

HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

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Litzenberger House is the backdrop for the soon to be completed Pavilion along the Greenway.

Litzenberger House Plays Role in New Bethlehem Park

About 1.4 miles of a proposed 3-mile park has been created from the former Norfolk Southern rail line between East Third and East Fourth streets in south Bethlehem. City officials dedicated this unique park recently and are already discussing eastward expansion, toward Saucon Park. The **Andrew Litzenberger building** is situated practically in the middle of the greenway, between Taylor and Webster Streets. Although the eventual plan is to landscape each section along the route, the Litzenberger area has seen improvement beginning this past spring.

We were approached by members of Lehigh University's Southside Initiative, as well as by the City of Bethlehem to partner in this plan. Several staff members met with Lehigh representatives in February to discuss the plan. BHA had a chance to offer input and Litzenberger

residents were also represented. *The stated objective is to create a destination promoting recreation, relaxation and education.* A Chinese Pavilion, when completed, will offer a comfortable respite for visitors. A sculpture provides visual interest, while gardens offering native flowering plants will attract birds and butterflies and will help to promote a healthy urban environment. Eventually, a community vegetable garden will be added. Education-wise, it is hoped that signage will be part of this section, describing past use of the site as a brewery, for most of the twentieth century. Darlene Heller and Ralph Carp of the City of Bethlehem are primary stakeholders along with John Pettigrew, Jason Slipp and Roxanne Steelman-Couch of Lehigh University. For our part, BHA is proud to be a part of such a unique plan to enhance our city. ▲



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to our Most Beautiful Yard contest every summer, our properties can compete with almost any other neighborhood in the City when it comes to flowers, bushes and yard decorations. The residents, who take the time to plant flowers and decorate, show us a pride in the property where they live. Their hard work to beautify the rental property is recognized and appreciated by BHA staff and Commissioners, as well as city residents who drive through our properties.

Soon the leaves will begin to fall off the trees and we will see many residents using their rakes (provided by BHA) to gather the leaves. Your help, along with our resident grounds workers makes a big difference in keeping the family developments free of leaves and litter.

Once the leaves are gone, it will be time to use the snow shovels that we provide to all of our family development residents. If you should need a replacement for your rake or shovel, contact the Family Development Office.

Clara A. Keady



PGA professional Tom Fenstermacher teaches the game of golf and imparts everyday values to his young students as part of BHA's golf learning program.

Meet Tom Fenstermacher

BY now, nearly everyone has heard about the First Tee Program, co-sponsored by BHA and Embrace Your Dreams. This innovative golf learning program combines sports with life lessons. BHA residents are fortunate to have annual access to this program, which helps to produce well-rounded youngsters, and we are indeed fortunate to have as a teacher/mentor, Mr. Tom Fenstermacher. Tom has been connected to this program since the beginning and he really believes in it. As a registered USGA golf professional, Tom brings a world of talent and experience to the program. Recently, we asked Tom some questions.

Q How long have you been involved in golf and how did you start?

A I have played golf for 46 years. Both parents played and I started when I was young.

Q As a First Tee instructor, how do you measure success?

A Success at the First Tee is measured not by how many professionals we produce but by whether we can help children change their path and mindset in life for now and their future.

Q What do you enjoy about teaching golf?

A I enjoy the children and the way the program is structured to instill core values and life skills into their lives....too many children today lack a good set of values and life skills. It is gratifying to see them understand the importance of the nine core values that we teach. It's much more than just golf.

Q Do you feel the program makes a difference?

A The emphasis on core values does make a difference because it opens their eyes to better ways to act and behave that they may never have been introduced to. The world of tomorrow needs core values and life skills to make this a better place for everyone. ▲

Introducing...

John Ritter has joined BHA as assistant maintenance supervisor.

Born, raised and still living in Bethlehem, John graduated in 1987 from Liberty High school. He and wife Samantha have two boys, John and Evan. John has been a plumber for the past 25 years, and has been a registered master plumber in the City of Bethlehem for the past 17 years, working mostly in new construction. While away from work, John enjoys camping, golfing and being involved in the sports that his children are involved in, which are wrestling and soccer. John looks forward to meeting and working with the tenants as well as everyone at the Bethlehem Housing Authority. ▲



RESIDENTS' REMINDER

ZULMA RODRIGUEZ

Here's a tip which can save you plenty of headaches: Do you bother to shut down the water supply to your washing machine? The hose connected to the washer is under pressure even when you are not using the machine. If the hose ruptures under pressure, a flood can occur. The simple precaution of shutting off the hose after use can save a lot of trouble for you and for us.

