

The VOICE

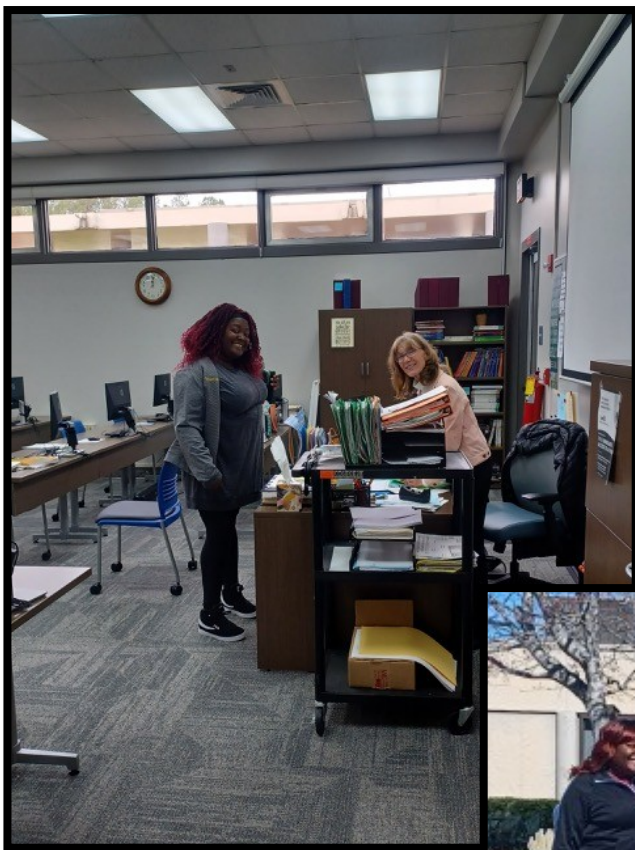
NEWSLETTER



Jan– Mar 2026

Volume 2, Issue 6

A Fresh Start for a Brighter Future



**Spring Edition
2026**



From the Executive Director's Corner

Community Newsletter Update



Building a Stronger Community Together

Exciting things continue to happen at Lanett Housing Authority as we work to create new opportunities, strengthen our programs, and support the long-term success of our residents. We are committed to building a community where every family has access to resources that promote stability, growth, and self-sufficiency.

Lanett Housing Authority recently applied for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Grant and the Youth Build Grant, and we are currently awaiting responses from the federal government. These grants would allow us to expand services that support education, job training, financial empowerment, and pathways toward greater independence for residents and youth within our community and the surrounding areas. We remain hopeful and optimistic about the possibilities these opportunities could bring.

Understanding RAD and Our New Process

As part of our long-term planning, Lanett Housing Authority is also moving forward with the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) process. RAD is a federal program that allows housing authorities to preserve and improve affordable housing by converting public housing units to a more stable and sustainable funding platform.

What this means for residents:

- Your housing remains affordable—rent continues to be based on income.
- You keep the same rights and protections you have now under HUD.
- The conversion allows us to access new funding for renovations, modernization, and long-term property improvement.
- No one is displaced as part of the RAD process.

Over the coming months, we will share updates, hold informational meetings, and provide clear communication so residents understand each step. Our goal is to ensure transparency, protect resident rights, and strengthen the quality of housing for years to come.

Looking Ahead to Summer Activities

As we prepare for the warmer months, several activities are already being planned for our summer session. Our senior residents will have opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing trips, gardening projects, and other gatherings that promote wellness, fellowship, and fun. Additional youth and family activities will also be announced as we finalize our summer calendar. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community—one that supports every resident and embraces new opportunities for growth and improvement.

From the Commissioners' Corner

The Housing Authority of the City of Lanett, Alabama, is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners. The City's Mayor appoints these individuals, who represent a diverse group of people from the community. The Commissioners are responsible for overseeing and monitoring the fiscal management of the Agency and approving all policies. They also appoint an Executive Director, as needed, to administer the daily affairs of the Housing Authority. Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. (Meeting dates are subject to change.)

Thank you, Commissioners, for your loyal and dedicated service to LHA!

