

*From the desk of  
Bill Stallworth*



As the Coast glides into 2011, Unemployment is at an all-time high and fewer industries are located in the area. Many state agencies have put a freeze on hiring and some are even laying off individuals. There seems to be little relief for the low-income working class families that live pay check to pay check. We realize there is still a great need for community based non-profit organizations like Hope CDA.

The Non-profits serve as voices of the community to bring needed services and provide information to those who are traditionally left behind. Since 2005, Hope has been fighting for the rights and privileges of the East Biloxi Community by making sure homeowners maintained their property rights and ensure that the community as a whole was revived and thriving. In the coming year, we would like to commit to making even greater strides and standing steadfast while facing all the challenges and obstacles that may arise as we push toward making the Gulf Coast a great place to call home.

## *Hope Cuts Ribbon on Veranda Homes Project*

**Biloxi** – Hope Community Development Agency (Hope CDA) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> to formally launch Veranda Homes in East Biloxi. Veranda Homes is a scattered site development of 10 new, affordable homes in East Biloxi that provide homeownership opportunities to the local workforce.

Homes are single-family units with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, and offer spacious floor plans, porches, fully equipped kitchens, and energy efficient design, construction and appliances. All homes will be elevated as required to meet International Building Codes and FEMA flood zone requirements.

As part of the program, Hope CDA is providing mortgage assistance for qualified homebuyers to meet its objective of offering affordable, energy efficient homes in East Biloxi.

The program is open to households with an annual income at or below 120% of the area median income. Veranda Homes is funded in part by the Mississippi Development Authority’s Long Term Workforce Housing Program and has received construction financing from Community Housing



Capital, in partnership with Whitney Bank.

Hope CDA will also assist homebuyers throughout the qualification process to determine eligibility, complete application forms, select a home design, and pre-qualify for a mortgage. Interested homebuyers should contact Hope CDA for more information on how to qualify for the program.

“Veranda Homes is significant to East Biloxi’s continued redevelopment from Hurricane Katrina,” said Mr. Stallworth, “and the program represents another step in Hope CDA’s ongoing commitment to the community.”

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**A Housing Resource Center**

425 Division Street, Biloxi MS 39530  
(228) 435-7180 \* www.hopecda.org

### Inside Hope CDA

**Executive Director:**

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Freddie Saunders  
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## Nichols Elementary: Status Update on School Closing



*Bill Stallworth & Pastor James Black with other protestors. (WLOX photo)*

**BILOXI, MS** - Many may know that three schools were closed in the Biloxi Public School District as a result of budget cuts. Amongst them was Nichols Elementary, one of the top schools in the district and predominantly African-American. This action left many residents wondering if race was a factor in the closings. There was a complaint filed with the Office of Civil Rights and the battle began. In the wake of the School Board's decision, the Saving Our Schools coalition was formed and began to meet and formulate a plan to re-open the school and restore what was lost in the community. The coalition gained momentum by calling upon the Kellogg

Foundation to put forth a proposed effort to combat the funding issue but was met with much opposition and was later defeated.

More recently, the coalition was met with more bad news when the complaint alleging racial discrimination with the closing of Nichols Elementary, had been withdrawn. The complaint claims the school district blamed financial problems for closing Nichols Elementary, yet it rejected a funding offer from the Kellogg Foundation. The Save our Schools Coalition plans to file another racial discrimination complaint against the Biloxi School District.

Kim Duffy, the attorney representing the community members, said, "The Office of Civil Rights saw some common ground with the school district saying, emphatically, that when enrollment comes back, we will re-open Nichols. All the community was looking for was some assurance to say that the facility would still be there and it would not be disposed of." (*WLOX-NEWS Article*)

**COASTAL WOMEN FOR CHANGE**

*has started a Community Garden Project for our community, especially our homeless population.*

*We are soliciting volunteers for the following days*

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**

**7 a.m. to 9 a.m. or Afternoons 7p.m to 9 p.m.**

*We will share stories of our community and refreshment will be served.*

**For more information contact: (228) 297-4950**

*This is your  
newsletter!*

To submit an item for publication, or to advertise in this newsletter, contact:

**Teresa Youngblood**  
(228) 436-7695 (228) 435-7180

### Now Accepting Applications!

Hope CDA is building 40 new homes in East Biloxi.

