

HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Executive Director.....2

BHA Honors Eighth Grade Scholars2

First Tee Program Teaches Golf and Life Skills to Authority Kids.....2

Residents' Reminders.....3

NAHRO Poster Winner Hails from BHA3

Recreation News.....4

Highrise Highlights.....4

Construction Checklist.....5

Administration and Board Members6

Upcoming Events.....6

Important Phone Numbers.....6



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BHA IS NOW ON FACEBOOK. LOOK FOR US AND LIKE US!

Another BHA Success Story

AS the Bethlehem Housing Authority celebrates 75 years of service, we like to boast a bit about the progress that has been made here during this time. Less obvious signs of progress have to do with our residents themselves. We proudly show off the achievements of residents who manage to move out of public housing to become full participants in society.



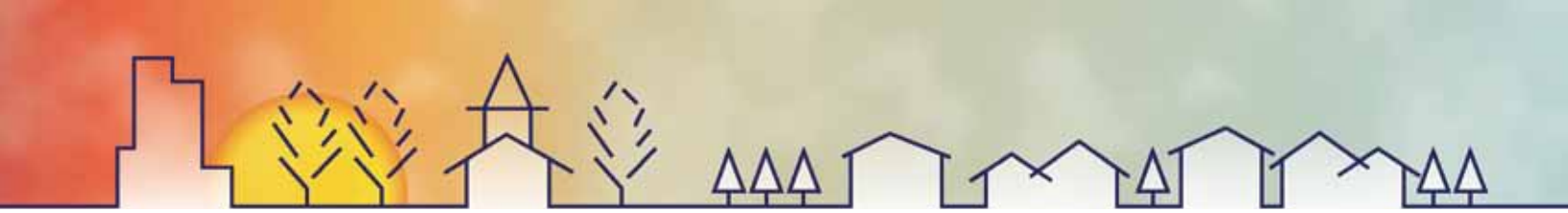
Whether it may be someone who attained success through sports like boxer Ronald Cruz, or through literary fame like Marisa de Jesus Paolicelli, or by pursuing educational opportunities like Naiomi Gonzalez, or even by applying themselves through participation in our Family Self-Sufficiency program, we are very proud of all the residents who make their mark. This issue we salute Chief Edgardo A. Colon, of the Upper Macungie Township Police Department. Edgardo moved to Fairmount community in 1976 as a seven year old. He reports many fond memories growing up in public housing. After attending local schools including Holy Infancy, Northeast M.S. and Liberty High, Edgardo was ready to move up and out. "I was fortunate coming from a stable family environment", Edgardo told us. "I had plenty of friends and I spent lots of time at the Boy's Club. That club was a great experience for me and for others".

In 1984, Edgardo enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp. Following his honorable discharge in 1988, Colón graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in 1991 and gained 25 years of law enforcement and military leadership experience with 15 years of supervisory/command experience. Following his training at the State Police Academy in Hershey, he was assigned to Troop J, Avondale until 1995 until transferring to Troop M, Bethlehem. As a

Trooper, he served as a Criminal Investigator and subsequently served as a Corporal and Patrol Supervisor in Troop N, Lehighton and Troop M, Bethlehem and Crime Unit Supervisor Troop M, Fogelsville. In August 2006, he was promoted to Sergeant & Patrol Supervisor Troop K, Philadelphia then to Crime Section Supervisor, Troop M Bethlehem and afterwards to Station Commander, Troop M Trevoze. In February 2009, he was promoted to Lieutenant and Assistant Department Discipline Officer and finally to Station Commander, Troop M, Fogelsville in April 2010. During his law enforcement career, Mr. Colón has received several professional awards and has served on the Negotiation Unit of the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT). When an opening presented itself in Upper Macungie, he applied and became the first Latino to ever serve in this position.

