

Resident Newsletter

July Jokes of the Month

Q. What did the kid say to his math?

A. You know, some day you're going to have to solve your own problems

Q. What's the difference between a duck and George Washington?

A. One has a bill on his face and the other has his face on a bill

Q. What is Uncle Sam's favorite snack?

A. Fire crackers



YWoodlawn Wins Design Award

Each year the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Birmingham chapter hosts a design awards ceremony for the best architectural designs of the year.

This year's ceremony was held on June 16, 2011.

Nearly 50 entries were submitted in five categories, representing some of the architectural work completed by Birmingham architects in both large and small firms.

Birmingham-based Cohen Carnaggio Reynolds (CCR), designers of the YWoodlawn apartments including Kelly Court, Dansby Court and Sullivan Square, took home an award in the renovation/adaptive reuse category

for the YWoodlawn project!

CCR transformed previously bland buildings with deteriorating units into a beautiful community the neighborhood is proud to call its own!



Financial Requests Reminder

In a financial bind?

Financial special requests for rent payment plans are available to residents facing extreme financial hardship.

A financial request is essentially a payment plan that can span up to two months to pay off a rent balance. As long as you adhere to the payment plan that you create and the YWCA approves, you will not receive a delinquency or termination notice.

All residents are allowed up to three financial requests a year but they must be submitted to the housing office on a special request form at least three business days before the request is to occur and must not span a time greater than 60 days.

These forms are available at the front desk at the YWCA downtown and also in Woodlawn by contacting Marie King, YWoodlawn Housing Coordinator, presently located at the YWCA's Interfaith

Hospitality House at (205) 591-4302. The forms may also be obtained from any housing staff member.

A written reply from the Housing Office will be provided to the resident upon determination.

Please note: failure to comply with any approved Special Request related to finances will result in your entire rent balance being due immediately without exception.

YWCA Resident Graduates College

Congratulations to Jeneen Buchanan, YWCA downtown resident and 2011 Miles College graduate!

Jeneen graduated last month with a major in Social Work and minor in English. She had previously received her Associate's Degree in social work from Jeff State in 2007.

Despite a change in location from Boutwell to the BJCC due to the April storms, Jeneen was still able to walk at graduation and celebrated the occasion with family members.

Jeneen's next step is to study for the GRE so that she can begin taking online classes in the spring from The University of Alabama for a Master's Degree in Vocational Rehab. After that? More school! Jeneen then hopes to begin working towards her Master's in Social Work either from The University of Alabama or Clark Atlanta University.

This summer Jeneen will be enjoying her time off from school by volunteering with the Literacy Council teaching reading and writing. Her ultimate goal is to give back to the community that has given to her by opening her own nonprofit that will provide help with bills, clothing, host a food bank and provide educational opportunities to those in need.

Best of luck to you, Jeneen and congratulations on your incredible achievements!

If you have an uplifting event you would be willing to share contact Samantha Masdon at (205) 322-9922 ext. 329.



Above: Nicole Todd (left) and Andretta Richardson (right)

Just off the heels of June's YWoodlawn resident cookout we get to know Andretta Richardson, YWCA's Interfaith Hospitality House full time house manager and master chef for the annual

BBQ. Andretta has been with the YWCA since January 18, 2008 working directly with families in crisis and has been a witness to many positive changes at Interfaith as well as in the Woodlawn

Get to Know: House Manager Andretta Richardson

neighborhood. Let's get to know her:

What are your responsibilities?

To make sure that the YWCA's Interfaith Hospitality House is safe and secure, that the schedule is maintained and chores are completed.

What is your typical day at work like?

A typical day at Interfaith is not predictable. Usually I am helping residents with daily chores and assisting them with their kids.

What is your favorite thing about working with the YWCA? Least favorite?

My favorite is helping the

residents that are not good with cooking because I love to cook. I also especially enjoy baking with the kids. Least favorite is when a family leaves and doesn't take advantage of what the YWCA has to offer.

What changes in the neighborhood have you noticed (if any) since the expansion of YWoodlawn?

I look at it like "the grass is growing" which means to me that there is new life in this area.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Grow flowers, cook and spend time with my family including taking care of my mom.

