

THE OPP OPPORTUNITY

February 2026

Volume 2, Issue 1

OHA and HUD's Mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality homes.



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ABOUT THE OHA

Since 1958, the Opp Housing Authority has been providing decent, safe and affordable housing to individuals and families of low and fixed incomes as they strive for self-sufficiency. All operations are regulated and evaluated by the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Presently, the Opp Housing Authority oversees 170 public housing apartments that are based on income. The Opp Housing Authority also administers , 100 Housing Choice Vouchers that are Covington County wide.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

-Nelson Mandela

We are on the Web
see us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/opphousingauthority>

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Beverly Barber

Fabulous February Opp Housing Authority Residents and Housing Choice Voucher Participants,

I hope you are off to a great start to the new year. January was a special month for me, as it marked my 14th anniversary as Executive Director of the Opp Housing Authority. It has truly been an awesome journey, and I look forward to serving you for many more years.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the programs and activities currently available through the Opp Housing Authority. We offer the ROSS Program and the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, which are designed to support you and your family. Please contact the office and speak with one of our program coordinators to learn more and become involved in activities that may benefit you while you are a resident or participant of the Opp Housing Authority.

Please be sure that you are familiar with your lease. We have seen an increase in lease violations, which could result in the loss of your housing assistance. Remember, only three violations are allowed per year before your lease may be subject to termination. This includes late rent payments. If you do not understand your lease or need help reviewing it, please contact the office—we are here to assist you.

Participation in resident activities has been low. These activities are offered to provide access to valuable benefits, resources, and programs you may not be aware of. Please watch for flyers and sign up to attend our free events. If participation continues to decline, we may be forced to discontinue some programs. You may be surprised at what you can gain by attending.

We also encourage you to share any newsworthy accomplishments or positive updates with our office so we may include them in our newsletter. Please contact us if you have something great to share.

Thank you for being a resident or participant of the Opp Housing Authority. Stay warm, and as we celebrate the month of February, let's continue to show love and kindness to one another.

Beverly Barber
Executive Director

SECTION 8 INFORMATION



The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program is a federal HUD-funded initiative assisting low-income families, seniors, and the disabled to afford safe, private-market housing. Participants pay a portion of their income (typically 30-40%) for rent, with the PHA paying the remainder directly to the landlord.

Housing Choice Voucher Program

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (also known as Section 8) helps low-income families, elderly persons, veterans and disabled individuals afford housing in the private market. Program participants can choose any eligible housing unit, including single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments, with rent partially covered by a subsidy paid directly to the landlord. There are around 2,000 Local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) across the country that administer the HCV program with funding from HUD.

FROM THE MAINTENANCE



98 Score: NSPIRE Inspection December 31, 2025

Thanks to all the residents who done all the things we asked you to do for inspection. We really , appreciate your cooperation in helping us achieve such as high score.

Preventive Maintenance

Preventive Maintenance is the 3rd Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month.

Please be sure your screen doors are unlocked and are expecting us to enter your unit to perform maintenance each month. Smoke alarms has to be tested every month. Screen Doors that are locked that prevents us from performing preventive maintenance duties will be will be removed and not allowed. All animals must be in kennels during preventive maintenance.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Beverly Barber



Davy Lindsey



Udo Christ



Kimberly Mount



Glenda Presley



Annie Jarrett



IN AND AROUND OPP HOUSING AUTHORITY

LIST OF 2026 OFFICE CLOSURES

<p>1</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY Thursday, January 1, 2026</p>	<p>2</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY Monday, January 19, 2026</p>	<p>3</p> <p>WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY (PRESIDENTS' DAY) Monday, February 16, 2026</p>
<p>4</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY Monday, May 25, 2026</p>	<p>5</p> <p>JUNETEENTH Friday, June 19, 2026</p>	<p>6</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY (OBSERVED) Friday, July 3, 2026</p>
<p>7</p> <p>LABOR DAY Monday, September 7, 2026</p>	<p>8</p> <p>COLUMBUS DAY Monday, October 12, 2026</p>	<p>9</p> <p>VETERANS DAY Wednesday, November 11, 2026</p>
<p>10</p> <p>THANKSGIVING DAY Thursday, November 26, 2026</p>	<p>11</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY Friday, December 25, 2026</p>	

Office Telephone numbers

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BASKETBALL & CHEER TOURNAMENT



SERC 2026 - BESSEMER, ALABAMA

Black History Little Known Facts

Black history is rich with lesser-known facts that highlight significant contributions and achievements often overlooked in mainstream narratives.

Lesser-Known Contributions

Ranch Dressing: Ranch dressing, a popular condiment, was invented by Steven Henson, a Black American cowboy, in the 1940s. He developed the recipe while working in Alaska and later founded Hidden Valley Ranch, which he sold to Clorox.

