

## WINDSOR COURT RESIDENTS BECOME HOMEOWNERS



Kenyata Turner and Kizzie Strickland of #10 Windsor Court. The excitement on their faces gave me so much joy and let me know I am in the right place doing the right things for those

that want it. The process started back in January with a homebuyer event at my site held after hours to capture those residents that work and can't make events held during the day. I made

sure I especially notified those that are paying high rents to come to the meeting. Now just 6 months later residents that didn't think it was possible for them to purchase a home are now homeowners. It was a grueling 6 months. but with continued encouragement and support the process got them to this point.

We can't wait until the house warming!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!



## LHA RECEIVES 2025 NATIONAL NAHRO AWARD

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Community Participation	2&3	Beacon Homes News	6 - 7
Executive Director speaks	2	Brown Circle Homes News	8 - 9
Safety	2	Arco Lane Homes News	10-11
Employee Highlight	3	Windsor Court Homes News	12-13
Maintenance	3	Triangle Homes News	14-15
Resident Highlights	4 - 5	LHA National Recognition	32

## Executive Director Speaks.....



**Ailrick D. Young**  
**Executive Director**

As the leaves change and fall settles in, these are the days of our lives, the Laurel

Housing Authority is grateful for the opportunity to serve our community through every season. This time of year reminds us of the importance of warmth, stability, and connection. We're continuing our work to provide safe, affordable housing and meaningful support services that strengthen families and individuals alike.

We're especially excited as we look forward to our upcoming **Booktacular Event**, a fun-filled celebration that highlights the

joy and value of reading for all ages. Encouraging literacy is just one of the many ways we aim to invest in the future of our community and empower residents with lifelong tools for success.

Thank you for being a valued part of our mission, and for growing with us. Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, cozy, and enriching fall season!

**Ailrick D. Young**  
**NAHRO FELLOW, PHM**



## Maintenance Safety Tips: Kitchen Safety-Grease Fires



Grease fires are one of the leading causes of kitchen accidents. They can spread quickly and become very dangerous. Here are some key safety tips:  
Never use water to put out a grease fire-it makes the flames spread.  
Turn off the heat source immediately, if safe to do so. Cover the flames with a metal lid or baking sheet to smother the fire.  
Use backing soda or a Class K fire extinguisher, if needed. Call 911 if the fire cannot be controlled.  
Remember: Stay calm, act fast,

and never put yourself in danger.  
Proper Disposal of Cooking Grease  
Pouring cooking grease down the sink or toilet can cause severe plumbing issues, clogs, and even attract pests.  
Please follow these steps:  
Let grease cool and solidify.  
Scrape it into a sealed container (a disposable can/jar).  
Throw it in the trash-never down



**Johnny Gardner**  
**Maintenance Supervisor**

the drain or THE BACK DOOR.  
Wipe pans with a paper towel before washing to avoid buildup in pipes. Keeping grease out of the drains helps prevent costly repairs and plumbing emergencies. Rodents such as mice, rats, and roaches are attracted to food, water, and shelter. Common causes include:  
Improper food storage (open containers,

crumbs left out). Grease of food residue in sinks, stoves, & trash areas Unsealed garbage bags or overflowing bins, and Clutter that provides nesting spots.  
Prevention Tips:  
Store food in sealed containers; Take trash out regularly and keep lids closed; Clean up crumbs, grease, and spills promptly. Report any signs of rodents to Maintenance immediately.

## SAFETY OFFICER:



**Charlie Turner**  
**LHA Safety Officer/  
Investigator**

Beat 1 Fire Departments for their support. We are a unit of suspected success. Therefore, we strive to light up the entire town with the

ability of growth. Let's, keep our children safe. We know

the curfew is in place for the safety of our children; allowing the parents to gain a closer relationship with their children.

Now the fall of the year is in the air. Let's enjoy as we prepare for the upcoming holidays. As always— See something, hear something, know something, say something to them in authority. Once again, all of your law enforcement agencies are available for your needs and service 24 hours/ seven days a week. Call us.

# FROM THE PROPERTY MANAGERS....

## PAYING RENT ON TIME IS VITAL TO LEASE COMPLIANCE

**AS STATED IN YOUR LEASE:  
RENT IS DUE ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH MONTH  
DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.**

Rent is considered late or past due, if full monthly payment, partial payments due or any amount in the arrears from previous months is not paid by the fifth (5) of the current month.

If the fifth (5) falls on a Holiday or Weekend, then is due on the next working day and is past due after that date.

A drop box is available at each site location for your convenience.

Rent(s) placed in drop box on the fifth after 4:00 p.m. are considered late.

Per lease in Section XI: D. (2) "Repeated late payment, which shall be defined as failure to pay the amount of rent or



other charges due by the 5th of the month.

and a termination notice will be issued.



