

Peabody Post

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March Madness

The Neighborhood Network Center will be giving away a microwave this month!! How can you win? By attending classes! For each class you attend your name will be placed into a drawing to be held on Thursday, March 31. So, the more classes you attend the greater your chances are to win! Please see the schedule below to find a class that interests you.

Class	Time	Date
Intro to Computers	9:30 – 11:30 am	Monday – Thursday, March 1-3
Intro to the Internet	9:30 – 11:30 am	Monday – Thursday, March 7-10
MS Word	9:30 – 11:30 am	Monday – Thursday, March 14-24
MS Excel	9:30 – 11:30 am	Monday – Thursday, March 28-31
Keyboarding	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Monday – Thursday, March 1-31

For more information on this and other activities at the Neighborhood Network Center, please call 571-2918.



Requirements for HOPE VI Childcare Assistance

All HOPE VI participants with children between the ages of 3 and 5 will be required to first try enrolling their children in either Head Start, Pre-K, or Kindergarten before they are eligible to receive any childcare assistance through the HOPE VI Grant.

Parents receiving TANF must contact their case worker if they become employed, enroll in a job training program, or return to school. **ALL THOSE NOT RECEIVING TANF MUST BE ON THE PEACH CARE WAITING LIST TO RECEIVE HOPE VI CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE.** If you have any questions, please contact your Family Advocate or call 507-0895 for more information.



Do You Know The Dangers of Secondhand Smoke??

Secondhand Smoke: a Proven Killer

Studies have documented that every year, exposure to secondhand smoke kills tens of thousands of nonsmoking Americans. Secondhand smoke is the third most preventable cause of cancer.

Cigarette Smoke: Unfit to Breathe ...

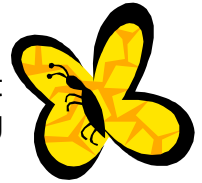
Cigarette smoke contains a chemical brew of well-known carcinogens and toxins, including ammonia, formaldehyde and carbon monoxide.

Hard to Avoid ...

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that most people, even those who never come near a smoker at work or home, have measurable quantities of cotinine, a nicotine byproduct, in their blood. In fact, almost nine in ten adults (87.9 percent) show signs of exposure to tobacco smoke.

... and Dangerous Even in Small Amounts

It takes only half an hour of breathing secondhand smoke to suffer the same heart damage prevalent among habitual smokers. Working an 8-hour shift in a smoking restaurant is equivalent to smoking 1-½ packs of cigarettes.



Thought you knew all there was to know about secondhand smoke? These are the facts. Secondhand smoke is just as deadly as smoking cigarettes. Want to make a difference in your community? Want more businesses to become smoke free? Call your City Council Representative today! Let your voice be heard!

Girlfriends Let's Talk!



So, what is Girlfriends Let's Talk? It is a group of women, young and old who meet monthly to empower women and help them improve their quality of life. Please join us and let us help you fulfill your hopes and dreams by networking and sharing in a casual and relaxed setting. Girlfriends can help you if you want to buy a home, need financial counseling, improve your personal relationships, learn computer skills, get your GED, or any of a variety of other concerns.

Is there something on your mind? Well, Girlfriend let's talk about it! All meetings will be in the Warren Williams Community Room. The next meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2005 from 11am—12 noon and Tuesday, April 12, 2005 from 11am—12 noon. We look forward to seeing you! For more information please call 507-0895.



Early Registration for Pre-Kindergarten is Underway!

If you have a child that will be 4 years old by September 1, 2005, you can sign them up to participate in the Pre-K Program! Pre-K is a free program designed to prepare your children for classroom learning. Early Registration is taking place the entire month of March. To sign your child up you will need the following:

- ◆ Copy of their Social Security Card
- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ Proof of Residence (Utility Bill)

Bring this information with you to the Roberts Center, or your closest



Elementary School. Children that register early will be randomly given a number and if their number is selected, they are then assigned to an available school.

If your child is not selected for the school system's Pre-K Program, there are many childcare centers that also operate using the State Funded Pre-K Curriculum. Check out all of your options! There are even Pre-K Programs that are on the Year Round calendar. Give your child every opportunity you can to succeed! After all, Pre-K is free! If you have any questions or need more information, please call 649-0580.

Are You Performing Your Community Service Hours?

If you live in public housing you are required to perform eight (8) hours of community service each month, unless you are exempt. Your 8 hours can be spent in computer classes at the Neighborhood Network Center (NNC)! Yes! You can attend free computer classes each month to complete your eight hours of required community service! The NNC is located at 718 35th Street in Wilson Apartments. For a list of available classes, call Alicia Richardson at 571-2918!