Hope CDA will provide mortgage assistance to eligible clients. For more information contact a Hope CDA case manager. (228) 435-7180



## Coastal Women for Change

*These photos are from The Jewish Funds for Justice group from New York.*



We had 20 students to come and work in our community garden in Henry Beck Park.

BILOXI- The goal is to nurture our park back to life and bring healthy food into our everyday lives. By bringing this garden into our community, it will educate and cultivate awareness for healthy eating and better lifestyles. If we start to change our mind set, we will definitely change our future.

Through healthy eating, we can reduce child obesity rate, eliminate diabetes, and reduce heart disease.

Coastal Women for Change has been fortunate to partner with the local AKA chapter and also Coastal Clinic, Hope CDA and ACLU of Jackson MS. is this health/wellness initiative.

## Neighborhood Home Program

BILOXI- The Neighborhood Home Program is a home repair program that stemmed from the lawsuit that was settled as a result of funds being reallocated from Katrina housing to the Port of Gulfport. The application process ended January 31, 2011.

The program was designed to help low and moderate income Mississippians who need financial assistance to repair single-family homes damaged by wind or flooding from Hurricane Katrina with remaining damage. It will also help renters displaced by Hurricane Katrina with current unmet permanent rental housing needs. Low-income homeowners and renters, who make less than 80% of the area median income (AMI), will be given priority, including those who are disabled and elderly. Moderate income home-

owners, who make between 80% and 120%, may be considered for funding as well. To be eligible, you must 1) have owned and occupied your home at the time of Hurricane Katrina, 2) you must currently own your own home, 3) you must have un-repaired damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, and 4) you must live in an eligible county. Renters must meet the same income criteria homeowners and must have been displaced. The program will provide up to \$75,000 in assistance for repairs, rehabilitation, or reconstruction and could potentially provide more if there is a particular hardship.

If you submitted an application, a **representative from the state** will be contacting you with further information.



# Are You Thinking of BUYING a HOME?

Hope Community Development Agency • 425 Division Street Biloxi, MS • 39530 • (228)-435-7180

## Women In Construction (WinC)

### Moore Community House in Biloxi



*“Now my kids can look at me and say my Mama did this”*

The Idea for the WinC project on the Gulf Coast originated in Washington D.C. with Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), a national organization committed to increasing the number of women involved in nontraditional occupations and helping

women attain economic self-sufficiency. WOW identified the Moore Community House (MCH) as an organization that had interest and capacity to develop and implement the proposed program. The program is celebrating its 3<sup>rd</sup> year Anniversary of training low income women for careers in the construction trades and has graduated nine classes totaling 90 women. Through a partnership with the HOPE Community Development Agency, WinC students can join in the momentum to rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Students work along the side of volunteers rebuilding homes, often in their own neighborhoods. HOPE CDA

provides projects and on site construction management. They have also partnered with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) to offer welding classes to their participants and the program provides financial stipends for child care, transportation, social supports, and job placement assistance.

Julie Kuklinski, Program Director; Johnny Gonzalez, Program Coordinator; and Carolyn Jones, AmeriCorps VISTA/Jobs Coordinator

**For more info contact:  
Moore Community House  
684 Walker St. Biloxi**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 City Council 1:30	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Mardi Gras	9	10	11 Block Meeting 6pm Fin Mgt class 1pm	12 HEW 8am
13	14 HEW 5pm	15 City Council 1:30 HEW 5pm	16 HEW 5pm	17 St. Patrick 's Day HEW 5pm	18 Sr. Maintenance Program	19
20	21	22 City Council 1:30 Reverse Mortgage 3:30 pm	23	24	25 Financial Mgt 1pm	26 Financial Mgt 1pm
27	28	29	30	31		

### Calendar of Events for March 2011

#### March 11

Financial Management Class 1pm-5pm  
for info call: (228) 435-7695 ext 6203  
Kryzra Stallworth (instructor)

Neighborhood Block Captains meeting  
6pm @ Hope CDA For more info call:  
Teresa Youngblood 228-860-7308

#### March 12

5th Annual Grillin' on the Green  
Teams BBQ favorite recipes & compete  
for bragging rights as the Best BBQ in  
Town! Family Fun, kids activities, live  
entertainment & more! 10am-4pm, Biloxi  
Town Green, Highway 90, Biloxi, 435-  
6339, Spectators Free!

