

December  
2013

Van Buren Housing Authority

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Van Buren  
Housing Authority

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Trisha Zapata,  
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Patty Pottridge,  
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Shane Sanderson,  
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David Austgen  
Pat Bowling  
Chuck Evans  
Michelle Gordon  
Jesse Pottridge  
Mikal Seegers

## Merry Christmas, from Your VBHA Staff!

The year is winding down and the cold air has arrived. I've seen Christmas lights in town that went up before Thanksgiving. Everyone is always in a hurry. Christmas is quickly approaching, and I know the kids are all making their list out hoping they will get most if not all of the items on that list. My Christmas wish for each of you is that when you all sit down as a family to eat or open gifts, that you will remember how blessed you truly are. There are families out there that don't have the things that you and I have. Remind your children how thankful they should be, because so many children all around the world don't have the things they have. My prayer for you all is that God will bless each and every one of you and that each of you will remember that Jesus is the real reason for the season. I encourage you all to share the story of Jesus during your family time, and you will receive the greatest blessing of all. Merry Christmas, everyone!

- Patricia Free

Que la paz reine en sus hogares en ésta Navidad y que Dios los bendiga con salud y felicidad en al año Nuevo.

- Patricia Zapata

I hope you all have a happy holiday and a blessed new year.

- Patty Pottridge

Thanks for all of the happiness you have brought to me this past year. Have a merry Christmas!

- Crissy Benton

I have learned so many valuable lessons through working with you all. Though there are always ups and downs, I have developed a renewed sense of compassion and acceptance that I did not have upon coming to work here. My sincere hope for you this holiday is that, through the hearing of the Christmas story and by observing many of the wonderful traditions of this great season, your compassion will also be renewed - not just for others, but for yourself also. May you catch a glimpse of what lies beyond the cold realities of life and allow your heart to be filled with light and joy. That, to me, is most what the Christmas season is about. I pray that God bless you all with a wonderful Christmas and a joyous new year.

- Shane Sanderson

### Month At A Glance

December 5 - 4 pm  
4-H Club Meeting

December 6 - 4:00 pm  
4-H Senior Center Visit

December 8 - 6 pm  
Parents' Night Out

December 12 - 4 pm  
4-H Club Meeting

December 12 - 13  
Decorate Christmas  
Float

December 14 - 5 pm  
Christmas Parade

December 17 - 4 pm  
4-H Club Laundry  
Detergent Project

December 21 & 22  
VBHA Book Sale

December 19 - 9 am  
Ladies' Christmas  
Blessing

December 19 - 12 pm  
Ladies' Tea

December 20 - 5 pm  
4-H Christmas Party

December 23 - 9 am  
Holiday Gift-Aways

December 24 - 3 pm  
Shepherd's Run

December 24 - 25  
Christmas Holiday  
Offices Closed

December 26, 27 & 31 -  
12 pm  
Kid's Lunch Program



**NOW  
ACCEPTING  
APPLICATIONS**

### Featuring 1, 2, 3 & 4 Bedroom Units

- Walking distance to shopping, hospital and downtown.
- Units for elderly residents and families.
- Central heat, A/C, & washer and dryer connections in all units.
- Community Center with computer lab, playground and picnic area.

We also offer recreation and education programs for our tenants!

**Come by and fill out an application today!**

Applications accepted Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## VBHA Receives Food Donation from Local 4-H

The Van Buren Housing Authority has received a van and a car-load-full of canned goods from local 4-H chapters. Cheryl Gregory, a 4-H facilitator with the U of A Cooperative Extension Service, and a few helpers delivered over 15 large boxes of various food items.

The food came from a canned goods drive that was sponsored among local 4-H chapters. Originally, the items were being collected to benefit a local food bank, Compassionate Ministries. Since they had closed their doors last month, the Extension Service began to look for other food pantries, and ours came to mind.

The food will be used as part of our Holiday Gift-Away's program and our weekly food pantry.



**Thank a bunch to Cheryl Gregory and our local 4-H chapters!**

**There will be NO FOOD PANTRY  
on Tuesday, December 24th  
due to the Christmas Holiday.**

### Parents' Night Out

The holidays are here, and it is time for Parents' Night Out! While you go out and have a great time, we will have a meal and activities for your kids. If you (and yours) want a night out together without the kids, please sign up at the Community Center by the deadline.

Our first Parents' Night Out is on Friday, December 6th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The deadline to sign up is Friday at noon.

Please be prompt in picking children up!



## Fall Holiday Food Programs

### Holiday Meals for Kids

The community center will provide lunch for our students who are out of school for the Christmas holidays. The dates for December lunches are the 26th, 27th, 30th and 31st. We will also serve lunch on Thursday, January 2nd.

### Holiday Gift-Aways

If you or your family would like to receive a box this year, you need to complete and return a meal box reservation form no later than Friday, December 13th. Boxes may be picked up Monday, December 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Computer Lab at the Community Center.

If your family receives a food box, we ask that you donate a package of cookies or other snacks to help with our Shepherd's Run.

## Watch What You're Flushing!

In previous months, we have had many reports of sewer lines stopping up. We have called drain repair services on several occasions due to this problem. In some instances, the drain company has pulled up to 150 sanitary and/or baby wipes out of drain pipes.

