



SUMMER 2009



# BRHA BEACON

GREAT NEWS!!!!

## BRHA WILL GET APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION IN FEDERAL “STIMULUS MONEY”

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law in February. That is good news for the Public Housing Industry.

Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority will receive approximately 1 million dollars of this money. There are strict restrictions on obligating and spending the funds.

Several work items that are included in the Five-year/Annual Plan will take place sooner than expected. Below are some of the work items that will be done with these funds:

- new entrance doors at Jones Manor and Stant Hall
- exterior painting at Rice Terrace and Johnson Court
- repair/replace downspouts and gutters at Rice Terrace and Johnson Court
- replace window panels at Jones Manor and Stant Hall
- repairs to the roof at the Administrative Building

### Inside This Issue

2. A Plan For the Future
3. Find a Way Program
4. CERT
5. BRHA Safety Team
6. Reminders from Property Managers
7. Work Order Reminders
8. Housing Choice Voucher News
9. Area Events

## A Plan for the Future

About one year ago the Bristol Redevelopment & Housing Authority decided to take a good, hard look at itself...with an eye toward what we want our organization to be in the future. With input from stakeholders -- residents, local government and business leaders, and our own employees -- we sought answers to numerous questions about our services and our products. We also wanted to consider if there might be other ways that we could help the City increase affordable housing and improve neighborhoods.

**Bristol Redevelopment  
and Housing Authority**  
Not to Scale

VA #1 BRH. VEMAD...  
VA #2 JONASWOOD...  
VA #3 BRH. IEPHOSLESTEN...  
VA #4 BRH. IEPHOSLESTEN...  
VA #5 STANT HALL...  
VA #6 JONES WOOD...  
HOPE V. PROJECT AREA

Assisted by planning and financial consultants – and input from stakeholders – the answers to these questions resulted in BRHA’s “**2008 Master Plan -- Asset Repositioning, Development and Neighborhood Investment.**”

This Master Plan, adopted by the BRHA Board of Commissioners in February 2009, provides a “roadmap” for the long-term future success of BRHA’s mission as a provider of “safe, attractive and affordable housing” in the Bristol community. This Master Plan will be our guide in establishing future goals and we will work diligently to fulfill its intent.

Key objectives included in the Master Plan:

- **Reduce dependency** on federal sources of funding
- Leverage existing assets to create **more and better affordable housing**
- Enhance **housing choice** via more Section 8 and mixed-income housing



### Stake Holder Questions

- *What do you like/not like about the Public Housing development you live in?*
- *How do you think Public Housing (PH) could be improved in Bristol?*
- *What impact do you think the PH developments have on the surrounding neighborhood?*
- *What impact do you think the surrounding neighborhood has on the PH developments?*
- *What kinds of improvements to PH should BRHA consider?*
- *How would residents’ lives change if some of these improvements to PH and to the neighborhood actually happened?*
- *How do you think the City and BRHA could work together to positively address neighborhood and housing issues?*

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Family Self-sufficiency  
“Find A Way”  
Event A Huge Success!!!

April 1st was the FAW big event, “Solutions that Work in an Uncertain World.” Lot of work and activity went into preparations. The event was held at the Higher Education Center. The keynote Speaker was from the Franklin Covey group. He presented two keynote addresses that were encouraging and motivating to all in attendance.

Eight workshops were held throughout the day by area agencies and programs. The workshops offered parenting, budgeting, emergency preparedness, goal setting, healthy cooking, business basics and internet safety.

David Browning was also in attendance as “Barney”. He provided lunchtime entertainment and encouragement. Mr. Browning has also been working with FAW clients on a “Creativity Series” to give them an opportunity to gain acting and drama skills. The group called the “Pannell Players”, performed several different acts during lunch

Also during lunch, David Browning and Tyrone Foster were presented with the new FAW posters which shared their success stories.