You can also volunteer at any agency listed below. Call first to ensure they have openings. Some agencies require a background check and/or drug screens:

Agency	Contact Person	Phone Number
American Red Cross	Lillian Sullivan	323-5614
Boy's & Girl's Club	Keith Searcy	689-3645
Kids Kafe	Wayne Barton	561-4755
Open Door	Ellen Meeks	323-5518
Goodwill	Rose McDaniel	324-4366

Contact your rental manger to find out if they have opportunities available that can help you meet your HUD required community hours. Not knowing is not an excuse! Don't risk eviction due to falling behind on your hours. For more information and names of additional volunteer eligible agencies, call your rental manager today!

Resident Spotlight - *Ms. Theresa Reese*

The resident we have chosen to highlight this month is Ms. Theresa Reese. When she first heard about the HOPE VI Project, she had lived in Peabody for a total of almost 16 years. It was a big change to be told that she had to move. She loved Peabody and has stated that she would like to move back once construction is completed.



Ms. Theresa Reese sharing one of her smiles at Cornerstone.

Ms. Reese works full time at Cornerstone, a division of New Horizons. She has been employed there for the past 7 years. Cornerstone is a residential group home for clients that suffer from Mental Health related illnesses. “You have to have nerves to work here. Not everyone can handle it. You have to understand that they are suffering, so I handle my job by keeping that in mind. I try to treat them all like family – they’re people.”

Ms. Reese was relocated to Warren Williams with the help of her Relocation Specialist, Mr. Ronnie Jones and her Family Advocate, Ms. Sonja Lockett. She says that both of them were really nice and sent a special “hi” to Mr. Jones, for his part in her moving process. Her Family Advocate, Ms. Lockett, is no stranger to Ms. Reese. She met Ms. Lockett while at DFCS, seeking assistance with Employment Services. This referral put her in touch with James Grice, her present supervisor at Cornerstone.

Mr. Grice was very pleased with Ms. Reese and the work ethic she displayed. For a brief period, Ms. Reese had relocated to Florida. Since she left Cornerstone on good terms, Mr. Brice had no problem recommending her for a supervisory position when she moved back to the area. She began at Cornerstone in an entry-level position in the kitchen and worked her way up the ladder. She currently supervises a staff of 4 employees and has had numerous pay raises. She said the best thing about working at Cornerstone was that she gets to help people. “Sometimes if you just give them a smile, it can really help.”

When asked if there was any advice she wanted to share with her former neighbors she had this to say, “It doesn’t matter where you live, it’s how you live. Keep your head up and handle your business. If it’s something that you want to do, don’t wait, go out and get it!” Her daughter, a current Jordan High School student, would probably say that sounds just like her Mom. Ms. Reese wanted her daughter to continue on at Jordan and placed a hardship request in order to have her remain there. She feels her daughter has adjusted well to the move.

The future plans for Ms. Reese and her daughter involve a High School graduation, college, and either moving into the new development or enrolling in Homeownership Counseling with CHI. We are very proud of you, Ms. Reese! You are making a real difference in the lives of others.

Why Rent?

**You can be a Homeowner
for as little as \$300 per month**

Qualified applicants.

**Homeownership is not a dream.
It's a phone call.**

706.324.HOME



Women In Action Mentoring Program

Do you need help reaching your goals? Or do you just need someone to talk to? Well, the Women in Action Mentor Program can help.

As part of this program, you will be matched with a professional woman that will be like a career coach, friend, companion, advocate, role model and confidant. You will meet with your mentor at least once a week for three months and attend monthly group activities sponsored by the Neighborhood Network Center.



Applications are being taken and space is limited in this program. For more information call 571-2918.

Community and Supportive Services

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



Nonprofit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit # 266
 Columbus, GA



Helping You To Pursue & Achieve Excellence

North Columbus Branch

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
Teens 14—18 Basketball Tournament Week: North, East, the Club and PC Teams				
7 Drawing Contest all members	8 Flat Rock Park Field Trip (The Arts)	9 Cook off Day (The Arts) B&GC Games Room Tournament ages 6-12 Carpet ball	10 Music & Jazz Day (The Arts)	11
	15 Photo Club Field Trip Fort Benning		17 Music & Dance Day Teen Center Field Trip The Club	18 Slam - Dunk Tournament ages 10-13 & 14 - 18
		23 B&GC Jr. Games Room Tournament Nintendo 64	24 Easter Egg Hunt	
28 Coloring Contest		30 Cook Off	31 Open Talent Day	

Does your child have a Club membership? It's not to late! Call Mr. Owens today, 323-1743!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS