



# The Housing Chronicle

OCTOBER 2009

## Have a Safe & Fun Halloween

The Housing Chronicle hopes everyone has a safe and fun Halloween this year.

In order to make sure you do follow these trick-or-treating safety tips.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN.

- **Have adult supervision.** Accompany your kids if you don't think they're old enough to trick-or-treat on their own.
- **There is safety in numbers.** If they're old enough to trick-or-treat without an adult, tell your kids to stay in a group.
- **Map out your plan.** Designate a route before your kids begin trick-or-treating, and make sure they stick to it.
- **Take the long way 'round.** Have your kids trick-or-treat in areas where there are a lot of people around. They should also avoid taking short-cuts through alleys and parking lots.
- **Try tick-or-treat-friendly homes.** Ensure your kids only visit houses with lights on. And, you might also suggest the houses they visit have some sort of Halloween decoration on the porch.
- **Stay outside.** Make sure your kids don't go inside someone's house. They can get their candy from the porch.
- **Remain visible.** Dress your kids in a bright costume so others can see them. If their costume is dark, have your kids wear reflective strips or carry a glow stick or flashlight.
- **Remember, shorter = safer.** Goes without saying but just in case you forget, ensure your kids' costumes aren't so long that they can trip over them.
- **Don't cover the face.** Instead of masks, have your kids wear make-up so they can see better.
- **Quality-check treats.** Check your kids' candy before they eat it. Throw out any candy that is not in its original wrapper or looks like it has been tampered with.
- **Say "no" to strangers.** Tell your kids to never accept a ride or go anywhere with a stranger.
- **Obey the law.** Encourage your kids to follow all the regular rules for walking around. That includes looking both ways before crossing, obeying all traffic laws and using cross walks and crossing lights where available.

**Have a great time!** Finally, make sure your kids have tons of fun and get lots and lots of candy.



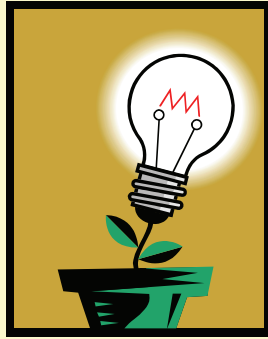
## Success

Making your mark on the world is hard. If it were easy, everybody would do it. But it's not. It takes patience, it takes commitment, and it comes with plenty of failure along the way. The real test is not whether you avoid this failure,

because you won't. It's whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you

choose to persevere.

~Barack Obama



## Inspiration Corner

## INCENTIVE PROGRAM



Reminder to all those who pay their rent on time (from June-December), go to at least three resident council meetings during June thru December, participate in at least three enrichment activities (Imagine Me, book club, counseling, support groups, etc.), and follow the rules: Your \$50.00 Walmart gift care will be given to you BEFORE Christmas! Call Ann for more information.

## Wednesday Book Club

The Wednesday Book Group has started their new book, "Yesterday I Cried" by Iyanla Vanzant . Excerpt from Chapter 1, " Who I Am is not who I used to be. But who I am is all of who I used to be". It took a while, but that meditative insight which I had received months ago, finally made sense. I understood that even when we change, our history does not. What you have learned through your experiences in life will influence, affect, and motivate everything you do. More important, if you are not careful and vigilant, the crap in your history will seep through and soil your present-day reality. So the question I leave with you is " Does the crap ever stop?" If you are interested in being a part of a book group, contact Linda Helms. We meet every Wednesday morning at 11:00 AM in the Sagner's Community Center.

## Tuesday's With Sherri

The Women's Support Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning at the Lincoln Community Center at 11:00 AM. All women are welcome. Contact Linda Helms for more information at (301)696-1874.

## Imagine Me

Imagine Me continues to Inspire, Encourage, Empower and Educate, making a difference in lives of others. We thank John Chaney for being our speaker on September 1st, sharing with us the importance of education and not settling for just anything, always striving to do your best. John's mother was an inspiration to him, she never let people define who she was or what she would become. We thank God for mothers who encourage their children to Flip the Script, because it's okay for them to be smart.