Four (4) such late payments within a 12-month period shall constitute as being chronically delinquent

**LET'S MAKE  
AN EFFORT  
ON GETTING  
RENT PAID ON  
THE FIRST OF  
EACH MONTH.**



## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: BEACON HOMES SITE

### SANSON COMPLETES LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE



Anjelena Sanson knows the value of perseverance.

Sanson, a resident of Beacon Homes, set a goal for herself and didn't let obstacles and setbacks keep her from achieving it.

Sanson realized that her goal was to become a nurse. So, through consultations and work with her R.O.S.S. Coordinator, she stepped out on that goal and began taking classes at Jones County Junior College (now Jones College).

While there were some stumbling blocks, San-

son stayed on course and on July 30, 2025 she received her Licensed Practical Nurse Pin in a ceremony at the school.



## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: TRIANGLE HOMES SITE



### TRIANGLE RECOGNIZES ASHLEY PHILLIPS

Ashley Phillips is the Triangle Homes resident spotlight. Ashley is the mother of four, two boys and two girls.

She is an active ROSS participant and attends various activities that are hosted on site by both ROSS and Property Managers on site. Ms. Phillips recently attended PRCC CAN Program. In this three-week program she learned skills to obtain

her CNA certification certificate.

She has also passed her skills test and has gained full time employment.

We here at Triangle Homes are so very proud of her.

Keep up the great job!



## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: BROWN CIRCLE



### STEPHANIE PRINTUP IS RECOGNIZED BY BROWN CIRCLE

Stephanie Printup, an involved resident of Brown Circle Homes and an active participant in the ROSS Program, continues to demonstrate remarkable growth on her journey toward greater opportunity and self-sufficiency.

Stephanie's warm smile, gentle spirit, quiet voice, and inviting personality makes her a joy to work with and a shining example

within the community. Her commitment to personal development and positive engagement serves as a model for other residents striving to reach their goals.

We celebrate Stephanie for her dedication, perseverance, and the inspiration she brings to others at Brown Circle Homes!



## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT: ARCO LANE



### Beverly Brown Recognized



Ms. Beverly Brown has been a resident of Arco Lane for the past year. She draws her greatest inspiration from her children, whom she loves deeply. When asked what she values most about living at Arco Lane, Ms. Brown highlighted the strong sense of community. She enjoys meeting new people, engaging with her neighbors, assisting those in need, and serving as a source of encouragement to others. She describes Arco Lane as a lovely, peaceful place to live and age in place—free of crime, safe, and welcoming.

Seafood is among her favorite meals, and she finds joy in starting her mornings with the Steve Harvey Morning Show, which never fails to put her in a good mood. Ms. Brown hopes to be remembered as a positive, giving person who brings happiness to those around her. In addition to being an active resident, she also works part-time with Laurel Housing as a groundskeeper, a role she performs with dedication and pride.

# BEACON HOMES NEWS



## CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK OFFER RESIDENTS CREDIT COUNSELING



## EXTENSION SERVICES SHOWS HOW TO PLAN HEALTHY SNACKS

Kim Hancock with the Mississippi Extension Service provided hands-on activities for the residents during the month of August. Hancock educated the residents on healthy snacks and allowed residents to make a healthy After-School Pantry Snack.



## POLICE CHIEF TALKS TO RESIDENTS AT TENANT MEETING



Laurel Police Chief Earl Reed talks to residents during the Beacon Homes Resident Meeting on September 25, 2025. The police chief updated residents about various things occurring in the community.

## RESIDENTS MAKE PEPPER SAUCE FROM GARDEN



Beacon Homes Residents took part in a Nutrition Education Event where they utilized peppers grown in the Beacon Homes Community Garden and made pepper sauce

# BEACON R.O.S.S. 4TH ANNUAL STRONG FAMILIES CLUB EVENT



## BEACON HOMES' R.O.S.S. STRONG FAMILIES CLUB Inducted Members

Lenora Barnes - Inducted in 2022

Annie R. Jones - Inducted in 2022

Clifton Nicholson - Inducted in 2023

Frances Horne - Inducted in 2024

Shirley Lang - Inducted in 2024

Linda Johnson-inducted in 2025

Leslie Thomas - inducted in 2025

Brittany Thomas-inducted in 2025

The Strong Families Club was begun at Beacon Homes by ROSS Coordinator Eloria James. It is comprised of residents who have/are exemplifying the qualities and characteristics of those supported by The U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Strong Families Initiative.

The Strong Families Initiative includes fathers, mothers, children and parents of all kinds: It provides an ideal opportunity for communities to deliver a wide variety of resources to families. Among the Areas of Focus are Health, Education & Economic Empowerment.

## **BEACON HOMES' RESIDENT COUNCIL HOLDS ELECTION**



Beacon  
Homes  
Resident  
Council



Election of officers for the grant period of 2025-2028.

Those elected were:

President – Clifton Nicholson

Vice President – Shirley Lang

Secretary – Annie Jones

Treasurer – Michelle Abney

Sergeant-at-Arms – Vester Ridgeway

## **BEACON HOMES R.O.S.S. OFFERS FINANCIAL**

Beacon Homes R.O.S.S. Program is offering residents ways to take control of their financial situations.