Super Soaker: The iconic water gun, the Super Soaker, was invented by Lonnie Johnson, a former NASA engineer, in 1989. This invention became one of the best-selling toys of its time, originally named the "Power Drencher".

Hiram Rhodes Revels: In 1870, Hiram Rhodes Revels became the first African American elected to the U.S. Senate. He was a significant figure during the Reconstruction era, advocating for civil rights and serving as a pastor and military leader.

Niagara Movement: Founded in 1905 by W.E.B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter, the Niagara Movement was a precursor to the NAACP, advocating for full civil rights for African Americans. This movement laid the groundwork for future civil rights advancements.

Black Cowboys: Throughout American history, Black cowboys played a crucial role in the development of the West. They were often overlooked in traditional narratives, yet they contributed significantly to cattle ranching and the culture of the American frontier



NAHRO "What Home Means to Me" POSTER CONTEST

Calling all youth artists! Compete for the chance to win cash prizes and a trip to Washington D.C.!

Since 2008, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) has celebrated the unique and poignant art of children living in affordable housing. The poster contest is conducted in multiple rounds: 24 regional winners compete nationally and the 12 winners are featured in NAHRO's "What Home Means to Me" calendar the following year.

Deadline March 25, 2026

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Calling all students! You're invited to participate in the "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest! Local winners may advance to the state, regional, and even national competition levels. We're proud to say we've had winners before—and you could be next!

Posters are ready and waiting, so stop by the office, grab yours, and let your creativity shine!

CONTACT

Opp Housing Authority 334-493-9741

ARTIST REQUIREMENTS

One entry per artist and one artist per poster
Must be between 5 - 18 years old
Must reside in a household, or be provided a housing-related service, managed by a NAHRO member agency
Opp Housing Authority

POSTER REQUIREMENTS

Must represent the theme "What Home Means to Me"
Must have a landscape / horizontal orientation
Must be at least 11 x 8.5 inches (letter paper) but no larger than 28 x 22 inches

For information about the national contest, visit: www.nahro.org/poster-rules

2024-25 Grand Prize Winning Poster, created by Adriana (age 11)




SAINT VALENTINE

St. Valentine, a Christian martyr from the Roman Empire, is celebrated on February 14, a day that has evolved into a global celebration of love and affection.

Early Life and Martyrdom

St. Valentine is believed to have been a priest or bishop in the Roman Empire during the 3rd century. He was known for his compassion and dedication to helping persecuted Christians. According to tradition, he was martyred around 269 AD during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who had banned marriages for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers. Valentine defied this decree by secretly marrying couples, which led to his arrest and eventual execution.



Quick Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Directions

Step 1

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).

Step 2

In a medium bowl, mix together the peanut butter, sugar, egg, and baking soda until well blended. Roll dough into 1 inch balls, and place on ungreased cookie sheets.

Step 3

Bake for 6 to 8 minutes in the preheated oven. Cool on cookie sheets until set, before transferring to wire racks to cool com

Recipes



BLACK HISTORY

Martin Luther King Jr. Word Search

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

- America
- Rights
- Peace
- Speech
- Justice
- Freedom
- Activist
- Minister

- Courage
- Legacy
- Liberty
- Inspire
- Doctor
- Dream
- Equality
- Nobel
- January
- Leader
- Movement
- Change



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Do you have an article, poem, or picture that you would like to be featured in the newsletter? If so, please send your documents to the office no later than the 15th of the following months to be featured in the next issue: February, April, June, August, September, and November.



LBW
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community INTEREST MEETING

Habitat for Humanity

WANT TO HELP BUILD A BETTER COVINGTON COUNTY?
JOIN US TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH OUR LOCAL CHAPTER OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

- ✓ Volunteer with home builds & renovations
- ✓ Join local administration and leadership
- ✓ Help plan and coordinate projects

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 • 5:30-6:30 PM

LBW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ANDALUSIA CAMPUS
Martha & Solon Dixon Conference Center

We're gauging community interest in sustaining our local Habitat for Humanity chapter through volunteer work!

In accordance with HUD regulations, the Opp Housing Authority will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Opp Housing Authority Community Center, located at 813 Barnes Street, Opp, Alabama. The purpose of this hearing is to solicit public comment on the Agency's Annual and Five-Year Plan.

This Public Hearing is being held to provide residents and members of the general public an opportunity to submit comments regarding the Plan.

Notice of the Public Hearing has been published on the Housing Authority's social media platforms and in the local newspaper, as required by HUD regulations. The notice also stated that the Plan is available for public review at the Opp Housing Authority Office, located at 800 Barnes Street, Opp, Alabama.

Individuals wishing to review the Annual Plan prior to the Public Hearing may do so during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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We are on the Web!
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