

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



January/February 2011



NEWS OF NOTE

NEW YEAR BRINGS OUR NEW MAYOR A MESSAGE FROM TIM BARRY LMHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's the beginning of a new year, and I'd like to take a moment to offer my thanks and appreciation to each and every one of you for your continued hard work and dedication to the agency and the residents we serve. I'd also like to thank our outgoing Mayor Jerry Abramson for his many years of service.

It is my honor and privilege to welcome Mayor Greg Fischer. I had the good fortune to attend Mayor Fischer's inauguration ceremony and hear him speak about his vision for Louisville. I was also inspired by the beautiful Inaugural Interfaith Celebration in Prayer and Music at the Cathedral of the Assumption.

I look forward to working with Mayor Fischer to further LMHA's mission. I am especially excited by the emphasis our new Mayor has put on revitalizing vacant, dilapidated and abandoned properties. Together, we can pursue housing redevelopment and community revitalization efforts like our pending Sheppard Square HOPE VI application, that will strengthen neighborhoods, launch new green businesses, and provide employment and job training opportunities.



EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS (BETTER KNOWN AS GIVE US YOUR TWO CENTS)

Don't forget...to send in your cost saving suggestions. If your suggestion is published, you'll not only help the agency become more cost-effective, you'll also receive a prize for your efforts. Please submit your suggestions by contacting Vikki Stone via e-mail at vstone@lmha1.org.

Briefly Speaking is a bi-monthly employee newsletter published by the Public Information Office (PIO) for the LMHA. For more information contact Vikki Stone, PIO officer, (502) 569-3421 or vstone@lmha1.org.

Executive Director: Tim Barry
Deputy Executive Director – Operations: Will Seay
Deputy Executive Director – Finance: Wavid Wray
Website: www.LMHA1.org

LMHA WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONER

LMHA would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Commissioner, Dr. Sharon A. Kerrick. An Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville, Dr. Kerrick teaches in both the College of Business, where she directs the university's undergraduate entrepreneurship program and the College of Education and Human Development, where she heads up the Economic Education Center. Prior to joining the university, she was one of the founders of Micro Computer Solutions, a technology business that grew to over 300 full-time staff in five states. For those who have been at LMHA for many years, you may remember meeting Dr. Kerrick when she provided computer training for staff back in the early days of office computing.



YOUR DONATIONS TURN SHOES INTO WATER

Thanks for stepping up, LMHA! Since our recent shoe drive was so successful, we've decided to keep collecting shoes for the Shoeman Water Project. Please drop off your new and used shoes at Avenue Plaza (in the first floor recycling room), Vine Street (on the fourth floor) and Central Maintenance (in the hallway next to the vending machines). The Shoeman Project gives your unwanted shoes a second life by donating them to retailers in South America, Haiti and Kenya. Reselling your shoes provides jobs and inexpensive footwear to local residents for pennies on the dollar or for barter. Your shoes can also be life-saving tools in these countries, as they can help protect the new owner's overall health against parasites. Funds generated from the export of shoes provides money to purchase well-drilling rigs and water purification systems, bringing clean, fresh water to thirsty people around the world. Want to learn more? Visit www.shoeman.org.



2010 METRO UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN

Thanks to your generosity, LMHA donated \$12,868 to the 2010 Metro United Way campaign. These funds will allow Metro United Way to continue to support agencies that provide vital services to individuals and families throughout Kentuckiana. Way to go LMHA.

LMHA COMPLETES STIMULUS PROJECTS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

In 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which allocated \$3 billion in Public Housing Capital Funds to HUD for distribution based on formulas to Public Housing Agencies. LMHA received \$14,151,218 of these funds. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Housing Authority staff, LMHA has now completed all of its ARRA projects 16 months ahead of schedule.

"The LMHA staff and our contractors are to be commended for completing the work in such an aggressive manner," said Tim Barry, LMHA Executive Director. "The stimulus funding allowed us to make significant and much needed improvements to our housing stock." Stimulus-funded projects included demolition of units at Iroquois Homes, replacement of old elevators at Dosker Manor and Avenue Plaza, and new plumbing and heating work at Beecher Terrace.

Minority, Female and Disabled Business Enterprises (MBE/FBE/DBE) were integrally involved in all aspects of the stimulus-funded work, with \$1 million spent with minority businesses, \$200,000 with female-owned businesses and \$30,000 with disabled business owners. "We are very pleased with our MBE/FBE/DBE participation levels," said Barry. "LMHA has a long and distinguished record of working with MBE/FBE/DBE companies as demonstrated at our two HOPE VI initiatives, as well as our traditional housing stock."

LMHA OFFICE CLOSING NOTIFICATION

In addition to postings on local television and radio stations, please note that effective immediately LMHA employees may call (502) 569-3438 for notification regarding office closings due to weather or other circumstances.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

January (belated)

Mary Arthur-Brown, Vine Street
 Stacey Baker, Special Programs
 Shameka Brown, Beecher Terrace
 Terry Brown, Vacancy Prep
 Anna Burks, Beecher Terrace
 Janice Burns, Executive
 Myrna Cunningham, Executive
 Dan Farrell, Special Programs
 Antwon Goff, Bishop Lane Plaza
 Kevin Graves, Extermination
 John Groves, Safety & Investigations
 Kenneth Heacox, Lourdes Hall
 Fred Huber IV, HVAC
 Ronald Johnson, Operations
 Frances Jones, Vine Street
 Abdullahi Jubiyi, Construction Administration
 Valerie Leslie, Beecher Terrace
 Arthur Osterhage, Bishop Lane Plaza
 William Slemmons, Jr., HVAC
 Gilbert Smith, Regional Maintenance
 Terral Sowell, Sheppard Square
 Willie Stephens, HVAC
 Dayrel Wade, Sheppard Square
 George White, Auto/Grounds
 Teresa Williams, Vine Street

