



Resident Newsletter

October 2021

KEEPING UP WITH CURRENT TOPICS



October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. This is a time to acknowledge that **one out of every three women and one out of every four men** will be a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault during their lifetime.

Domestic violence can occur to anyone regardless of age, income level, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. While physical violence can be a part of it, domestic violence can include emotional, behavioral, and sexual control and abuse as well.

Even though there has been substantial progress in bringing attention to this issue and reducing domestic violence, millions of Americans find themselves in unstable situations each year.

Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, or even death.

InterAct is our local agency that provides support and services for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence situations in Wake County. **Please contact InterAct if you or someone you know needs help.** They can be reached at the phone numbers and email below:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

919-828-7740
866-291-0855 toll-free

SEXUAL ASSAULT

919-828-3005
866-291-0853 toll-free

SPANISH

844-203-8896

MAIN OFFICE

919-828-7501
1012 Oberlin Road, Raleigh

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ELECTRONICALLY

<https://interactofwake.org/>
info@interactofwake.org

Open Comment Periods

Raleigh Housing Authority updates multiple documents each year. As a part of this process, staff assembles drafts and encourages residents and the public to read them and respond with feedback.

Each proposed update is available for review on RHA's website, www.rhaonline.com. Comments can be submitted either via US mail to 900 Haynes Street, through RHA's main office drop box, or by email to info@rhaonline.com.

Comments received will be reviewed and considered before any changes are accepted. Final copies will be reviewed by the Board of Commissioners for approval and submitted to HUD.

Residents are encouraged to review the following public housing documents which are currently out for public comment:

• **Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy.** This policy outlines the policies and procedures that govern the public housing program.

The public comment period is being extended until 4pm on November 15th.

This proposal is in line with HUD regulations specified in 24 CFR, Part 960.

• **Annual PHA Plan.** The Annual Plan provides information to interested parties about basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the Housing Authority's operations, programs, and services. RHA is updating the annual PHA plan for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

This comment period will remain open through 5pm on November 22nd, as posted by RHA on September 24th.

An Annual PHA Plan public meeting will be held by Zoom on November 15th at 6pm.

Join us by Zoom here:
<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/86151872342?pwd=ck9YcUR6LzdISWxSOERKYk8zZjZzUT09>

Or call (929) 205-6099 to join by phone: Meeting ID – 861 5187 2342
Password – 928963.

This proposal is in line with HUD regulations specified in 24 CFR, Part 903.

• **Lease Agreement.** The Lease is signed by each family and acts as a contract between RHA and residents. This contract outlines what is expected of both the Agency and its residents.

This comment period will remain open through 4pm on November 5th, as posted by RHA on October 4th.

This proposal is in line with HUD regulations specified in 24 CFR, Part 966.

Gain Good Standing Status

Behind on rent payments? Worried what that means for your housing and rental assistance? There is no better time to talk with your Property Manager about your options.

Missed and late rental payments can be a real issue for your housing. However, RHA wants to work with you to help you return to a "good standing" status. The following are options available to residents that RHA can assist with:

- Recalculating your rent amount when your income decreases.
- Establishing repayment agreements to spread out any

amounts owed over a period of time.

- Helping direct residents to the House Wake! program for assistance with rent and utilities. Residents can call 919-899-9911 or visit www.housewake.com to learn more and apply.
- Providing information about benevolence funds. Churches and other providers may be able to offer assistance to residents.

Please contact your Property Manager today and ask about these options and how you can gain good standing status.

BFI Resident Engagement Event and Program

Residents enjoyed the Building Futures Initiative (BFI) Engagement Event held at Heritage Park in August. Representatives came out to provide information on their services and organizations. RHA provided resident participants with a free Kona Ice to enjoy while learning more about:

- Wake Tech Comm. College
- NC Works
- Child Care Services Association
- David Price Construction
- Step-Up Ministries
- Southlight Healthcare
- GO Triangle
- Raleigh Housing Authority



Residents enjoying the Building Futures Initiative Event at Heritage Park

As part of BFI, a Women-in-Construction Zoom Panel is being held Wednesday, October 27th from 4pm-5:30pm.

The Women-in-Construction Panel, featuring women with decades of experience in the industry, will illustrate the various paths taken, successes, challenges, and opportunities along the way to carving a role for RHA residents interested in this industry.

Joins us via Zoom here:

<https://enterprisecommunity.zoom.us/j/98197722231?pwd=aDZkdGcrWXdzZEZlcWlmWTRFaWh6QT09>

Or call (929) 205 6099 to join by phone. Meeting ID: 981 9772 2231
Password: 625180.

We hope that you join us as we hear directly from women in the industry!