The R.O.S.S. Coordinators in 2022 established a Financial Literacy Empowerment Academy. Then, after the initial academy, R.O.S.S. Coordinator Eloria James began having the financial workshops at the Beacon Homes Site.

The workshops, utilizing materials from Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, are designed to encourage LHA residents to become aware of their financial situation and empower the residents to become more knowledgeable about their financial future.

The main focus of financial workshops is to build the skills residents need to manage money and learn to choose the financial products and services that work for them.

# BROWN CIRCLE HOMES NEWS

## BROWN CIRCLE R.O.S.S. HOSTS GRANDPARENTS DAY



Brown Circle Homes of the Laurel Housing Authority recently held a Grandparents' Day program that recognized grandparents as the pillars of family, honoring their role in fostering love, lifelong wisdom, and their generous contributions to society. This type of community-focused programming aligns with the mission of the Laurel Housing Authority, which aims to empower residents and their families and to support the well-being of elders through activities and acknowledgments like this event. Programs such as this aim to uplift and celebrate the influence and support older family members provide within both households and the broader community, reinforcing values of respect and gratitude for their lifelong guidance.

## BROWN CIRCLE YOUTHS GET DRUMMING LESSONS

The youth of Brown Circle Homes, a community within the Laurel Housing Authority, are discovering rhythm, creativity, and confidence through drumming lessons led by acclaimed musician Jerry Jenkins.

This engaging program introduces young people to the



art of percussion, teaching not only musical skills but also teamwork, discipline, and self-expression.

Through the steady beat of the drum, participants are learning how music can inspire focus, build confidence, and create joy.

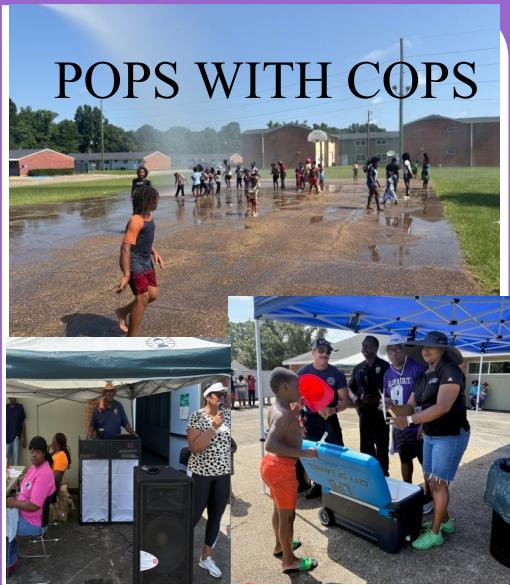
Jerry Jenkins, a talented instructor with a passion for youth development, brings energy and encouragement to every lesson. His hands-on approach helps children connect with the instruments while understanding the deeper role music can play in communication and culture.

## POLICE CHIEF SPEAKS AT MEETING

Laurel Police Chief Earl Reed and Crime Stoppers Coordinator Wilbur Chamberlin were guest speakers at the Brown Circle Resident Meeting.



## POPS WITH COPS



## BABY AND ME AT LIBRARY



The Baby and Me program introduces little ones to the joy of books through story time, songs, and hands-on activities that encourage curiosity, imagination, and early literacy. Parents and caregivers receive helpful tips on child development and the benefits of reading together at home.



## WORK OUT WEDNESDAY

The residents of Brown Circle Homes are stepping into wellness with the launch of Work Out Wednesday. This new initiative is designed to promote health, fitness, and togetherness among residents of all ages.



## Brown Circle Residents Receive Two Book Donations

### Councilwoman Allen Gives Books

The spirit of giving continues to shine at Brown Circle Homes, thanks to the generosity of Councilwoman Marian Allen. Residents received a donation of books that will inspire learning, creativity, and imagination. The books will

provide children, youth, and families with opportunities to explore new stories, strengthen literacy skills, and enjoy the simple joy of reading together.



### Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Supplies Books for Free Library

Cynthia Gully, a member of the Laurel Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. donated books to restock the Cora Wade-Seals Free Library located at Brown Circle Homes.



# ARCO LANE HOMES NEWS

## ARCO LANE R.O.S.S. HOSTS SENIOR CITIZENS DAY



### Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

- ◆ Wayne-Sanderson Farm
- ◆ Amick Farm
- ◆ Family Health Center Mobile Unit
- ◆ South Central Place
- ◆ Smoke House
- ◆ Robert Jones Sr.
- ◆ Ra'Shad the Blues Kid
- ◆ DJ Spinning Top
- ◆ LMSA Beta Club
- ◆ Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.
- ◆ Jason Caire Insurance
- ◆ B.E. Murph Senior Center
- ◆ Chateau Quality Senior Care
- ◆ DJ Transit
- ◆ AmeriCorps Seniors
- ◆ Council on Aging
- ◆ Laurel Housing Authority Staff, and
- ◆ The R.O.S.S. Team.