CURRENT MEMBERS

Dr. Rose Wood, Chairperson
Mrs. Phyllis Stiggers, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Herschel Allen
Ms. Susan King, Resident

Our Community Team

Deborah Story, Executive Director

dstory@lanetthousing.com

Gary Belyeu, Accountant

gbelyeu@lanetthousing.com

Temekia Carr, Operational Manager

tcarr@lanetthousing.com

Angela Johnson, Senior Property Manager

ajohnson@lanetthousing.com

Anita Ferrell-Bamby, Property Manager

abamby@lanetthousing.com

Deborah Brooks, Receptionist/Office Assistant

dbrooks@lanetthousing.com

Melissa Winston, Resident Activity Coordinator

mwinston@lanetthousing.com

Antonio Butler, Working Foreman

abutler@lanetthousing.com

Kendall Goosby, Maintenance Technician

Aubrey Hodge, Maintenance Technician Assistant

Christmas Decoration Winners

1st Place Winner
Mrs. Charlotte Sprayberry

Congratulation

2nd Place Winner
Mrs. Glenda Shelley



Congratulations to our residents who participated in the Christmas Porch Decorating Contest!

Your creativity and festive spirit brightened our community and brought joy to everyone who passed by. Decorations from all four communities were beautifully displayed, making it difficult to choose the top three. In the end, the decision came down to whose porch captured the most holiday spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped spread joy throughout our communities this season.

3rd Place Winner
Mrs. Chicora Ewing

Weekly Fellowship

Soup for the Soul



Soup for the Soul continues to be a wonderful time of fellowship, comfort, and community for our residents. It is a space where people can come together and enjoy a warm meal.

During a recent gathering, Mrs. Deborah Brooks stepped in to assist Mrs. Melissa McKee in hosting the weekly event. Mrs. Brooks is not only an exceptional receptionist, but also a magnificent decorator and a true culinary talent. She takes pride in everything she does and is always willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

On this occasion, she prepared a delicious meal of lasagna, served with a fresh tossed salad and all the fixings. Her willingness to step in during a moment of need truly shows that she is a jack of all trades and a valued part of our team. Her dedication and heart for service continue to make a positive impact on our community.



Black History

“Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.”

Booker T. Washington



Mr. Anthony Talley is known as the \$1 Thursday man. He created \$1 Thursday to show how small acts of giving can make a big difference. By asking people to contribute just one dollar, he has helped families in need and inspired his community to support others. He believes that many small gifts can create meaningful change. His mission continues to remind people that everyone can be a blessing to someone else. Sometimes all it takes is one dollar and a willing heart. Mr. Talley has proven that generosity, unity, and small acts of kindness can change lives.

Black History

Lanett City Schools— Black History Program



The Lanett Black History Program was a powerful reenactment of key events that led up to the Civil Rights Movement, reminding us of the courage, sacrifice, and determination of those who fought for equality and justice. It was especially inspiring to see several children from our community take on important roles in bringing these historical moments to life. We were proud to attend and support Kase-lyn McLemore, one of our after-school program participants, who did a wonderful job.

Also on display in the lobby was artwork created by several students, showcasing their creativity and their reflections on Black history and culture. The display added a special touch to the program and highlighted the talents of the students.

Pictured in the photo with our children are community leaders whose accomplishments are also a part of Black history in our community. Mrs. Jennifer Boyd, the first Black Superintendent of Lanett City Schools; Mr. Clifford Story, the winningest Black Head Football Coach and the first Black Athletic Director for Lanett City Schools; and Mrs. Nanette Carwell, a former resident of the Lanett Housing Authority who now serves as Principal of Lanett High School. Her journey is a powerful example of perseverance, achievement, and the lasting impact of community support. Their presence serves as a reminder to our youth that greatness can grow right here in their own community.

“Black History reminds us that greatness can rise from any community and that our stories matter.”

Unknown

Midday Reflection



Midday Reflection with Mrs. Deborah Brooks

In the midst of our daily responsibilities, taking a brief moment to pause can bring clarity and renewed strength. A midday reflection encourages us to reset our mindset, express gratitude, and draw on inner desires, and perseverance. Whether through quiet thought or positive affirmation, this moment allows us to move forward with purpose and encouragement. Hosted by **Mrs. Deborah Brooks on the third Tuesday of each month at noon at the Crystal Springs Community Center**, all residents are invited to take a moment to reflect, recharge, and continue the day with peace and determination.

Master of Memory

Strengthen Your Mind– Sharpen Your Focus

Master of Memory is a six-lesson series that helps individuals see how their actions affect their memory and how to assess it. The program also offers advice on dealing with things that can impact memory. By taking part, you can feel more confident and ready to use strategies to improve your memory.

