

WAVES OF SUCCESS

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Habitat for Humanity has built over 50 homes in our County and 11 families that were on our Assistance Program have transitioned into a Habitat Home. Habitat is constructing an affordable housing neighborhood between DeFuniak Springs and Mossy Head off Walden Road. This community will be called HOPE VILLAGE with 12 new homes. The Walton County Habitat for Humanity will be busy this year as currently 3 homes are in planning stages to be constructed. Habitat is currently accepting applications for the homes. If you would like to apply for one of these homes, applications will be accepted until **June 20, 2022**. Please look further in this newsletter for information about where to apply. -- **Tom Baker, Executive Director**



Get a **FREE** smoke detector from the City of DeFuniak. If you are a city resident please visit <https://www.defuniakspri.ngs.net/951/Smoke-Alarm-Program>

For emergency assistance paying back rent, utility bills, or other assistance, you can dial 2-1-1 and be directed to your best source of help.



Please join us here at WCHA wishing Jennifer Cox much happiness and joy as she begins her next adventure. Jennifer's last working day before retirement is June 2, 2022. Please be sure to come by the office and share your favorite memory of her!

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT ACP?

Internet access is now necessary for work, school, healthcare and more. However, internet service remains unaffordable for many households. The FCC recently launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households.

Any household with an individual who receives SSI or other public assistance programs, like HUD assisted housing, may qualify for this program.

For more information please visit www.fcc.gov/acp or www.ACPBenefit.org.



Effective Immediately you are required to submit to WCHA a copy of your latest IRS Tax filing information. This information serves as confirmation of total household income for your family. Our Agency is audited annually this information is necessary to ensure that our files are complete. As you know, April of each year is the deadline for taxes to be completed. WCHA will be expecting a copy of your tax information to complete our files. If we do not receive your information, you will be expected to submit a copy of your tax return at the time of your annual re-examination.

The Family Self Sufficiency Program

is an effective but underutilized tool to enable low income families to increase their rate of employment and earnings. WCHA has openings in our FSS Program. Please contact Melody Langley for an application today!



WCHA is committed to keeping your home safe. Please promptly return the inspection checklist so that we may coordinate repairs with your landlord.

FAIR HOUSING

You have a right to live in your assisted home without threat of harassment of any kind. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity, please contact HUD to report it. If you have concerns or need assistance you may contact any Walton County Housing Agency representative. You may also contact the Fair Housing Equal Opportunity Office at 1 (800) 669-9777





Hurricane season will soon begin. It is a good idea to begin preparations now. Here are a few items to stock up now:

- Water
- Extra Batteries
- Power Bank for your phone or Solar charger for your phone
- Bug Spray
- First Aid Supplies
- Toilet paper
- Extra Flashlight/candles
- Matches
- Hand Crank Radio
- Manual Can Opener
- Paper plates/disposable utensils
- Duct Tape
- Solar Driveway Lights
- Hand Sanitizer
- Books/cards
- Pet Supplies
- Tarps
- Sewing kit
- Zip Loc Bags
- Non-Perishable Food/Protein Bars
- Hard Candy
- Charcoal
- Small Grill
- OTC meds including pain relievers
- Paracord/Rope

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5/8 Mother's Day
- 5/19 WHS Graduation
- 5/20 Paxton Graduation
- 5/21 Freeport HS Graduation
- 5/21 Lakefest at Lake DeFuniak
- 5/24 South Walton Graduation
- 5/26 Last Day for Students
- 5/30 Memorial Day Holiday (WCHA Closed)
- 6/19 Father's Day
- 6/20 Deadline to apply for Habitat
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 8/10 School Begins for Students
- 9/5 Labor Day
- 9/23 Early Release Day

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

As we move into hurricane season make sure to register with Walton County Emergency Management to receive alerts.

www.alertwalton.org

- *Leave mobile homes and go to a shelter
- *Stay inside and away from windows. If there is a mandatory evacuation order, please evacuate as soon as possible.
- *Turn off utilities as instructed by authorities.
- *Trim trees and shrubs on a regular basis to ensure they are more resistant to wind.
- *Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to help preserve food by keeping it cold.

WCHA has updated forms! The annual recertification packets will soon contain a financial affidavit form instead of an Income Declaration form. This new form is an affidavit which carries greater consequences for failing to accurately report all income and asset information. The new form is a result of increased reports of fraud from housing agencies throughout Florida and the U.S.



Do we have your current contact information?

FSS Desk

To be financially literate is to know how to manage your money. This means learning how to pay your bills, how to borrow and save money responsibly, how and why to invest and plan for the future, and when to spend.

For most people, money is a limited resource. Do you manage this resource or does this resource manage you?

Knowing your management style will help you overcome obstacles that inevitably arise.

A very common management style is "the indifferent". The indifferent manager may feel nervous or anxious about money so they tend to focus on doing things they enjoy like a hobby, instead of focusing on planning and strategizing how to manage their money. After all, if you have any money people just want to borrow it, right? The up side of indifference, is you never have to say "no" because you don't have any extra. The down side of indifference, is you run the risk of being lazy with your future. Failing to plan is planning to fail.



You may pick up an application at the HUD office or visit: www.waltoncountyhabitat.org. You will have to prepare yourself to obtain a mortgage, have a confirmed need for a home, and be willing to put in sweat equity meaning show up at the work site and provide labor for the construction of the home.

You can apply online!

waltoncoha.org