# South MS Planning & Development Hosts Bingocizing



Bingocize with residents from all of the Laurel Housing Authority's sites.

## Aging in Place Resources



Housing | Health & Wellness | Transportation  
Personal Finance | Connection & Growth



## Residents Learn about Financial Elderly Abuse

Regina Jefcoat with Citizens National Bank conducted a Financials Elderly Abuse Workshop at Arco Lane.



## Brain-Building Activity

Arco Lane Residents do Sudku as a brain-building activity.

Sudku stimulates the brain activity by engaging residents in sequencing numbers to complete puzzle.



Pictured are Arco Lane Residents Mae Ola Spencer and Dollie Teagle taking part in a brain-building activity.

## COA Hosts Little Black Dress Event

The Laurel-Jones County Council on Aging conducted a Little Black Dress Event on Sept. 24, 2025 at Arco Lane.



## Residents Participates in Fall Canvas Painting



# WINDSOR COURT HOMES NEWS

## WINDSOR COURT R.O.S.S. HOSTS SUICIDE PREVENTION EVENT



In recognition of suicide prevention awareness month Jessica Hartfield talked about the struggles of life that lead us to have unfavorable thought that make us question our life. She shared some ways

to cope and deal with the stressors of life and passed out some information for further reading. Afterwards the ROSS Coordinator went into Saving Friday by providing a packet of scenarios to save money on everyday household items through digital couponing.

## RESIDENTS DAY OF FUN

Resident came out to September's Savings Friday event taught by the ROSS Coordinator to learn about some coupon scenarios to save money. Afterwards they played spades!.



## CAIRE ADDRESSES STRESS AWARENESS



Jason Caire presents on Stress management. He spoke on methods of dealing with stressors in our life as well as coping with stress and avoiding things that cause us stress.

## Residents Enjoy Aging in Place & Learn About Eyes



Residents came out to enjoy a game of Bingo for aging in place activity. While there the ROSS Coordinator gave out information literature on National Children's Eye Health and Safety Awareness and spoke on the importance of getting your eyes checked to have healthy eyes.

## SUPPORTERS OF THE BACK TO SCHOOL JAMBOREE



Windsor residents, ROSS Coordinator, Resident Council President Richard Pollett, Street Riders Horse Club, Jones Chapter 421A Order of Eastern Stars and Pastor Holloway with Koinonia Baptist Church donated food items & paper products. Dr. Amanda Cooley with Unlimited Dreams Christian Learning Center donated school supplies.



## RESIDENTS HAVE TENANT MEETING AND RESIDENT COUNCIL ELECTION

Guest Speaker Jason Caire spoke on the new Medicare changes and up-coming open enrolment. The

property manager spoke on issues involving housing and the R.O.S.S. Coordinator spoke on resident services. The resident council president spoke on the im-

portance of the elections and the positions held. He spoke on community involvement and being proactive about the welfare of the community of Windsor



Court. Afterwards, resident council elections were held to elect officers for the grant period of 2025-2028.

### Elected Officers

President – Richard Pollett  
Vice-President – Joel Clay  
Secretary – Whitney Moore  
Treasurer – Shelia Johnson  
Sergeant-at-arms – Mary Pruitt

# TRIANGLE HOMES NEWS

## “POPS WITH A COP”



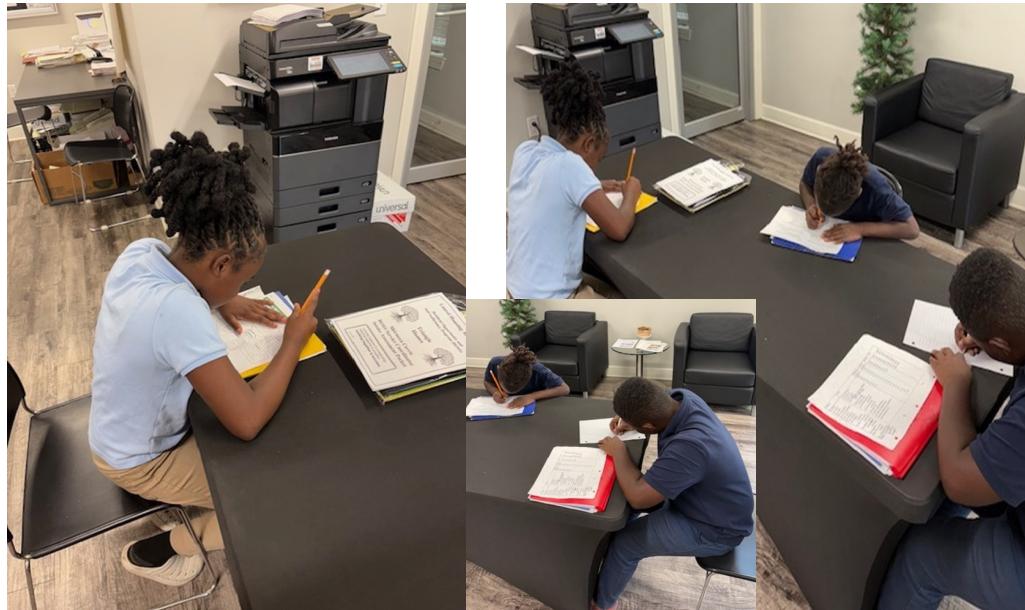
Youth enjoyed Popsicles with Laurel Police Department at Triangle Homes!

