

Our Village Voice

News and information for and from the kids of our community!



**WOW! It's almost here...
our 4th Annual Summer
Arts/Education Camp!**

Our 4th Annual Summer Arts/Education Camp takes place this year from Monday June 8-Friday August 21. We're up and running every day from 7:30am-6:00pm.

Our theme this year is: "The Fitness Kids... *gettin' our bodies and minds in shape*".

Our summer camp culminates with an end-of-summer community-wide production on Saturday August 15 entitled "America's Next Top Fitness Kid". The production will take place at

Striving for Perfection Ministries, 24 SW Bass Avenue in Ft. Walton Beach.

In addition to our regular summer activities, we're including kid-friendly fitness with a Certified Group Fitness Instruction on hand *every day!*

We're also including healthy nutritional hand-outs for the entire family.

The prevalence of obesity among children aged 6 to 11 more than doubled in the past 20 years, going from 6.5% in 1980 to

17.0% in 2006. (National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion).

Our summer camp also includes reading & math (fun, hands-on stuff), acting, dancing and singing. Cultural Diversity Week takes place from June 22-26 when diverse ethnic groups from the local community will come out and perform for the kids as well as provide a history of their respective cultures.

For more information, check out our website. www.nelliesyouthvillage.org

Youth Village, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 1
Published Quarterly
Spring 2009 Edition

March 4, 2009



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We've added a new feature to our newsletter!

Miss Etta Kitt



Miss Etta Kitt gives sound advice on proper etiquette for your little ones...everything from table manners to safety to diversity!



If you or your child has a question for Miss Etta Kitt, just send us an email and we'll do our best to help you out. njbogar@yahoo.com

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We love our volunteers !!



Volunteer Billie Chappell visits student Montell on Tuesdays and Thursdays for reading comprehension sessions.



Abakadoodle's Brenda Parr volunteering her time and artistic talents with several Youth Village kids.



Volunteer Geretta Bogar, known as "Miss B", gives student Dozier a hand on the computer.



Miss Etta Kitt...10 tips on table manners for children (and adults)!

1. Eat with a fork unless the food is meant to be eaten with fingers.
2. Don't stuff your mouth full of food, it looks gross, and you could choke.
3. Chew with your mouth closed. This includes no talking with your mouth full.
4. Don't make any rude comments about any food being served. It will hurt someone's feelings.

5. Always say thank you when served something.
6. Eat slowly and don't gobble up the food.
7. Don't reach over someone's plate for something. Politely ask that the item to be passed to you.
8. Do not pick anything out of your teeth, it's gross. If it bothers

9. Always use a napkin to dab your mouth, which should be on your lap when not in use.
10. When eating at someone's home or a guest of someone at a restaurant, always thank the host and tell them how delicious it was, even if it wasn't. :)

2nd Annual Family Fun Arts Fest!

The Okaloosa Arts Alliance is now accepting vendors and silent auction items for the 2nd annual Family Fun Arts Fest, which will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2009 from 11:00am to 5:00pm at Henderson Beach State Park. For more information, contact Amy Baty, Executive Director at info@okaloosaarts.org.

The Okaloosa Arts Alliance in conjunction with the Friends of the Emerald Coast State Parks is holding the Family Fun Arts Fest. Events will include performances by local artists and family fun activities. A silent auction and booths with fine arts, crafts and food will also be set up throughout the day. Henderson Beach State

Park is located on Hwy 98 in Destin across from the Destin Wal-Mart. The Festival and Park are free and open to the public all day, with parking available in the Park.

The first Family Fun Arts Fest held on May 18, 2008 was a success, with over 1300 people in attendance.

A message from the Founder/Director...*Nellie Bogar*

We have a new President. And hopefully, a change for the better is on the way! But....don't just sit back with your arms folded waiting for President Obama to make a change in your life. You need to start making a change in your life yourself! True, "the economic situation" is taking some things out of our control, but there are some things that we CAN control about ourselves.

You have to have a burning desire for change deep inside you before you can actually change...just ask someone who's always trying to lose weight or trying to quit smoking or trying whatever it is that

needs to be altered for the better.

I have a couple of students in my after school program who just "don't want to". They don't want to do their homework, they don't want to help clean up (even their own messes), and they don't want to take part in group discussions or be involved in anything but themselves. But they come running like bunnies when its time to play on the Playstation or those other little hand-held game "thingies". And don't get me wrong, I do believe that children need play-time, even we adults

need to relax and play sometimes, but work should come first (especially if you like groceries and having a roof over your head).

Here's a "Honeydo List" for everybody...*not just husbands:*

- Volunteer to help **SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE!**
- Teach your children the basics: how to say "please" and "thank you" and self-respect and love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control and faithfulness.
- Pray (and then keep quiet and wait on the Lord's answer) :)

Services Offered at Youth Village

- Literacy Enrichment
- Homework Assistance
- Computer Assistance
- Character Building
- Conversations Between Us Girls Program
- Bullying Prevention
- The Arts: Drama, Dance
- Games/Movies
- Tennis lessons
- "The Reading Circle"
- Arts & Crafts
- Mentoring
- Nutritional snacks

This is our 10-year anniversary and we are expanding our services to the children of our community by including nutritional information, fitness and cultural awareness.

This is the year of:

"The Fitness Kids...gettin' our bodies and minds in shape!"

Volunteers and donors...we need your support!

Some reasons why our donors continue to support us:

- Their belief in our mission
- Our numerous Community Service Projects
- Our unique " We're a Family" concept
- To invest in our children

Whether you were raised to help others or you always wanted to give back to the community. Whatever your reason the satisfaction that you feel is not only personal, but it can be shared as well. **Our volunteers:**

- Enjoy working with children
- Enjoy meeting people
- Has a desire to give back to their community!

*Youth Village is a 501C3
nonprofit corporation*

Federal Tax ID: #20-1319298

Solicitation Registration: #CH23296

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Youth Village, Inc. is a 501C3 non-profit organization located at 312 Pelham Road in Ft. Walton Beach. It was founded in 1999 to create a safe place to provide various educational and recreational services to the children of our community.

We are open during the school year from 2:00pm-6:00pm and during the summer months from 7:30am-6:00pm.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to lend our individual and organized aid to support, teach and uplift the youth of our community in an educational, spiritual and moral manner by providing them with a place to meet, fellowship and learn in a safe, adult-supervised environment.

Our Board of Directors

- Merchelle Hixson-Wells, Chair
- Dann Wallis, Vice Chair
- Erin Bakker, Board Member
- Geretta Bogar, Board Member
- Cedric CC Fearson, Board Member
- Kathy Foster, Board Member
- Al Gardner, Board Member
- Jimmy James, Board Member
- Joel T. Knight, Board Member
- Tanya Michetti: Board Member
- Luann Pulliam, Board Member
- Barbara Wall, Board Member
- Eddie Phillips, Advisor to the Board
- Nellie Bogar, Founder/Director

Congratulations to Board Member Barbara Wall

The Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women has chosen Mrs. Barbara Wall as a member representing District 3 for 2009!

OCCSW was formed in 1995 by the Board of County Commissioners with the purpose of recognizing and honoring women who have made significant contributions to the improvement for women and for the citizens of Okaloosa County. For more information visit their website:

www.occsww.org

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give"...

Sir Winston Churchill
