

WHA Board of Commissioners

Delling Thibodeaux, III
Courtney Watts-Reyes
Jeanette Hardy
Delores P. Manuel
Carol Jones



PUBLIC HEARING

The Housing Authority of Westwego will hold its Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, July 19th at 6 p.m.

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Westwego Housing

Quality People. Quality Housing. Quality Services. 2016 Issue - July Edition



Words From The Executive Director, Dorian Rawles

If you couldn't tell, we are making major quality of life changes at the Westwego Housing Authority. Our website is now up and fully functional. At www.wegohousing.com, you can find information about the application process, waiting list, news and events, contact us, or fill out a survey regarding our performance. Now, all of our employees are required to display their identification badges as they enter your residence and we continue to have an open door policy for communication with our main office.

We are continuing our REAC inspections in all homes as this will help us secure the proper funding sources from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition to inspections, we are also beginning several home rehab and modernization projects in

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In This Issue

Ludie Snowden helps the community
Meet Your Employee - Aaron Greathouse
Welcome Home Event

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the community. We are working hard to replace old, obsolete or inferior materials from homes.

It is my pleasure to announce a Welcome Home Celebration on July 19th. I would love for the entire Westwego Housing community to come out and support this event that will feature health screenings, food, games, and many other activities. My staff and I will attend this event and we sincerely hope to see everyone there.

We will also hand out comment cards to each home so that we can gain valuable input regarding our performance. When you receive your card, please fill it out and put it in the dropbox located in the front office. We will use this data to help us increase our response time and make sure that we are doing everything possible to provide safe, sanitary and decent housing.

Again, it is my pleasure to serve you. I hope to see you all soon.

Meet Your Employee Aaron Greathouse



Most families have seen Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Greathouse wearing his knitted red, black and green hat that holds his long dreadlocks as he works fixing items in the Westwego Housing Community. Although he is skilled at fixing broken items, his real passion is

fixing broken people.

"I work with a mentoring group called the Fatherhood Roundtable," said Greathouse. "It helps young men learn that there is more out there for them than being a football player, or a sports figure, or a rapper. We work to make sure that they make positive choices in life."

Greathouse has been an employee of WHA for eight years. Within the past few months he was promoted to supervisor. He said his biggest goal besides making sure a job is done well, is positively interacting with people.

"A simple laugh can change a person's whole day," said Greathouse.

Greathouse has been impressed with the changes at the housing authority. He said he can see a clear vision and mission from the executive office and board.

"I've seen more changes for the better in the last few months than I've seen in the last 7 years," he added.

*Come and Join Us
as we are pleased to announce our*

Welcome Home CELEBRATION

Help us celebrate the opening of newly renovated units with a Community Day.

Tuesday, July 19th

2:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

6th Street and Avenue J.

Westwego, LA

**FOOD - GAMES - HEALTH SCREENINGS
- FINANCIAL INFORMATION**



On The Cover:

Mr. Ludie Snowden stands in front of his home on Pine Street.

Snowden is definition of hard work, good neighbor



Snowden moved into the community in 2007. At that time, he had a lot of health issues.

Sometimes one. Sometimes two. Sometimes three lawns in a day. It's not unusual to see Mr. Ludie Snowden pushing his lawnmower through the Westwego Housing Community cutting his neighbors' grass. What's usually a hard day of work for much younger men, is all in a day's work for the 84-year-old Snowden.

"I've been cutting grass since 1941," said Snowden. "I used to cut with the old push mower with the rotating blades. But I always did what I thought was right."

Snowden has been the living embodiment of a good neighbor by cutting his neighbors' lawns if they can't manage it themselves. He charges a small amount for the work, but if his neighbors don't have the funds, he normally considers it "paying the kindness forward."

His generosity and hard work caught the attention of Westwego Housing Authority Director Dorian Rawles.

"I've worked in the public housing arena for almost two decades, I've never witnessed someone like Mr. Snowden," said Rawles. "He is a shining example of putting others before himself."

"I had a heart valve replaced already," said Snowden. "My doctor told me I was going to lose my left leg. So I started moving around more, getting out and cutting grass. I didn't charge anything for the first year and a half."

Snowden dropped 100 pounds going from 330 pounds to 230 pounds. Snowden's life has revolved around inner strength and hard work. He taught himself to read by reading the newspaper as a youth and said he is addicted to reading books.

He was stationed in the Mojave Desert while in the military and also lived in Great Britain 22 months before the Korean War started. After receiving an honorable discharge, he only waited two weeks before starting to work in the sweltering hot temperatures in the old Kaiser Aluminum plant in Chalmette back in the 1950's.

Snowden credits God for his strength and longevity, and considers Westwego Housing one of the safest communities in the area.

"It's a good place," he said. "I leave stuff on my porch and in 8-and-a-half years nothing has ever been taken."

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Dorian Rawles