## TRIANGLE RESIDENTS HAVE FUN TO KICK OFF START OF SCHOOL



## TRIANGLE YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN TUTORING PROGRAM

Youth of Triangle Homes attend weekly tutoring sessions on site. Students work on sight words, reading assignments and math homework. No scholar left behind is our motto here at Triangle Homes.



## JONES COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES TALK TO RESIDENTS

Ladies from Jones College visited Triangle Homes to share with residents about different programs being offered for the upcoming Fall and Spring Semesters.



# BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS



# LHA PROVIDES SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO RESIDENTS



## LHA IS REPRESENTED AT UNITED WAY EVENT



Laurel Housing Authority's representatives attended the United Way Campaign Kick-Off Celebration held at South Central Place.

Charlotte Williams, property manager at Brown Circle, and Tito Lanier, the R.O.S.S. Service Coordinator at Brown Circle, attended the celebration.

The theme for the event was "Better Together the United Way!!"

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

## Jones County Economic Development Authority Provides Sessions



Young people participating in the LHA Summer Employment Program have several sessions at the Jones County EDA Office.



## YOUTHS DEVELOP SAVINGS PLAN FOR FUTURE

### Saving Strategies

#### 1. Created Budget Plan

- Before I began to allocate my funds, I had to find a budget plan that would benefit me. My biggest deciding factor was being able to contribute to my needs and savings.

#### 2. Future Finance Planning

- After I handled my necessities, I decided that there was room for saving and investment. I found that the 529 plan sparked my interest. This could be used for future children.

\*A 529 plan is a tax-free savings account for education expenses like K-12 tuition, vocational school, and college. This includes student loans, and any supplies needed. Withdrawals for education are penalty-free, but non-education uses are taxed and penalized.\*



of Triangle Homes Site, competed in the Laurel Housing Authority's "Spending Plan" Challenge.

D'ad Pigford, who is enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi, submitted a plan for her expected career path. When Pigford's plan was selected, the housing authority said "with hard work, dedication, determination and guidance, Pigford will be able to lead and is off to a good start."

After reps from Trustmark National Bank presented financial literacy information to the youth during the Summer Banking session, the youth were challenged to develop/create a "Spending Plan" for their future.

D'ad Pigford, a resident of Beacon Homes Site, and Jaylin Lang, a resident

## 50/30/20 Rule

### MONTHLY INCOME- \$17,781.00

50% Income- \$8,890.50

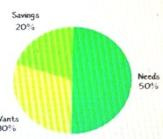
- This portion of my income will cover my needs and any priority bills and necessary expenses. Examples are rent, food, and reliable transportation.

30% Income- \$5,334.30

- This portion of my income will cover my wants and things that are optional and not necessarily needed for survival. Examples are streaming subscriptions, memberships, and any other entertainment

20% Income- \$3,556.20

- This portion of my income will cover any debts I could possibly owe and money that would go to savings.



## YOUTH ATTEND CONFERENCE



The youth of the Laurel Housing Authority attended the 2025 SERC-NAHRO Summer Youth Leadership Conference in Bryson City, NC – July 13-16 at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. This experience was designed to empower, inspire, and equip our youth to rise above life's challenges with strength, confidence, and purpose. Activities included: Kayaking, Paddleboarding, Campfire Fun, Guided Rafting, Wilderness Survival Course and Zip Line Adventure.

## SENIOR CITIZENS ENJOY L-JC LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

July  
Fun Feud

August  
No Bake Deserts

September  
Financial Fraud & Scams (&  
Fun) with Community Bank



Senior Citizens from throughout the area gather at the Laurel-Jones County Library each month to participate in the library's Senior Circle activities.

# LHA COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## LAUREN ROGERS MUSEUM OF ARTS EVENT

R.O.S.S. and LHA summer youth participated in the Lauren Rogers Scrollathon Project on July 17, 2025. The activity is part of a national project.



## LHA HOSTS BRAIN BUS AT BEACON



Young people from several Laurel Housing Authority's sites took part in the Nurture Our Future's Brain Bus visit to the Beacon Homes Site on July 16, 2025. Young people from Beacon Homes, Brown Circle, Triangle and Windsor received an opportunity to experience the Brain Bus and its activities.