The Mangum Foundation & Biloxi  
NAACP  
host the New Orleans Saints Jr. Training  
Camp 10:00AM - Noon March 12th

John Henry Beck park in Biloxi  
for neighborhood churches  
(elementary-jr. high)  
FMI Vernon Mangum @ (228) 432-0206.

Homebuyer Education Workshop 8am  
Call: Kryzra Stallworth for information  
and registration.  
(228) 436-7695 ext 6203

#### ROBERTA!

Musical Comedy presented by Gulf Coast  
Opera at JD Campus 8pm. (Sunday 2pm)  
Jefferson Davis Campus, Gulfport, 2226  
Switzer Road, Fine Arts Building,  
Purchase Tickets at the door.

#### March 14

Homebuyer Education Workshop 5pm  
Call: Kryzra Stallworth for information  
and registration.  
(228) 436-7695 ext 6203

#### March 15

"Family Disaster Preparedness Plan"  
workshop at 1:30pm . For more info or  
to register call Robin Hubbard 228-435-  
7695 ext 6204.

Homebuyer Education Workshop 5 pm  
Call: Kryzra Stallworth for information  
and registration.  
(228) 436-7695 ext 6203

#### March 16

Homebuyer Education Workshop 8am  
Call: Kryzra Stallworth for information  
and registration.  
(228) 436-7695 ext 6203

#### March 18

Film Screening AWAKE, My Soul  
Documentary exploring history, music, &  
traditions of Sacred Harp singing. Live  
Q&A with filmmaker! 7pm, Mary C. Cul-  
tural Center, 1600 Government Street,  
Ocean Springs, 818-2878, Call for tickets.

The 51st Freedom Fund Awards Dinner  
@ IP Casino in Biloxi @ 7:00 p. m.  
Tickets are \$50.00 per person.

Senior Maintenance Program  
Call: Kryzra Stallworth for information  
and location.  
(228) 436-7695 ext 6203

**March 19**

33rd Hibernia St. Patrick's Day Parade/5k run in Downtown Biloxi. Run starts @ 10am, Parade @ 2pm! Downtown Biloxi, Spectators Free!

**3rd Annual Unity Festival**

Live entertainment, kids activities, craft vendors, food & FUN! 9-6pm, 33rd Ave, Gulfport, 863-0307 or 861-0161, Spectators Free!

**Navy Blue Angels over the Bay**

Air show with all the sights & sounds of vintage and modern fighter jets performing amazing aerial acrobatics overhead, static displays that let visitors go into the cockpits of planes, military demonstrations, and the Navy Blue Angels! Gates open @ 9am! Keesler Air Force Base, White Avenue, Biloxi, 377-2783, Free!

**March 20**

26th Annual Shenanigan's Parade Floats, marchers, antique cars, bag pipes & more, throw wooden nickels, beads, mini green beer steins, cabbages, potatoes & onions! 2pm, Downtown Gulfport, 209-3627, Spectators Free.

**March 22**

Weaving Baskets w/pine straw classes @ Mary C. Okeefe Cultural Center. Ocean Springs For more info call 228-818-2878

Consumer Fair Housing Presentation by MS Legal Services Fair Housing Unit Hope CDA 1pm-3pm for more info call 228-436-7695 ext 6204

**March 23**

6th Annual Conference of the Veterans of MS Civil Rights Movement March 23 through March 26 Jackson State University [www.ms civilrights veterans.org](http://www.ms civilrights veterans.org)

**March 26**

Barbecue Under the Oaks Over 30 teams prepare their most famous BBQ & side dishes for your tasting pleasure, music, live/silent auction! 11:30am-2pm, Oaklawn, 7433 Menger Avenue, Pass Christian, 896-4276, Call for tickets!