February

Chester Brewer, Finance
 William Brockway, Bishop Lane Plaza
 Jeffrey Carter, Lourdes Hall
 Evelyn Coutee, Vine Street
 Chyna Eda, Occupancy
 Quanda Ellis, Dosker Manor
 Alan Farley, Construction Administration
 Aurelia Hensley, Vine Street
 James Johnson, Sr., LHS
 Ashley Jones-Richardson, Finance
 Joycelyn Kinnaird, Vine Street
 Kelvin Kirby, Bishop Lane Plaza
 Michael Lyall, Construction Administration
 LaShonda Moore, Lourdes Hall
 Miguel Nero, Bishop Lane Plaza
 Mary Nichols, Vine Street
 Patricia Packer, Personnel
 Jeffrey Ralph, Finance
 Reginald Spinks, Avenue Plaza
 Frank Young, Dosker Manor

STAFF UPDATE

New Hires

Temporary to Full-Time

Antwon Goff
Maintenance Work I – Bishop Lane Plaza
 Shameka Brown
Maintenance Worker I - Beecher Terrace

Resignations

Geraldine Livers
Rental Assistance Monitor - Vine Street
 Marc Spalding
Maintenance Worker III - HVAC

Retirements

Rudy Heimann
Rental Assistance Supervisor – Vine Street
 John McKissick
Site Supervisor – Parkway Place



SALUTE TO SERVICE (JANUARY - FEBRUARY)

20 Years

(1/2011) Alan Farley, Construction Admin.

15 Years

(1/2011) Denise Washington, Special Programs

10 Years

(2/2011) Gary Cunningham, LHS

5 Years

(1/2011) Alyss Brindley, Vine Street
 (2/2011) Carla Hardaway, Vine Street
 (2/2011) Michele Johnson, Special Programs
 (2/2011) Beatrice Richie, Special Programs



ARE YOU PUZZLED?

Proverb Game (Courtesy of Amber Goddard, Special Programs)

Old sayings often have a lot of wisdom to offer. Use the clues provided to complete each proverb; the first letter of each word is filled in for you. **The deadline for submission is March 7, 2011.** What's in it for you, a great prize of course. Good Luck!

Sample: Honesty Is The Best Policy (A guideline we teach our children.)

- 1) T_____ M_____ C_____ S_____ T_____ B_____

(This can happen when there are too many people in a kitchen.)
- 2) B_____ L_____ T_____ N_____

(Wearing a watch would cure this.)
- 3) N_____ L_____ A G_____ H_____ I_____ T_____ M_____

(Keep this in mind when you open your presents.)
- 4) S_____ W_____ T_____ I_____ I_____ H_____

(Act quickly before things cool off.)
- 5) T_____ E_____ B_____ C_____ T_____ W_____

(Take this advice if you like wiggly creatures and need to start and finish on-time.)
- 6) Y_____ C_____ H_____ Y_____ C_____ & E_____ I_____ T_____

(No bakery ever had this for its slogan.)
- 7) O_____ O_____ S_____ O_____ O_____ M_____

(So you don't have to think about papers on your desk or move them out of your way)
- 8) B_____ O_____ A F_____ F_____ T_____

(Group of people who like to do the same things and go the same places)
- 9) L_____ F_____ L_____ S_____

(Familiar saying about a male parent and child who share similar interests)
- 10) V_____ I_____ T_____ S_____ O_____ L_____

(Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme.)

Submitted by:

Name _____ Dept. _____

Please make a copy of your "Fill in the Blank", and send it to Vikki Stone in the Executive Dept. by March 7, 2011. The prize winner will be drawn from the correct entries. If you would like to submit any puzzles or brain teasers for future consideration, please send them via e-mail to vstone@lmha1.org. Special thanks to Amber Goddard for submitting a "Puzzler" for this issue.



STAY SAFE DURING WINTER STORMS

The following are a few tips from the American Red Cross to help you and your family remain safe and warm when winter storms bring snow, sleet, ice, or freezing rain:

- Dress appropriately when going outside to protect yourself from the cold. The face, nose, fingers, feet and toes are the most susceptible to frostbite. Layered lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat. Gloves (or mittens) and a hat will help prevent loss of body heat;
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow. Shoe traction devices that fit over your shoes or boots are also available to help prevent slipping;
- Prevent frozen pipes by opening cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around water pipes. Let the cold water drip slowly from faucets that are served by pipes located along exterior walls. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing; and

- If you shovel snow, be extremely careful. Take frequent breaks and stay hydrated. Avoid overexertion.

Winter storms can also cause power outages. If your electricity goes out, there are things you can do to help ensure your safety until the power is restored:

- If you are using a portable generator, do not connect it to your home's electrical system. Instead, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Also be sure to keep the generator 10' to 12' away from your home to keep engine exhaust from entering your home;
- Leave one light turned on so you will know when your power returns; and
- Turn off or disconnect appliances or electronics you were using when the power went out to prevent surges or spikes from damaging your equipment when the power comes back on.