# R.O.S.S. COORDINATORS ATTEND TRAININGS

## ILLINOIS-INDIANA JOINT TRAINING IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Beacon Homes R.O.S.S. Service Coordinator Eloria James, Triangle Homes R.O.S.S. Service Coordinator Shirmeca Currie, and Windsor Court R.O.S.S. Service Coordinator LaTonya Watson attended the Illinois and Indiana Joint Conference in August.



## AASC TRAINING WAS HOSTED IN NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND

Arco Lane R.O.S.S. Service Coordinator LaNeil Carter, , Brown Circle R.O.S.S. Service Coordinator Tito Lanier and

LHA spe-  
cial Ser-  
vice Malik  
Davis  
attended  
the Amer-  
ican Asso-  
ciation of  
Service  
Coordina-  
tors  
(AASC). In  
National  
Harbor,  
Maryland.



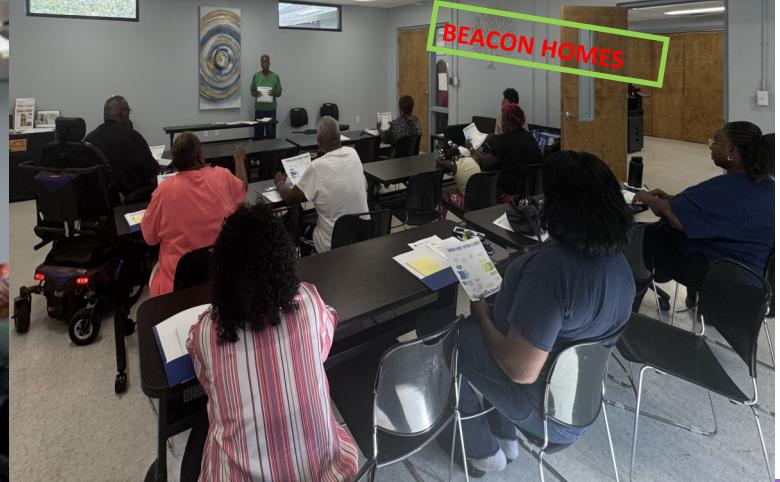
# HOMEOWNERSHIP/FINANCIAL LITERACY EVENTS

## HOPE CREDIT UNION CONDUCTS AFTERHOURS

Residents attended financial literacy after hours workshops at Windsor Court, Beacon Homes, and Triangle

Homes Tax Credit sites. Jennifer Sumrall with Hope Credit discussed the steps of becoming homeowners.

She gave information on new grant money that came available August 1<sup>st</sup> toward the purchase of a home. She also brought realtor Lisa Wells with her and she spoke about the process and importance of having a realtor when looking to purchase a home.



# LHA YOUTHS PARTICIPATE IN ASTRO CAMP

The Laurel Housing Authority recently hosted its 2nd NASA Astro Camp at the Townley Center, led by enthusiastic instructors Tito Lanier and Shirmeca Currie. Students in grades 3–6 engaged in exciting hands-on STEM activities that brought learning to life. Campers explored the wonders of space through interactive projects—building simple rockets, learning about flight, and discovering how astronauts live and work beyond Earth. Guided by their teachers, students collaborated on challenges, conducted experiments, and learned to think like real NASA engineers and scientists. “The camp encouraged curiosity, teamwork, and creativity—making learning fun and inspiring for all participants.” The week was filled with exploration, laughter, and discovery as the young learners developed new skills and confidence in science and problem-solving.



A special thank you to Central Creativity for partnering with the Laurel Housing Authority to bring this incredible opportunity to our community's youth. Together, we're inspiring the next generation of explorers and innovators!

# GREG COLEMAN'S RETIREMENT CEREMONY

**Coleman  
retires from  
LHA after  
nearly a  
decade of  
service**



## MAHRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ROSS Service Coordinator Shirmeca Currie and President of Resident Organization Clifton Nicholson showcases as an Exhibitor at the Annual Conference!



# LHA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

## LAUREL HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTINUES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO HOUSING

The Laurel Housing Authority (LHA) continues to strive to provide affordable housing opportunities for residents of Laurel and Jones County. LHA Executive Director Ailrick Young and the Board of Commissioners recently announced ongoing improvements to the agency's properties and plans to add 200 new housing units within the next three years. The agency also recognized one of its long-serving board members, Rev. George L. Barnes, with the naming of the LHA Board Room in his honor. On August 14, 2025, the Board of Commissioners held its annual meeting and program, which included recognizing residents and employees for their service. The Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners includes Chairman George L. Barnes, Vice-Chairman George Carter Jr., and Commissioners Tensle Wheeler, Sandy Holifield, and Shelley Allen. During the annual program, held at the EDA of Jones County building, Executive Director Young recognized Nakailya Pickering as the agency's Employee of the Year. Pickering serves as the Inventory Clerk in the Maintenance Department. As part of the event, Property Managers, the Safety Officer, Bookkeeper, and R.O.S.S. Program Coordinators presented updates on their annual activities and accomplishments. James Brown, with the Maintenance Department, received this year's Safety Award, while LaNeil Carter was named 2025