Imagine Me Celebration will be held on October 5th with guest speaker Yolanda Gainey, General Manager of the Hampton Inn. Come and join us for our 2 year Anniversary. We will be serving refreshments as part of the Celebration. Contact Linda Helms @ 301 696-1874 for more information for this event.

This would not have been possible without you all coming and sharing a part of you to **EMPOWER, ENCOURAGE and EDUCATE**. Each one of your stories have been an inspiration to all that attend. Hope to see you there. Refreshments will be at 6:30 at the Clara D. Harris Community Center located in Sagner.

Please join me in "Imagine Me and Imagine You going to another level.

## Are Your Kids in Middle or High School??

Do you know you can check their grades and make sure they are completing their homework?? Just go to the FCPS.org website and click on "online grades." Then type in your child's ID number (call the school to get it, or ask your child). It is a great way to stay informed and in touch with how your child is doing in school every step of the way.

Don't have a computer?? Feel free to use the computer in Ann's office at 155 Pennsylvania Avenue or the Bernard Brown Community Center on N. Market Street. Carver and Lincoln will soon have internet service available to computers in those community rooms, too.

We will want to celebrate the success of honor roll kids at the end of each semester, so this is a good way to show how well your child is doing in middle or high school so he/she can be included in the celebrations.

## Exodus & I Am Special

The boys and girls continue to meet every Thursday at The Sagner Community Center from 5:30-7, under the Pastorship of The Rev. Derrick Brown of St. Paul AME Church. The children are taught Life Skills. They are currently working on emotions and how their attitudes affect their behaviors and with all things there are consequences. More information, contact Linda Helms.

## Young Leaders Unite!

We are fortunate to have many smart, focused young people in our communities. There is much they can do to make Sagner, Carver, and Lincoln better for all residents. With that in mind, we are forming a Youth Council which will be 15 members comprised of five **youth** residents from each of the three communities.

If you are between the ages of 12-17 and have some good ideas about how best to make sure your community is safe, peaceful and enriching, please consider joining the Youth Council. Call Ann at (301) 696-1875 for more information.

## Honeycomb's Little Honeys

Mika Hill, Owner/Stylist of Honeycomb Salon wants to give back to the community by offering Free Hair Services to Girls 6th thru 8th grade who make the Honor Roll. The Program is called "Honeycombs Little Honeys". She just needs copies of your Report Card. Please contact Linda Helms, FSS Coordinator/Community Enrichment Facilitator for the specifics of the Program at (301)696-1874.

## Carver and Lincoln Residents Interested in Educational/Employment Resources:

Starting in November, Ann Ryan (Project ALIVE Coordinator) will be located at Carver and Lincoln once a week for any residents who would like to get more information about going back to school or getting a better job (or any job). She will have information about GED classes, college enrollment, job listings, and will help with resumes.

She will be located at the Carver Community Center from 10-2pm on Mondays and the Lincoln Community Room from 4-6pm on Thursdays. Just stop by. Call her at (301) 696-1875 for more information.



## HAUNTED HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

Dig up the **13** hidden Halloween terms in this spooky word search.  
You can go up, down, backwards, and diagonal to find them!

H	G	R	A	V	E	Y	A	R	D	C	M	T	H	V
A	O	H	R	I	W	I	P	O	W	J	A	I	A	A
U	U	I	O	T	O	C	U	S	Y	O	E	M	O	M
N	L	S	F	S	D	L	M	N	A	T	N	X	K	P
T	H	J	M	K	T	A	P	B	C	R	O	I	W	I
E	C	E	O	C	R	F	K	L	E	U	T	A	T	R
D	O	N	A	I	O	W	I	T	Z	W	S	L	O	E
H	B	I	T	T	N	V	N	H	O	P	B	L	Y	P
O	E	P	U	S	B	A	M	P	I	L	M	O	I	A
U	M	A	L	M	L	S	G	D	A	R	O	H	C	R
S	D	R	I	O	A	H	E	C	U	S	T	A	B	H
E	O	T	K	O	J	R	K	A	H	A	I	S	L	C
R	L	C	E	R	S	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	T
W	A	C	K	B	A	W	L	U	M	P	O	W	E	I
J	S	I	N	T	S	E	V	L	O	W	E	R	E	W



- Graveyard
- Haunted House
- Jack-o'-Lantern
- Bats
- Spiders
- Tombstone
- Black Cat

- Broomstick
- Witch
- Vampire
- Werewolves
- Pumpkin
- Cemetery



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!