Resident Council Elections

Resident Councils play an important role across RHA properties. They help provide a united voice to communicate concerns, make improvements, provide resident opportunities, and strengthen community bonds.

Resident Council elections will be held in the upcoming months. Please consider what role you may assist in for the betterment of your

community. You can make a difference in your neighborhood!

Questions about Resident Councils or upcoming elections can be directed to **Ms. Lottie Moore at (919) 931-3171.**

Internet Service Assistance Program

Have you registered for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program yet? If not, take a second to check it out!

The program provides a **discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband internet services** for eligible households. You can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. That means you could potentially save \$600-\$700 annually!

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Who Is Eligible for the program? A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs,

such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;

- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Coffee with a Cop

Heritage Park will be hosting Coffee with a Cop on November 3rd starting at 8am. The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and Raleigh citizens. This program offers individuals the opportunity to meet and learn more about each other. All residents are invited to join in this event.



Bus Access Survey

GoTriangle needs your input to improve access to bus stops in Wake county. Whether you walk, bike, or get to transit another way, please use your experiences to help build an improved system. GoTriangle is working with regional partners to update the Wake Bus Plan. A survey has been designed to help inform the planning for better access to and from transit by walking and biking. **Take the survey by November 8th at: www.publicinput.com/WBPA1**

Your feedback will be considered as part of an analysis for where capital investments should be prioritized that improve walking and biking safely to and from bus stops and transit centers in Wake County. Have questions? Contact GoTriangle at publicengagement@gotriangle.org, or by phone at (512) 580-8850. Project Code: 3743.

Seasonal Changes and Beautification

As we move into autumn, RHA Landscaping and Maintenance will be making necessary changes to prepare for the season. Residents may see these workers out on the properties preparing and evaluating current landscapes.

RHA takes pride in its communities and encourages residents to participate in community beautification. Communities that are interested in establishing a resident led planting event or community garden should notify their Property Manager.

Continuing COVID-19 Precautions

Residents are reminded that RHA is continuing its COVID-19 precautions. Changes and precautions that RHA has implemented include:



Minimizing walk-in traffic at office locations. Appointments can be made for in-person meetings when necessary.

Minimizing entry into occupied homes when feasible. Staff will utilize COVID-19 protocols including wearing masks and social distancing when entering occupied units.

Screening individuals for COVID-19 symptoms as necessary to determine that individuals are not presenting symptoms when conducting business in-person.

Utilizing technology to carry out essential tasks safely including virtual meetings and inspections.

Offering online rent payment options and change of status reporting. Public housing residents wishing to set up a new online rent

payment account should contact their Property Manager for an account number.

Altering staff schedules and locations when necessary to limit COVID-19 concerns.

Residents should report any known cases of COVID-19 to their Property Manager immediately. COVID-19 positive residents should quarantine according to current CDC guidelines.

Inspections, repairs, and other interior needs may be postponed until positive testing household members are no longer sick.

Reporting Maintenance Needs

Residents play an important part of identifying maintenance needs. RHA relies on residents to report all items observed that need repair. Residents should call the work order line at [\(919\) 831-6401](tel:9198316401) to report any known Maintenance work or needs.

When requesting a work order, make sure to clearly identify: who you are, your phone number, a detailed description of the issue requiring attention, and the location of the issue. Residents only need to call *once* for each work order.

If you believe that the item is a serious issue affecting health or safety, you should immediately report the issue to your Management Office as well.

Resident Services

We are fortunate to have partners offering services and programs to RHA residents. Questions about programs or other resources can be directed to RHA's Resident Services Coordinator, Dolores Cruz, by email at dcruz@rhaonline.com or by phone at (919) 508-1202.

Diaper Train

Diaper Train provides FREE diapers for those in need. The Diaper Train is found in the basement of Saint Saviour's Center located at 616 Tucker Street. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am-12:00pm.

RHA can provide resident referrals and monthly supplies may be set up on request. You can contact their staff at (919) 833-6400 or visit www.SaintSaviourCenter.org to learn about their other offerings.

Youth Education and Advocacy Association

YEAA helps to ensure that students are afforded an equal education. This program helps by providing tutoring, including in Math, Science, Social Studies, and English as a Second Language. These programs are student-centered and aim to engage students while effectively teaching the necessary material.

In order to take part in this completely free program, please make sure to submit an application during the month of October. Applications can be found at: tinyurl.com/eepfall2021

Coming Soon

Toys for Tots - The holiday season is quickly approaching and we are looking forward to the 2021 Toys for Tots program. Each year RHA and the ICC partner together to receive toys for our residents.

All RHA households are eligible to participate in this free gift program and ensure their children have gifts to open this holiday season. Keep a lookout for flyers distributed to households instructing families how to sign up to receive toys through this program.

