

Drumming Education Every Thursday

If you visit the Friendship Court Community Center on Thursdays, you may be greeted by the sound of drumming and joyous laughter and chatter.

Saman Dashti, also known as Macaco Nova York, makes it a point to volunteer at Friendship Court once a week in some capacity, not an easy commitment because he travels regularly and is also a Capoeira enthusiast and instructor. Dashti discovered the Friendship Court community when he first moved to Charlottesville with his wife. "I moved here and figured out what was going on and came here [to volunteer]," he said.



Dashti said he was surprised back then that there were not more groups and individuals volunteering their time and talents at Friendship Court, but said that he thinks that with the redevelopment others will want to come to the community.

Naylia was one attendee, of about seven participants, at a recent session and said she comes every week that Dashti is present because it is fun. When asked what kind of music she likes she said hip hop and "the music we make."

Dashti's program consist of drumming, education on beats and rhythms and movement. On this particular day, he mentioned that Ms. Sheri, Piedmont Housing Alliance's Community Outreach Assistant (and resident member of the Friendship Court Advisory Committee), will be making new shields used in a dance with the youth.

Dashti recognizes the importance of afrocentric programs in predominately black communities and touts them as motivation for kids living there. While emphasis is often put on athletic and STEM programs, he is furthering the arts as a means to an end to introduce kids to themselves and the music they can make themselves.

After drumming, kids and their families can enjoy warm meals provided for the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays by Piedmont Housing Alliance, catered by JBD Mobile Catering.

Friendship Court residents can learn more about this and other programs by contacting Claudette Grant at 434-422-4846.

Free Tax Services on February 23

BB&T, the United Way and Piedmont Housing Alliance are coming together to offer Friendship Court residents a chance to get their taxes done for free. Come out on Saturday, February 23, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to file taxes with a tax professional who can help you get the refund you deserve.

Follow these steps to participate.

1. Sign up with Claudette at the Community Center. Beginning at 10 a.m., there will be 45-minute appointments available and there will be 5 time slots for each time frame. The deadline for making an appointment is February 20. Walk-Ins will be accepted as time permits, but it is highly recommended that you make an appointment.
2. Arrive at your appointment on time on February 23. We want to be able to offer this service to as many residents as possible, so please arrive on time.

Friendship Court Apartments

418 Garrett Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Questions?

Contact Claudette Grant at
cgrant@piedmonthousing.org
434-295-9794

On The Web

www.friendshipcourtapartments.com



Facebook

@FriendshipCourt



www.piedmonthousingalliance.org



CALENDAR

FRIENDSHIP COURT APARTMENTS

February 2019



Boys Running Program
February 19 - April 11. More information to come.

MIMA Program returns on Wednesday evenings in mid-February.

Girls' Mentoring Program will resume in March.

In the Garden - Market Days will begin on May 10 (4 - 5:30 p.m. See attached schedule for locations and more detail.



Questions

If you have questions or want more details, please contact
Claudette Grant,
Community Organizer,
by visiting the community center
or at (434) 295-9794 or
cgrant@piedmonthousing.org

Upcoming Friendship Court Events

Unless noted, all programs are held at the Friendship Court Community Center

Tuesday, February 5, 12, 19 and March 5 (3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
UVA Nursing Students will be onsite providing fun, healthy, interactive activities for children.

Wednesdays (11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
Yoga with Raji (all levels welcome) (children welcome)

Wednesday, February 6 (11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.)
Pre-K (3 and 4-year-old application and onsite assistance available) Back-up date in case of bad weather is Wednesday, February 13, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Thursday, February 7 (5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)
Black History Month Celebration All are invited to come celebrate and support the youth who are leading the event. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, February 7 (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
Medicaid Expansion Clinic (The Medicaid program has expanded. Learn more from April Oliver Bennett of Region Ten)

Thursdays (5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
Afro-Brazilian drumming and dancing with Mr. Macaco

Monday, February 8 (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)
IRC Community Wellness Workshop

Friday, February 8 (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)
Clark Soul Food Feast at Clark School (No charge for dinner.)

Monday, February 11 (5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
Clark School PTO Meeting at Clark School

Friday, February 15 (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
Bingo

Ongoing Children's Programs

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Ready Kids Ready Steps program

Wednesdays (4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Tutoring and afterschool enrichment with Sade

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)
Charlottesville Parks & Rec afterschool enrichment program

Monday – Friday (2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
Snacks provided

Tuesdays and Thursdays (5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
Warm meals provided for families