

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, May 17th at 6 p.m.

Westwego Housing Authority
P. O. Box 248
1010 Sixth Street
Westwego, Louisiana 70096-0248
Fax#504-341-5545
Email to: Info@wegohousing.com

Westwego Housing

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



Words From The Executive Director, Dorian Rawles

It has been more than four months since I began working for the Housing Authority of Westwego. It has been my pleasure to meet more and more families, seniors and single residents as each day passes.

I mentioned last month that we are working to make this a service-oriented agency filled with people who realize that we are here to assist with your housing and quality of life needs. And with that being said, we are working to transform the housing authority into a place where we provide quality service and quick turnaround times for work orders. If you are not fully satisfied, please feel free to email me at info@wegohousing.com.

We are continuing to work on our REAC inspections which will help this process and maximize our

continued on next page



In This Issue

Resident buys new home
Meet Your WHA Employee - Ellen Riedie
One-Strike Policy
Easter Bash

funding. Please cooperate with our maintenance and management teams as they inspect your home. They will check your electrical systems, fire prevention equipment, plumbing, ventilation, and exits.

I am also excited about our newsletter as we highlight positive news from our families and employees with the Housing Authority of Westwego. Also if you have any positive news regarding yourself, your neighbors, or your families, please email us to let us know. It is important for us to support each other's successes as we move forward together in life.

Finally our new website will be up and running soon. We will notify you when it is complete and will walk you through its interactive features.

Thanks again for welcoming me to Westwego and treating your staff with the utmost respect.

Meet Your Employee Ellen Riedie



If you've lived in the Westwego affordable housing community chances are, you've seen Assistant Director Ellen Riedie. Riedie has worked for the housing authority for 26 years.

"I started as modernization coordinator, and worked with the mod program. We went out

to each house to see what needed to be done. The homes were sinking at the time," said Riedie.

Riedie wears many hats and is responsible for rent, calculating the employee timesheets, PIC system, move-ins for new tenants, office payroll, quality control, recertifications and bill payment for the agency.

Riedie said that the Westwego Housing Authority has changed significantly over time with more and more homes being fitted with better appliances and amenities.

Riedie, who was named the Assistant Director by the board, said she loves the new focus of the housing authority.

"I think the direction that we're going in now is a positive direction. I can't wait to see all of the changes we're going to make. I think it will be great for us and the tenants."

WHA enforces 1-strike policy

Please note that the Westwego Housing Authority will enforce the one-strike policy that allows management to evict a tenant if they, any member of their household, or any guest engages in criminal activity. No drug use or deals, illegal weapons, or physical violence will be tolerated within the Westwego Housing Authority properties. Public housing is a benefit provided for families in need. It is not a right. Please be aware of your guests or family member's behaviors.

The policy states, "Anyone (tenant, household member, guest, etc) who is engaged in any drug or criminal activity on or off the premises that is a threat to the health and safety or peaceful enjoyment of others, person engage in any drug activity or criminal activity and any person who abuses alcohol will be evicted under the 'ONE STRIKE YOU'RE OUT POLICY.' This policy means any resident, family member or guest that are involved in a drug-related activity, criminal activity or any alcohol abuse will be immediately evicted whether it is on or off the Housing Authority's property. Conceivably, a family could be left homeless by actions of one of its household members and/or guest in the presence or absence of the head of household.

On The Cover:

Brenda Allemand's house on Pine Street is decorated with a beautiful flower arrangement.

Dave's development resident buys new home, waiting to close

Natasha Benard grew up in Dave's Development. After living there most of her life, she woke up one day with a different attitude.

"Girl you got to do something," said Benard. "It's time to make moves. I was really going to wait until next year. But something inside of me said, 'I'll just try.' They ran my credit score, and after that I was approved to purchase my first home."

Bernard will be closing on her home in the next few weeks. Her transition from public housing to homeownership happened in a matter of months.

Bernard said she cleaned up her credit to begin the process.

"I had a student loan on my credit. I had to stop playing and playing and saying, 'I'm just going to this. It was

time to make a move."

Now, Benard says the whole experience seems surreal as she waits to close on the property. The closing process normally involves title changes, tax information, and final inspections.

"I'm waiting to close and it's kind of weird. I didn't think that I would be approved. I just sat there for a minute in shock," laughed Benard. "It was a blessing because I was able to purchase a foreclosed home. I just couldn't believe it Every day, I would look at it online to see if it was still there."

When asked what she would tell her neighbors about buying their first home she said, "I would say stop saying what you're going to do, and do it. Do what you say you're going to do."

“ “ I was really going to wait until next year. But something inside of me said, 'I'll just try.' They ran my credit score, and after that I was approved to purchase my first home. ” ”

-Natasha Benard

WHA sponsors EASTER BASH

The Westwego Housing Authority helped families get into the holiday spirit by providing games, easter eggs and chocolate rabbits to our community's children. Rain stopped the egg hunt, but the celebration moved indoors on April 21.

