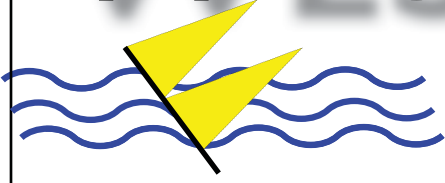


# WEST RIVER REVIEW



*For the residents  
of North Boulevard  
Homes, Mary McLeod  
Bethune Homes,  
and the surrounding  
community*

SPRING 2016 Vol. 2, Issue 1

[www.thafl.com](http://www.thafl.com)

## UPCOMING WEST TAMPA / WEST RIVER CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PUBLIC MEETING



*Above: a rendering of future West River Neighborhood*

**WHEN:** TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**WHERE:** MARTIN LUTHER KING  
RECREATION CENTER  
2200 NORTH OREGON AVE  
TAMPA, FL 33607

The City of Tampa and the Tampa Housing Authority will host a public meeting on the upcoming application for a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant for the West Tampa / West River community. This meeting will provide residents the opportunity to review the Transformation Plan for the community and learn how the grant will support the proposed activities before the application is submitted.

Staff from the City of Tampa, Tampa Housing Authority, and the West River design team will be in attendance to address any questions you may have. The meeting will include an overview of the planning process, the proposed physical plan, planned supportive services, neighborhood improvement projects, re-occupancy plans and economic opportunities for low and very-low income persons. This meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call (813) 274-7519 or email [neighborhoods@tampagov.net](mailto:neighborhoods@tampagov.net)

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# COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN YOUR NEW NEIGHBORHOODS

Whether you are still deciding where to relocate, or getting used to your new surroundings, please know that there are always resources for you and your family close by. If you have relocated too far from the familiar West Tampa Neighborhood Resource Center, Hillsborough County has four other resource centers located throughout the county:

Lee Davis Community Resource Center 3402 N. 22nd St., Tampa, FL 33605 P: 813-272-5220	Plant City Community Resource Center 307 N. Michigan, Plant City, FL 33566 P: 813-757-3871
SouthShore Community Resource Center 201 14th Ave. SE, Ruskin, FL 33570 P: 813-671-7647	University Community Resource Center 13605 N. 22nd St., Tampa, FL 33613 P: 813-975-2153

The United Way Suncoast also operates the **Sulphur Springs Resource Center at 8412 North 12th Street, Tampa, FL 33604**. It is a place where adults can go for learning, to gain computer access, and engage in workforce development activities. The Resource Center offers programs and services including job training, financial counseling, benefit and legal assistance, education mentoring, classes, and workshops. Residents can use the computers, attend book clubs, take GED classes, and participate in leadership training and personal growth assistance.

## RESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Diamond Cespedes** attends full-time school at Southern Technical College, and is training to be an Ultrasound Technologist. She has 2 years left to complete the course. She is also working part-time for Wawa. She loves her new home and is supported by her mother, and the father of her children who babysit while she works towards her goals.

**Oriana Celestin** (picture right) moved to North Boulevard Homes in 2013 with one child and was pregnant with her second. Ms. Celestin began working at Chipotle, and would walk back and forth to work everyday. She has been a dedicated employee, with hopes of furthering her career. Eventually she was given the opportunity to be promoted into management of the store that she started at. Six months later, when a new store was set to open, she gained the opportunity to become the GM of her own store. She continues to set goals for herself as she will like to become a global manager and have multiple stores under her management, as well as go to school for business with the financial assistance of Chipotle. She attributes her success due to the motivation to provide a better life for her children.



**Earnest Knight** spends his free time repairing bicycles for kids in the community free of charge. If you go by his home you will see the bikes lined up in his yard.

**Isaac Reynolds** (pictured left) relocated to Cedar Point apartments. He has purchased his first car and has gained employment with Mako Service as a transportation driver, transporting residents to and from doctors' appointments.

## RESIDENT MOVES

By February 2016, half of all families residing at North Boulevard Homes and Mary Bethune Homes had relocated to new housing units. Some families have chose to stay within West Tampa, while others used the opportunity to relocate to other cities and states, including West Palm Beach, Georgia, and our furthest relocation to date in Brooklyn, New York. Below is a collage of relocated families in their new homes.



*Sophia Jackson*



*Maria DeJesus in her BACKYARD!*



*Shaniqua Stinson*



*Blanca Luna*



*Cheantha Archie and daughter*



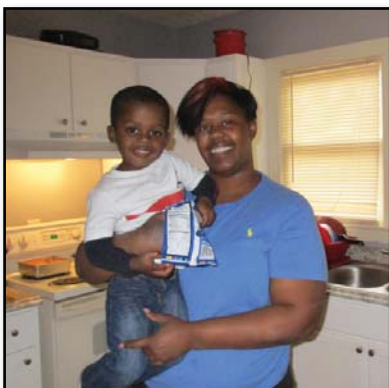
*Clifford Jones loving the view from his unit at the Reed*



*Gregory Fleming*



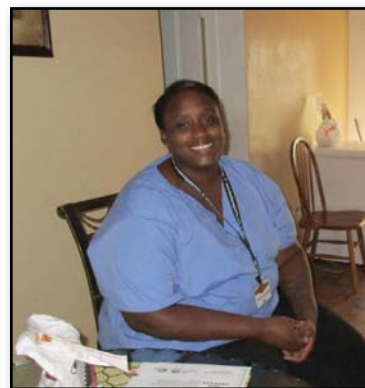
*Alma Washington*



*Monique Clark*



*Egenio Milian*



*Chae Glover*



*Erva DeShazier*

## IMPORTANT HOUSING AUTHORITY NUMBERS

Section 8 Department: (813) 253-0551

North Boulevard Homes Property Office: (813) 341-9101 ext. 2922

Mary McLeod Bethune Property Office: (813) 341-9101 ext. 2921

Relocation Case Management Manager: Rosa Hill (813) 341-9101 ext. 2071

Relocation Coordinator: Juanisha Bailey (813) 341-9101 ext. 2400

*Dear residents of North Boulevard Homes and Mary Bethune:*

*Summertime is upon us and opportunity is abound for fellow residents who have found new homes and begun the process of adjusting to new surroundings. Within this issue you see the many faces of hope that your fellow neighbors display as they have completed the relocation process. Understand that completing this process might signal an end to transition from North Boulevard and Mary Bethune, but it can also be seen as a start to a whole new life. Please take advantage of the many programs and services offered from our case management staff to Spring forward into a better and brighter future. The future is in your hands and I hope you make the best of it for yourself and your families. THA relocation and supportive services staff are here to assist you in that effort.*



*Sincerely,*

*Jerome D. Ryans  
President / CEO*

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Tampa Housing Authority (813) 341-9101  
Assisted Housing Department (813) 253-0551 ext. 200  
Program and Property Services (813) 341-9101  
Real Estate Development (813) 341-9101 ext. 2630  
[www.thafl.com](http://www.thafl.com)

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Jerome D. Ryans, President / CEO

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**Real Estate Development  
5301 West Cypress Street  
Tampa, FL 33607**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

# WEST RIVER REVIEW

## NEWSLETTER

*\*let us know if you would like to receive this newsletter by email, contact Amanda Brown at 813-341-9101 ext. 2620 or [amanda.brown@thafl.com](mailto:amanda.brown@thafl.com)*