We asked Edgardo to pass along some personal advice to today's youth: "I recognize that my situation was different than some of the challenges youth face today. Thankfully I was never exposed to various forms of abuse. My message is for youth to surround themselves with good people. Even at a very young age, I realized the "situation" I was in. Despite being poor, I felt rich with the love of my parents. I often tell youth to keep their eyes and ears open and don't be afraid to learn from other people's mistakes and to find positive influences and situations, such as the Boys Club. Set your goals and stay focused on them. Don't let others compromise your goals. I tell the [older] youth to remember that misery loves company and those "friends" that attempt to lead you down a bad path are not truly friends." ▲





FROM THE
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

**75 SUCCESSFUL
YEARS OF
SERVICE**

At our October board meeting, we will officially celebrate the 75th Anniversary of BHA. At this meeting we will surely receive accolades from Political dignitaries and we will proudly accept them on behalf of the present and previous Commissioners, Directors, Supervisor's, Manager's, Clerks and Maintenance personnel who have made it all possible.

A tour through our developments and high rise buildings are a true testament to our commitment to provide safe, decent and affordable housing to low income, elderly and disabled persons.

For almost 25 years we have been providing additional Police coverage to our properties and along with it, a partnership with the Police Administration and Officers that has proven to be of great service to BHA, the residents and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Although our staff is small, compared to other large housing authorities, we have managed to keep up with the revolving changes and funding cuts imposed by HUD. In addition for most of the last ten years, we have been designated with a High Performer status for both Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs. The credit goes to our hard working staff for this honor.

As the current Director, I will endeavor to continue the commitment to our Mission Statement, the residents and tax payers of Bethlehem.

Clara A. Keady

BHA Honors Eighth Grade Scholars

The BHA scholarship program honored two winners at the June board meeting. Man Nguyen (Nitschmann) and Crystal Ortiz (East Hills) received they received a scholarship for future college funding. Mr. Nguyen is an honor student who maintains perfect attendance. He tells us that his favorite subject is physics. Miss Ortiz represents a family tradition in that she is the fifth member of the Ortiz family to garner a BHA scholarship. Our congratulations are offered to these fine young people and to their proud families. ▲



Crystal Ortiz poses with her scholarship as her proud family looks on.

Man Huynh Nguyen accepts his 8th grade scholarship and poses with Commissioner Iris Linares.

First Tee Program Teaches Golf and Life Skills to Authority Kids

The First Tee has established Nine Core Values that represent some of the many inherently positive values connected with the game of golf.

By participating in The First Tee, young people are introduced to these core values which are incorporated throughout the program. Parents are encouraged to reinforce these behaviors by talking about them, what they mean and what these behaviors can look like at home.

The First Tee Nine Core Values

Honesty
Integrity
Sportsmanship
Respect
Confidence

Responsibility
Perseverance
Courtesy
Judgment



Executive Director Ed Jachim of "Embrace Your Dreams" has the attention of his young participants at a recent session at BHA's First Tee center.





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.▲



Poster winner Emely Gilot accepted her certificate in June.

NAHRO Poster Winner Hails from BHA

As part of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organization's (NAHRO) Housing America campaign, a poster contest is held each year for children residing in affordable housing and community developments owned or administered by NAHRO member agencies. Posters reflect the national theme of "What Home Means to Me." The contest is a collaborative effort of NAHRO's chapter/state, regional, and national organizations. National honorees are selected from chapter/state-level winning entries.

We are pleased to inform you that Emely Gilot's submission to the NAHRO "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest has been selected by the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) as their First Place Winner in the High School Category. They forwarded her submission to NAHRO for consideration in the national competition. Emely's poster was displayed and her essay was read at the closing breakfast of the recent PAHRA conference in Hershey. ▲



From your Community Police Officers: Sgt. John Lamana reminds all residents that the police stand to serve and protect them, and that very little is needed in return. "One thing that we do need in order to do our jobs well is cooperation from residents." This cooperation comes in the form of calling the police promptly when there is a problem. "Let us know about an incident or a crime immediately as soon as you hear or see something", he said. Emergencies should always be called in to the 9-1-1 center. All other types of problems may be called to the substation number which is **610-865-7222**.



On July 23, BHA hosted a Housing Choice Voucher landlord roundtable designed to clarify the program requirements to participants. On hand were more than twenty landlords plus members of the legal community. Manager Sue Balmoos went over BHA/HUD inspection criteria, rent abatement and the rent increase process. There was a question and answer period that followed the two hour program. Assisting Sue were Pat Donchez, Jim Harell and Patti Buhay.