Area agencies participated in the event as vendors to showcase their programs and services. This gave participants an opportunity to mingle and see opportunities available to them in the community. The training was well received with about on hundred fifty in attendance

Find-A-Way Participant Successes

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Find-A-Way, has seen many successes since it started three years ago. The program has made it possible to provide help in various areas for many residents who have set goals for themselves and are ready make a difference in their lives. They are paving the way for a bright future for themselves and their families.

Presently, we have 36 families in the FSS Program. Out of that number, 20 of them are either working or going to school. Four of them are working a full-time job that has benefits. One participant to graduate with a BS degree from a local college. Another is enrolled in college now and has completed her freshman year. Three participants, just this year have received their GED. They now have more options for employment open to them. We have had three participants to graduate from the Medical Assistant Program and one from a CNA program.

We have provided training in various areas and have more planned in the future. We have financial workshops, weight loss programs, parenting classes, and leadership training available to our participants. We also have a variety of resource materials available to our participants to help them prepare for whatever comes their way.

If you are interested in more information about the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, you may call Lynn Pannell at 276 821-6270 or visit the Find A Way Office at: 600 Mary Street, Bristol,



## BRHA Part of Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Bristol Virginia-Tennessee Citizens Corps Council celebrated the graduation of 27 new Community Emergency Response Team members on Thursday, December 4, 2008. The graduation ceremony took place at Office Max's Call Center.

Bristol Virginia Sheriff Jack Weisenburger was the keynote speaker for the graduation. He praised both Office Max and the Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority for their dedication to community preparedness by taking the CERT training. He reminded the graduates of the most important word in CERT, "team". He stated "that through team work, you have found you can get things accomplished in an emergency". He also noted that these are the first two business in Bristol to complete the training.

Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority had ten staff members to complete the training. David Baldwin, Executive Director of the Housing Authority successfully completed the training. Crime Prevention Specialist, Kevin France, who coordinates the CERT and Citizen Corps Programs, stated "when the leadership of a business or organization completes this training, it speaks volumes not only to their employees, but to the community on the importance of Community Emergency Response Teams".



### Dates to Remember

Summerfest-July 25,  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Office Closed-Monday  
September 7- Labor Day

Office Closed-Monday  
October 12 - Columbus  
Day

Office Closed- Wednesday  
November 11- Veterans  
Day

Office Closed- Thursday &  
Friday, November 26 & 27  
Thanksgiving

Office Closed- Thursday &  
Friday, December 24 & 25  
Christmas Holiday

## MEET THE BRHA SAFETY TEAM



BRHA has formed a Safety Team with residents and employees in mind. The goal of the Safety Team is to provide a safe environment for employees, residents, and the community. The following are a few of the safety precautions already in place:

- ♦ ID Badges for Employees and Visitors to the property
- ♦ Safety glasses and hard hats in required areas
- ♦ First aid kits
- ♦ Safety information posted for employees
- ♦ Training for Maintenance
- ♦ Safety barriers and emergency call buttons

## Reminders from the Housing Management Department

Property Managers want to remind you that vehicles are not allowed on the lawns for any reason. Vehicles that are parked on the lawn may be towed without any notice and residents may also receive a notice to vacate.

Residents are not allowed to have unauthorized people living in their apartments. Anyone wishing to reside with them must go through the application process and be approved by management. Having unauthorized people in your unit may result in a “notice to vacate” being issued.

The summer season is here!!!! Please help to keep the grounds looking nice. We ask that all residents comply with the following:

- ✦ Keep the grounds outside of your apartment free litter, trash and debris
- ✦ Have children bring in drink containers and snack wrappers
- ✦ In the evenings take in toys, bikes, chairs, and strollers
- ✦ Keep things picked up for the mowers. If maintenance has to pick up things from your lawn it will be taken to the trash and you will be charged

## Summer is Here!!! Please be Considerate

Summer is upon us!! This is the time of the year to be especially considerate of your neighbors since many people open their window and doors to enjoy the fresh air. Remember that your neighbors can hear your music, television or even loud conversations, so be considerate and check your volume.

