

AUGUSTA

Augusta welcomes NFL Defensive Back Deon Grant, who recently competed in the Superbowl with the Carolina Panthers. He is now a Jacksonville Jaguar. Deon grew up in the Augusta Housing Authority's Dogwood Terrace Public Housing Community and was active in the Boys and Girls Club. He's shown here signing autographs last month. Deon reminded his hometown kids to follow their dreams and not to accept limitations by someone else's perception.



GAZETTE

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ALBANY DEDICATES NEWEST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN HONOR OF ROY LANE

The Albany Housing Authority has scheduled a dedication ceremony for Lane Landings for June 4, 2004. This development is named in honor of Roy Lane who served the Authority for seven years in the 1980's before moving on to take positions as City Manager of the City of Albany and then as City Manager of the City of Spartanburg, S. C. He also served as President of GAHRA from 1983 - 1985. Roy died suddenly on June 27, 2001.

Lane Landings consists of 48 housing units in single family and duplex design spread over a 28 acre parcel of land convenient to shopping, banking, medical and other residential services. The buildings are of brick and vinyl siding and feature energy efficient central heating and air conditioning, front and rear porches, outside storage closets, modern kitchens, and driveways. The property is well landscaped and has a community building available for resident functions.

The development was funded from Flood Insurance proceeds, FEMA, GEMA, and the Capital Fund. William, Russell and Johnson of Atlanta provided architectural design. The general contractor was Kinney Construction Company of Albany. The construction cost was approximately \$82,000 per unit.

Dan McCarthy, Executive Director of the Albany Housing Authority, said "Lane Landings is a wonderful tribute to a truly wonderful person, Roy Lane. This development, which looks nothing like the traditional concept of public housing, and everything like a middle class housing subdivision, is what Roy Lane had in mind when he began his career in public housing."

The membership of GAHRA is cordially invited to attend the dedication ceremony and participate in this tribute to Roy Lane.



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See you at the
Spring Conference
in Macon, GA
May 23 - 26



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President's Message

I am proud of the work put forth by each of GAHRA's Committees. We are six months into a productive year. The Information Technology Committee is updating GAHRA's Web Site which will feature an interactive design. The Committee plans to promote the new web sites usefulness at the Spring Training Conference scheduled for May 23 - 25.

Don McGlamory and Shaundra Clark have worked to put together a wonderful conference. I hope you, your staff and commissioners plan to take advantage of this outstanding and cost effective training opportunity. I'm excited about the conference and look forward to seeing you there.

Housing Partners, Inc.,(HPI) a GAHRA inspired non-profit development entity is offering several training and development opportunities to GAHRA members. HPI is sponsoring a training for authorities interested in nonprofit development and management. HPI is responsible for Georgia' Capital fund Bond Issue Initiative. The Georgia State Prison Commissioner has asked HPI to work with him on developing workforce housing for employees of the State's Prison System. Since its inception HPI has received two grants to identify non-traditional methods of financing housing developments in Georgia. If your agency is not a member I hope you will consider joining. You may contact Susan Leger-Boike+, HPI's president, for additional information.

I'd like to close this message by sharing with you a concern I have about our association's future. Demands on our professional association for training and other programs increase each year. Housing Authorities, HUD, Housing Professional, State Agencies, vendors and industry groups expect GAHRA to provide quality training and reliable leadership relative to housing programs for low and moderate income families. I asked GAHRA's Ambassadors to review the demands being placed on the officers and key committee leaders within our association. GAHRA is an all volunteer organization and each volunteer plays a key role in managing his or her housing authority. In order to extent the life of volunteers and to increase the willingness of volunteers from smaller agencies to accept key leadership roles, the volunteer's commitment to the association must remain manageable. The time has come to look at what role paid professional staff might play in GAHRA's future. This Committee solicits your views regarding this issue. Please provide your opinions in writing. We look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Ann B. Webb
GAHRA President

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

ATHENS

Athens-Clarke County officially declared March



7 as Andy Walker Day in our community. A maintenance worker for the Athens Housing Authority, everyone in town knows Andy.

Organized by members of the First Baptist Church and the Baptist Student Union, a celebration was held to honor Andy. Mayor Heidi Davison presented Andy with an official proclamation from Athens-Clarke County and many friends and residents talked about how Andy has helped them over the years.

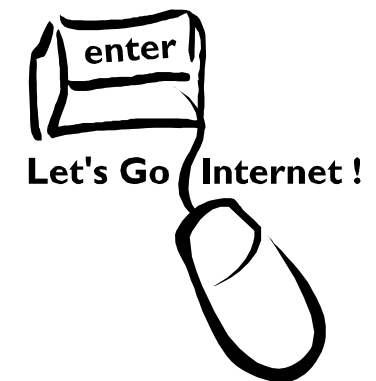
Andy helped build Denney Tower, a senior citizen hi-rise in 1977. He was offered a job on the staff right after that and takes care of the maintenance needs at Denney Tower each day. Along with his regular duties Andy organizes lunches, ice cream socials and fish fries for residents of Denney Tower. He keeps track of residents and makes certain they receive necessary services such as Meals on Wheels. As one resident said, "He makes Denney Tower a wonderful place to live."

In addition to working at Denney Tower, Andy spearheads an annual school supply collection for children and helps organize an annual community Thanksgiving dinner. In between, he finds other causes to work on throughout the year. In addition to his volunteer work Andy is the full-time caregiver for his brother. Congratulations, Andy!

ATHENS

Athens-Clarke County Police Officer Tim Scott managed to purchase his home by participating in "Officer in the Neighborhood" a unique program with the Athens Housing Authority. For agreeing to live in Denney Tower, a senior citizen hi-rise, Officer Scott received a stipend that was placed in an escrow account. During the day, a full-time maintenance worker tends to the needs of the building and residents. Although working second shift, Officer Scott provided a stabilizing presence for senior citizens late at night.

"Officer in the Neighborhood" grew out of a conversation Executive Director Rick Parker had with community leaders a number of years ago. Most police officers were priced out of the housing market in Athens-Clarke County. The Housing Authority approached the police department with the idea of providing officers with housing units as well as down payment funds for a house. In order for the escrow account to grow and to provide stability in the neighborhood, an officer would have to commit to living with the Athens Housing Authority for two years. The Athens Housing Authority designates non-federal funds for contributions to the escrow account.



www.GAHRA.org