



C.O.R.E. NEWS



TOP STORY:

NEW PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS ARE COMING TO PARKVIEW, EUCLID, WEST PINE, NORTHSIDE SCATTERED SITES AND RENAISSANCE AT GRAND AS PART OF A \$238,690 NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION TRANSFORMATION GRANT. *CONTINUES ON PAGE 7*



LOOKING AHEAD, TOGETHER!

LATASHA BARNES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am honored to serve as the new Executive Director of the St. Louis Housing Authority. Stepping into this role has been a humbling experience, and I am deeply moved by the passion and resilience of our residents.

Your voices are essential in shaping the future of our neighborhoods. I'm grateful for the privilege to have heard from many of you. The insights and visions you've shared are already inspiring a wave of new SLHA projects!

This is just the beginning! I believe in the power of collaboration and am committed to fostering a partnership where your ideas and aspirations are central to SLHA's progress. Together, we can and will reimagine our communities.

I look forward to connecting with more of you and working hand-in-hand to bring your visions to life! Feel free to reach out to me at (314) 286-4217.

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CONGRATULATIONS executive board members

CAHILL

Latif Sarif, President
Handy Ross, Vice President
Viola Galbreath, Treasurer
Celestine Jamerson, Secretary
Tommie Dentman, Sergeant At Arms
Barron Carothers, Alternate
Harold Clark, Alternate

CLINTON - PEABODY

Pamela Emrick, President
Mary Buckley, Vice President
Johnny Smith, Treasurer
Antonio Phillips, Secretary
Alexis Taylor, Sergeant At Arms

LASALLE PARK

Jamelia Daniels, President
James Murphy, Vice President
Kayla Sailor, Treasurer
DaJuana Ford, Secretary

LES CHATEAUX

Delores Quinn, President
Scotta Clark, Secretary
Bettie Chandler, Treasurer
Barbara Garner, Sergeant At Arms

NORTH SARAH

Benita Jones, President
Kimberly Gill, Vice President
Davida Ferguson, Secretary & Treasurer
DeAndrea Love, Sergeant At Arms

PARKVIEW

Dwayne Hildred Sr., President
Pamela Bush, Vice President
Doug Lane, Treasurer
Margaret English, Secretary
Garry Wilson, Sergeant At Arms
Wanda Collier, Alternate

RENAISSANCE/BVTA

Edith Guthrie, President
Michelle Morgan, Vice President
Alicia Deal - Treasurer
Stella Barnes, Secretary
Jasmine Williams, Sergeant At Arms

RENAISSANCE SENIOR

Juanita Brown, President
Lakota Williams, Vice President
Myrna Dilliam, Secretary
Annie MacAnderson, Treasurer

WEST PINE

Eric Smallwood, President
Andrea Powell, Vice President & Treasurer
Andrew Thomas, Secretary
Sam Holland, Sergeant At Arms
James Johnson, Alternate



SLHA TAB board members celebrate their success after completing five weeks of intensive leadership and team-building training. Congratulations to everyone on their hard work and dedication!

REFRESHED, REVITALIZED & REIGNITED

The Resident Initiatives Department is spearheading efforts to revitalize the Tenant Association Boards (TABs) at nine public housing sites. These resident-led organizations play a crucial role in representing the interests of fellow residents in all planning and decision-making processes related to their respective sites.

Aside from advocacy, TABs lead the planning and implementation of various social, recreational, and educational programs designed to enhance resident engagement and satisfaction. Activities range from movie nights and community clean-ups to health screenings, providing a diverse array of opportunities for residents to connect and improve their community.

This summer, the newly elected executive board members attended an intensive, five-week team building and training academy aimed at providing TAB leadership with tools and strategies for effective board operation and resident engagement. Topics covered included budgeting, empathy, communication and collaborative problem-solving, as well as visits from the HUD St. Louis Field Office.

"The training prepared us to become the best leaders for our community," said Resident Commissioner and North Sarah TAB President Benita Jones.

"It truly takes a village to make change. I hope all residents take advantage of our great programs and, most importantly, attend the meetings," added Jones.

DID YOU KNOW?

All residents are Tenant Association members, even if they do not serve in executive leadership. Visit your community's TAB office for more information and a schedule of upcoming meetings and events.



SAFETY TIPS

HOME

Never leave valuables in plain sight
Never leave your vehicle unattended while running
Remember to lock doors and windows

VEHICLE

Use an alarm and/ or camera system
Don't leave spare keys in recognizable places
Illuminate your residence at night with porch lights

ONLINE PURCHASES & EXCHANGES

Always meet in a well-lit, public location
Avoid displaying large amounts of cash
If something makes you uncomfortable, trust your instincts

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

**REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR CALL
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE SERVICES AT (314) 231-1212.**

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT:

HAZEL GILMORE

NIYAH MCDOWELL, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

Hazel Gilmore, a resident of Clinton-Peabody, has earned the prestigious title of Valedictorian for the Class of 2024 at KIPP St. Louis High School.

She achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA while actively participating in both the marching band and concert band. From the start, Hazel's unwavering dedication to excellence was evident. Despite the challenges often faced by inner-city youth, she persevered with the support of her mother, mentors, teachers, and community.

Reflecting on her journey, Hazel values the experiences and setbacks that shaped her upbringing, recognizing them as her foundation. She encourages students to:

“Keep God first, accept and handle setbacks, and take life one day at a time.”

This fall, Hazel will embark on a new chapter at the University of Michigan, where she plans to major in psychology with a specialization in neuroscience. Her future career aspirations range from becoming a social worker to pursuing a path as a surgical technologist.

SLHA extends heartfelt congratulations to Hazel and the entire graduating class of 2024. Despite the significant disruptions caused by COVID, you've successfully persevered to your next chapter.



Photo courtesy of College Bound St. Louis

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, submit your story idea to Val Joyner, Director of Communications, at vjoyner@slha.org.



BRIDGE TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

CARLA MATTHEWS, DIRECTOR OF HCV OPERATIONS

SLHA offers a unique opportunity for families to use their Housing Choice Voucher (HCV/Section 8) to purchase a home through the Bridge to Homeownership program. This program is designed to support families who want to live in a home owned by one or more of their household members. It is open to all eligible HCV participants, but SLHA has specific guidelines for use of the voucher for homeownership and can only assist up to 100 families at a time.

The family must meet all requirements before homeownership assistance can begin. These include, but are not limited to, being current participants in the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, qualifying as first-time homeowners or cooperative members, or having a family member with a disability.

For more information about SLHA's homeownership program, visit slha.org or contact Tanisha Boyd, HCV (Section 8) Housing Specialist, at 314-286-4219.

EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE

Emergency maintenance includes:

- No water
- No heat
- No air conditioning
- Clogged Toilet
- Leaks
- Flooding
- Appliance malfunction
- Service outage

**PLEASE REPORT NON-EMERGENCY
MAINTENANCE REQUESTS ONLINE OR
TO THE OFFICE DURING REGULAR
BUSINESS HOURS, MONDAY- FRIDAY
FROM 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**



CONTACT EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE



877-572-9984



ST. LOUIS
HOUSING
AUTHORITY



WHAT'S AN OM·BUDS·MAN?

SLHA's Ombudsman assists individuals and families through the complaint resolution process. While the Ombudsman does not act as an advocate, they promote fair processes and consider the interests and concerns of all parties involved.

All issues, complaints, and problems are addressed through an unbiased process of information gathering and reviewing applicable policies, procedures, and practices with fairness, patience, courtesy, dignity, and respect.

Ombudsman services are free and confidential. If you have a concern, call 314-531-4770 or email ombudsman@slha.org.



ROSS UNIVERSITY: NOW ENROLLING!

ROSS University empowers public housing residents with the tools and knowledge needed to build a brighter future.

Our customized learning experience is designed to meet you where you are by providing personalized supportive resources tailored to your unique needs.

Whether you're looking to improve your financial literacy, gain valuable job skills, or start your own business, ROSS University is here to help you achieve your goals.

ROSS University's comprehensive programs include financial education, career development, personal growth workshops, and much more.

Take the first step towards a brighter future. Enroll in ROSS University today and start building the life you desire.

Contact a ROSS Coordinator for more information:
Kimberly Long, 314-286-4236
Kesha Post, 314-286-4383



TOP STORY *continued...*

The funding, awarded by the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration (CDA) will support resident-directed projects aimed at enhancing neighborhood aesthetics and boosting resident engagement. This initiative promises exciting and modern upgrades, including new landscapes, signage, gardens, and vibrant murals, all designed to improve the physical and social conditions of each community.

SLHA Beautification Program Coordinator Camille Shoals expressed her enthusiasm for collaborating with residents to achieve their vision for their community.

"I am excited to start working on the community beautification process with our selected sites! I believe in the power of community investment, and this is a wonderful opportunity to make our sites even more of a home for our residents," explained Shoals. "I am interested in their input and detailed visions for their communities. My goal is to have the result of each project make you proud of where you live, as everyone deserves a beautiful home."

SLHA is also seeking 15 volunteers to dedicate about 40 hours each to assist with this program between now and next July. Key responsibilities include assisting with resident outreach and engagement, helping to coordinate service-learning opportunities, and rallying community support.

Shoals added: "We're ready to get the ball rolling on the Community Beautification Grant! Our main goal is to recruit volunteers that live at the selected sites so they can play a leading role in the process; however, we do accept volunteers that are not public housing residents that want to uplift their community."

The projects will be decided later in the year, people interested in volunteering can email me at CShoals@slha.org or call 314 -286-4296."

RENT *Café*

SLHA encourages all residents to sign up for **RENT***Café*, an online portal that allows you to:

- apply for open housing waiting lists;
- review and update waiting lists application;
- review and update important information;
- submit maintenance requests;
- complete recertifications; and
- sign documents.

All you need is a current email address to create an account. Visit slha.org or use the QR Code to register. Please use the email you provided to SLHA when applying for housing or recertification.