If you have complaints about your neighbors behavior, please put your complaint in writing and bring it to your Housing Manager at the main BRHA office.

### Let's have a safe and enjoyable Summer!



### **Exterior Painting to Begin Soon!!!**

Exterior painting and repairs to guttering and down spouts will begin soon at the Rice Terrace and Johnson Court developments.

This is one of the projects that is being funded by the recently awarded "stimulus funds".

### **Resident Work Order Reminder**

For any work orders, please call the Maintenance number at 642-2006 during business hours, this number can also be called after hours for Emergency Work Orders Only. If you have any issues, comments or concerns not related to a work order, please contact your Housing Manager.

### What Is an Emergency Work Order??

- ✦ Broken window on main level (if zero panes of glass remain)
- ✦ Broken water line that can not be shut off
- ✦ Stopped up sewer line
- ✦ Stopped up commode (if only one in unit)
- ✦ No heat in apartment if outside temperature is below 50 degrees
- ✦ Leaking domestic hot water heater
- ✦ Can not shut and/or secure front or rear entry door and main level windows
- ✦ Refrigerator not cooling (only on Friday afternoon)
- ✦ No electrical power in unit
- ✦ Gas leak in or around apartment

- ✦ Stopped up sink in high rise complexes only
- ✦ Lock outs (tenant must have BRHA ID)

### **USDA Summer Food Program**

BRHA is not a sponsor of the Summer Food Program this year. If your organization would like to sign up free food for children's activities this summer, please contact Darrell at the Southeast Culinary and Hospitality College at 591-5699

### **Hello New BRHA Staff Members**

BRHA has added several new members to its staff. You probably have met or spoken with some of them. Please welcome:

Michelle Rasnick-Capital Investments

Brian Scott-Housing Inspector

Larry Housewright-Maintenance

Dale Arnold-Maintenance

Teena Price-HCV FSS Coordinator

Jack Vanhook-Construction Coordinator

## Housing Choice Voucher Self-Sufficiency Program

The Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority is excited to announce that the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program has joined the Public Housing “Find A Way” program. Teena Price was hired as the HCV Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator in mid-March.

Teena is busy enrolling participants in the program and looks forward to assisting them in meeting their goals. Six participants have been enrolled in the program.

Hurry in to reserve a spot that will enable you to improve your standard of living and take advantage of opportunities available to you!!!!

If you are interested in more information about the HCV Self-Sufficiency Program, you may call Teena at 276 821-6270 or visit the Find A Way Office at: 600 Mary Street, Bristol, VA 24201.

## Important News from the Housing Choice Voucher Program

Due to the large number of people on the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the waiting list is closed. No new applications are being taken at this time.



## Come and Enjoy the Fun!!! Summerfest 2009 July 25 11:00 - 2:00

Summerfest is scheduled for Saturday July 25, 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. The events will take place at the parking lots of Jones Manor and Stant Hall.

This is a fun event that takes place every year and is hosted by the Housing Authority and its partnering agencies. This gives our residents an opportunity to meet their neighbors and to talk with agencies about the resources that are available to the community.

Please plan to come out and enjoy the day with us. There is something for everyone. We have rides for the children, cakewalks, bingo, music, games and food.

If you would like to volunteer to help on that day, please contact Diana Carter at 821-6256.



### **Fun Fest in Kingsport**

*July 10, 2009 thru July 18, 2009*

Fun Fest is the best part of summer in Upper East Tennessee with days of concerts, sports, children's events and much more, over 100 different activities. Run in the Crazy 8s, 8-K race, see hot air balloons, fireworks, parade, play kickball and more - just have FUN! Concert information and ticket prices will be posted as soon as they become available. For more information, visit [www.funfest.net](http://www.funfest.net).