- Ricole Dorsey
- Ryheim Dorsey
- Artique Holmes
- Andrew Noble
- Haley Ricketts
- Alexis Zottola
- Gianna Allen
- Jade Connors
- Kitana Connors
- Isaac Flippen
- Yasmeen Hall
- Cydra Mappy
- Jaion Penamon
- Zahara Putu
- Amari Jones
- Isaiah Jordan
- Christian Rosales



## October Teen Birthdays !

Taylor Bowie, Solomon Wilcox, Latasha Disney, Xavier Hoy, Khaliyah Taylor, Kevin Valiente, Joseph Baugher, Fantasia McKnight, Tikhaya Shaw-Hodge



### The New Family Blend by: Amy Thomas at [www.teenwire.org](http://www.teenwire.org)

Chances are, you'll have to deal with it — a stepfamily. Not only is the divorce rate in America more than 50 percent, but 64 percent of families live in some form of a stepfamily relationship. If a "blended" family has replaced your "nuclear" unit, you're not alone. How can you adjust to life with your new stepfamily? With time, communication, and acceptance.

#### What Is Normal?

Take a look at your friends' families, and you'll probably notice tons of variety. Some might live with their mom and stepfather, others with their dad, stepmother, and stepsiblings, and some might split time between two completely separate step-households. These are all blended families — that is, a family that includes at least one stepparent and one or more kids. Just because blended families are now the majority, doesn't mean they're always easy to live with.

#### Dealing with Your Feelings

Change is scary, especially when it has to do with your home and family. "One of the biggest fears is that the new stepparent will replace the parent [you're] not living with," says Dr. Lauren Solotar, a psychologist who specializes in teen counseling.

You might also worry that you'll feel alienated, your stepsiblings will get more attention, you won't have alone time with your biological parent — the list goes on. You could even feel smothered by a stepparent. "My stepmom is trying a little too hard. She gets a little overbearing with all her niceness," admits one teen.

You might also feel angry. "My dad just died and [my] mom got remarried. It hurts my feelings about my dad being forgotten by my mother," says another teen. While it's natural to be upset, don't let it manifest itself in destructive ways like using drugs, ditching school, or withdrawing from everyone. None of that will change things.

#### Time to Adjust

All the things you took for granted in your family — bathroom use, chores, privacy — are negotiable in a new stepfamily. Naturally, you'll need time to adjust to those changes — a good year, according to Dr. Solotar. Here are tips that might help.

- **Express yourself.** As awkward and painful as opening up can be, it's worse to smother your feelings. "Writing in a diary is a good way to sort through feelings and express yourself," advises Dr. Solotar. So is talking it out with members of your family, or talking to friends.
- **Be honest, open, and communicative.** Take time to get to know your stepparent and siblings. Remember, they want it to work as much as you do.
- **Be realistic.** Don't compare everything in your new home to "how it used to be." While everyone wants to fall into a natural routine, it won't happen overnight. Give it time, and don't expect miracles.
- **Find support.** If you can't talk to your parents, find another adult whom you trust: a guidance counselor, grandparent, a friend's parent, or any other adult who's helped you in the past.

While it's frightening that things will never be the same again, you can also take comfort in the fact that your new blended family is just that: new. Give it time. Accept that things have changed. Who knows? You just might find that "new" doesn't have to mean "terrible."

# Parent Corner

## No More Drama by Aja Dorsey Jackson

Have you ever met someone who is constantly surrounded by drama? You know, the one that has random people at the door ready to fight, an evil boss, backstabbing friends, bad kids, the man that's doing them dirty, the dog that ate their dress shoes. I'm sure you know this person. Maybe you are this person.

