

Peabody Post

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Goodwill's Graduate of the Year!

You may remember Ms. Quinyatta Willis from her resident spotlight article from last year. Since that time, Ms. Willis has continued to achieve her goals.

Goodwill Industries of Columbus took note of all the accomplishments she made, and as a result, she was nominated for Goodwill's Graduate of the Year Award, which she then won! She is very happy to have won the honor and just wants to continue to focus on making her life better and keeping her children happy. Congratulations, Ms. Willis! You are a wonderful success story and an inspiration to all!

Attention All Girls Ages 6-18!!!

If you are looking for a great and educational place to spend your summer, Girls Inc. is just the place for you. Girls Inc. has several different programs to suit your active summer needs, such as; swimming, softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and competitive jump rope. A new sports complex has been added at the Baker Center and a drill team has been added at the BTW Center.

Not only does Girls Inc. offer athletic programs but they also offer educational programs, such as: Careers and Life Planning, Sports & Adventure, Health & Sexuality, Self Reliance & Life Skills, Culture & Heritage, Leadership & Community Action, Pregnancy Prevention, Drug & Substance Abuse Prevention, Economic Literacy, Recycling Program, Handy Helpers Program, Summer Theatre and much more. There are also great field trips to Six Flags, Florida, White Water, college campuses, historic sites and much more!

Girls Inc. has 5 locations, Kolb Center (4637 Kolb Ave.) right behind Columbus Tech, Garrard Center (Clover Lane) across from MLK School, Baker (3535 Levy Road) right behind the old Baker Middle School off Victory Drive and Booker T. Washington, which is across from the Civic Center & F. Douglas Housing in Phenix City. The hours of operation for the summer are 9 am to 6 pm, Monday thru Friday. Early Bird services are available at 3 centers. The membership is \$10.00 per year and \$100.00 for the summer. You may qualify for scholarships which are given based on economic need. Contact Girls Inc. for details.

If you are interested in any of the programs, please go to one of the Centers soon to sign up or call the main office at Girls Inc, 683-0809.

Do You Know Need To Clear a Background Check?

Before you can move into an apartment, house, public housing, or get a job, you can expect a background check to be done. If there is negative information on your report such as an arrest record, you may face a roadblock. What if the information is wrong? What if the charges were dismissed or you were found to be innocent? What can you do to clear your good name?

If wrongful criminal violations show up under your name, contact the police or sheriff's department or the court agency that issued the warrant for the arrest. File an impersonation report and have your identity confirmed. Ask the police department to check your fingerprints and your photograph, and have them make copies of any photo identification documents like your driver's license, passport or visa to compare with the information on file.

The law enforcement agency should then recall any warrants and issue a "clearance letter" or certificate of release (if you were arrested/booked). You'll need to keep this document with you at all times in case you're wrongly arrested. Also, ask the law enforcement agency to file, with the district attorney's (D.A.) office and/or court where the crime took place, the record of the follow-up investigation establishing your innocence. This will result in an amended complaint being issued. Once your name is recorded in a criminal database, it's unlikely that it will be completely removed from the official record. Ask that the "key name," or "primary name," be changed from your name to the imposter's name (or to "John Doe" if the imposter's true identity is not known), with your name noted only as an alias.

You'll also want to clear your name with the state DMV to find out if your driver's license is being used illegally. Let them know you want your files to be flagged for possible fraud. In some cases you may need to hire a criminal defense attorney to help you clear your name. Contact Legal Services in your state or your local bar association for help in finding an attorney or to see if you qualify for Legal Aid Services.

So, what do you do if you have a true criminal conviction? There are certain circumstances when a felony conviction can be reduced to a misdemeanor. Depending upon the facts of your case, you can petition the court and your record could say any of the following: the withdrawal of a plea and dismissal of the case; sealing and destruction of a juvenile record; having an arrest changed to a "detention only"; sealing and destruction of arrest records; a finding that you were "factually innocent"; reduction of conviction status from felony to misdemeanor; or granting a "Certificate of Rehabilitation".

You will need to check into all of this information as soon as it is brought to your attention. If you want to get your own criminal history, go to the Public Safety Building at 510 10th Street. You must have a government-issued picture ID. You will be asked to sign a waiver form permitting the Police Department to request the information. The charge is \$5.00.



For more information, contact the law enforcement agency that issued the warrant or performed the arrest. Some people think that criminal charges are automatically erased after a certain amount of time, as with a credit report. *This is not true.* It may take a little while to clear up all of the wrong information, but once you do, it will give you a great deal of relief to be able to honestly respond "no" to a question regarding past criminal convictions.

Fun Activities To Do with Your Child



Some of the best memories from childhood come from everyday activities. Whatever activities you chose with your child, remember the goal is simply to enjoy your time together and have some fun.

A strong relationship now will benefit your child more than anything else in the world.

* Join story time at your public library - most libraries have free weekly story times for children ages 2 and up. They usually last about 25-30 minutes.

* Join playgroups - playgroups provide an excellent opportunity for you to socialize with other parents to discuss the ups and downs of parenting. It also allows the children to play with others their age.

* Spend time doing crafts - coloring, finger painting and play dough will delight your child for hours.

* Visit your local parks - parks are a great place for you and your child to get some activity and to enjoy a picnic lunch.

* Visit a lake or stream - kids love to throw rocks in the water and fish.

* Call your chamber of commerce - your local chamber of commerce is a great resource for free and low cost activities in your area.

* Check your park & recreation center- most communities have centers that provide activities for children at little or no cost.

Whatever activity you choose for your child to participate in over the summer, it will turn out better if you take time to plan ahead. For information, phone numbers, or help planning your summer fun fest, contact your Family Advocate or call 649-6507, ext 252. Enjoy!