R.O.S.S. Coordinator of the Year. The Housing Authority also recognized residents for their outstanding service and participation in the Resident

Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Program: Beacon Homes Site: Rita Leatherwood (ROSS Participant), D'ad Pigford, and Cindy Jones Brown Circle Site: Catherine Nix and Mary Stokes Arco Lane Site: Ruby Smith and Dolly Teagle Windsor Court Site: Kizzie Strickland and Shelia Johnson Triangle Homes Site: Quandarius Keyes and Jaylin Lang In addition, the Laurel Garden Club and Trustmark Bank (represented by Kelly Lawson) received the agency's 2025 Community Partnership Awards. Young highlighted partnerships with the Garden Club, Boy Scouts, Mississippi State Extension Service, and community members, which have supported the thriving Community Garden at Beacon Homes. "It is because of the support of our partners that we are able to provide so many services to the residents," Young said. "Our partnerships truly make a difference in the lives of the families we serve by helping them improve their quality of life." Community partners, including Laurel Police Chief Earl Reed, also attended the an-



nual meeting. As a special presentation, the agency recognized its board chairman, George L. Barnes, for his decades of service to the Laurel Housing Authority. The agency's main office is currently being renovated to expand its board room, which will be officially named the George L. Barnes Board Room in recognition of the many years of service Barnes has provided as a member and chairman of the Laurel Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Young further announced progress on upcoming projects and highlighted key accomplishments from the past. Looking ahead, Young reported that LHA's long-term goals include expanding housing opportunities in Laurel and Jones County and supporting broader community development efforts, with a target of developing at least 200 additional housing units by 2028.

## LHA ANNUAL BOARD



James Brown, who works with the Maintenance Department, received this year's Safety Award.

### PICKERING NAMED LHA

Nakailya Pickering was recognized as LHA's Employee of the Year. Pickering serves as the Inventory Clerk in Laurel Housing Authority's Maintenance Department.

### CARTER IS R.O.S.S. COORDINATOR OF YEAR



LaNeil Carter was named R.O.S.S. Coordinator of the Year. Carter is the Coordinator at the Arco Lane Site.



### GARDEN CLUB & TRUSTMARK BANK ARE NAMED LHA'S PARTNERS OF THE YEAR



The Laurel Garden Club and Trustmark National Bank were recognized as this year's Partners of the Year.

Pictured on left are members of the Garden Club and, on right, representative of Trustmark Bank



# LHA ANNUAL BOARD

## LHA RECOGNIZES RESIDENTS FOR THEIR EFFORTS



The Housing Authority recognized residents for their outstanding service and participation in the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (R.O.S.S.) Program.



## LHA'S HOUSE TALK COFFEE SHOP

AUGUST

### "COFFEE WITH THE CHIEF"



Earl Reed, the City of Laurel's new police chief, visited the Coffee Shop and shared with residents during a special gathering at the James A. Townley Center during the month of August.

## SEPTEMBER

### DIAPER AWARENESS WEEK



The LHA ROSS Program recognizes National Diaper Need Awareness week with Dry Bottom Matters @ House Talk Coffee Shop. This year the requested need was large sizes diapers, pull-up and wipes to be dropped off at the coffee shop the week of September 15-19<sup>th</sup>. Donations were received from Mrs. Addie Chinn, Malissa Russell, Dr. Amanda Cooley and the Campbell Family, Jones Chapter 421A Order of Eastern Star and Bathsheba Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Mr. Jerome Wyatt, Ms. Tensie Wheeler, the Ambitious Women of God (A.W.O.G.) Organization and Ms. Alissa who



saw the news article and decided to make a donation. We also received donations from John Watson of some adult diapers that will definitely be utilized.

## LHA WARRIORS GEARING UP



The Laurel Housing Authority LHA Warriors basketball gears up for the 2026 SERC-NAHRO MLK Basketball and Cheer Competition to be held in Bessemer, AL – where they motivate, mentor and build team leadership. The LHA Warriors cheer team will also join the Competition. The youth look forward to the exciting time yearly.



# MS EXTENSION SERVICE ADDRESSES SUSTAINABLE HOMES

## LATONYA RAMSEY EDUCATES AND ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY HOMES

Laurel Housing Authority's residents at Arco Lane, Beacon Homes and Windsor Court Sites took part in a Sustainable Homes Workshop hosted by the R.O.S.S. Coordinators at the three sites. Latonya Ramsey with the Mississippi Extension Service presented the workshop

which addressed healthy homes. She also provided the residents with door prizes of lights, surge protectors and other items to help them sustain a healthy home.