I used to think that dealing with drama was like catching a cold in the winter. People who were always surrounded by drama were just victims of unfortunate circumstance. Then I realized that while problems are something that everyone has to deal with in life, having those problems consistently spiral into an out-of-control, dramatic situation, usually has more to do with a person's own drama queen qualities than the situation itself.

I'm always one for performing a good self check every now and again so I've decided to come up with a few quick ways to know whether the drama that has taken over your life could be because you, in fact, are a drama queen (or king).

You might be the problem if:

Every sordid detail of your life is posted on facebook, myspace, or twitter: Just because your spouse drank all of the orange juice doesn't mean it's time to change your relationship status from married to "in a relationship and it's complicated." If you have to tell all of your real-life friends, your facebook friends, and a few people you don't know every time something goes wrong in your life, you may have a flair for the dramatic.

You are always involved in confrontations for "no reason": Do you ever notice that people that are surrounded by drama act as though they themselves are never the source of it.

Continued on page 7

## 1st & Bench: A Simple Lesson of Manhood

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

Tuesday was a day I've been waiting for for a long, long time.

My 14-year old son is hard headed. Not that anyone at 14 isn't, but a hard head makes for a soft behind, goes the old adage. My father went upside my head so much when I was growing up (something he now claims to not recall) I have no desire to lift a finger or raise my voice to discipline my son. All the same, I've had a run-in or two with him over the years. I clearly remember in the midst of fracas with my father I stared him down with bloody rage in my eyes. This always made things worse. My son, on the other hand, has collapsed to the floor, a screaming, hysterical mess. I wasn't even able to stay angry at the sight of his theatrics.

My, how times have changed.

Besides, why do anything when Life is such a better instructor? My policy is to warn, once, twice, maybe even repeatedly, but I make sure to give full disclosure.

On Monday, sonny-boy missed football practice because he didn't know what time it started. The night before I asked him to check. He said, "Okay." This meant it wasn't going to happen. He was visibly upset when his teammates called to tell him he missed practice but got over it quickly since his school had off for Yom Kippur. Over the course of the day he repeatedly insisted that it was a light practice. I have no idea how he knew this since he wasn't there.

My warning to my son: "That's fine, but you are the co-captain of the team. You're supposed to be the example. You not showing up tells the people you lead they don't have to show up either. This isn't going to fly for long. It's unacceptable that you don't know when you have practice. And it's not going to happen again."

Continued on page 7

## Continued from page 6 :No More Drama

They are quick to tell everyone about the woman that is calling them up to harass them and equally as quick to leave out the time they slept with that woman's husband. In my opinion, fights should never be an every day occurrence. If they are you may want to evaluate your own drama-queen/king-like qualities.

Everyone else is crazy: Does everyone else have some type of issue that makes them impossible to get along with? Do you find yourself complaining about "people" all the time. Is everyone you encounter dumb or crazy. If this is you, you may need to remember that old saying about pointing the finger and how many fingers are pointing back at you.

If you still feel like you need some drama in your life to keep things interesting just remember this: The Young and the Restless airs every weekday at 12:30pm EST. If you're not home at that time, record it and watch it later. I know I do.

*Aja Dorsey Jackson is a freelance writer and marketing consultant in Baltimore, Maryland. She is author of the blog [babybumping@blogspot.com](mailto:babybumping@blogspot.com)*

## Attention All Carver Residents

Now that Head Start has moved to the Bernard W. Brown Community Center, the Carver Community Room can be used for a greater variety of community activities. We already have bingo, church activities, and council meetings held there, but there is much more we can do. Please think about what you would like to see happen with the space and call Ann at (301) 696-1875 with your ideas or come to the next Resident Council meeting, always the 4th Monday of the month at 6 pm at the community room.

## Continued from page 6: 1st & Bench

My son gave me a legitimate, "Yes, Dad." He understood.

Unfortunately for him, I wasn't the only one who felt this way. When I arrived to my son's game Tuesday afternoon with my daughter, I saw him on the sidelines standing suited up. And that's all he did --- stand --- for the entire game. I missed the first quarter and initially thought to myself, what could he have possibly done to get yanked out of the game so early? Finally, I realized he never entered it. And neither did a few other starters who paced the sideline with him.

