

# HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

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Above, scholarship winners Michael Nieves, Jennifer Rodriguez and Emmanuel Jesus Zayas proudly pose with Valerie McLendon, Iris Linares and Helen Jarinko of the Scholarship Committee. Right, Lissette Acosta poses with her award.



## BHA Board Honors Four of BHA's Brightest with Scholarship Money

Good grades and good citizenship earned four BHA residents scholarship money at the annual presentation. The ceremony was part of the May 12th board meeting. Michael Nieves was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship. He plans to study aerospace engineering. Also receiving scholarship money were Jennifer Rodriguez, (\$2,000). Jennifer plans to study International Business. Emmanuel Jesus Zaya (Culinary Arts) and Lissette Acosta (Nursing) both garnered \$1,000 awards. ▲



BETHLEHEM HOUSING AUTHORITY

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### BHA SUCCESS STORIES

If you have been following our Newsletters over the years, you know that we take pride in our former residents who have moved on to successful careers. After reading a story in the local newspaper about a former BHA resident, who was having a book signing later that day, I decided to attend and I am so glad that I did. Marisa de Jesus Paolicelli is an award winning author of two children's educational books. Her first "There's a Coqui in My Shoe" received numerous awards and her second book, "Lightkeepers to the Rescue!" has received numerous awards as well. Marisa has been featured in our Newsletter and has kept in touch with us over the years.

Another shining light for BHA has been Naiomi Gonzalez, who was able to attend Moravian Academy and Moravian College and is presently attending Brite Divinity College in Texas. She has been highlighted often in our newsletters. At the May meeting, our Board Scholarship Committee awarded \$7,000 in scholarship money to four graduating seniors who will be going on to further their education in studies as diverse as Aerospace, International Business, Nursing and Culinary Arts. Be sure to read about Michael Nieves, Jennifer Rodriguez, Lissette Acosta and Emmanuel Jesus Zayas highlighted on page one of this Newsletter. At the June board meeting, 8th Grade Scholarships were awarded to Man Nguyen and Crystal Ortiz. If they continue to keep their GPA at 2.5 or better, they will be awarded \$5,000 when they graduate from high school. We are so proud of these bright and enthusiastic students. We will profile these students in a future newsletter.

Although they cannot all win scholarships, we are proud of and want to congratulate all of our graduating seniors for completing this most important milestone in their careers.

*Clara A. Keady*

# Recreation News

Robbie Robinson

AS part of BHA's recreation program, residents at Monocacy Tower have started a Crafts Club. The participants meet each Monday in the community room where they tackle a new project designed to keep busy and release creative energies. On a recent Monday, we caught up with five ladies who were busy with their latest project. "We are making Easter baskets", said Diane Devarics. Diane, along with Dolores Maldonado, June Ryan, Cathy Luckock and Kelly Tobin were busily weaving ribbon into the plastic forms which will soon become beautiful, useful gifts. "We give them to our grandkids or anyone who wants them", said June



Ryan. The group has created pot holders, jewelry boxes, even bird houses. There is even an idea to make dolls that would be donated to the police, which might be used to comfort young children at emergency scenes. Robbie Robinson supervises and provides the materials through his recreation budget. Robbie also reports that as spring rolls along, he is busy prepping ball fields and playgrounds for the upcoming season. If you live in a high rise, by all means take advantage of these opportunities by contacting the CHOO office. ▲

## BHA Resident Named "Teen of the Year"

Congratulations to Jennifer Rodriguez, a senior at Liberty High School for receiving the 2014 Teen of the Year Award from the YWCA. Jennifer is currently enrolled in Northampton County Community College's Dual Enrollment program, where she is taking introduction to Sociology, while also being enrolled in Advanced Placement courses at Liberty. She is also a member of the Liberty Band, Choir, Key Club, Spanish Club, and captain of the Cancer Crushers, a group that is very close to her heart. Jennifer's strength and resiliency came to the forefront in March 2013 with the passing of her mother from cancer. Jennifer herself is a cancer survivor. After graduation, Jennifer plans to study international business. ▲



Executive Director Clara Keady (right) and Manager Zulma Rodriguez were honored to be in attendance at the award ceremony with Jennifer Rodriguez on April 10, 2014 at the event center at Blue Restaurant.





