



# LEE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

First Quarter

Spring 2018

## Board of Commissioners

Robert Norris

Chairman

Donald Komito

Vice Chairman

Christine M. Sardina Treas-  
urer

Jim Green

Commissioner

Robert W. Ortiz

Commissioner

Marcus D. Goodson

Executive Director

## Public Housing & Maintenance Corner

A message from the Director of Housing Operations, Sherri Campanale

Will You Be Ready?.

Hurricane season is only 5 months away....

Have you started to prepare Your hurricane Kit?

Let's get started now to spread the cost over several months and to be ready if a disaster like a hurricane happens. You don't have to spend a lot of money to make your hurricane kit.! Just start with a plastic storage container and keep picking up supplies as you see them on sale. It is just that easy!

Here are some of the item you may need in your kit:

Drinking water juice/ soft drink, zip lock bags, NOAA weather radio, First Aid Kit, flashlights , personal hygiene, medication and baby/ infant needs.

## Front Page News

Directors Desk

Public Housing

Public Housing News

ROSS

Family Self-Sufficiency

### **ESTRA USTED LISTO?**

Faltan solamente 5 mese para la temporada de huracanes...  
Ha usted empezado a prepararse para el huracan?

Empecemos ahora, para repartir los costo en varios meses Y estar Listos si Tenemos un desastre como un huracan. Usted no tiene que gastar mucho dinero para prepararse! Solo empecemos con un recipient plastic y empiece A llenarlo con articulos necesario, cuando esten rebajados. Es muy facil!

A qui hay algunos de los articulos que usted puede necesitar:

Agua para tomar, jugos/ bebidas sin alcohol, Radio con pilas, Botiquin con sus instrucciones, higiene personal, medicinas, and Articulos.



Greetings:

During the week of Nov 5, 2017, my perspective on life was changed in a way I wished had been changed when I was a young boy growing up in Raleigh, NC. I think for most people, it is too easy to look at our life and see only the shortcomings and things we would like to change. Superficially speaking, we often want what our neighbors or friends may have while casually dismissing the many things we possess that make our lives more enjoyable. This past hurricane season was one of the busiest in recent memory. Hurricane Harvey caused catastrophic flooding and loss of life in Houston, Texas; Hurricane Irma had direct hits to the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Southwest Florida, to include Fort Myers and Cape Coral, and Hurricane Maria all but destroyed Puerto Rico, as we know it. The loss of life and injury was traumatic to witness, while the loss of property from these hurricanes is unquantifiable.

On Nov 6, 2017, I traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to deliver financial assistance to families in need. Some of these funds were donated from families in the Fort Myers area, some of which are struggling to make ends meet, but as they struggle with their own financial challenges, they realized there were people in other parts of the country dealing with much more serious issues. The other source of donations came from the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers' non-profit which donated \$10,000, and \$10,000 was raised by the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (FAHRO), for a total of \$20,000.

On Nov 6, 2017, I traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to deliver financial assistance to families in need. Some of these funds were donated from families in the Fort Myers area, some of which are struggling to make ends meet, but as they struggle with their own financial challenges, they realized there were people in other parts of the country dealing with much more serious issues. The other source of donations came from the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers' non-profit which donated \$10,000, and \$10,000 was raised by the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (FAHRO), for a total of \$20,000.

As a fifteen (15) year resident of Fort Myers, I have witnessed firsthand the devastation that comes from the direct hit of a category three (3) or higher hurricane, but I was not prepared for the damage I saw in Puerto Rico. When we arrived, which was nine (9) weeks after Hurricane Maria hit the island; only 10 percent of the island has had power restored. And when we traveled to other municipalities on the island outside of San Juan, there was absolutely no electricity, and in most cases, no running water. In Florida, after a hurricane, we seem to lose all patience with emergency workers and government workers when power has not been restored within 3-4 days. We met families that are living in homes with no roof, no tarp, no water, no electricity and no idea when real tangible help will arrive, and while faced with these challenges they were still smiling and had the most positive attitudes given their unbearable circumstances. One lady we met was sweeping the street in front of her severely damaged home, but she was committed to keeping the neighborhood where she lives clean. We met teenagers living in a community center that had no power, but did have running water who had not been to school since the hurricane because the school has no electricity or running water, but they too remained positive and optimistic things would get better.

