



Jesup Housing Authority

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Mark A. Watson, Executive Director

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PRESS RELEASE 10/28/05

In conjunction with the celebration of Red Ribbon Week in Wayne County, as organized by the Wayne County Red Ribbon Committee, the Jesup Housing Authority sponsored the third annual "Red Ribbon Festival" on Thursday, October 27th, 2005 at Cogdell Park in the JHA's Bayview Neighborhood. Vic Drawdy, Director of Resident and Employee Services for the JHA coordinated the event. Opening the ceremony, Mark Watson, Executive Director of the JHA noted that last year Steve Carrier (nickname "Big Glory") was present and displayed magnificent "feats of strength" for the crowd, including breaking baseball bats, busting soda cans open, bending frying pans, and tearing an Atlanta phone book in half. Watson explained that due to federal budget cuts, the JHA was unable to book "Big Glory" for the ceremony, so they had to book "Kinda" Big Glory (aka Vic Drawdy.) Since Watson had doubts about KBG's ability to perform the same feats of strength, the program was modified to include the following items: breaking 1/4" wood dowels, bending an aluminum-plastic baking pan, busting water balloons, and tearing an edition of the Press-Sentinel in half. Amazingly, Drawdy was able to perform these not-so-amazing feats of strength. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department with Sheriff John Carter and the Jesup Police Department with Captain Luther Hires were recognized with the presentation of plaques of appreciation for their service to our community. Paul Drawdy, Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia, Wayne County Unit, talked to the crowd about his experiences in law enforcement and his experiences in fighting drugs as a narcotics officer. Watson also explained the origins of Red Ribbon Week, including the story of DEA Agent Kiki Camarena. Free hot dogs, popcorn, cokes, moon walks, an inflatable slide, and an inflatable obstacle course were setup for the kids at the festival. Fall festival-type games with a Toy Store were also set up for the festival-goers. All food and games were free to the public. A bicycle, donated by Wal Mart, was given away in a drawing. The winner of the bicycle was Mark Madray. The Jesup Housing Authority also sponsored a coloring contest for its residents, with the following winners:

Mark Watson, Executive Director of the Jesup Housing Authority, had these comments regarding the first annual Red Ribbon Festival:

"The Red Ribbon Festival was a huge success for the Jesup Housing Authority and for our community. There was a great turnout for the event, and it was exciting to see the look of excitement on everyone's face at the festival, from volunteers to the children enjoying the games and rides. Events like this help to unite our community and remind us of the importance of

guiding our young people in the right direction. It was especially important for us to recognize the tremendous effort put forth by the Jesup Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Butch Hutcheson, and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, under the leadership of Sheriff John Carter, in fighting the war against drugs in our community. I'd also like to thank the staff of the Jesup Housing Authority, who have worked long hours to get all of the details taken care of for the festival. I'd also like to thank the over volunteers from the community who helped by working games and serving food. Tina Hinson, chairperson of the Wayne County Red Ribbon Committee, and Heather Altman of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce also worked long hours to coordinate all of the Red Ribbon Week events. With over the huge turnout we had for the festival this year, we can't wait to start planning for a bigger and better festival for next year."