

# BRIEFLY SPEAKING

LOUISVILLE METRO HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



May/June 2011



## NEWS OF NOTE

### THE POWER OF CREATIVITY A MESSAGE FROM TIM BARRY LMHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the most satisfying aspects of my position here at LMHA is working with staff to create new housing and innovative programs that respond to the needs of our residents. From complex, multi-year projects like the recently awarded Sheppard Square HOPE VI grant, to Liberty Green that received a design award from the Kentuckiana Masonry Institute and silver LEED designation for the Community Center - our staff continually generates creative approaches to meet the complex challenges we face at LMHA.

What often doesn't make headlines though - at least outside of this agency - is the smaller, inventive endeavors that constantly take place throughout LMHA. Two examples in April were the professional development training held by our Special Programs department that increased our staff's understanding of the Somali Bantu population living at LMHA sites, and the Earth Day Plant Sale for LMHA employees that raised funds to provide educational programming for Smoketown youth this summer at the St. Peter Claver Garden.

Never underestimate the power of the original thinking you bring to your job, and how it impacts the lives of the residents we serve. Your creativity is how we continually uphold excellence in the public housing sector, while launching programs that promote inter-cultural awareness and the importance of good stewardship. I extend my personal thanks to each and every one of you for your part in creating these successful efforts.

### STUDENTS PAINT THE TOWN

Twelve students from the University of Missouri spent their spring break working alongside Meyzeek Middle School students to create a colorful new mural in Smoketown. Metro United Way helped the Missouri students connect with students in Meyzeek's Collaborative After School Program (CLASP) as part of an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) project. ASB programs provide college students with volunteer opportunities that can make a real impact on the community they serve. The students chose to visit Louisville after being inspired by the city's wide array of health-focused initiatives. Meyzeek's CLASP students have a visible memory of the week they spent with their "painting mentors" as the mural brightens up the side of the new Dollar Plus Healthy in a Hurry Corner Store on Preston Street. Dollar Plus leases the building from LMHA.



### SOMALI BANTU CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

LMHA's Special Programs department recently held a training and professional development program for LMHA staff to increase cultural awareness about Louisville's Somali Bantu immigrant population. The Somali Bantu are now the largest immigrant population living in LMHA communities. "The presentation was designed to promote inter-cultural communication among LMHA staff and to help address the unique challenges facing the Somali Bantu population", said Camille Robinson, Community Supportive Services Coordinator, who organized and helped conduct the program. Other speakers included: Matt Kull, KY Office of Refugees; Mohammad Karow, KY Somali Bantu Community; and, Mary Touray, Presbyterian Community Center. A wide range of topics including the historical context of the Somali Bantu immigration movement to the United States, Somali Bantu social and cultural norms, and the needs of the Somali Bantu community

were discussed. Over 30 staff members from Special Programs and other LMHA departments attended the presentation that was held at the Liberty Green Community Center. Special thanks to Kathryn Tillett, a Kent School of Social Work intern, for developing the program.



### SALUTE TO SERVICE (MAY/JUNE)

#### 25 Years

(6/2011) Carlos Grigsby, Dosker Manor

#### 20 Years

(5/2011) Terry Good,

Assistant Regional Coordinator

(5/2011) Patricia Laster, Operations

(5/2011) Timothy Montgomery, Vacancy Prep.

#### 10 Years

(5/2011) Theresa Jaimes, Vine Street

(5/2011) LaShonda Moore, Lourdes Hall

(6/2011) Willie Drain, Finance

(6/2011) Stephen Higgins, PG&E

(6/2011) Vanessa Holland, Occupancy

(6/2011) Patrick Keene, Auto/Grounds

#### 5 Years

(5/2011) Antoinette Snoddy, Vine Street

(6/2011) Cindy Mayfield, Vine Street

COMING SOON - DETAILS ON  
SHEPPARD SQUARE HOPE VI GRANT AWARD





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

## May

Katrina Beeler, Vine Street  
Phyllis Brown, Vine Street  
Cheryl Edwards, Parkway Place  
Linda Fort, Dosker Manor  
Kiefrumn Howard, Beecher Terrace  
Michele Johnson, Special Programs  
Bryan Lindsey, Auto/Grounds  
Sean McCall, HVAC  
Michael Newman, Dosker Manor  
Anna Price, Lourdes Hall  
Russell Sanders, Avenue Plaza  
Christine Smith, Dosker Manor  
Eric Talbott, Information Technology  
Jermaine Taylor, Auto/Grounds  
Tyrone Thomas, Dosker Manor  
Terri Thornton, Vine Street  
Chirl Wakefield, Operations  
Chad Williams, Parkway Place

## June

Tim Barry, Executive  
John Bowling, Regional Maintenance  
Chastiny Coleman, Beecher Terrace  
Frederick Dillon, Parkway Place  
Makeeba Hickerson, Beecher Terrace  
Alious Kaestner, PG&E  
Michael Kennedy, Auto/Grounds  
Mark Liberto, Parkway Place  
Lynn McCallie, Vine Street  
Joyce McGill, Vine Street  
David Mills, Dosker Manor  
Jasmin Neal, Auto/Grounds  
Lisa Osanka, Executive  
Wendy Osborne, Louisville Housing Services  
Stephanie Payne, Vine Street  
Bernard Pincus, Construction Administration  
Cathy Salvate, Finance  
Ronald Sharp, Purchasing  
Ucresia Sistrunk, Lourdes Hall  
Shelton Talbott, PG&E  
Cleda Thompson, Lourdes Hall  
Mary Wethington, Iroquois Homes  
Faye Wilford, Dosker Manor  
Daniel Woods, HVAC