Join us for an engaging session designed to support memory, mental wellness, and lifelong learning. We only have two more sessions left (Monday, March 30th, and Thursday, April 2nd at 2:00 pm). This class is offered through our partnership with the **Alabama Extension Human Sciences Program** and lead by **Mrs. Regina Meadows**, Human Service Extension Agent II, Health and Wellness Department.



Mrs. Regina Meadows

For additional resources, please visit www.aces.edu.

Highlighting our Residents

Pathway to Success



Ms. Valerie Moore

Starting the New Year Strong

The new year is already off to a powerful start for one of our dedicated residents, **Ms. Valerie Moore!** Valerie has taken an important step toward her future by enrolling at Southern Union State Community College, one of our adult education partners. Valerie being a candidate on the Non-Traditional High School Diploma pathway rather than the traditional GED route, positioned herself for even greater opportunities.

Through this pathway, Valerie will have the opportunity to earn multiple certifications that will strengthen her employment prospects and support her journey toward greater self-sufficiency. Her determination reflects her long-term goal of becoming

a homeowner and build a successful career. She is already moving in the right direction. Most importantly, Valerie is setting a powerful example for her son and daughter through her perseverance and determination.

The only thing Valerie has to do now is show up, stay focused, and actively engage. Our agency proudly provides free transportation to and from classes, which are held Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Classes are taught by Mrs. Bolton, who shows genuine care and commitment to her students' success.

A special thank you goes to **Mrs. Alesia Lyles, IET Coordinator, and Mrs. Annie Gamill, Adult Education Student Case Manager**, for supporting Valerie from day one. The student orientation they hosted was truly magnificent. Hearing the passion in their voices as they introduced the program and discussed the many opportunities it offers helped Valerie realize that this was her season to finally grasp hold of the one goal she had once set aside.

Here at Lanett Housing Authority, we are incredibly proud of you, Valerie, and we stand ready to support you every step of the way. Keep shining!



**Southern Union
State
Community College
Home of the Bison**

For Your Information (cont'd)



B & B

On The Move - Rebuilding Our Community



Registration Starts

**April 6th-9th
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

JOIN NOW

Follow us

www.lanetthousing.com



Contact Us

334-644-5330



For Your Information (cont'd)



FREE

**Hurry!
Limited Space**

OPEN TO AGES 6-13

June 1, 2025- July 16, 2025

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Transportation
Provided**

B & B Youth Development Center

For more information,

contact us

At

334-644-5335

or

334-710-3837.

Snacks Provided

Movies

Field Trips

Reading & Math

Games

Library

And...So much

MORE!!!

For Your Information (cont'd)

Strategies to Help Secure Scholarships

- ◇ Use a free scholarship search site such as Chegg, Fastweb.com, or the U.S. News Scholarship Finder
- ◇ Check out local organizations and nonprofits
- ◇ Contact colleges about Institutional Scholarships
- ◇ Earn a Merit Scholarship
- ◇ Apply for scholarships based on specific college majors
- ◇ Write an award-winning essay or video
- ◇ Meet your deadlines
- ◇ Find employment with companies that offer scholarships to employees or a child of an employee, such as Taco Bell, Chick-fil-A, or Kroger
- ◇ Complete your FAFSA application promptly

State-Sponsored Need-Based Programs

- **Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP):** A state/federal grant ranging from **\$300 to \$5,000** per academic year. It is available to Alabama residents who are undergraduate students at nearly 80 participating institutions. Applicants must submit the FAFSA to be considered.
- **College Counts Scholarship:** Managed by the Alabama State Treasury, this program targets high school seniors and first-time freshmen with demonstrated financial need.

Award: \$4,000 for four-year colleges; \$2,000 for two-year colleges.

Requirements: Minimum 2.75 GPA and an ACT score of 29 or below.

Private and Nonprofit Scholarships

- **Alabama Opportunity Scholarship Fund (AOSF):** Provides scholarships for K-12 children from low-income families, prioritizing those zoned for failing public schools.
- **Hagan Scholarship:** A nationwide need-based merit scholarship providing up to **\$60,000** (\$7,500 per semester) to help high-achieving rural students graduate debt-free.
- **Jimmy Rane Foundation Scholarship:** Provides up to **\$5,000** for students demonstrating leadership, community service, and academic excellence alongside financial need.
- **Smith Scholarship Foundation:** Offers up to **\$20,000** annually (ranging between \$12,500 and \$15,000 for many recipients) to help cover tuition, room, board, and books. It targets students who have contributed to their communities despite facing significant personal or financial challenges.