March 26- April 3

MS Gulf Coast Spring Pilgrimage Tour historic homes & buildings! Hosted

**CONTINUED**

by the MS Gulf Coast Council of Garden Clubs! Partial Schedule Below! 497-1368 or 342-2366, Free, Donations Accepted!

Saturday-Ocean Springs Starts @ 9am, 1600, Government Street, Ends @ 4pm.

Sunday-Gautier Starts @ 1pm, La Maison Street & Highway 90, Ends @ 4pm.

Monday-Bay St. Louis & Long Beach Starts @ 9am, Depot Train Station, Historic Depot, Ends @ 4pm.

Tuesday-Biloxi Starts @ 9am, Beauvoir, 2244 Beach Blvd, Ends @ 4pm

Wednesday Gulfport & Gulf Hills (Beach Garden Society Tour) Starts @ 9am, Boles Residence, 2194 Harmonson View, Gulfport, Ends @ 4pm.

Thursday-Florence Gardens Tour Starts @ 9am, 12321 Preservation Drive, Gulfport, Ends @ 5pm.

Friday-Gulfport Starts @ 9am, Historic Gulfport Courthouse, 135 Courthouse Road, Ends @ 4pm. \*Luncheon/Fashion Show @ Great Southern Club, 12 Noon, Hancock Bank Bldg, 15th Floor, 14th Street, Downtown Gulfport, (\$25 person)

Saturday-Pascagoula/Moss Point Starts @ 9am, Christ Lutheran Church, 3042 Pascagoula Street, Ends @ 4pm.

Sunday-Pass Christian Starts @ 10am, Arts In The Pass Festival, Ends @ 4pm with jazz music & refreshments.

**Computer Classes Available:**

Tues & Thurs 10am-2pm  
Hope CDA  
425 Division Street  
For more info call 228-436-7695 ext 6203

**\*Lab open daily for computer usage**

**Homebuyer Education Classes**

The program is designed to help you become a knowledgeable homebuyer by teaching you the concepts that are critical to your home buying process. Hope's home program will give you the tools you need to be prepared and confident when you find the right home. Participants are provided with an introduction to the key steps in purchasing a home for the first time.

Hope housing programs are **HUD approved with instructors certified by NCHCEC**, community-based comprehensive homebuyer education course offered in the MS Gulf Coast region. Our seminars are offered to you at no charge. **\$15 manual optional.** When you graduate from the 8-hour program, you will receive a certificate of completion, satisfying the counseling requirements of many special loan programs.

**For more info contact:**  
**Kryzra Stallworth (228) 918-0386 or (228) 436-7695 ext 6203**

**Financial Education \*Workshops**

**Date: Every 2nd & 4th Friday**  
**Time: 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**Registration Required**  
**(228) 918-0386**

**2011 Coast Wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

BILOXI- MLK Events were held on January 17, 2011. Events were very successful with positive feedback from the Participants and General Public. There were 10,000 or more people in attendance! The final events were held at the Coliseum and allowed the spectators to have a better view of all the events like the step show, parade and the popular Battle of the Bands. Overall sponsors and participants were very pleased with the way all things played out.

Although all the events were wonderful and well attended at the Coliseum, the committee would like to see the MLK events moved back to the East Biloxi Community.

**Many thanks to those who volunteered and supported the events financially!**

## Health Note

### Turkey Pretzel Stick Rolls

Bag of Whole Grain/ Wheat Pretzel Sticks

Thin Slices of Turkey Breasts

Low Fat Dips

Children Can Wrap Thin Turkey Slices around Pretzel Sticks and Dip in Their Favorite Dip or Just Eat Without Dip... Enjoy!

### Quarterly quote

**"Making smart choices from every food group and being physically active work together for a healthier YOU!"**

# "the last word"

## Vision Statement

Hope Community Development Agency will unite partners to create vibrant and sustainable communities.

## Mission Statement

Hope Community Development Agency will leverage resources to build capacity and develop viable, affordable and stable neighborhoods.



Chronicles of Hope  
JAN-MAR 2011