

HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

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Parkridge Homework Program Takes Off



For Julissa Alvarez, it's a chance to serve her community. For Robbie Robinson, it's an opportunity to provide another BHA-sponsored activity. For Roy Ortiz, it means demonstrating to kids how they can be successful through education. For Qey-Anni Sanborn, it's a chance to get to do her homework correctly.

For all of these people and for others, the Parkridge Community Homework Club, which kicked off in December 2014, is something special. On the day we visited the Ed Miller Community Center, the activity room was buzzing with well-behaved elementary school aged kids who call the Parkridge community home. The brand new after school program was an opportunity to turn the empty and under-used facility into a hub of activity. Here, the students, ages 6-10 and all attendees at Clearview Elementary, partake of a snack, then receive some scholastic attention, designed to help them become better students. One helper,

Julissa Alvarez lives in Parkridge. She fulfills her community service requirement by helping at the program, which runs three days each week.

For Mr. Robinson, who serves BHA as its activities coordinator, an after school program is yet another in a long line of activities BHA tries to provide its residents. "The authority really has wanted to get something going here for some time now. We have successful after school programs in the northeast and at Lynfield so we really felt the need to provide help to Parkridge's kids", he added. "Up and running, teachers from Clearview school will be here to help the children", he said.

Sitting at a table working on her math homework between sips of apple juice, Qey-Anni Sanborn pretty much sums up what the program hopes to achieve. Getting youngsters off on the right foot so that education becomes a path to success. ▲



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



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you have been following the history of BHA over the last 75 years on our website and now on Facebook, you must agree that it is nothing short of amazing that we have come this far; amazing only because of the funding cuts and setbacks that we have experienced over the years.

One thing we have continued, in spite of the setbacks is our Recreation Program. Children, Adults, including Senior Citizens have the opportunity to travel in our 14 passenger mini-bus to various activities, including Holiday parties. The high rise residents can enjoy a trip to the Poconos in the fall or tour beautiful Bethlehem during the Christmas season. There are always weekly shopping trips scheduled and if you are wheel chair bound, there is a spot on the bus to accommodate you, first come first served of course.

Our Activities Director, Robbie Robinson is always willing and eager to hear your suggestions for future trips.

In order to justify taking the bus out of the garage, Robbie is required to have at least ten residents on each trip. That is why it is important to call the high rise office to sign up early when he posts the trips on the bulletin boards.

Spending the money on repairs or considering replacing this 1995 mini-bus depends on the amount of use it gets, so please sign up for trips scheduled, and demonstrate your support for the programs. Feel free to contact Robbie with suggestions. His number is 484-239-0564.

Clara A. Keady



The October 13 board meeting served as the "official" birthday of the Bethlehem Housing Authority and a year-long celebration was capped by the appearance of several dignitaries who stopped by to salute BHA. Democrats State Representative Steve Samuelson (135th District) and Mayor Bob Donchez await their turn at the podium along with US Congressman Charlie Dent (R), who serves the 15th Congressional District. Each lauded the Authority for its long commitment to low-income citizens. Rep. Samuelson presents a citation to Chairman Joe Long. Audience members viewed a video about the history of public housing in Bethlehem and were treated to light refreshments following the meeting.

Fraud Department

From our Fraud Department (or FACO), this reminder: ***Your dwelling lease contains a clause under "Tenant Obligations" saying very clearly that "tenants shall be obligated to never assign the Lease, nor sublease their dwelling unit"***. What this means is that your unit is intended for you and your immediate family only. In other words, only those listed on the lease that is signed by the head of household. You may not rent your assigned unit to others. Doing so constitutes a major lease violation, which can lead to eviction. ▲

RECREATION NEWS

Robbie Robinson

As we head into the Winter season, there will be plenty of recreation opportunities especially for high rise residents. As always, fall foliage trips took place and special nighttime tours of Bethlehem's beautiful Christmas lights allowed residents to experience the beauty that is the Christmas City. In addition, a slate of shopping excursions will be planned. All that we ask is that you help us fill our bus. Contact the CHOO office for additional information and as always, watch BHA-TV for information. ▲





RESIDENTS' REMINDER

ZULMA RODRIGUEZ

Thanks to all for your patience while the FDO undergoes much needed renovations. The work is quite comprehensive as it provides additional workspace for the clerks while also seeing to it that clerks and clients are afforded optimum privacy. In addition to new work stations, we are replacing worn carpets, adding more file storage and more. Cold weather is here and as always I like to remind residents of ways they can help keep warm while helping save energy dollars. If you have a window air conditioner, remove it! Do not block your heat source. Set your thermostat to 68 -70 degrees and don't forget that when it is really cold at night, you may need to wear a little extra clothing to be truly comfortable. Contact maintenance with a no heat emergency. ▲

DID YOU KNOW?