For Your Information (cont'd)

Lanett Housing Authority

Crystal Springs
Community
Center



RENTAL

Please contact Mrs. Deborah Brooks to complete a Community Building Request Form if you would like to reserve the facility. A deposit of \$175 is required, and \$25 will be refunded if the building is returned in good condition.

Whether it's a reception, workshop, a birthday, or a private party, our stunning venue is designed to bring your vision to life.

Why Choose Us?

- Convenient ✓
- Welcoming ✓
- Affordable ✓
- Community-Centered ✓

dbrooks@lanetthousing.com or (334) 644-5330

For Your Information (cont'd)

LEE & CHAMBERS COUNTIES

YOUNG ADULT EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

YES! Project

**16-24 YEAR OLDS WHO WANT ASSISTANCE
WITH CAREER & EDUCATION GOAL**

We are eager to help you move forward in your life with excellent training resources and tools to accomplish your goals with support

ALL SERVICES ARE FREE

GED Prep	Technical Training	Employment Readiness
Career Exploration	Post-Secondary Prep	Job Shadowing
Life & Leadership Skills	ASVAB Support-Military	Work-Based Learning
Financial Literacy	Job Assistance	Skills Gains

Earn Cash Incentives While Training

Program is for young adults needing to complete H.S. Diploma (G.E.D.).
Additional eligibility requirements for H.S. graduates.
Call the numbers below or scan the QR Code to inquire today!

*This project is funded 100% with Federal funds made available to the State of Alabama Department of Commerce by the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration as the Grantor.



Circle of Care Center for Families
14 Medical Park, Valley AL 36854



334-768-4091



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

The Lanett Housing Authority would like to remind you to
always call Alabama 811 before digging.

By locating and marking underground utilities, you protect yourself as well as your utility service. Unintentional damage to underground facilities during excavation is a significant cause of disruption in utility services, as well as other vital service operations. Accidentally breaking a natural gas pipe isn't just an inconvenience, it's a hazard to you, your neighborhood and your community.



Did you know it's the Law in Alabama?

REMEMBER : NOTIFY 911 IMMEDIATELY

DO NOT allow open flames or spark producing objects in presence of un-ignited gas

DO NOT extinguish flames of escaping gas unless life is in danger

DO NOT operate any type of machinery

DO NOT operate any valves on the city installations without consulting gas company

DO NOT ring doorbells, operate electrical switches, or use any type of phone where un-ignited combustible natural gas is suspected



SMELL GAS? CALL

334-644-5330

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION



It's important that you and your family recognize this odor, whether or not you have natural gas service.

Lanett Housing Authority
334-644-5330

For Your Information (cont'd)

Alabama Extension

Human Science

Helping People

Develop Essential Knowledge and Skills

Lead Better Lives

Be Work and Career Ready

Build Strong Families

Make Meaningful Contributions



Alabama Extension offers educational programs to help Alabamians be healthy, financially secure, and experience improved family relations. Our research-based information includes financial literacy; workforce development education; nutrition, diet, and health; and family wellness and resilience. This quality-of-Life programs are offered in person and virtually, when possible. Our educational opportunities, most of which are free, build healthy people, strong families, and elevate communities. These efforts are affiliated with **Human Sciences Extension** in the College of Human Sciences at Auburn University and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. For more information, email aceshse@auburn.edu.



Making life better for all Alabamians

ACES.EDU/HUMANSCIENCES

For Your Information (cont'd)

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME POSTER CONTEST

NAHRO
Building Communities Together



Calling all Students:

Students from AAHRA Housing Authorities are invited to participate in the NAHRO "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest!

AAHRA will host a statewide poster contest where prizes will be awarded for each category. Winners will advance to the SERC Region for further judging. A student from our housing authority could be next!

Eligibility

All artists, age 5-18, must reside in a household, or be provided a housing-related service, managed by a NAHRO member agency in good standing.

Poster Specifications

- Posters should be created to represent the theme "What Home Means to Me"
- Posters must be at least 8.5 x 11 in paper size (letter size) and have a LANDSCAPE (HORIZONTAL) orientation. Larger posters will be accepted, up to 22 x 28 in.
- Artists may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced.