We spent four days in Puerto Rico traveling the countryside and visiting with families that may never rebound from this tragic event, and in every case, we met people with the most positive outlook on life that sadly I don't think exist in other parts of the country with much more to celebrate. Personally speaking, my view on life and personal tragedy was irrevocably changed. Given my personal challenges, or what I have come to refer to as challenges, need to be re-defined and classified more appropriately. I now know what a true challenge looks like, and what I had come to know as challenges, were in fact small hurdles or bumps in the road. My only regret is that I didn't benefit from this new-found perspective when I was much younger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcus D. Goodson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Marcus D. Goodson

# Public Housing and Maintenance Corner

## **Florida has two Tornado Seasons:**

The **Summer Season**, from June until September, has the highest frequencies with usual intensities of F0 or F1 on the Fujita Scale. This includes those tornadoes that form from Tropical Cyclones.

The **Deadly Spring Season**, from February through April, is characterized by more powerful tornadoes because of the presence of the jet stream. When the jet stream juts south into Florida and is accompanied by a strong cold front and a strong squall line of thunderstorms, the jet stream's high level of winds (100 to 200 mph) often strengthen a thunderstorm into what is known as a supercell or mesocyclone. These powerful storms can move at speeds of 30-50 mph, produce dangerous downburst winds, large hail, and the most deadly tornadoes.

**207 to 260 mph**

Florida has two Tornado Seasons:

A **Tornado Watch** indicates that weather conditions may cause tornadoes or severe thunderstorms to develop in or near the watch area. A watch does not mean that a tornado has been sighted.

A **Tornado Warning** means that a tornado has actually been sighted or indicated by radar and everyone should seek immediate shelter.

## **When a tornado has been sighted:**

Take immediate cover and stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

Protect your head from falling objects or flying debris.

If in vehicle, get out immediately and seek refuge in a more substantial structure.

If there is no shelter, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert shielding your head with your hands.

Do not attempt to flee a tornado in a car or other vehicle.



# LCHA News



The Lee County Housing Authority would like to welcome its' newest Board of Commissioner Robert W. Ortiz .

Mr. Ortiz, has been a resident of Lee County for 34 years, Mr. Ortiz enjoys working with computers when he is not volunteering in the community helping others.

## Cross Point Go Saturday for Youth



## Breakfast Bingo



## **Programs that are offered at Lee County Housing Authority**

### **Home Buyer Education (HBE) Class**

Home Buyer Education courses are held the first Saturday of each month (excluding holiday and weekends) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Supportive Services (CSS) Center located at 4211 Romeo Lane, Suite 103, in North Fort Myers.

#### **Topics Covered**

Steps Involved/Home Buying Process  
Renting vs. Owning  
Fair Housing/Lending  
Down Payment Assistance  
Mortgage Products  
Home Maintenance  
Insurance  
Credit/Money Management  
Foreclosure Prevention  
Truth In Lending  
Homestead Exemption  
Closing

### **Financial Fitness Course**

Financial fitness classes are held weekly on Tuesdays at the CSS Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Classes are provided to all public housing and Section 8 clients participating in the CSS and FSS programs. Classes resumed Tuesday, Jan19.

#### **Financial Literacy Session Topics**

Bank On It Class #1  
Borrowing Basics Class # 2  
Check It Out Class # 3  
Money Matters Class # 4  
Pay Yourself First Class # 5  
Keep It Safe Class # 6  
To Your Credit Class # 7  
Charge It Right Class # 8  
Loan To Own Class # 9  
Your Own Home Class # 10  
Financial Recovery Class # 11

**For more information, please contact :**

**Kathy Tripp at 239-476-2686**

**or**

**Elizabeth Jackson at 239-476-2925**