Soliciting

If anyone comes to your building attempting to sell you something, please know that the city of Bethlehem requires solicitors to be properly licensed. You have a right to ask to see their permit for solicitation. If someone does not have a permit, report them to city police immediately. ▲

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Mirella Snow

This edition, BHA salutes Maritza Morillo as our latest success story. According to Maritza, who is a Housing Choice Voucher participant involved in the Family Self-Sufficiency program, the program has played a major role in improving her life and that of her family. "My goals were to obtain a full-time job, get a driver's license and a car of my own, and learn English and to buy my own home", she said recently. The FSS program encourages residents to commit to a series of personal goals, and then works with them to achieve them. Mirella Snow, BHA's FFS manager has this to say: "Maritza is a great example of how this program works. She had a long list of goals and they seemed insurmountable, but with patience and persistence, she has achieved them all. We are very proud of her." If you too wish to achieve your dreams, the road begins with a simple telephone call to the FSS department. Contact Mirella or Norma at 610-865-8372. ▲



MILESTONES

SAY hello to three new employees, all of whom have passed their probationary period and are full-time members of our BHA family. Madeline VanDyk is a clerk assigned to the Family Development Office in northeast Bethlehem. Kathy Pester assumes the primary role as our Central Office receptionist. Ricky Hausman is a new hire within the maintenance department. He handles the custodial duties at the Bartholomew House. Welcome to all! ▲



Madeline



Kathy



Ricky





HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS

MILLIE MATOS

BHA-TV continues to be the source of all BHA news and as we head into our second year with this service, I ask that if anyone has a suggestion or a question about it, they call me directly. There is even more that we can do. Would you like your neighbors to know if it is your birthday, or anniversary? We can post it on BHA-TV. Call me or stop by the CHOO office. Now that Winter is here, indoor comfort is important. You can save energy and optimize your comfort if you have your window air conditioner removed. Leaving the unit in is like having a window open and this allow heated air out and cold air in. Call the office with questions! ▲

BHA Employees Continue to Help the Needy with Donations of Canned Goods

FOR ten years, the employees of the Bethlehem Housing Authority have routinely helped the needy with donations of canned and non-perishable goods through direct contributions to local agencies. Every other Friday (twice each month) boxes of donated goods find their way to the needy by way of the Northeast Ministry, The Salvation Army and soon, the Lynfield food bank. At a rate of forty pounds per month, that computes to 4,800 pounds in the past decade. The two tons of goods end up in the agencies food banks, earmarked for the citizens who can really use the help. BHA is proud to participate in this way. ▲



BHA high rise residents had a chance to learn about identity theft at a series of sessions held on Dec. 11. David P. Shallcross, an Elder Abuse Unit Leader from the state was on hand to educate all on this ongoing problem. Our thanks go to State Representative Steve Samuelson for putting this together.



Our roving photographer captured this scene along the beautiful Monocacy creek back of the Monocacy Tower on October 29th. Jose Colon is trying his hand fishing for trout as Daisy Nieves-Figueroa watches.

In Memory

Wayne Rummel passed away unexpectedly in October. Wayne had been employed with the maintenance department for many years. He was the fellow who operated the dump truck and the street sweeper. In addition, he played a major role during snow removal. Wayne's family and his BHA family will surely miss his dedication and good work. ▲





CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

CURT KICHLINE

Our review begins with Marvine where we continue the comprehensive renovations on the final 44 units; we are also moving toward the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in each unit. Floor repair work is also slated. In the high rises, new generators are online at Bodder, Bartholomew and Monocacy while a temporary one is active at Litzenberger. That building will be completed soon. The renovations at the Family Development Office are ongoing and we are on schedule for the most part. ▲



Clara Kendy and Mark Iampietro represented the Bethlehem Housing Authority at the Bethlehem YCWA's 87th annual business meeting in August. The meeting was held at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem. In addition to hearing from keynote speaker Jaspen Boothe, Founder & President of Final Salute, Inc., they were proud to see that former BHA employee Staci Bell received the Racial Justice Award. The award is given to people who demonstrate leadership in working to eliminate racism and in promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. Staci acknowledged the fact that her time at the Bethlehem Housing Authority ignited her interest in promoting racial justice. We offer our hearty congratulations to Staci Bell.

BHA Salutes the Lynfield Tenant Council

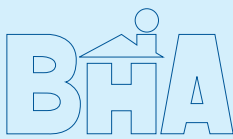
Under the strong leadership of Roy and Martha Ortiz, this organization has created a real sense of community at Lynfield. Whether it be after school programs, arts and crafts, sports or just celebrating holidays and birthdays, the Lynfield community is a better place thanks to the combined efforts of all. ▲





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ADMINISTRATION

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Joseph Long
Chairman
 David Sanders
Vice Chairman
 Iris Linares
 Valerie McLendon
 Dorothy Saby
Resident Commissioner



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- Feb. 10.....Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Feb. 16.....President's Day, BHA offices closed
- March 9Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- March 11Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 2 p.m.,
 Monocacy Tower
- April 3.....Good Friday, BHA offices closed
- April 13.....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