Celebrating African American History

February is Black History Month, which celebrates the many achievements of African Americans and recognizes their important role in U.S. history. This month, Resident Services will be using our social media platforms, newsletters and other resources to recognize some of these achievements and important African American figures who helped shape our society today. I encourage each of you to take this time to utilize these resources as an opportunity to learn more about African American history.

If you have content that you would like to share for black history month, please email Anna at: acuster@akronhousing.org.

February Highlights

**Black History Month**

1st- National Freedom Day
2nd- Groundhog Day
4th-National Wear Red Day
12th- Lincoln’s Birthday
14th- Valentine’s Day
21st- President’s Day
21st- Washington’s Birthday

Valentine on a Dime

No need to break the bank buying expensive flowers or chocolates! Click HERE to find some fun and affordable D.I.Y Valentine's Day projects that will make for great gifts!

Resident Services Updates

Resident Highlight: A Memorable Milestone

Faythe Timms turned 100 years 'young' on January 16th, 2022! Ms. Timms has been a Stephanie Keys Towers resident since 1984. She always has a friendly smile and a positive perspective on life. She was very happy to be
Family Self Sufficiency Grad Story

Recent FSS program graduate, Darius, enrolled into the FSS Program as a young man trying to balance employment, college and the financial responsibilities of adult life. Darius experienced changes and challenges along his FSS journey. Darius stated that his FSS Service Coordinator really helped him get through some tough moments by providing great support, guidance and community resources. He also shared that the FSS Program helped him to realize the importance of goal setting, and that his accomplishments kept him on a straight path to success. "Without setting goals in all areas of life, we drive ourselves in a circle." Darius also invested a lot of time and effort in financial literacy coaching and completed a homebuyer education course. Darius earned escrow from the FSS Program which he plans to use toward a future business venture and home ownership. We are so proud of Darius and all his achievements!

Submitted by Bernadette Hunt
FSS Service Coordinator

Nimmer Booster Clinic

Last month, a booster clinic was held at Nimmer’s Community Room. Many residents showed up to receive their booster shot and left with smiles on their faces! Pictured left is a resident who was in attendance, proudly holding up her vaccination card. Thank you to Mac Pharmacy, the nursing staff, Resident Services staff and Property Management staff for making this Booster Clinic a good experience for all who attended.

Staff Highlight

Hi! My name is Alexis Peake! I'm a SPARK Parent Partner. I work with
families who have pre-school age children in preparing both the child and their family for Kindergarten! I love working and growing with each and every family and helping them achieve their goals! While also working here at AMHA in the Resident Services Department, I attend school part-time at the University of Akron, working to get my Master's Degree!

For more information on SPARK, call:
Tiffany, 330-376-9695

Resources

Jobs Plus

Have you ever heard of Jobs Plus? If you are a resident of Summit Lake Apartments, Lakeshore Apartments, Lakeshore Duplexes, Roulhac Circle, or Dorothy Jackson Terrace..you are eligible!

To find out how you can earn more money without an increase in rent and how you can access free life coaching services, please call 330-604-3239 or email us at JobsPlus@AkronHousing.org.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook @jobsplusamha to stay up-to-date on activities and resources!
Tax Prep Service

Reach Opportunity Center will prepare your tax return at no cost to you! Appointments and walk-ins welcome during our days of operation found below:

Tax Prep Service Hours

- February 14, 10:30am to 2:00pm
- February 28, 10:30am to 2:00pm
- March 14, 10:30am to 2:00pm
- March 28, 10:30am to 2:00pm

Car Seat Appointments for AMHA Housing Choice Voucher Program and Scattered Sites Families

For Parents or Legal Guardians Only

Drive-thru distribution held at

To Be Determined

Friday, March 25

Must call to schedule an appointment

Deadline to register is Monday, March 7

Do you have a child who needs a car seat?

To check eligibility and schedule an appointment please contact Nicole at 330-543-1032

Requirements of program (Must meet all requirements listed below)

- Summit County Residents
- Parent or Legal Guardian
- Benefit Eligible (WIC, Medicaid or SNAP)
- If expecting must be due before May 20, 2022

Moving to Work (MTW)

Virtual Zoom Public Meetings

We invite you to participate in either of the virtual meetings listed below to hear more about the MTW Program and AMHA’s plans. During the meeting, we will discuss the changes we are making beginning in July and you will have the opportunity to offer comments and/or questions. The meetings will be held on Zoom. To access the meetings, please dial 312-626-6799 on any phone and enter the meeting ID and
passcode OR download the Zoom application on your smart phone and enter the meeting ID and passcode. Please continue to check AMHA’s website at www.akronhousing.org for additional opportunities to learn more about MTW.

When: Wednesday, February 16th
Time: 10:00 AM (general meeting)
      10:30 AM (safe harbor/agency specific waivers)
Where: Virtual ZOOM
Phone #: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 825 5589 4622
Passcode: 021622

When: Tuesday, March 1st
Time: 5:30 PM (general meeting)
      6:00 PM (safe harbor/agency specific waivers)
Where: Virtual ZOOM
Phone #: 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 893 6299 6082
Passcode: 030122

Quick Facts on the MTW Program!

- Ability to modify our housing programs to better benefit our local community
- Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness
- Encourage self-sufficiency through job training, education programs, etc.
- Increase housing choices for low-income families
- This year's plans: simplifying rent calculation, reducing paperwork, offering incentives to landlords with the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and more!

If you are unable or do not want to participate in the virtual meetings, the information will be posted at HERE and you may ask your questions or provide your comments by calling our MTW information line at (330) 825-6987 or email MTW@AkronHousing.Org.

Persons with disabilities needing information in an accessible format, please contact the Reasonable Accommodations Coordinator at (330) 762-9631, or for persons needing an interpreter, please contact (330) 825-6987 as soon as possible.

Community Talk Back: Virtual Meeting

Summit County Historical Society will be hosting a virtual Community Talk Back meeting this month to discuss African American history and important figures who helped shape our community today. Dorothy Jackson, AMHA's first Resident Services Director and her story will be one of the discussion topics! Please consider coming, details below.

For more information or to register, click HERE.
Winter Utility Bill Assistance

Assistance is available to income-eligible Summit County residents to help pay for winter utility bills through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (E-HEAP). Click HERE to apply online or call 330-436-0261. Please be persistent as it may take several days to get through. If all appointments are filled, callers may opt to call back between 4pm and 6pm that day to schedule one of a limited number of same-daytime slots for the following business day.

Be sure to like and follow our Facebook pages to get the most up-to-date information about useful resources and news! The links to each page are found below.

Resident Services
AMHA
Jobs Plus
Reach Opportunity Center

Have a great February!