



SULPHUR SPRINGS
NEIGHBORHOOD
of PROMISE

neighborhood News

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Newsletter of the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise

Meet Devin — He’s ‘Walking The Talk’ as a Teenage Leader in Sulphur Springs

Devin Johnson is a 16 year old who has lived in Sulphur springs for seven years. He is a leader amongst his peers and has set some high goals for himself.

In Devin’s own words, “My most important goal is to get into and graduate from a 4-year college. If I work hard, maybe I can get into the University of Miami.”

Devin participates in the Youth Spring into Action (YSIA) Teen Council sponsored by Devereux Kids. He likes the Teen Council because he works together with his friends on prep classes for the ACT and community service projects. The Teen Council does monthly neighborhood walks in Sulphur Springs...spreading the word about SSNOP Programs and encouraging more teens to join.

Devin serves as one of the teenage members on the Sulphur Springs Resident and Safety Work Group. He said that he hopes the group can help encourage having a “mentors program” in the community. Devin notes, “As teenagers, we need someone to talk to and to help keep us moving in the right direction.” Devin is also a very active member of Men of Vision.

As shown in the photograph, Devin was selected to be on the Homecoming Court at Tampa Bay Technical High School. Congratulations to Devin...Please keep on “Walking the Talk!”



SULPHUR SPRINGS K-8 COMMUNITY SCHOOL WELCOMES A NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Lakema Massey, while new to the position of Community School Director, is not new to Sulphur Springs. She has worked in Sulphur Springs since 2013 as a senior staff member at the YMCA Community Learning Center.

Lakema says: “The most exciting thing to me is being able to work “hands on” with the children and families at the Community



School. To be a “true” Community School, the families need to understand and participate in the programs at the school.”

To maximize Parent Engagement, the Community School will be offering courses to parents on helping students prepare for tests, teaching reading and math at home, and Family Academic Night which will focus on the STEM disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Lakema added that many of the programs are made possible by community and business partnerships and the collaborative efforts of SSNOP. “There are so many opportunities at the Community School and my job is to bring all the programs and families together to meet the community needs.” Lakema will also be responsible for student outreach, events, working with the PTA: Student Success Squad, oversight of the Y’s out-of- school program and expanding social media.

The Junior League of Tampa: Providing Healthy Food Programs for Kids in Sulphur Springs



Many residents may not realize that The Junior League of Tampa (JLT), one of Tampa's oldest and largest volunteer organizations, has made major contributions in Sulphur Springs for years.

This year, The League celebrates 90 years of service to the community. The League is very proud of its hallmark Sulphur Springs projects: Food 4 Kids, Family Food Fest and Kids in the Kitchen.

JLT President Nicole Hubbard explains: "We chose to be involved in Sulphur Springs because there was a lack of access to healthy food. Nearby food options are a corner store across from the elementary school and fast food restaurants along the perimeter of the neighborhood. The League realized the need to provide healthy bags of food over the weekend as proper nutrition can affect how children perform in school. With our focus on education and literacy, we want to provide every opportunity so that the children are ready to learn come Monday morning. Our volunteers enjoy working with the Sulphur Springs residents because they have so much community pride. The collaborative partnerships that exist now in this community lead to greater community impact."

All families are encouraged to participate and learn more about these healthy choices.

FOOD 4 Kids: Every Friday during the School Year

In partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay, The JLT program, Food 4 Kids, supplies over 400 bags of nutritious food to children in the Sulphur Springs community every Friday during the school year. The "backpack" program helps minimize the hunger of children on weekends when school meals are not provided.

Kids in the Kitchen: Teaching Kids that Making Healthy Meals Can be Fun

The JLT Kids in the Kitchen program works with 7 elementary school centers, including the Sulphur Springs K-8 Community School. Kids learn about better nutrition, improved fitness and cooking their own food. Making healthy eating fun empowers youth to make healthy lifestyle choices. It also helps to reverse childhood obesity and its associated health issues.

Family Food Fest: Get Ready for Summer

The Annual Family Food Fest program is free and feeds nearly 300 families. The

goal is to reduce the "summer slide" into reading loss associated with recess from school in the summer. This event promotes a healthy lifestyle and encourages literacy-based activities for the children to use over the summer so they do not lose momentum for the fall school semester.

In 2016, the MILO Bus was introduced at the Family Food Fest. The MILO (Mobile Interactive Literacy Opportunity) Bus visits locations throughout Hillsborough County providing books, literacy activities and more. The MILO Bus is provided by Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Public Library and WEDU.

Since its founding in 1926, The Junior League of Tampa has evolved into one of the most effective women's volunteer organizations in the Tampa Bay area.

Today, more than 1900 members provide over 50,000 volunteer hours to 14 community programs, ranging from literacy, mentoring and nutrition to adoption and the fight against child sex trafficking. The JLT is committed to helping improve the lives of disadvantaged children and families in our Tampa community.

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