Employment Readiness Program Dates Set

Pathways of Birmingham will host several employment readiness program sessions throughout the summer, fall, winter and spring.

According to their website, www.pathwayshome.org, "Pathways conducts its Employment Readiness programs to prepare women for obtaining and keeping a job. The program focuses on self-esteem, motivation, basic computer skills and job search skills. Each session focuses on work-related topics such as resume writing, interviewing, working with others and

maintaining a job. Participants also work one-on-one with the Employment Coordinator to focus on their individual needs."

The dates for the next several months are:

- July 11-14 and 18-21, 2011
- September 12-15 and 19-22, 2011
- November 7-10 and 14-18, 2011
- January 9-12 and 16-19, 2012

- March 5-8 and 12-15, 2012
- May 7-10 and 14-17, 2012

All classes will be held at Pathways from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and dinner will be provided.

For details contact Pathways at (205) 322-6854.



No Fireworks at any YWCA Property



The use of fireworks within the City of Birmingham is strictly prohibited by law unless used in public places with an approved city permit issued by the fire marshal.

Therefore, **the use of fireworks is not allowed**

on the grounds of any YWCA property.

As an alternative, the City of Birmingham hosts a fireworks spectacular at Vulcan Park every year at sundown (around 9pm) on the 4th of July called "Thunder on the

Mountain." This phenomenal twenty minute fireworks display can be seen from most areas within the city, but is best viewed from 5 Points South. This event is free to the public.



Grill Safety Reminder

- Make sure the cooking site for the grill is flat and is away from sheds, fences and overhanging branches.

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves.

- Keep children and outdoor games away from the cooking area. Never leave a grill unattended.

- Light the grill with a long match or mechanical lighter designed for lighting charcoal. Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames.

- After grilling, allow the charcoal to fully cool before attempting to dispose of it.

One final reminder: the grills in YWoodlawn are available on a first come, first serve basis.



Patriotic Hot Dogs Recipe- "Rocket Dogs"



Ingredients:

- Hot dogs
- Pillsbury instant breadstick dough
- Skewers
- Cubed Cheese
- Mustard

Instructions:

Simply wrap hot dogs in Pillsbury instant breadstick dough and insert a skewer, letting it protrude at the top.

Bake the dogs according to the dough package's instructions. Add a triangle of cheese for a topper, tie on a tail made from ribbon or aluminum foil, and squirt on stripes of ketchup and mustard.

July 4 is also the 96th Annual Nathan's Hotdog Eating Contest. Tune in to ESPN at 11:00 a.m. to catch it live!



Resident BBQs Best Ever



Above: One of the YWCA's youngest residents enjoying the BBQ

On Thursday, June 16 the downtown and senior housing resident BBQ was held in the playground from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The weather was fantastic, the food was delicious and adults and children alike had a wonderful time.

Over 60 residents and their children and families attended the event including several offsite residents. With the ideal weather and great crowd most agreed that this was the best BBQ yet!

A week later, on Thursday June 23, the YWCA hosted the 2nd annual YWoodlawn BBQ and first ever since the new housing opened.

The event was held in the field next to YWCA's Interfaith Hospitality House. Residents enjoyed great weather, delicious homemade food cooked by YWCA housing staff Andretta Richardson and even a bounce castle for the kids!



Above: YWCA Staff serves up some 'Q

The Woodlawn cookout was attended by over 100 residents who feasted on

Andretta's home cooked chicken, hot dogs, baked beans and famous potato salad. Parents were able to relax and enjoy a night off from cooking while kids played with their friends and made new ones.



Above: Children and Staff having a bounce in the castle

Thank you to everyone who attended each event. We can't wait until it's YWCA cookout time again next year!

YWCA ANNUAL RESIDENT COOKOUT

Housing Office Closed July 4

The YWCA Housing Office will be closed Monday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, July 5.

If you have an emergency and need assistance, please contact Security at (205) 322-9922 ext. 155.

Rent will still be accepted while the office is closed. Please submit your rent payment by placing it in the rent drop box.

The YWCA wishes all of our residents and families a safe and happy holiday weekend!

Happy 4th of July!!!



From the YWCA