### **Thompson Metal Monster Truck Madness**

*July 25, 2009*

Prepare for high-flyin', car-crushin' action when Monster Truck Madness heads to Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday, July 25. The event will be held inside Bristol Motor Speedway to give these machines plenty of room to flex their muscle. Kids young and old will enjoy seeing these monsters fly through the air with ease, crushing everything in their path. Trucks will race around the Bristol Motor Speedway infield during two qualifying rounds. Eliminations will roll off after qualifying is complete. After the racing champion is crowned, the trucks return for everyone's favorite event, freestyle. In freestyle, drivers will perform stunts and moves you never thought possible. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate. Kids 10 and under are \$5.

### **Virginia Highlands Festival**

*July 25, 2009 thru August 9, 2009*

Multi-faceted activities and performances await you at the Virginia Highlands Festival held in Historic Abingdon and the surrounding

area. The Festival offers fine art and crafts, antiques, performing and literary arts, local history, the great outdoors, home and garden events, and fun for kids of all ages!

### **All Harley Drag Racing**

*August 7, 2009 thru August 9, 2009*

The deep rumbles of Harley-Davidsons will fill the air Aug. 7-9, 2009 as the AHDRA Rush Racing Products; Thunder In The Valley Nationals invades Bristol Dragway for three days of ground-pounding excitement. Fans will want to take in the sights and sounds of some of the meanest Harley-Davidsons the All Harley Drag Racing Association has to offer. The Pro Categories showcase insanely fast racing, including the

thrilling Top Fuel Nitro-powered Harleys. The Top Fuel bikes are sure to please as they scream down the famed quarter-mile in Thunder Valley at speeds in excess of 200 mph. With 16 classes of competition and tons of vendors, there is something for everyone at the Thunder In The Valley Nationals.

### **Appalachian Fair**

*August 24, 2009 thru August 29, 2009*

The Appalachian Fair in Gray, Tennessee is always fun for the whole family with games, rides, livestock, and lots of great food. Admission to the Fairgrounds is as follows: Adults \$8, Children 6-11 \$3, Children 5 & under free with an Adult. Mainstage events will be posted as they are determined.

### **Washington County Fair - Abingdon**

*September 14, 2009 thru September 19, 2009*

The annual Washington County Fair and Burley Festival in Abingdon, Virginia, will run September 14th through 19th. Activities include educational exhibits, concerts, talent shows, beauty pageants, and a parade. Daily exhibits will include farm equipment, crops, tobacco, livestock, foods, and flowers. There will be nightly concerts at 8:00 pm on the entertainment stage. Performers will include Carter's Cord, Zac Brown Band, Heid Newfield, Keith Anderson and Jake Owen [Click here](#) to visit the Washington County Fairground.

### **Rhythm & Roots Reunion - Downtown Bristol**

*September 18, 2009 thru September 20, 2009*

The annual Rhythm & Roots Reunion music festival will be held on the weekend of September 18th-20th on State Street in Downtown Bristol. There will be three major outdoor stages, eight indoor venues, and five acoustic tents all on State Street in Downtown Bristol. Entertainers will include Patty Loveless, Larry Keel & Natural Bridge, Gene Watson and the Holston Mountain Boys and many more. For more information and ticket prices [click here to log onto the Rhythm & Roots official website](#).

## HOW TO REACH US:

Main Phone: (276) 642-2001  
Fax: (276) 642-2015  
E-mail: [contact@brha.com](mailto:contact@brha.com)  
Web site: [www.brha.com](http://www.brha.com)

Property Managers:  
Patricia Tignor (276) 821-6257  
Shiela Wambolt (276) 821-6263

Maintenance: (276) 642-2006

## MISSION STATEMENT

The BRHA will provide safe, attractive, affordable housing and housing assistance, and the opportunity for families and others in need to achieve a higher standard of living.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### BRHA Board Meetings

- Held the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm

### Stant Hall/Jones Manor

#### Resident Council Meetings

- Second Monday of the month at 5:30 pm

### Applications

- Public Housing - Tuesdays
- Housing Choice Vouchers - Waiting List Closed

### Office Closing:

- BRHA will be closed Monday September 7 for Labor Day



Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
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