Shortly, it will be holiday decorating season, with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas coming in rapid order. Although we love to see the decorations outside the homes, you are reminded that there is a right way and a wrong way to hang decorations outside. Your lease info packet clearly describes what NOT to do. Please refer to this section of the lease and as always, call the FDO office with any questions.

Graffiti should not be tolerated in ANY community. It frequently, if left intact, leads to the degradation of a neighborhood and the devaluation of property. Studies have shown in many cases that if graffiti is left unchecked and not removed, more and more graffiti will appear. Please contact the FDO office or the maintenance department immediately to report the presence of graffiti. ▲

Local Boxing Champ Has Ties to BHA



BHA's Ronald Cruz proudly displays the championship belt he won on June 1.

Ronald Cruz won his first professional boxing title, and he didn't have to leave his backyard to do it. Cruz, of Bethlehem, won a unanimous decision over Prenice Brewer, 118-110, to claim the vacant World Boxing Council Continental Americas welterweight title in front of a sold-out crowd at the Sands Bethlehem Event Center in June.

The 147-pound fighter remains perfect at 17-0 (12 knock-outs) with the victory over Cleveland's Brewer (16-2-1), as of this writing. Ronald is a native of Puerto Rico, but now calls Bethlehem home. He resides with his family in the Lynfield community. Ronald is a product of the Bethlehem Boxing

Club program. The club is located on East Fourth Street in south Bethlehem. Please check out a full profile on BHA's Ronald Cruz at our website, www.bha645.homestead.com. ▲

Recreation News

Robbie Robinson

Among the many fun-filled activities available to BHA kids, the ever-popular sack races, held June 19th at Blazer Field.

In our next issue, we will recap Field Day 2012. ▲



DID YOU KNOW?

41% of the people residing in our family developments are gainfully employed. The average monthly rent paid by family development residents is \$259.12.





The PA. Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) recognizes that adults as well as recent high school graduates need some help with the expenses involved with taking college courses.

PAHRA recently awarded Lynfield resident Lizette Perez with a \$1,000.00 scholarship which will assist in her continuing education at East Stroudsburg University, where she is taking Business Management Courses.

We congratulate Lizette and wish her well in her quest to get a degree. ▲

Commissioner Samuelson Resigns

Commissioner George Samuelson resigned from the BHA Board of Commissioners at the September board meeting. George cited his need to scale back and simplify his involvements outside of the home. He is an active PA Youth Theatre board member and a PTO and PAC representative for Clearview Elementary School, where his daughter Charlotte is enrolled. He has been on the board since March 2007. We appreciate the time George has given us over the last five plus years and wish him the very best in the future. ▲



George Samuelson served on the board since March 2007

HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS

MILLIE MATOS

Here's a true sign of the times: Thanks to the generosity of Service Electric Cable TV and in conjunction with BHA, all of our high rises are now set up for **wireless connectivity**. For those of you who wish to use wireless devices such as I pads, smart phones or laptop computers, you will now be able to connect to the Internet inside any high rise community room. All you need is a password, which is posted inside the room. For those of you with questions, any member of the CHOO staff can help you.

One nice safety feature

within every apartment is the little sticker located next to your apartment entry door that tells you what to do in the event of a fire emergency. The directions tell you or your guest which way to proceed to safety when you hear the fire alarm. Since seconds count, you would do well to know this simple directive at all times. The sticker sends you to the nearest emergency exit. If your sticker is defaced or missing, call the CHOO office immediately! ▲

Boy's and Girl's Clubs Provide Wholesome After School Activities for All Children.

BHA families are indeed fortunate to have a club so convenient to their communities. The south side club is located on East Fourth Street near Webster. The northeast club is located in the 1400 block of Fritz Drive.

The clubs are part of a national organization of local chapters which provide after-school and summer programs for young people. Some of the programs provided include Education & Career Programs, Character & Leadership Programs, Health & Life Skills, Arts Programs as well as Sports, Fitness and Recreation programs.