**Please do not flush sanitary and/or baby wipes down your toilet.**

Even though they may say 'flushable' on the package, the drain company assures us that they will still collect in your sewer lines and cause back-ups. Help us keep your pipes clean and flowing.

## 4-H Club Holiday Activities

Community Service is the primary goal of our 4-H Club, and we have several projects planned for December.

Our meeting and project dates are:

### Thursday, December 5th - 4:00 p.m.

We will decorate the Community Center Christmas tree.

### Friday, December 6th - 4:00 p.m.

We will take ornaments to Butterfield Place in Ft. Smith.

### Thursday, December 12th - 4:00 p.m.

We will prepare our Christmas Parade Float.

### Saturday, December 14th - 5:00 p.m.

Club members will ride in the Christmas Parade, which begins at 6:30.



### Monday, December 16th - 3:30 p.m.

We will prepare bottles of detergent to give out during our Christmas Gift-Aways.

### Tuesday, December 17th - 3:30 p.m.

We will make simple and tasty Christmas Treats.

### Friday, December 20th - 5:00 p.m.

4-H Club Christmas party & Christmas lights trip.

### Monday, December 23rd - 9:00 p.m.

4-H Club members will help carry and deliver food boxes for our Holiday Gift-Aways.

### Friday, January 3rd - 11:30 a.m.

We will have a pizza & bowling trip for those who helped during our holiday food programs.

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## Resident Leadership Council Elections

Voting for Resident Council will take place through December 27th. Ballots are available at the front office or at the Community Center. Nominees are:

### PRESIDENT

Colleen Allen

Stacy Altes

### VICE - PRESIDENT

Stacy Altes

Cortney Whittenburg

Thresa Melendez

### SECRETARY

Stacy Altes

Lien Phan

Misty Holcomb

Cortney Whittenburg

### TREASURER

Misty Holcomb

Cortney Whittenburg

Thresa Melendez

### ALTERNATES

Jackie Riley

All other nominees

### Nominee Bios

**Colleen Allen** has been a VBHA resident for four years. She has served on the Leadership Council as President and Vice President. She lives on 17th Street with her grandson, Seth.

**Stacy Altes** has been a VBHA resident since May of 2013. She regularly volunteers in the community. She lives on Ozier Street with her children Audi and Junior.

**Misty Holcomb** has been a VBHA resident for two years. She has served as an RLC Alternate for the past year. She lives on 19th Street with husband, Joey, and sons Cameron and J.J.

**Thresa Melendez** has been a resident of VBHA for eight years. She has served as RLC Treasurer for the past year. She live on 19th Street with her children Jeffery and Angelena.

**Lien Phan** has been a resident of VBHA for seven years. She often volunteers at the Community Center. She lives on 18th Street with her husband, Ray and children Selina, Donna and Don.

**Jackie Riley** has been a resident of VBHA for eight years. She has served as RLC President and regularly volunteers with resident programs.

**Cortney Whittenburg** has been a resident of VBHA for one year. She volunteers often and serves in the Army National Guard. She lives on 17th Street with her daughter, Caitlin.

Remember, if you owe community service, you will receive one hour of credit for voting. Make sure you include your name on your ballot.

### Christmas Gift-Aways Meal Box Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

No. in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

Boys under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Girls under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Gift-Away event will occur on Monday, December 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We are once again asking each family who receives a food box to donate some cookies or snacks for our Shepherd's Run event.

## Puzzle Time!

Can YOU complete the CRYPTIC below? Each resident who turns in a completed puzzle to the Community Center before December 27th will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 WAL-MART CARD!

U A R W X Q U H R X W C J H B S D U W C

Q H Q X Q R H B O Q B P F B Z

G W Y X F, "C Q H H L S X H W G F C U G

F B U D D U A R F B U D D U

Y B B R A W Y X F!"

Congratulations to  
Mercedes Leon-Cabrera, our  
\$15 puzzle winner for November!

### Ladies' Holiday Blessing and Afternoon Tea

The time has come again for a special day just for the ladies! Our next Ladies' Event will be Thursday, December 19th.

We will begin in the morning with our Ladies' Holiday Blessing, hosted by Mellie's Academy of Salon and Spa in Fort Smith. We will leave in the van at 8:30. Mellie's is offering FREE haircuts, styles and manicures. This is on a first-come-first-serve basis, and we want to arrive early so the van will leave at 8:30 sharp!

After your morning of beauty, the ladies will return to the Community Center for a lunch of holiday finger food around noon. After lunch, our own Michelle Gordon will offer free facials and makeup consultations as you relax to gentle spa music and snacks.

**We only have room  
for 14 on the van, so  
reserve your place  
as soon as possible!**



### Welcome New Residents!

**Jessica Cooper**  
S. 17th Street

**Korina Edwys & Gerod Allums**  
S. 18th Street

**Olivia Gaspar Olivare**  
S. 43rd Street

**Magaret Kiepe**  
Mulberry Street

**Shilah Miller**  
Ozier Circle

**Cindy Parker**  
Ozier Circle

**Yamilet Serrano**  
Mulberry Circle

**Ilesha Thompson**  
S. 17th Street

**Be sure to make your new neighbors  
feel welcome!**