- The artist's name, grade level, and housing authority must be written on the back of each poster entry.
- Posters may only be created by one eligible artist.

Note: If selected, poster contest winners will be asked to provide a high-resolution headshot photo (of the artist).

Deadline to receive the poster will be
April 16, 2026



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Easter Lunch Elderly Easter Egg	2 Master of Memory @ 2:00 pm (CSCC)/ After-School Easter Egg Hunt 3-5:30 pm	3 Good Friday Office Closed	4
5 Easter	6 Office Closed	7 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm Summer Camp Registration/ Van Service 8:30 am—4:30 pm	8 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Summer Camp Registration	9 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm Summer Camp Registration/ Van Service 8:30 am—4:30 pm	10 Last day to pay rent before late fee is applied	11
12	13 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Trip to Opelika 10:30 am—1 pm	14 Board Meeting @ 5 pm/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	15 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	16 Resident Council Meeting @ 5 pm (CSCC)/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	17	18
19	20 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Game Day 10 am-1 pm	21 Midday Reflection With Mrs. D. Brooks @ noon (CSCC)/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service	22 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm 3-5:30 pm	23 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ West Point Lake- Kickball/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	24	25
26	27 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Trip to LaGrange 10 am-1 pm	28 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	29 Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm	30 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm		

Notes

Transportation will be provided for residents ages 16-24 participating in the GED/Dual Enrollment Classes at Southern Union Community College Valley Campus on Monday – Wednesday from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

Midday Reflection with Mrs. Deborah Brooks every 3rd Tuesday at noon at CSCC.

Master of Memory, hosted by the Alabama Extension Human Sciences Program, on April 2 at 2:00 pm at Crystal Springs Community Center (CSCC).



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30pm/ Game Day 10 am-1 pm Bingo (CSCC)	5 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm Van Service 8:30 am—4:30 pm	6 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	7 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm Summer Camp Registration/ Van Service 8:30 am—4:30 pm	8 Last day to pay rent before late fee	9
10 Mother's Day	11 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Trip to Opelika 10:30 am—1 pm	12 Board Meeting @ 5 pm/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	13 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	14 Resident Council Meeting @ 5 pm (CSCC)/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service	15	16
17	18 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Game Day 10 am-1 pm	19 Midday Reflection With Mrs. D. Brooks @ noon (CSCC)/ After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	20 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm 3-5:30 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	21 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ West Point Lake- Kickball/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	22	23
24	25 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Trip to LaGrange 10 am-1 pm	26 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	27 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	28 After-School Tutoring 3-5:30 pm Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	29	30
31						

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Midday Reflection with Mrs. Deborah Brooks every 3rd Tuesday at noon at CSCC.

June 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1st Day of Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Game Day 10 am-1 pm	2 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	3 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11 am-1 pm	4 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm (Field Trip)/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	5	6
7	8 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Trip to Opelika 10:30 am-1 pm	9 Board Meeting @ 5 pm/ Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	10 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm/ Last day to pay rent before late fee is applied	11 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm (Field Trip)/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	12	13
14	15 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Game Day 10 am-1 pm	16 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	17 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	18 Office Close at 1 pm	19 Juneteenth Office Closed	20
21 Father's Day	22 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Trip to LaGrange 9 am-1 pm	23 Midday Reflection With Mrs. D. Brooks @ noon (CSCC)/ Summer Camp 9 am- 2 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	24 Summer Camp 9 am- 2 pm/ Soup for the Soul 11:30 am-1 pm	25 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm (Field Trip)/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm	26	27
28	29 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Trip to LaGrange 10 am-1 pm	30 Summer Camp 9 am-2 pm/ Van Service 8:30 am-4:30 pm				

Notes

Transportation will be provided for residents ages 16-24 participating in the GED/Dual Enrollment Classes at Southern Union Community College Valley Campus on Monday – Wednesday from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

Midday Reflection with Mrs. Deborah Brooks every 3rd Tuesday at noon at Crystal Springs Community Center (CSCC).



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Administrative Office (334) 644-5330

Maintenance Department (334) 644-5341

Fax (334) 644-6468

E-mail dstory@lanetthousing.com

After Hours Emergency (334) 644-5330 (Press #1)

The Lanett Housing Authority does not discriminate against any person for employment or housing because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or familial status.

