



Upcoming Freedom West Alumni Events

Black History Celebration
February 5th

Mother's Day Celebration
May 14th

Father's Day Celebration
June 11th

National Night Out
August 2nd

Freedom West Family Day
September 24th

Holiday Grocery Giveaway
December 10th

Freedom West Residents Reflect on MLK Holiday:

With the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday being observed on January 17, citizens throughout the nation had an opportunity to reflect on the legacy and teachings of the civil rights icon. For many Freedom West residents, the holiday served as a reminder of the great gains achieved under Dr. King—and of the progress still left to be made.

Carol Rivers, a longtime Freedom West resident, was in junior high school when she heard the news that Dr. King had been assassinated. She still vividly remembers the surreal moments that happened in the immediate wake of the tragedy in 1968.

“Everything just stopped,” said Rivers. “The school closed. We were all sent home. And I remember walking down to Market Street and just seeing rows and rows of police officers in riot gear. It was like they were waiting for something that wasn’t going to happen. It was just very difficult to understand.”

Rivers recalled that her school would gather for assemblies to discuss the teachings of Dr. King while he was still alive. Those were formative moments in her early life.

“It wasn’t like he was in our textbooks or anything, but the civil rights movement was very much a part of my education,” said Rivers.

Lolly Lewis, who grew up in Marin County before eventually moving to Freedom West, remembers Dr. King’s death as another calamity in what was a tumultuous, volatile time.

“Bobby Kennedy was assassinated that same year as Dr. King, and then there was

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Freedom West’s Management Contact Info: **415-929-1011**

Anthony Maldonado

– Community Manager

Monica Garcia

– Assistant Community Manager

Krystyna Gurova

– Admin. Assistant

Tywon Fitzgerald

– Maintenance Supervisor

Paul Figueroa

– Maintenance Tech

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the Vietnam War,” said Lewis. “I was only in high school at the time, and I wasn’t super political, but it just seemed like the world was falling apart.”

Both Lewis and Rivers said that the enduring legacy of Dr. King was tireless commitment for progress. They said that philosophy is particularly important now,

when efforts are being made to remove historic references to the racism and bigotry that Dr. King fought against.

“We have Martin Luther King Day as a national holiday and that’s very important,” said Lewis. “But we still need to continue to evolve as a society. Part of Dr. King’s message was his need to always continue the fight for equality.”

Community Profile

Ms. Hazel Odom



When did you move to Freedom West?

I moved here in approximately 1978.

What are some of your earliest memories of living there?

I moved here with my children. Four of my six children lived at Freedom West with myself. I remember that the people were always very friendly, the neighbors were congenial and nice, and we always talked with one another. We even had a newspaper for Freedom House residents that we put out. It was a great community, with everyone intermingling.

Do you have a favorite memory of Freedom West?

Well I think it’s important to remember that I had two jobs for part of the time I was living at Freedom West, so I didn’t get too much free time in those early days. I worked in the daytime, so when I got back to Freedom West, I was mostly just there to sleep, so I unfortunately didn’t get to move around the complex that much. But I did know Reverend Hall and it was really special getting to talk to him. I also remember that it was such a nice atmosphere and it was a really friendly neighborhood. I always enjoyed in particular watching the children play on the playground. Those were great memories.

Why do you enjoy living at Freedom West?

I love the people here. It’s a community run by Black folks, but it’s not just for Black folks. There is a lot of diversity here. Everyone speaks to everyone else, there are no big problems. I’ve always felt safe and protected here.

What changes have you noticed during your time living here at Freedom West?

I’ve seen families move in and out, and I’ve seen families stay here. I’ve seen children grow up to have children of their own and even grandchildren. It has been something else to witness that. I’ve also seen the grounds decline in some ways. We need to take better care of these buildings and this property.

What do you hope to see for the future of Freedom West?

I want us all to work together to make this the best possible place to live. I don’t think people understand just how valuable this property is. This is prime property. We need to make sure that we can keep it for ourselves, and to do that, we all have to work together. We need to move beyond our disagreements, listen to the folks who have been here for years and get the right people together to take care of our home.

Do you have any advice that you would like to share with the next generation of Freedom West residents?

Be kind to each other. Realize that we are all in this together. We need to have the Freedom West Board of Directors all working together with the same goal in mind, and I think that’s what they are doing now.

Management Corner

Who to contact in emergency situations:

- If you are experiencing a **medical emergency**, please call 911 immediately.
- Freedom West’s security company is SVR. The security team can be reached at 415-724-3215

Call the management office if:

- There is a repair needed in your unit
- You have an issue with payment of carrying charges
- You have an issue with registering a vehicle to qualify for parking on a Freedom West lot
- You have a pest control issue. Pest Control service is the 4th Wednesday of every month. Please call the office to get on the schedule.
- You have an issue with a neighbor

What to expect at the next Shareholder’s Meeting:

- Pet policy
- Update on new mailbox station installation
- Conclusion of income verification process