## STAFF UPDATE

### New Hires Temporary

Komi Aboukou  
*Maintenance Worker I – Auto/Grounds*  
Lorinda Baker  
*Hospitality Coordinator – Operations*  
Melvin Boyd  
*Maintenance Worker I – Auto/Grounds*  
Linda Dorsey  
*Key Control Monitor – Construction Admin.*  
Jon Harvey  
*Maintenance Worker I – Auto/Grounds*  
Ronald Johnson  
*Hospitality Coordinator – Operations*  
Michael Kennedy  
*Maintenance Worker I – Auto/Grounds*  
Mary McDonald  
*Tutor/Computer Instructor – Special Programs*  
Alicia Murrell  
*Hospitality Coordinator – Operations*  
Gloria Phillips  
*Key Control Monitor – Construction Admin.*  
Marla Powell  
*Key Control Monitor – Construction Admin.*  
Portia Shoulders  
*Key Control Monitor – Construction Admin.*  
Garmonyu Sawah  
*Maintenance Worker I – Auto/Grounds*  
Andrew Taylor  
*Maintenance Worker I – Auto/Grounds*  
Kathryn Tillett  
*Case Management Coordinator –  
Special Programs*  
Chirl Wakefield  
*Hospitality Coordinator – Operations*

### Full-Time

Connie Simrell  
*Assistant – Special Programs*

### Resignation

Darrence Hampton  
*Maintenance Worker I – Sheppard Square*

### Retirement

Charles Mitchell  
*Property Manager II – Parkway Place*  
Juanita Mitchell  
*Property Manager II –  
Avenue Plaza/St. Catherine Court*

## SPRING SPRUCE-UP AT AVENUE PLAZA

Despite a very soggy spring, Central Office employees donned comfortable clothes and a can-do attitude again this year for our annual beautification project at Avenue Plaza. Each year, staff put their green thumbs to work by tidying up the landscaping, and topping it off with flowers and fresh mulch. What better way to demonstrate our pride in our workplace and commitment to the environment than this annual “Greening of the Grounds.” Thanks again to everyone who participated in this fun event.



## LMHA EARNS MASONRY DESIGN AWARDS

The Kentuckiana Masonry Institute (KMI) recently presented LMHA with two prestigious awards at their 31st Annual Architectural Awards Ceremony. The awards included a 2010 Special Project Award of Merit for the residential buildings at Liberty Green, and a 2010 Brick Award of Honor for the Liberty Green Community Center. “Liberty Green is a shining example of how redevelopment can be done in an architecturally sensitive way, and how attention to architectural details creates an environment in which people want to live and work,” said Mayor Greg Fischer at the award ceremony.

KMI honors architectural designs that bring public attention to outstanding masonry projects. Architectural design was provided by Sherman-Carter Barnhart for the residential

rental buildings at Liberty Green and by Jill Lewis Smith for the Community Center. Abstract Construction and Masonry was the masonry contractor. Judging for the awards was based on overall excellence in design as well as the appropriate and innovative use of masonry construction.



## SAFETY MATTERS

### GUARD AGAINST POTENTIAL HAZARDS IN THE KITCHEN

The Electrical Safety Foundation is challenging people across the country to evaluate the electrical safety of their homes. While in the kitchen, where two-thirds of all home fires start, please be sure to “Cook up Safety” with the following do’s and don’ts:

**Do** keep your range, oven and exhaust hood clean and free of debris.

**Do** make sure there is adequate room behind the refrigerator for air circulation.

**Do** vacuum your refrigerator’s coils regularly to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create a fire hazard.

**Do** plug your counter top appliances into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected outlets and test the outlets every month.

**Don’t** keep combustibles, such as dishtowels, napkins and potholders around the range or oven.

**Don’t** use appliances with cords that are frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged.

**Don’t** leave your toaster, coffee maker, or other counter top appliances plugged in when not in use.

**Don’t** use electrical appliances that have been wet, as water can damage electrical motors.

For additional information on saving energy and reducing electrical safety hazards in your home, see [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).



## ARE YOU PUZZLED?

The following answers are to the puzzler published in the March/April 2011 “Briefly Speaking” newsletter: 1) Forever and a Day; 2) Up in Arms; 3) Too little, too late; 4) Forgive and forget; and 5) I understand.

**The winner of the puzzler is Janice Burns, Executive. Please stop by Vikki Stone’s office to pick up your prize!** If you would like to submit any puzzles or brain teasers for future consideration, please send them via e-mail to [vstone@lmha1.org](mailto: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](mailto:vstone@lmha1.org).

Executive Director: Tim Barry  
Deputy Executive Director – Operations: Will Seay  
Deputy Executive Director – Finance: Wavid Wray  
Website: [www.LMHA1.org](http://www.LMHA1.org)