Recreation News

Robbie Robinson

BHA honored dads with a Father's Day trip to beautiful Coca Cola Park on June 15th. Under sunny skies, the participants enjoyed a great game, refreshments and fellowship. Among those who enjoyed the day were Victor Cordoba, son Victor and daughter Natila, Jesus Ruigas and son Ryan, Rick Cole with sons Johsi and Zahmire, Shawn Westwood and his son Shawn and Josue Ruiz and his son Kenneth.

Kids had plenty of opportunities for fun this summer. In addition to the First Tee Golf Learning Program held at the center, we also had other activities planned such as our flag football competition. Kids from all developments were included for spirited games held at the Steven Godbolt Recreation Center. ▲



In Memory Of

...**Reggie Cora**, who passed away on July 6 following an illness. Reggie served his country in the Air Force, and worked for a time at Bethlehem Housing Authority before embarking on his career in law enforcement. Reggie started as a Bethlehem Police officer in 1969, rising to the position of Sergeant in 1981. Following his retirement, he joined Northampton County's Sheriff's Department as a detective. Reggie also served the Bethlehem Housing Authority as a commissioner. He served as chairman of the board for a term. ▲



Officer Reggie Cora, circa 1970



Reggie Cora
BHA commissioner, 2004





CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST ✓

CURT KICHLINE

The Marvine renovations continue in phase # 8; we are close to renovating the Family Development Office. High Rise residents will soon note that building generators will be replaced by new, more powerful models. ▲



On June 20-22nd, almost 400 Chevrolet Camaros converged in Frederick, Maryland for the 16th annual Camaro Nationals. Each year, the Mayor of Frederick attends the show and selects a car to receive the "Mayor's Choice" Award. Here, Mayor Randy McClement is presenting this year's award to Curt Kichline, BHA's Construction Manager. Curt bought his 1968 Camaro as a project in 2011, and spent the next 2 years restoring it, performing the work in his garage. The car is a replica of the "Sunoco Camaro" that was entered in the 1968 Trans Am racing series.



Officer Mike DiLuzio officially joined the BHA community detail in August. Mike's path to police work took some unusual turns. As he describes it, "I grew up in Bethlehem and attended Bethlehem Catholic HS. I graduated magna cum laude at Shippensburg University where I majored in computer science / software engineering and had a minor in journalism. In college, I worked for a software engineering firm developing software for the gas, electric, and water utilities. I also worked for the United States Department of Agriculture. After graduation, I became an assistant manager for a lumber company in central Pennsylvania until I was hired by the Bethlehem Police Department in 2006. I worked in the patrol division for the past 8 years, most of that time on the 3rd platoon. I worked a brief stint in the crime scene unit and also served as a field training officer. In my off time, I have a small business buying homes and doing construction projects." Like his fellow BHA officers, Mike is bike certified and he looks forward to meeting the residents of public housing and helping serve them as a community officer. ▲

The Balance Matter Program is a workshop for Seniors that teaches them how to prevent falls and fractures. This past August 4 we had the first group to finish this program in Spanish. All participants are tenants from BHA High Rise at Litzenger building.



Ever-changing regulations require that BHA provide continuous training programs. On July 29, 2014, all clerical employees attended a day-long session.





Bethlehem Housing Authority
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Executive Secretary
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Deputy Director
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Deputy Director

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Vice Chairman
 Iris Linares
 Valerie McLendon
 Dorothy Saby
Resident Commissioner



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Oct. 13	Board Meeting, 2 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Nov. 10.....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Nov. 11.....	Veterans Day, BHA offices closed
Nov. 12.....	Resident Advisory Board, 2 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving, BHA offices closed
Dec. 8.....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Dec. 25-26	Christmas, BHA offices closed
Jan. 1	New Year's Day, BHA offices closed
Jan. 12	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day, BHA offices closed
Feb. 10.....	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Feb. 19.....	President's Day, BHA offices closed

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