

the RRHA Spirit

Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority
901 Chamberlayne Parkway • Richmond, VA 23220

Newsletter for Residents

A Drive to Dive: Youth Diver Latifah Neblett-Burrell Wins National Award!

The tennis and business world has the famous and fantastic Williams sisters. The Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy (YSFAA) and the Richmond community has the fabulous and phenomenal Burrell sisters. Latifah Neblett-Burrell started diving because she wanted to do something different. Her mother wanted to give her shy daughter an outlet.

They both got what they wanted and on Saturday, June 20, 15-year-old Latifah headed to Savannah State University to be named Youth Female Diver of the Year by the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABSD). The award, presented on June 25, was part of the association's Sixth Annual



Youth Educational Summit. In addition, July 16 and 17, Latifah was in the nation's capital with representatives of NABS receiving an award from the U.S. Department of Interior.

Latifah learned to dive through Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy, which pairs with the Black Dolphin Divers of Richmond to offer diving lessons to young residents of Housing Authority properties.

"I've been diving three years," said Latifah, who started diving when the program began and plans to stick with diving. "I wanted to do something different and didn't know anyone who had done it before so I wanted to try it." The

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RRHA Senior Wellness Day

Enjoy a fun-filled day of activities!

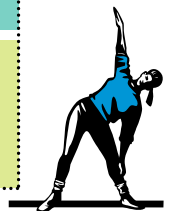
Vendors, Music, Bingo, Prizes, Lunch and more!

BINGO				
3	23	34	50	69
5	24	33	60	68
8	29	FREE	49	64
14	17	37	32	66
12	18	38	53	67

Date: August 21, 2009

Time: 10AM to 4PM

Place: Calhoun Center
436 Calhoun Street
Richmond, VA



To register call your Resident Services Advisor—or CALL 780-4866

Please register by Monday, August 10th
Transportation will be provided



Yusufu Ibrahim Wins 19 Awards in School and Excels at Tennis

Yusufu Ibrahim's mother constantly told him to excel in school and evidently the 11-year-old got the message.

At his final ceremony of the school year for Clark Springs Elementary School, Yusufu (pronounced You-soo-foo) won 19 awards, including the coveted President's Award for Educational Excellence signed by President Barack Obama as well as a letter from the president commending him on his academic achievement. Yusufu is also a rising star in tennis, which he plays through Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy, which pairs young residents of Housing Authority properties with nontraditional sports instruction.

Yusufu's success is a story of his hard work and determination as well as his mother's. Yusufu's mother,



Fatimo Ibrahim, who moved to the U.S. from her native country Nigeria, never attended school until her adult years. However, education was always stressed in the Ibrahim home, which is in one of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority properties.

"I've never been to school in my life," said Ibrahim, who works two jobs to support Yusufu and his three sisters. "They have the opportunity to go to school here and you don't have to pay for it. They'd better seize the opportunity!"

"This is one of many RRHA success stories," said Anthony Scott, chief executive officer of RRHA. "This family's achievements are in lock step with what we do at RRHA, building vibrant communities one family at a time. We can all glean inspiration from their ability to overcome numerous obstacles."

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A Drive to Dive: (continued from page 1)

best part, she said, is traveling to meet new people and seeing new places. "I like seeing how people live in different places," said Latifah, who is an honor student at Richmond Community High School and a member of Armstrong High School's track and field team.

"Latifah is the perfect example of what we at RRHA envisioned achieving through the Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy," said Anthony Scott, RRHA's chief executive officer. "Our residents have a wide range of talents and through strategic partnerships we've been able to help plant positive seeds in the lives of several young residents. This is a proud moment for the RRHA family."

Clifton Hicks, president of the Black Dolphin Divers of Richmond, nominated Latifah for the award. "She is a leader, she is dependable and she doesn't mind sharing her knowledge with others," Hicks said. "She is always willing to step up to the plate." Hicks said the same thing about Latifah's mother, Teressa Neblett-Burrell, a volunteer with the program who he said makes things happen and is "always on time."

Neblett-Burrell said diving helped her daughter gain confidence. "She came out of her shell. It also helped her in school. She's asking more questions and wants to excel in different things. This literally blew me out of the water."



Fatimah and Latifah Burrell pose with YSFAA Diving Team

Latifah's twin sister Fatimah who is mounting an impressive resume of accomplishments also dives with the program. "RRHA, The Black Dolphin Divers, the National Association of Black Scuba Divers have been there for us," Neblett-Burrell said. "I don't have a whole lot of money but I do have some time I can give. It is important for my daughters to learn strength and independence and that it's okay to be different and to do something different. They know you can live in public housing and do great things. It's not where you live, it's how you live."

Ralph Stuckey, resident services program manager at RRHA, agreed. "Latifah's success speaks volumes about the quality of youth who often go unrecognized in public housing communities." Five other youth divers accompanied Latifah as she traveled via train to Georgia.

Girl Scout Troop Partners to Plant Community Garden in Hillside



RRHA, in partnership with the Hillside Court Girl Scout Troop, the Hillside Tenant Council, Shalom Farms (an organization of United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond - UMUM), Richmond City Council Vice President Ellen Robertson and others are very excited to announce plans to create a community garden in Hillside Court. A 25' x 20' area immediately behind the property management building is being prepared for the garden.



The first phase of the garden project was completed last week when the Hillside Court Girl Scout Troop participated in a planting barrel project Saturday, July 18th, assisted by volunteers in planting a variety of fruits and vegetables including pumpkin, melon, eggplant, tomatoes, carrots and sprouted beans in the barrels. Members of the Troop and volunteers coordinated by UMUM will plant and maintain the garden - including watering and weeding.

Calhoun Cougars Softball Team 2009 Tournament Champions!



The greatest accomplishment in all competitive sports is to be number one. When a coach puts together a team of young people and teaches them to work together in concert to achieve championship status—that is the greatest reward. As the dawning of each new day evolves into weeks and memories began to fade the one thing that will forever remain etched in the memories of each and every member of the Calhoun Cougars softball team is that you are champions! Congratulations Calhoun Cougars 2009 Softball Tournament Champions!

RRHA Awards Five Exceptional Students College Scholarships

Five students, who live in Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority communities, recently received Tomorrow's Promise college scholarships during RRHA's Board of Commissioners Meeting.

"This is one of the best parts of my job," said Anthony Scott, RRHA's chief executive officer. "Helping our young residents achieve the goal of higher education is a key element of our mission of building stronger communities. We have so many skilled, exceptional residents it was a challenge to single out just five. These exemplary students have set a glowing example for the younger students who will follow them."



Award recipients proudly display their certificates.

"Public housing has, unfortunately been judged by negative actions of a few,"

Scott said. "These young people represent the hard-working, positive residents who make up the majority of our families. It's an honor for us to be able to reward their hard work."

In addition to the scholarship awards, the students will also receive coaching and mentoring throughout college from RRHA staff.

The scholarship awardees are:

Francyne Hamilton of George Wythe High School

Francyne plans to major in business administration at Virginia Union University. "I decided to major in business administration because it's challenging and I like challenging things," Francyne said. "I'm very



Francyne Hamilton

happy about the scholarship and very excited about going to college, meeting new people and having more responsibility."

Theron Haynesworth of Armstrong High School

Theron plans to major in biology at Longwood University. "My mentor said I should branch out and try to discover colleges that I never heard of that would be a good fit for me," said Theron, who is in the top 10 of his graduating class, has perfect attendance and works at a local McDonald's.



Theron Haynesworth

Theron's extracurricular activities include the Armstrong Leadership Team, Armstrong Young Men of Distinction and the Future Business Leaders of America. "I'm on cloud nine," said Beverly Haynesworth, Theron's mother. "I'm so proud of him. He's had it together since kindergarten and now he's getting ready for college. This scholarship helps a lot. He's been working at McDonald's for almost a year and he's saving his money to help with college."

Shyneka Jones of Thomas Jefferson High School

Shyneka plans to major in biology at Virginia Union University. An active student, Shyneka volunteers at the Veterans Hospital



Shyneka Jones

School of Urban Ministry, both in Richmond. "This will help me a lot," said Victoria, who participates on the Drill Team, Adventure Training Team and Richmond Outreach Center Youth Programs. "Every cent counts." Asked her secret, Victoria said, "I keep my grades up by studying, paying attention in class and attending school regularly." She was named Superior Cadet in JROTC and Most Dedicated Student in Geometry. Her mother, Elizabeth Jones, said she was "very excited," when she learned of the scholarship. "I'm very thankful to RRHA for this," Jones said. "We've been very blessed."

Jennifer Tillery of Armstrong High School

Jennifer, who has maintained a 3.9 grade

point average, will major in biology at Spelman College in Atlanta. "I want to become an obstetric gynecologist," said Jennifer, who also participates in cheerleading, Future Business Leaders of America, Junior ROTC, a book club and the debate team. "I was so happy it was overwhelming when I first found out about the scholarship." Jennifer has also won a \$7,000 scholarship from the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association and she's received an additional \$4,000 in donations to help offset Spelman's cost of more than \$30,000 per year. Jennifer's mother Nancy Bucey said the scholarship will be a huge help. "The scholarship is very important with the economy being the way that it is," Bucey said.

Ralph Stuckey, resident services program manager at RRHA, calls each of these students "great role models."

"In 1995, RRHA realized that so many students go unrecognized," Stuckey said about the origins of the Tomorrow's Promise scholarships. "These students have the potential for post secondary education but not the money, and we are honored to assist them in their academic endeavors."

Past RRHA scholarship winners include those who are now a college professor, a real estate officer, a bank loan officer, counselor, and an attorney.

and the Salvation Army. She's a member of her school's beautification club and is a master sergeant in the Air Force JROTC. "My grandmother encourages me to keep my grades up," Shyneka said. "She inspires me to do my best in whatever I do and she tells me that only great things come from working hard." Shyneka's grandmother, Jacqueline Smith, is, of course proud. "The scholarship is important because she wants to go to college," Smith said.

Victoria Jones of Franklin Military Academy

Victoria plans to major in theology/psychology at Virginia Union University or the ROC

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Victoria Jones

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Jennifer Tillery

VAHCDO Scholarship Recipient Elliott D. Paige: Hitting High Notes On The Educational Scale

With education being the base foundation for our successes, we can't express enough the importance of encouraging our youth to take advantage of every opportunity to get the best education possible.

Elliott D. Paige a recent Huguenot High School graduate and Virginia Association of Housing and Community Development Officials (VAHCDO) scholarship recipient is very much prepared, capable and ready to pay the price for higher learning. Elliott will be attending James Madison University in the fall majoring in music with a minor in psychology.

"My intentions upon receiving my Bachelors Degree are to continue my education to receive a Masters, then a Doctorate in vocal performance music." Elliott stated,

"My life, so far has consisted of a few of my unique experiences they include, having the opportunity to sing for Nikki Giovanni (2001), The Virginia Symphony Orchestra (2001), and Laura Bush (2008) and singing a solo at the Kennedy Center of the Arts in Washington D.C. (2008). Each one of these experiences was unique and helped me to understand the concept of adaptation. These performances really made me see that music is what



I want to do with my life."

Elliott also received scholarships from the Richmond Boys Choir and a Centennial Scholarship from James Madison University. "I was excited, happy, and thankful when I received my scholarships," commented Elliott. "I'm ready to take on whatever academic challenges that come my way. I plan to do opera and classical musical theatre in New York City after my educational process. Also I would like to teach music in middle school someday. I plan to use my scholarships to help me acquire my career goals."

Proud parent Robin R. Paige commented, "I'm very excited for Elliott, he deserves everything he's receiving. This is a great opportunity for him to expand his career and be able to explore other things in his life. I'm extremely proud of him. I'm just happy that Elliott has this opportunity to get an education in an area that he enjoys."

Congratulations Elliott on all of your past, current, and future academic accomplishments. We're all looking forward to attending your great concerts in the future. Then we will proudly say, "That's one of our kids."

Youth Represent RRHA in Houston at Karate Tournament

Discipline, self-control, respect, patience and team work are some of the traits Richmonders Bria and Alysia Harrison displayed this month at a karate tournament in Houston.

Bria and Alysia (pronounced Ah-lee-sha) began learning karate a year ago through Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy, which pairs young residents of housing authority properties with instruction in nontraditional sports.

The Harrison sisters traveled to the 22nd Annual Karate Summer Camp in Houston July 8 through 12, not only to demonstrate their karate skills, but to learn new ones. For both girls who have lived with their family in RRHA's Mosby Court for seven years, it was their first plane ride and first time in Texas.

"We're so proud of our youth traveling the country and positively representing RRHA on a national stage," said Anthony Scott, RRHA's chief executive officer. "Their accomplishments reflect a movement among our residents, strategic partners and staff members who are not only striving for excellence, but are committed to being the change they want to see in their communities. Each of us is charged with being a catalyst for building strong neighborhoods, what better way than having youth who excel."

Alysia, an 8-year-old going into the fourth grade at George Mason Elementary School, said she enjoys using what she's learned in karate, which includes much more than the physical lessons.

"I enjoy doing karate," Alysia said. "It shows discipline. It teaches you when to fight and when not to fight. I learned how not to get an attitude with people



so fast."

"It helps me show respect to other people," Alysia said about her karate lessons.

Bria, a 13-year-old rising freshman at Thomas Jefferson High School, said she and her sister practice at home for an hour daily and go to the karate dojo two days each week.

"We've taught our friends some things we learned," Bria said.

And although she hasn't had to use her self-defense skills, Bria takes pleasure in knowing how to defend herself if the situation arose.

The girls' mother, Toni McWilliams, accompanied them to Houston and participated in the camp's self defense and exercise classes. "It was pretty exciting," McWilliams said of the camp. "I'm very proud of their accomplishments."

The Harrison sisters' instructor Clarence Fowlkes, who runs the downtown dojo Henrico Dai Ichi Shotokan, said the duo sharpened their skills at the Houston camp. "They performed very well," Fowlkes said. "Their technique became more clear and crisp."

Fowlkes, who has been teaching karate since 1994 usually has anywhere from eight to 19 students from RRHA's Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy. "Both girls have a beautiful work ethic."



The 1st Annual Shirley Coleman – Creighton Court Scholarship Banquet—A Great Success!

Education is a social process - - Education is growth - - Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself. [Source: John Dewey] Philosopher

Loretta Watson, Educator in the Richmond Schools System and Founder of the First Annula Shirley Coleman Creighton Court Scholarship Fund's mother was a long time resident of Creighton Court. She raised six children on Nine Mile Road. They resided on Nine Mile Road for more than 25 years. Shirley Coleman worked as a seamstress, a child care provider and she also walked through Creighton Court selling Avon door-to-door. She was determined that all six of her children would graduate from high school and attend college. Her children Garland, Yolanda, Florence, Odessa, Lucetta and Loretta did finish high school and four have college degrees. Her youngest child, Emmanuel Coleman, is a rising senior at Old Dominion University. In 1996, Shirley Coleman died from complications related to pneumonia. Even though she's gone, the Shirley Coleman—Creighton Court Scholarship Fund is a way to honor her commitment to education and it is also a way of giving back to the community.

"The reason I started this scholarship fund was, because last year I heard that there were 1.2 million children dropping out of high school, and the majority of those young people are from our inner cities. This is a serious, serious problem. I know I can't reach them all, I know I can't change the world, but because I'm from the Creighton Court community, I thought it would be a very good idea to try to do something for my community. There are a lot of smart kids out here. Most of our kids are not doing bad things like committing crimes and ending up in jail. All of our youth want a brighter future. Those of us who have made it need to look back and help our kids because they are our future, if we don't help our children no one else will. This was also a great opportunity for me to honor my mother's legacy," stated Loretta Watson.

Delores McQuinn 70th District Representative for the House of Delegates commented, "I think this 1st Annual Shirley Coleman Scholarship Banquet is a wonderful occasion, not only



Scholarship recipients with Loretta Watson at Banquet

to celebrate a life of an individual who was very giving, but the roots of her giving has extended to her children. It's also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate education and to recognize those young people who are aspiring to become a Shirley Coleman like the many children that she has. I think this is great and we're just grateful to her daughter Loretta and the family for extending this to the community giving young people the opportunity to further their education."

Creighton Court Tenant Council President and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority Resident Commissioner Marilyn Olds commented, "I think this was a wonderful idea. I knew Shirley Coleman personally. She was a good strong mother dedicated to raising her children. To have this Annual Scholarship Award in her honor is just fantastic. Also to have the children in the community see that there is great possibility and to see previous residents coming back into their community giving back is wonderful."

First Annual Shirley Coleman-Creighton Court Scholarship recipient, Jessica Christian is a graduate of Armstrong High School. In the fall of 2009, Jessica plans to attend J. Sergeant

Reynolds Community College. Afterwards, she plans to transfer to Virginia Commonwealth University and major in Business Administration. She is determined to attend college in the fall because she would be the first in her family to do so.

In ten years, Jessica dreams of owning a home in the country where she can enjoy peace and quiet.

The person Jessica admires most is her mother Sonya Roney. She admires her mother because, over the years, her mother has taught her to never give up.

Jessica's advice to students in elementary, middle and high school is: "Do your work, pay attention and behave."

"I think the scholarship program is great. I'm happy because I'm getting some money for school. I think it was a good idea for Ms. Watson to do this. Once I acquire my education I plan to come back into the community and help the younger kids to do good for themselves."

Ashley Williams is a graduate of Armstrong High School. In the fall of 2009, she plans to attend Clark Atlanta University located in Atlanta, Georgia, and major in Business Management.

Ashley is a talented musician and very skilled with the guitar. In ten years, she plans to hold a B.A. and a Master's Degree.

The person Ashley admires most is her mother, Rosa Conley. She admires her mother because, like most moms, Rosa talks to her about having a bright future.

She receives a lot of good advice and motivation from her teachers at AHS. Time and time again, her teachers have proven that they really care.

Ashley's advice to students in elementary, middle and high school is, "Keep your grades up and always prepare academically."

I feel that this scholarship is great because this is a way for Ms. Watson to honor her mother. I'm happy to be a part of the first scholarship, I'll always remember it.

Mother Rosa Conley quoted, "I'm very proud and honored that my daughter Ashley is one of the first Annual Shirley Coleman-Creighton Court Scholarship recipients."

Club 533 Member's Generosity Continues to Bless RRHA Senior Residents!

When we give freely to others we automatically set in motion the law of reciprocity. Not only do we benefit others through our generous spirit, we become mutually benefited, it's universal law. Philosopher Barney O'Lavin once stated, "The way to happiness: keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry, live simply, expect little, but give much."

According to the above statement if giving much is the way to happiness, then Club 533 Chairman of Community Affairs, Linwood Jeter and the members of Club 533 must be ecstatic all year long based on their continuously generously giving spirits. Recently, members of Club 533 donated their Annual Mother's Day food baskets to residents of senior living facilities at Fay Towers, 1611 4th Avenue and Old Brook Circle.

Linwood Jeter, Chairman of Community Affairs Committee for Club 533 stated, "We do this several times a year. We always try to look out for our seniors and it's a pleasure doing it. All total we gave out 18 Mother's Day baskets today.

Dorothy Cooper resident of Fay Towers Senior Living facility commented, "I just want to say I appreciate what Club 533 members did for us this Mother's Day, I wish them all the best, we really appreciate them." Resident Ms. Rita Swain commented, "I greatly appreciate Club 533 for giving us



Residents of 3900 Old Brook Circle with food baskets

this Mother's Day basket. I just praise the Lord for the many blessings that was bestowed upon us."

Resident Doreatha Carter said, "I'm thankful to Club 533 for sending the food boxes over here today, it's truly a blessing." Resident Mary Coles stated, "When I received the phone call from our Resident Services Advisor, I said yes, I'm very thankful for whatever Club 533 wants to give, I'm thankful for it all."

Patrice Banks-Lewis, Resident Services Advisor for the elderly at Fay Towers quoted, "I'm just very appreciative for Club 533 and all that they do for our residents not just at Mother's Day but for the other holidays as well."

3900 Old Brook Circle residents commented:

Resident Rita Reece stated, "I would like to thank Club 533 for the gift baskets today."

Althea Hamilton said, "I would like to thank Club 533 for the donation they gave us this Mother's Day."

Mrs. Rose Baskerville stated, "We're truly grateful and thankful for what Club 533 members have done. We receive this as a Mother's Day gift and hope that it will be a blessing to others also."

Suzette Williams, Resident Services Advisor for 3900 Old Brook Circle stated, "We really appreciate this generous donation. They have adopted our building and we really appreciate what they do for our residents."

Happiness is giving freely from the heart. Stay happy fellows, you are a great blessing to many.



Club 533 Member Linwood Jeter

Men of Hobson Lodge's Annual Cook-Out For 700 South Lombardy Residents—A Feast Worth Waiting For!



According to the smiles on the faces of 700 South Lombardy residents and their guest, the Men of Hobson Lodge's Annual Cook-Out gets better year after year.

Love for the 700 South Lombardy residents, an overwhelming desire to serve and a compassionate and caring spirit blended together adds perfection to an already superior dish. Mr. Hockaday president, Advisory Council 700 South Lombardy Street commented, "The cook-out this year is fantastic as usual; it's just fantastic, you can't beat it, each year it gets better and better." Resident Alice Mayo stated, "Everything today is just beautiful." Resident Betty Walker commented, "Everything is very good and the Men of Hobson Lodge are treating us nice as always, we thank them." Resident Ethel Parker said, "I think it's just so wonderful that the lodge comes out to do this for us every year. We thoroughly enjoy it, we want to thank them so very much." Renee Jones-Fultz, Property Manager for 700 South Lombardy Street stated, "This is my first time attending today's function. They seem to be enjoying themselves, they're dancing to the music and enjoying the well prepared food, it's great." Ronald Carver, Men of Hobson Lodge member and visionary for the annual cook-out stated, "Personally, I can't wait until the winter time when we have our second part, our Christmas Dinner as well as next summer when we will be doing our annual cook-out again. To see the smiles on the residents' faces, their eyes glowing, they just love it. I really look forward to presenting these functions for them."



1920 Stonewall Place Council Holds Installation Service For New Officers!



It is said that "he who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything [source: Samuel Johnson, Philosopher]. The best that we will ever be is when we're uplifting and serving others. The RRHA Spirit Newsletter for Residents takes pride in this opportunity to recognize the dedicated newly installed members of the 1920 Stonewall Place Advisory Council.

It goes without saying that your honorable service to your fellow residents will be of the highest level of integrity, of the greatest support with outstanding dedication to service.

The Officers for 2009-2012

PresidentMrs. Gloria Shelton- Jones
 Vice President Mr. William Gee
 SecretaryMs. Ella Morris
 TreasurerRev. Dorothy G. Hatcher
 ChaplainMrs. Jeanette M. Harris
 Sergeant At Arms Mrs. Shirley Giles

To the outgoing officers Mrs. Inez Owens, Mrs. Margaret Robertson, and Mrs. Juanita Carter, we thank you and look forward to your continued support.

RRHA Spirit Newsletter For Residents

The RRHA Spirit Newsletter For Residents is published by the Community Relations and Marketing Department of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. We welcome submissions and we reserve the right to edit all materials used. Materials may be submitted to: RRHA Communications Office • 901 Chamberlayne Parkway • Richmond, Virginia 23220

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RRHA Resident, Yusufu Ibrahim (continued from page 1)

Yusufu credits his mother with his success. “My mother has been pushing me to do my best in school,” said Yusufu, who won awards for math, reading, honor roll and for being a positive role model and president of the school’s Student Council Association. “My mom is going to school now because she didn’t have a chance to when she was in Africa. It makes me do my best in school so I can have a better job and not struggle.”

Yusufu will be a sixth grader at Albert Hill Middle School in the fall. “Math is my favorite subject. I do really well in it for some reason and I just enjoy doing it.” Yusufu’s dedication and commitment extends outside the classroom. On July 27, he will also play in his first tennis tournament.

“In tennis, you have to make the right moves and think about what you’re doing,” said Yusufu, who has been playing tennis for four years.

Paul Manning, founder of U-Turn Sports Performance Academy in Richmond, has known Yusufu since he began playing



Yusufu poses with mother Fatimo Ibrahim (C) and supportive sisters

but you may have to make way for your other siblings as well!

tennis at his center. “He has a very engaging personality. He gets along with anyone and is very considerate and funny.”

“He’s really cerebral to be a young kid,” Manning said. “He’s aware of his surroundings and that is evident even on the tennis court. He’s doing some things with the ball and racquet that you can’t teach. He knows how to adjust in a dynamic situation, which is a really good sign.”

“You can’t teach tenacity and perseverance,” Manning said. “He’s so focused on his academics and his mother is a great role model in encouragement.”

Yusufu says he plans to become a lawyer and a professional tennis player when he is grown. “Also when I’m grown and successful, I plan to come back into the community and assist other youth like I’ve been assisted.” Yusufu’s older sister Gbemisola Ibrahim, also an honor student, was selected as 2008 Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy (YSFAA) Youth of The Year. What a super family. Way to go Yusufu—

RRHA’S Section 3 Job Opportunity Program—A Capacity Response!

In April of 2009 RRHA held a series of information sessions to explain Section 3 and to recruit for possible future Section 3 job opportunities. Turnout was extremely high. In total 1,460 people attended the information sessions.

The recruitment process included attending the information session, an application, drug screening, background check and a verification of income. Once an applicant completed each of those steps they were added to a list of available candidates. Of those applicants, 741 people were notified by mail of their “available” status and given the Section 3 Information Line phone number 780-4835. The line is updated weekly with information regarding Section 3.

The recruitment process for Section 3 has ended and currently the agency’s procurement department is concentrating on acquiring contractors, who will hire the available candidates.

What is Section 3?

A federal HUD (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development) policy geared toward employment opportunities for housing and community development programs

Section 3 is directed toward low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing

The HUD Section 3 policy requires to the greatest extent feasible that recipients of HUD funds(i.e. contractors) provide jobs and other economic opportunities for

low-income persons particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing

How does Section 3 affect RRHA?

RRHA will receive \$10 million dollars over 3 years from the economic stimulus program for capital improvements which will allow the agency to hire contractors to improve physical buildings and grounds

When negotiating Section 3 contracts with vendors RRHA’s procurement department will require the vendor to use pre-screened RRHA residents and low-income Metropolitan Richmond Area persons to fill vacant positions

Who is eligible for Section 3?

- Adult Public Housing Residents
- Adult Housing Choice Voucher Participants
- Adult low-income persons who live in the Richmond Metropolitan Area

Dionne Woody, RRHA Capacity Building Office stated, “Section 3 is a great opportunity for individuals to

gain skills and work experience while participating in an effort that will improve the face of public housing communities,”

For further information contact the RRHA Capacity Building Office at (804) 780-4835 - 200 Hospital Street, Richmond, VA 23219



Richmond Community Pedals In Unity At The 7th Annual Gilpin Community Family Bike-A-Thon!

Promoting good health---bicycle safety---family fun---building relations---strengthening community partnerships---and personal accomplishments are all components of a common goal for enthusiastic bikers of all ages whose mission was to successfully complete the 5-mile bike ride through the central Richmond area.

For the seventh year in a row, the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) Youth Sports and Fine Arts Academy (YSFAA), RRHA Police Department, Richmond City Police, community partners and volunteers and bike enthusiast from as far away as North Carolina all gathered for the 7th Annual Gilpin Community Family Bike-A-Thon.

Biker participant Kamisha Smith commented, "This is our first experience. My cousin Wallace Wilkins one of the coordinators for the event invited us to participate. We came up from North Carolina just for this event."

Daughter Kalyn said, "I'm looking forward to riding, I believe I will complete the whole ride."

RRHA's Carol Jones-Gilbert commented, "This is my first year participating. I think this Bike-A-Thon is a good idea. I think it's a healthy activity, it's good to get people out doing something that's productive and health conscious."

Biker James Woody Jr. stated, "We've got the whole family out today. We're very excited about the ride. I think this is a great event, it's fun, it's family oriented, and it's a good thing to do."

Participant Thomas Green, member of Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Historic Jackson Ward commented, "I'm one of the original formers of the Bike-A-Thon seven years ago. I didn't know that it was going to last this long. It's good not just to get the Gilpin community together, but the city community is involved also, that's very good."

Participant and RRHA CEO Anthony Scott stated, "I love this. Anytime you have an opportunity to get out and see the city, the kids can get out and ride, it's a great opportunity for exposure and to see different parts of the city from a different



Richmond Police Chief Norwood (3rd-L), Anthony Scott, RRHA CEO (4th-L), and RRHA Police Chief Hazelton join in the fun

perspective.

To be out here today participating in this great event with my sons is so exciting. They've been really looking forward to participating."

Steve Benham, former RRHA Assistant Director for Housing Management, commented, "Seven years ago we started out to do something different. We wanted to see our kids participating in something enjoyable. Over the years we've developed special partnerships with different groups. Most notably this year, the New York Police Department donated over \$800 worth of bikes, so we're reaching out to an even larger group."

Today we've got C.T. Woody and the Richmond Sheriff Department. We've got a whole variety of other organizations that have pitched in and want to be a part of this fun event. For no other reason just to have fun and have our kids burn some of that

abundant energy in a positive way and just rejoice and have a good time."

This year's Bike-A-Thon also offered other activities for bikers and those not riding. Event-goers enjoyed an appearance by a local motorcycle club, Victory Car Club; there were gospel and praise dancers, senior activities, children's games, refreshments, and more. Hats off to Bike-A-Thon coordinator Wallace Wilkins, the RRHA Staff, Bike-A-Thon partners and community volunteers for consistently producing a successful community function year after year.

YSFAA was established by RRHA to provide public housing youth with opportunities to participate in a variety of sports and cultural-related activities while receiving intensive case management services. The Academy deters anti-social behavior by providing participants the chance to interact positively with others from across the city and adult mentors. The Academy prides itself on offering "non-traditional" sports like golf, swimming, scuba diving, dance, ice hockey, ice skating, and tennis. For more information, visit www.rrha.org, or to volunteer in next year's Annual Bike-a-Thon contact Wallace Wilkins at (804) 780-3438.

