

Northwood Village Resident Meeting

March 3, 2021 12:00 P.M. via Zoom

I. Welcome - The residents from Northwood Village were welcomed to a community meeting by Ms. Bethune. Sheila Jackson from United Way was introduced to the residents. She will discuss VITA, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

II. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program) - Ms. Jackson discussed the volunteer income tax assistance program, which has been around for over 50 years. The program was designed to help low to moderate income families have their taxes prepared free. It is a program through IRS. It helps families receive the earned income tax credit.

Ms. Jackson stated that United Way offers tax preparation. She stated the tax credits are provided once a year and given through tax refund when a tax return is filed. She stated that appointments are required.

Ms. Jackson stated United Way suggests saving the refund to a rainy-day savings account.

The United Way sites that are open for tax preparation are at the Flagler County government services building, which allows drop-off and face-to-face, and Flagler County Public

Library, which drop-off only. Sites are also available in Volusia County at New Smyrna Beach Community Resource Center and the Grace Episcopal Church either drop-off or face-to-face. Sites are also available at the Fifth Third Bank Community Room for drop-off only, Four Towns YMCA as drop-off and face-to-face, and Dr. Joyce M. Cusack Resource Center as drop-off and face-to-face. She stated there are limited spaces available and they are filling up fast. Ms. Jackson discussed the items needed to bring to the appointment.

Terril Bates asked which residents have not filed their taxes. She then asked which residents have filed with VITA. Ms. Jackson stated that United Way discourages rapid refund because it is a loan and there's interest on it. She stated that residents can file a return and get the entire refund through VITA.

Ms. Jackson told the residents that if they're not able to get into one of the sites, she encourages them to use myfreetaxes.com, which is a free service that's offered through United Way.

III. Northwood NNC Centers Open - Ms. Bates stated that the Northwood Neighborhood Network Centers are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 5:00. She asked that the residents wear a mask and practice social distancing while

in the building. Ms. Bates stated that appointments are available if residents need to come at a time different than when the center is open.

IV. Computer Basics Class - Ms. Bates stated that computer basics classes are offered every Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:30.

V. RAD Updates - Ms. Bates stated that they are working on getting applications into HUD. She apologized to the Northwoods II residents as HUD asked for an updated GIN notice. The notices were sent in 2019. HUD wanted assurance that the notices were updated. Residents in Northwoods II received notices on doors about an hour prior to the meeting. Ms. Bates told the residents there is nothing they need to do, but just that HUD requires proof that a new letter went out to the residents.

Ms. Bates reminded the residents that RAD is the Rental Assistance Demonstration program. She told the residents that there will be a plans and specs meeting next month where the type of work that will happen through the RAD will be discussed. Ms. Bates encouraged residents to attend the meetings.

A resident asked Ms. Bates what will happen to Northwoods I. Ms. Bates told the resident that it will be significantly rehabilitated. She told the residents that

they will be temporarily transferred while work is being done in the unit. Ms. Bates stated that the relocation plan is still being worked out.

Ms. Bates stated that resident services will connect with each family. An assessment will be done to document needs that each family has and other things that need to be considered in temporary transfer. Ms. Bates informed the residents that the housing authority pays for everything related to temporary transfer, including boxes and help with packing.

Ms. Bates asked the residents to inform management office if there has been changes in household composition, such as family size. The unit that will be assigned to the resident after the renovation will be based on the family size that is shown in information that's sent by the resident. Ms. Bates asked the residents to respond to notices from resident services and get assessment completed.

A resident asked about Northwoods II and if the policy is the same. Ms. Bates stated that Northwoods II is five years old. There will be some renovations, but Ms. Bates doesn't believe that resident transfer will be required.

Ms. Bates asked the residents who they consider to be community influencers, hometown heroes, or who they follow on Facebook and Tik Tok. One resident stated she listens to

hospitals. Another resident stated she looks to her pastor and a judge. Another resident stated she looks up to her pastor.

Ms. Bates asked the residents for thoughts on how to make the meetings more interesting so that participation is higher.

VI. Question and Answer Session - Ms. Bates asked the residents if they received a laptop for their children through the FSS program. One resident stated she didn't know anything about it, but she is not in the FSS program. The resident thought she wouldn't be eligible because she works, but Ms. Bates stated that she would be eligible even if she works. Ms. Bates stated that they would have someone from FSS come to the next meeting to share with the residents what the program is about and how to enroll.

There were no questions from residents.

Ms. Bates asked the residents to let Ms. Bethune know that they are still on the call as they will receive a \$10 gift card.

Ms. Bethune took roll call of the residents that are still on the call.

Meeting ended.

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