refers to voting on a ballot received by mail or picked up by or for a person who is unable or cannot go to the polls to vote during early voting or Election Day. A person does not have to be absent from his or her county of residence or have another reason to vote absentee. A request must be made to receive an absentee ballot. A request covers all elections through the end of the calendar year for the second ensuing regularly scheduled general election. Contact your [Supervisor of Elections](#) to request an absentee ballot.

**Voter suppression** is a strategy to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing people from exercising their right to vote. It is distinguished from political campaigning in that campaigning attempts to change likely voting behavior by changing the opinions of potential voters through persuasion and organization. Voter suppression instead attempts to reduce the number of voters who might vote against the candidate or proposition advocated by the suppressors. Exercise your RIGHT to VOTE!!

**Start Preparing Now!!**



Source: Florida Department of Elections and Wikipedia