**Arco Lane Homes**

## HOT TOPICS

As the Holidays approaches—listed are some safety tips:

1. Never leave a burning candle unattended
2. Turn off tree lights, decorations, and portable space heaters when away or asleep
3. Never throw wrapping paper in the fire
4. Only use outdoor and indoor lights as indicated on their packaging
5. Don't overload circuits, extension cords, or electrical sockets
6. Never leave cooking or baking unattended
7. Keep holiday plants away from pets
8. Check your smoke detector battery (Maintenance Department)
9. Celebrate small and don't drink and drive
10. Choose a fire-resistant artificial tree and be sure to water a natural tree daily
11. Maintain woodburning fireplaces and chimneys
12. Travel safely and don't overshare on social media

**HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY!**

# LHA RECEIVES NATIONAL NAHRO AWARD

## Received Two Awards of Merit and One Award of Excellence



The Laurel Housing Authority (LHA) is proud to announce that it has received two *Awards of Merit* and one prestigious *Award of Excellence* from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) during the organization's national conference, held September 28–30, 2025—Phoenix, AZ. These national honors recognize LHA's ongoing commitment to innovation, community service, and expanding affordable housing opportunities for families in Laurel and Jones County. The *Awards of Merit* celebrate creative programs and management practices that enhance resident services and strengthen communities. LHA earned recognition for its leadership in the **Visitors Center/Community Revitalization** and **Visitors Center/Project Design** initiatives,

both of which reflect the agency's mission to provide housing solutions that promote stability, sustainability, and economic growth. In addition, LHA received an *Award of Excellence*—NAHRO's highest honor—for the **Visitors Center/Project Design**. This award, presented to only a select number of agencies nationwide, underscores the Laurel Housing Authority's success in developing impactful, forward-thinking initiatives that improve quality of life for residents. "These awards are a testament to the hard work of our staff, the support of our Board of Commissioners, and the partnerships we have built throughout the community," said **Ailrick Young, Executive Director of the Laurel Housing Authority**. "We are hon-

ored to be recognized on a national stage, and we remain committed to developing housing opportunities and programs that uplift families and strengthen Laurel's future."

**Michael McKinnon, Architect for the Visitors Center project**, added, "This award reflects the power of collaboration. It recognizes the community's input, the team's dedication, and the owner's vision that made the project possible."

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) represents more than 19,000 housing and community development professionals nationwide. Its awards program highlights exemplary housing and community development efforts that serve as models for agencies across the country.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
LHA STAFF AND RESIDENTS WHO  
CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAY  
DURING THE MONTHS OF  
JULY—SEPTEMBER**



**Housing Authority  
of the City of Laurel, MS**  
701 Leontyne Price Boulevard  
P.O. Drawer 2910 • Laurel, MS 39442  
Ph 601-425-4651

**Ailrick Young, Executive Director**  
**Felicia Jackson, Asst. Executive Director**  
**Eloria Newell James, Newsletter Editor**

Phone: 601-425-4651  
Fax: 601-425-7977  
E-mail [laurel@laurelha.net](mailto:laurel@laurelha.net)  
[Www.laurelha.net](http://www.laurelha.net)

 @LaurelHousingMS



#### **TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEWSLETTER**

- ◆ Anyone with information or photos can submit them to Eloria Newell James by email at [ejames@laurelha.net](mailto:ejames@laurelha.net) or call 601-425-3602 for more information.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

##### **Breast Cancer Parade**

October 8, 2025

##### **Booktacular**

October 28, 2025

##### **Christmas Senior Christmas Dance**

December 2, 2025

##### **CLOSED**

##### **Columbus Day**

October 13, 2025

##### **Veteran Day Observance**

November 11, 2025

##### **Closed—Thanksgiving Holidays**

November 27-28, 2025

##### **Closed—Christmas Holidays**

December 24-25, 2025

##### **Closed—New Year's Holiday**

January 1, 2026

##### **Arco Lane Meals Program**

Monday—Friday

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**The Laurel Housing Authority's mission is to provide and create affordable housing opportunities that promote and provide safe housing, self-sufficiency and viable productive communities for individuals and families within Laurel and Jones County.**

#### **PROPERTY MANAGER'S OFFICES**

- ◆ Beacon Street Homes --- Tramel McMillan @ 601-425-3602
- ◆ Triangle Homes ----- Ruby Jones @ 601-426-3574
- ◆ Brown Circle Homes --- Charlotte Williams @ 601-425-3903
- ◆ Arco Lane Homes ----- Semeka Brown @ 601-425-2611
- ◆ Windsor Court Homes ----- Semeka Brown @ 601-428-4042

#### **ROSS COORDINATORS' OFFICES**

- ◆ Beacon Street Homes ---- Eloria N. James @ 601-425-7986
- ◆ Brown Circle Homes ----- Tito Lanier @ 601-425-5958
- ◆ Triangle Homes ----- Shirmeca Currie @ 601-426-3574
- ◆ Arco Lane Homes ----- La-Neil Carter @ 601-425-2611
- ◆ Windsor Court Homes ---- LaTonya Watson @ 601-428-4042