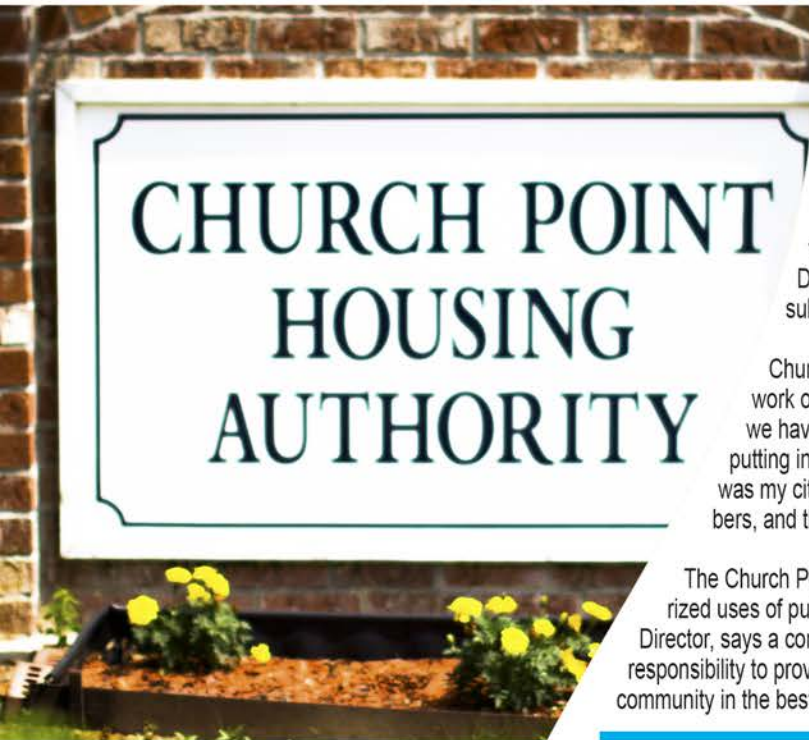




Families First

Newsletter of The
Church Point Housing Authority

December 2013



Church Point Housing Authority Back on Solid Ground

The journey back from troubled status has not been easy but it is finally complete for the Church Point Housing Authority. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has removed CPHA from the department's list of troubled or substandard agencies.

Church Point Mayor Roger Boudreaux says the announcement is a testament to the hard work of the agency's new leadership and dedicated board. "Well the leadership and the staff we have now is excellent. We did have a problem and we were able to rectify that problem by putting in a new director. I personally was enthused with the director they put there because he was my city clerk for five years. I knew his capabilities. I also selected three new board members, and they really have been moving things forward and getting things under control."

The Church Point Housing Authority faced HUD scrutiny after a 2011 audit uncovered the unauthorized uses of public funds by the previous administration. Charles Labbe, CPHA's new Executive Director, says a commitment to doing things right has raised the profile of the agency. "We have a responsibility to provide high quality programs and services to our residents, and to represent this community in the best possible manner."

Chatting with Charles ...

CHARLES LABBE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

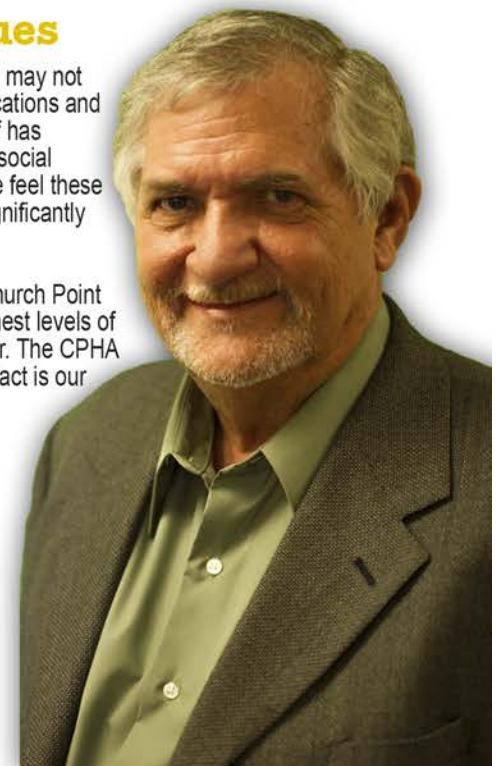
Unique Look, Traditional Values

These are exciting times for the Church Point Housing Authority. And while this may not be springtime, change is definitely in the air for CPHA. An aggressive communications and public education effort led by our board of commissioners and administrative staff has produced a new look (logo), new technology (content management websites and social media), new resources (newsletter) and new opportunities (outreach program). We feel these enhancements best reflect the quality of the programs we have in place and will significantly improve the quality of life for the families that we serve.

Despite these advancements, there are some things that will never change at the Church Point Housing Authority which includes our responsibility to provide residents with the highest levels of customer service. Our commitment to the Town of Church Point will also never waiver. The CPHA realizes the success of our community depends on the success of our citizens. This fact is our motivation to ensure that we place our residents in the best position to succeed.

I want to thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. I hope you enjoy getting to know some of the men and women who are working hard to make the Church Point Housing Authority the very best. I would also like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season from the Church Point Housing Authority.

Please also visit online at cphousing.org and don't forget to follow us through social media.