Neighborhood Network Center

Here Today for Your Tomorrow

Do you need your GED?

Have you been putting off getting your GED? The Neighborhood Network Center (NNC) can help. We have access to online practice test. The online practice tests for GED are available in for Language Arts Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

These tests offer instant online scoring and detailed answer explanations. If you are not happy with your first score you can practice the test again and again. You can also get a personalized analysis that identifies you strengths and weaknesses so that you will know just what to prepare for.

Don't know how to use a computer? No problem. The staff at the NNC will be by your side to assist you every step of the way.

For more information please call 571-2918.

Resident Spotlight - *Ms. Della Ross*



Ms. Della Ross

Our resident spotlight for the month of April is Ms. Della Ross. Community and Supportive Services first met Ms. Ross about 7 months ago. Ms. Ross contacted CSS looking for assistance and was assigned to Mr. Richard Wells, Jr., Family Advocate. She wasn't working and the bills were piling up. She had tried to contact other agencies, but everything was taking too long. With pressures mounting from her upcoming move from Peabody, lack of employment and unpaid bills, it began to be too much of a challenge and before long, depression set in.

Ms. Ross first signed up for counseling through the Pastoral Institute. The Pastoral Institute provided her with free counseling services and set up an appointment for Ms. Ross to get the medication needed to manage her depression. To make the medication more effective, counseling services continued to be provided to Ms. Ross. She was determined to get back on her feet and to find employment. She also knew that in order to keep her job, it was important to take her medication correctly as prescribed.

Ms. Ross has since made remarkable progress and is achieving goals that once seemed far away. She applied for a position with Goodwill and was hired as a member of their Work Adjustment Program team. The Work Adjustment Program is designed to help individuals, who haven't worked in a while or need additional job skills, get back in the routine of working. Each participant has a full time job that enables them to earn a regular paycheck, while learning valuable skills. For the past two months, Ms. Ross has been employed with Goodwill. Her counselors all agree that she is doing a great job. Ms. Ross feels that it has been a tremendous boost to her self-esteem. Just knowing that she is able to work and earn a living to pay her bills, gives her a sense of purpose in life.

Mr. Wells is very proud of the improvement he has seen in such short time with Ms. Ross. "When I first met Ms. Ross, she was very depressed and unsure about her life. I could tell that she was a strong person and just needed to be pointed in the right direction. It was really her own self-determination that turned her situation around."

Indeed, we are all proud of Ms. Ross and her success!

The Work Adjustment Program may be just what you are looking for to get back in the job market! If you feel you could benefit from Work Adjustment, the Janitorial Program, or any other Goodwill Industries training course, please contact your Family Advocate or call 649-6507, ext 252. Classes fill up quickly, so call today!

Thanks West Central Health District (7) Tobacco Use Prevention Program!

70 Peabody residents and former residents were treated to free tickets for the Riverdragons basketball game on Friday, March 26th. The evening featured none other than SpongeBob SquarePants! Tickets were provided to the residents through the West Central Health District (7) Tobacco Use Prevention Program.

Many thanks to them for their donation! All had a great time!

Afternoon Activities during School Vacation for children age 6-13

Each afternoon during the week of April 5th-9th, activities for children will be held at the Warren Williams Community Building. The activities are from the "Too Good for Drugs" program and are designed for children age 6-13. The activities are fun and interactive and help children make good decisions. The activities are scheduled from 1:00 - 2:30 each afternoon. Those children who attend all of the sessions Monday through Thursday will be treated to a field trip on Friday, April 9th. There is no cost to attend. Watch for the flyer or call 649-6507, ext 259 for more details!



Contest for teenagers, age 12– 18

Do you like to rap and hip-hop? Can you free-style? The Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System will host a Second Annual Teen Reading Rap Contest. Write an original

rap about the importance of books, reading or libraries and you could win free studio time! The contest is open to teenagers, 12-18. You must register to enter.

To register and get a copy of the official rules call the W.C. Bradley Memorial Library Teen Department at 649-0780.



You Are Invited!



The Neighborhood Network Center (NNC) re-opened its doors for business in January. They will celebrate by having an Open House Ceremony and you are invited to attend! If you have been curious about the NNC, have children attending classes, or if you are thinking about starting any of the free classes yourself, please come out and celebrate! The Open House will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2004 from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. There will be food and prizes! The NNC is located in Wilson Apartments, 718 35th Street. Call 571-2918 for more information on this exciting event!

Calendar of Events for North Columbus Branch



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Trip to the Coca Cola Space Center <i>Spring Break from April 5—April 19</i>	6 Columbus Museum Pre-teen trip: Hollywood Connection	7 Organizational Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm	8 Jumbo China Teen Lunch Out	9 Field Trip 1pm to Marengo Creek Farms GIRLS SOFTBALL
12 Coed soccer 6 –8pm <i>Teen Job Search, 5pm!</i>	13 Soccer Game At ACYS Soccer Field Girls Softball game 5:30	14 Guest Speaker TBA 9-10 coed soccer	15	16 Photo Picture Show
19 Jr. Staff Orientation, 6:00pm 6 - 8 yrs Coed Soccer 5pm	20 Early Release Day	21 Guest Speaker TBA 9-10 coed soccer	22 Earth Day	23 Organization Spelling Bee North Ages 11– 15
26	27 Art work Field Trip to the Mall	28 Chalk art!!	29 RAP Star Search!!	30 Honor Roll Party

The Club has a wonderful summer program offered for all children ages 6—17! Find out if you qualify for a scholarship by calling Mr. Owens, 323-1743! Sign up for the summer program begins April 12th! Call the Club for more information!

Community and Supportive Services

Pastoral Institute
2022 15th Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31901
A Samaritan Center



Helping You To Pursue & Achieve Excellence