After the game I introduced myself to his defensive coach (a man who looked like he could eat me for lunch) just for the sake of being polite. Incorrectly assuming I wanted to know why my son didn't play he shook my hand and immediately stated that he had to make an example out of my son because he's missed practices (this was his second time for the exact same reason).

I told him that was my son's problem, not mine. My job is to get him where he needs to be. His job is to know when and where he needs to be.

My son got a nice bitter taste of what it means to be a man --- something he covets as a football player and an aspiring Air Force pilot. You mess up, you pay the consequences. He's heard this a thousand times from me, but this time it was something that truly mattered to him. And based on the size and demeanor of the defensive coach, I'm almost certain he was dealt with harshly.

My son sobbed loudly in the car on the way home. I told him it was one game, that he needed to accept responsibility for his actions, that he had the opportunity to turn himself around, to shake it off and to do his best to ensure this never happens again. "This," I said, "is what being a man is *really* about." He ran inside our building dragging his uniform and backpack behind him and closed himself up in his room to cry some more. Part of me laughed and part of me truly felt his pain because I know it myself and experience it often as a Man. An hour or so later he emerged from his room to eat dinner and do his homework. He left his trash everywhere around the house and didn't do any of his chores for the night. He was a miserable, gangling, teenage mess.

Next lesson for another time: Your bad day has nothing to do with me or you not fulfilling your responsibilities.

## Are you Confident in Your Writing Skills?

If you would like to feel better about the way you write, now is the time. If you are not sure where to put the comma or when to capitalize, you are hurting your chances of advancement. In this economy, you cannot afford to not write clearly. The jobs and the promotions will be given to those who can. You owe it to yourself to be competitive.

We are starting a short class to help improve writing skills. We will shape the times around those residents who express an interest. Just call Ann at (301)696-1875 for more information.

### Extermination Schedule

11/17/09	202-234 Lincoln
11/18/09	236-268 Lincoln
11/19/09	270-298A Lincoln
11/20/09	All Scattered Sites
12/15/09	2-40 Carver & HACF Office
12/16/09	42-82 Carver & Jackson Community Center
12/17/0	84-120 Carver

## Trespass Log

The purpose of the trespass policy is to ensure that all residents can live in a safe and secure neighborhood. The policy's goal is to help alleviate the negative affects that drug activity can have in our communities. The Housing Authority does its part by maintaining a trespass log, in turn we ask that residents assume responsibility that their guests do not engage in drug-related or other activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of their neighbors. Those who are currently on the trespass log have a right appeal to have their name removed from the log.

Each month The Chronicle will be keeping residents informed of our effort to keep our neighborhoods safe by running a list of those currently on the trespass log. If an excluded person is seen visiting a residents apartment, that resident will receive only **1 warning letter**. If the excluded person is seen again on the property visiting that residents apartment it will be grounds for lease termination. In addition if you see any of the individuals listed on the trespass log on the community property, please contact the police department. Please do your part to keep our neighborhoods safe.

NAME	PROHIBITED COMMUNITIES/EXEMPTED RESIDENCES	DATE SERVED
1. Wayne Andrew Gould	All Communities	10/05/01
2. Tina Darlene Greene	All Communities	08/21/03
3. Kunte Renee Hall	All Communities	03/02/02
4. Michael Marty Hammond	All Communities	08/06/03
5. Regina Louise Hampton	All Communities	05/25/023
6. Lamont Cortez Hardman	All Communities except Sagner	09/13/03
7. Alan Ray Harrington	All Communities	09/16/05
8. Jefferey Alphonso Harris	All Communities	09/26/04
9. Jerry Allen Harris	All Communities	09/17/08
10. David Tyrone Harris Jr.	All Communities except Lincoln	06/11/01
11. David Tyrone Harris Sr.	All Communities except Sagner	05/18/02
12. Curtis Trent Hart	All Communities	11/01/02
13. Erin Michele Hayes	All Communities	09/12/03
14. Keith David Hebbard	All Communities	09/12/03
15. Britt Michael Heiss	All Communities	03/23/04