In The *Spotlight*

Judy Smith, Resident

Positive role models and family engagement are essential elements in providing opportunities for youth to enhance their interest, skills and abilities into their adulthood. Just ask Judy Smith, a resident of Church Point Housing Authority, who actively connects with the children of our community. "It's human nature... I grew up here and I feel the need to give back."

A mentor is the most important influence for a child to stay in school, and activities are equally as important to keep them from being idle or much worse. Judy says, "Advancement, learning, and motivational things will keep them out of trouble and off the streets."

Opportunities for our area youth can be improved – many things that do not exist now will be created in the future with programs designed by CPHA's very own Opportunity Now. Judy says, "We have a basketball court for the kids but we would certainly like a lot more."



The Board's Word

Chris Savoy, CPHA Board

Commitment is the backbone of CPHA's Board Chairman, Christopher Savoy. He lends himself to strengthening the CPHA at all levels. Savoy feels the spark comes from the personnel. "I think the staff from the executive director, to the assistants, to the maintenance staff is phenomenal and is always there for our residents."

To understand his level of commitment, one must know Chris' dedication in servicing our residents has great depth. His goal is to provide quality of life for our residents. Chris would also like to see a positive cultural change in the community. "We have programs in place to get the residents on their feet and broaden their future. We want people to utilize our resources and move on."

The direction of CPHA is to accomplish "financial stability" says Christopher Savoy. "Currently, we are in great shape. I feel like with these programs, we will have a lot faster turnover with the residents; not a long waiting list due to people not moving out."



CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL:
Mayor Roger Boudreaux

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:
Chris Savoy
Board Chairman

Rievers Faul
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Alfred
Resident Board Member

Harold Beaugh

Christine Benoit

CPHA STAFF:
Charles Labbe
Executive Director

Christine Richard
Deputy Director

Mitch Brasseaux
Outreach Coordinator

Jade Andrus
Attorney

Carey LeJune
Maintenance Foreman

John Citizen
Maintenance



Opportunity Now: Opportunity Is At Your Door

"Everyone deserves an opportunity to succeed and better their lives." Opportunity Now was started by the Church Point Housing Authority to help families and individuals search for, find, and achieve their full potential. We are eager to bring forth opportunities that will improve and enrich lives.

Opportunity Now offers convenient access to information and technology designed to help users enhance their job skills, expand their education, live more productive lives, and much more! Opportunity Now's supportive and encouraging environment along with its caring and friendly atmosphere will give participants a clear means by which to overcome obstacles and improve their economic and social well-being.

We would like to thank our Outreach Committee members who devoted much of their time helping to take Opportunity Now from an idea to a reality. Because of their insight, programs were chosen that are conducive to building confidence and independence, thereby establishing a means to yield positive results.

You now have the key to unlock the door to opportunity. We invite you to use it and take advantage of the resources and benefits awaiting you at Opportunity Now. Registration begins early in 2014. Our residents will be notified of the times and dates available for classes which range from workshops to complete session courses.

I am looking forward to personally welcoming you to Opportunity Now!

**Mitch Brasseaux,
Outreach Coordinator**



HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS



UPCOMING EVENTS

The race is on! During the holiday season, child safety is important because of the large crowds we see everywhere. Everyone is engaged in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Everyone. Not simply moms, dads, aunts and uncles looking for the perfect gifts, but also those looking to cause harm to our children. As a result, there are several safety precautions every shopping parent should take when accompanied by the children.

Supervision! When in a mall or other public facility, always supervise your children. Always accompany your child to the restroom. Depending on the age and responsibility of the child, they may be allowed to have some time away from mom. If that is the case, make sure they check with you before they go and that they do not go to locations other than where they stated.

Separation. It is possible for a child to become separated from you while shopping. The possibility of that unfortunate event makes it critical that children know what to do. Teach them to look for people who can help return him to her to you. They should be able to identify law-enforcement officers, security officers, store personnel or another mother with children as persons who can get them back to their parents. They should not leave the area where they first realize they are lost and never, ever leave the mall to look for your car.

Not for babysitting. Parents or guardians should never leave children alone at video arcades, movie theaters, toy stores or playgrounds. In these places, there is no supervision and the people staffing these areas are generally not much older than your children. These places are also magnets for child predators.

There is no substitute for parental supervision while holiday shopping. If you can't adequately supervise your children without being distracted, stay at home or leave them with someone else while you do your shopping.

(Source: www.more4kids.com)

Town of Church Point

Christmas Holiday
December 25, 2013
Office Closed

New Year's Day Holiday
January 1, 2013
Office Closed

Town Council Meeting
January 6, 2014
Town Hall, 6:30 PM

Holiday Events and Activities

Church Point Christmas Parade
Sunday, December 15, 3:30 pm

Le Vieux Presbytere Museum
Old Fashion Buggy Town Christmas
December 22, 4:00 PM

Acadia Parish School Board

Christmas and New Year
Early Dismissal: December 20
Off: December 23 – January 3

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Birthday (Observed)
January 20

Mardi Gras Day (Fat Tuesday)
March 4, 2014



Area Events and Activities

Acadian Village
Noel Acadien au Village
Runs Through December 23
From 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Children's Museum of Acadiana
New Year's Noon Carnival
Tuesday, December 31
From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