Among the more famous Americans who participated as youngsters are entertainers like Jennifer Lopez, Ashanti, Misty Copeland, and singer Ne-Yo. Also General Wesley Clark, basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey, boxing champ Sugar Ray Leonard, Motown great Smokey Robinson, MLB pitcher CC Sabathia and actors like Denzel Washington, Martin Sheen, Edward James Olmos and Mario Lopez.

If you're not a member, why not join? Did you know that BHA may pay your membership fee? Call us for more information. ▲





CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

CURT KICHLINE

The **Marvine window replacement project** is nearly complete. This job will ensure that precious energy dollars used to heat the apartments are used efficiently. Phase Six of the Marvine apartment renovations is about 15% complete and the next phase was recently approved by the board. Presently, we are planning to improve electronic surveillance in the northeast area. This will assist our police officers in keeping you safe.

We are **replacing the roof at the Litzenberger House** and we are **re-caulking the exterior joints at Monocacy Tower**. We are **expanding the parking lot at Bartholomew** because it is needed, and mostly because we have excess land there on which to do so. ▲



In Memory of...

Rose Hart passed away on June 9th 2012. Also known to friends as Dolly, she worked for BHA for many years in a variety of departments. Many folks remember Dolly during her stint in social services. Dolly's compassion to her clients endeared her to all. She and husband Bernie also resided in public housing for quite some time. Bernie, who worked for BHA's maintenance department passed away 32 years ago. Dolly Hart was 80. ▲

HELP Fund

The Northampton County Medical Society Alliance (NCMSA) is a non-profit organization of physician's spouses dedicated to providing community service and charitable donations that promote health and education in the Lehigh Valley. Through their fundraising, we have established a grant fund called the Health, Education, and Literacy Programs Fund or HELP Fund to support other local non-profit organizations in their endeavors to help the Lehigh Valley community.

This year, they were able to grant two organizations funding for a total of \$8,000 in donations. The recipient of our HELP grant is:

The Northeast Ministry - They will be helping them purchase equipment for a summer education program to teach children in the Marvine Pembroke Housing Development about fitness and nutrition. With childhood obesity a national concern we all feel this program is much needed to get kids invested in a healthy lifestyle as early as possible. Our heartiest thanks go to both organizations. ▲



From left to right, Julia Burfeind, the current President of NCMSA; Stephen Godbolt, Executive Director of the Northeast Ministry; Christy Stehly, St. Luke's Hospital Trauma Research Coordinator; and, Susan Tallick, HELP Fund Chairperson.



Kathy Kusatka calls a game of "grocery bingo" at Monocacy Tower in July. As the name implies, prizes for those achieving Bingo include useful grocery products such as paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergents, dryer sheets and so much more. BHA pays for the products, the Tenant Council purchases them and participants who win, get to choose from the prize table. Grocery Bingo takes place monthly.

Stephen P. Godbolt At press time, we learned of the unexpected passing of Steve Godbolt. Steve, 54, was the long-time executive director of the Northeast Ministry. For a generation of BHA kids, Steve was a surrogate father figure. His generosity, kindness, dedication and fairness to the children of the Bethlehem Housing Authority will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Executive Director and staff, we offer our heartfelt sympathy to Steve's family and many friends. We will have more to say about Steve in our next issue.

Housing Choice Vouchers Sue Balmoo

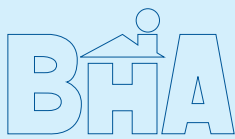
Our program is managing well despite Federal cutbacks over the last decade. Our total lease up is at 470 vouchers at this writing. Our BHA staff works hard collecting rent and other payments and we work with participants to enter into repayment agreements when they fall behind. We gladly work with anyone willing to do so in an effort to help them keep their valuable voucher. We only ask that these participants work with us toward this shared goal. Please contact the Housing Choice Voucher department (Section 8) at 610-865-8331. ▲





Bethlehem Housing Authority
 645 Main Street
 Bethlehem, PA 18018-3899

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ADMINISTRATION

Clara A. Kendy,
Executive Director
 Helen Jarinko,
Executive Secretary
 Mark Iampietro,
Deputy Director
 Eugene Gonzalez,
Deputy Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- Nov. 15Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 2 p.m.,
 Monocacy Tower (Annual, Public Meeting)
- Nov. 12BHA office closed for Veterans Day
- Nov. 13Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Nov. 22–23BHA office closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 10Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Dec. 25–26BHA office closed for Christmas
- Jan. 1BHA office closed for New Year’s Day
- Jan. 14Board 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