# RESIDENTS' REMINDER

ZULMA RODRIGUEZ

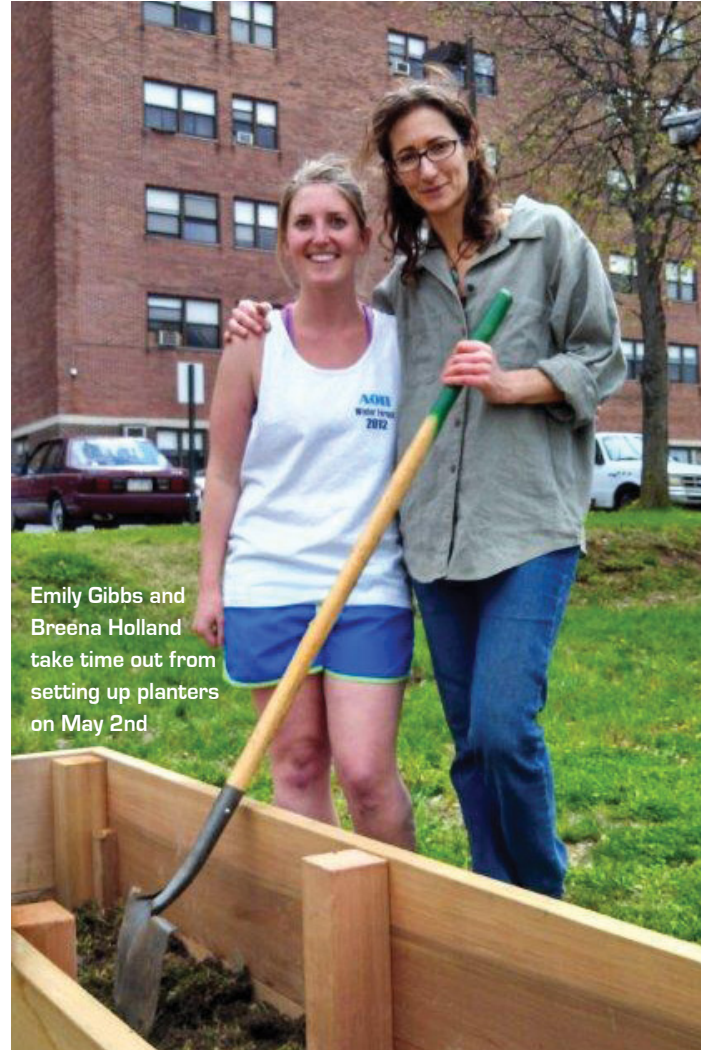
Here's a reminder to all Family Development residents and visitors. Please observe all parking regulations on BHA property. One such example is the rule that forbids parking on grassy areas. Parking is reserved for macadamized areas set aside specifically for parking. Parking is never allowed on lawns and other grassy areas at any time.

We like to remind all residents that there are several things you should always know relative to your time with us. BHA offers Child Care Financial Assistance to you under certain circumstances. Call us to learn more, or refer to the packet of information supplied to you at move in time.

Also, always remember that there are a total of eight emergencies that our maintenance staff will respond to after hours. They are gas odors, blocked toilet/yard vents, serious water line leaks, no heat (winter), no electricity (entire unit), frozen water lines, a serious hazardous condition on BHA property and a lock out. The summer growing season is the time to renovate your lawn. Pick up seed at the Family Development Office. ▲

## Community Garden Takes Shape

Beginning in May, the idea of a long-awaited community garden behind the Litzenberger building finally took shape in the form of the placement of wooden planters. The planters were being filled with compost and soil on the day we visited. Breena Holland, Associate Professor Dept. of Political Science and the Environmental Initiative at Lehigh University was dressed appropriately as she worked with student volunteers in prepping the eight cedar containers. "We placed the planters to the east of the pavilion to take full advantage of the sun", she said. The planters will enable gardeners of all ages to participate. They are also designed to accommodate the disabled. Supporting this endeavor is Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW) which is a group of volunteers working as a subcommittee of the Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council. They recently obtained NWF Community Wildlife Habitat certification for the city of Bethlehem. For the past six years they've provided educational opportunities about the importance of wildlife-friendly and sustainable gardening practices. They also sponsor an annual "Gardening for Wildlife" contest, and participate in service projects such as native plantings at several city parks. They work with schools, churches, and universities to help them certify their grounds as wildlife habitats, as well as promote certification of residences. They've certified over 200 homes, 10 community parks, 4 churches, and 8 educational settings. Bethlehem Housing Authority supports this initiative and has cooperated in numerous ways since it was learned that the long-established community garden would be discontinued at 3rd and New Streets. ▲



Emily Gibbs and Breena Holland take time out from setting up planters on May 2nd





Michael Deeds of Ehrlich Pest Control gave an informative presentation in May

## Bedbug Seminar Focuses on Prevention and Early Reporting

When it comes to bedbugs, experience has shown us that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Infestations of these blood-sucking insects cost us a lot of money in order to eradicate them. “Once they become established, bedbugs are very difficult to eliminate”, says Michael L. Deeds, Commercial Sales Representative with Ehrlich Pest Control Company. Mr. Deeds and an associate were on hand on May 5th and 6th to educate Litzenberger House residents in a mandatory seminar designed to prevent infestations. “We can inform people how to limit the chances of bringing these pests into the building in the first place” he said. “Once they do become introduced, it is crucial that residents learn to quickly identify that they have them so we can arrange treatment early”. Early detection and treatment is critical because once the insects become established and they multiply extermination costs can skyrocket. If you think you may have bedbugs, you must contact your management office immediately. ▲

## HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS

MILLIE MATOS

**We held our fire safety drills in May**, which were followed by mandatory meetings in the community rooms. Fire officials went over the topic of high rise fire safety to emphasize the importance of observing the common-sense rules we hold in effect. We have done this for many years and we intend to continue for as long as we enjoy this cooperative relationship with our local fire department. Our thanks go to Chief Novatnack and his staff for helping us do this. Although I would like to report that we had 100% cooperation from our residents, I cannot say this. Far too many high rise residents consider participation in the drills as a bother. Failure to participate and cooperate can result in disaster in the event of an actual emergency.

**Make certain that your window air conditioner is secured properly.** Improper installations can result in potentially serious accidents!

**My lease tip of the day:**

**Do not** sublease your apartment, and do not accommodate boarders and lodgers, or allow long-term guests (more than 14 days). ▲



These enthusiastic young volunteers lent the muscle on May 2nd.



## CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

### CURT KICHLINE

A contract has been let to replace the emergency generators in each high rise. We are working on a request for proposals to do a "Green Physical Needs Assessment". We are planning to repair floors in selected units at Lynfield and of course, Phase 8 of the Marvine renovation is now out to bid. ▲



Mark Lampietro and Gene Gonzalez joined other local housing advocates at a recent roundtable discussion featuring Lehigh Valley congressman Charlie Dent. The meeting was held May 2nd at the Allentown Housing Authority. The congressman listened to stories about how recent federal funding cuts have adversely affected the Lehigh Valley's neediest citizens. Rep. Dent promised to try to restore funding by working in a bipartisan way on Capitol Hill.

## FRAUD IS A CRIME

The Bethlehem Housing Authority takes fraud seriously. So much so that BHA has a full-time employee whose job it is to investigate any and all cases. Fraud here at BHA means anyone not reporting income, or anyone harboring boarders in public housing. If you know of anyone that is not reporting income to the Authority or is having unauthorized boarders or lodgers in their unit, the Bethlehem Housing Authority has a Hotline to report Fraud.

All inquiries are kept confidential and there is no obligation to leave your name, however if you want the Investigator to call you back, you may do so. This pertains to both Public Housing and Section Eight programs.

The fraud Hotline number is **610-865-8324** and may be answered during business hours. A confidential message may be left at any time. ▲

## DID YOU KNOW?

**I**f you have a police emergency and are Spanish-speaking, you can ask for a Spanish interpreter. The Bethlehem Police Department has a few dispatchers that are bilingual but if one is not working the call taker contacts a service known as "language line" and a 3 way conversation begins. Once the caller asks for an interpreter BPD would call language line and have them handle the translation while they dispatch the call. ▲

**FYI** When it was decided to pursue the idea of "BHA-TV" a year ago, we had a feeling that it had the chance to save time and money as we electronically distributed notices to our high rise residents. We also felt that the idea was bold and innovative. The staff

is delighted to learn that others feel the same way. In May, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations (NAHRO) presented an achievement award to the Bethlehem Housing Authority for this innovative program. The NAHRO Agency Awards Program was created to give national recognition to the achievement and innovation of NAHRO agency/organizational members throughout the country; to provide additional opportunities to inform the public of the best in housing and community development; and to create a resource bank of information on significant, innovative activities performed by housing and redevelopment agencies and community development departments. Since 1989, NAHRO has honored nearly 5,500 programs. ▲





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 Helen Jarinko,  
*Executive Secretary*  
 Mark Iampietro,  
*Deputy Director*  
 Eugene Gonzalez,  
*Deputy Director*

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*Vice Chairman*  
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 Dorothy Saby  
*Resident Commissioner*



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
 SO YOU DON'T  
 MISS OUT ON THESE  
 MEETINGS  
 AND ACTIVITIES!

July 4 .....	BHA office closed for Independence Day
July 14 .....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Aug. 11.....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Aug. 13.....	Resident Advisory Board, 2 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Sept. 1 .....	BHA office closed for Labor Day
Sept. 8 .....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Oct. 18 .....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Nov. 10.....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Central Office .....	610-865-8300
Central Highrise Operations Office (CHOO) Litzenberger, Bodder, Bartholomew and Monocacy Towers.....	610-865-8352 OR 610-865-8353
Central Family Development Office Pembroke, Marvine, Fairmount, Pfeifle, Lynfield, Parkridge and Bayard Homes.....	610-865-8342 OR 610-865-8343
Maintenance .....	610-865-8319