



CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

CURT KICHLINE

We continue to **renovate Marvine units**, utilizing funds provided by the Federal Government as part of the *CAPFUND* program. Some maintenance work is necessary to keep shed and mechanical room doors in working order and this proceeds in Pembroke, Fairmount and Lynfield.

We want to **replace the old closet doors at Litzenberger** and this is in the early stages.

We have completed replacement of **plumbing shut off valves at Monocacy Tower** and we are planning to **replace house windows in the Marvine section.** ▲



Bayard Homes received finishing touches recently when sod was laid and shrubbery and trees were planted. This photo shows the lovely effect that this has had on the neighborhood as of May.

DID YOU KNOW?

- If 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.
- BHA deputy director Gene Gonzalez recently gave a presentation to a local Kiwanis Club group. His topic was “All about Bethlehem Housing Authority”. BHA staff members are available to speak to civic groups about public housing. ▲



“Hat’s off” – To 9 year old Jaylynn Perez, whose lofty goal at a young age is to “help save the planet”. She organized an effective volunteer brigade of neighborhood youth on *Earth Day*. The gang was armed with garbage bags and lots of energy and they spent time cleaning up their Lynfield community. Leaves, litter, stones, branches and more got collected and disposed of thanks to these youthful volunteers. Jaylynn really takes community service seriously and it shows. Michelle Negron of the tenant council saw to it the volunteers had trash bags and BHA maintenance hauled the trash away. Now, Lynfield (and the planet) is a lot cleaner!





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
 George Samuelson
 Dorothy Saby
Resident Commissioner



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- July 4 BHA offices closed for Independence Day
- July 11 Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Aug. 8 Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Aug. 12 Field Day, Blazer Field, Pembroke
- Aug. 17 Resident Advisory Board Meeting, 2 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Sept. 12 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 and Parkridge 610-865-8342
 OR 610-865-8343
- Maintenance 610-865-8319

HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

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Note- in this series, we will examine the people who shaped public housing in Bethlehem.

Robert Pfeifle, BHA's First Chairman

The story of Robert Pfeifle reads like a Horatio Alger story.

From humble beginnings as a poor farm boy from rural Bucks County, Pfeifle settled in South Bethlehem in 1902 and began to make an indelible impression on his adopted home. A trained carpenter, he helped build homes in Bethlehem. During his later years of public service, (1937–1958) he had a hand in building neighborhoods for the city's less fortunate as the catalyst behind the Bethlehem Housing Authority. Bob was elected to the town council of South Bethlehem, became a councilman in the newly consolidated city in 1918 and then was elected as a reform mayor in 1929. At the time, Bethlehem was a crime-ridden city. Mayor Pfeifle made cleaning up the city his first order of business. To show his famous ability to solve problems, the new mayor solved the problem of having a corrupt police chief by appointing an ordained minister to the post of chief. The new chief, like the new mayor was not corruptible. Pfeifle cleaned up the city and then went on to serve as the Bethlehem's mayor for an unequalled five terms leading the city through the stock market crash, the great depression and World War II. Bethlehem grew in population from 40,000 to 66,000 (65%) and he saw to it that first-class water, sewer and trash disposal infrastructure was in place to meet the demands of such a city. His vision insured that Bethlehem would continue to grow while other Pennsylvania cities were in decline.



Robert Pfeifle

While he served as mayor, Bob Pfeifle found time to help create the Bethlehem Housing Authority and he served as its chairman from the very beginning until his death. Bob Pfeifle's name was synonymous with BHA for more than twenty years. After his death, a ball field and the city's first development designed and built exclusively for seniors was named in his honor.

An excellent book about Robert Pfeifle was written by Frank Orpe and may be found at the public library. Its title- "Dare to Be Brave." ▲



From 1959, we have a view looking east along Pembroke Road, showing the area soon to be developed as Pfeifle Homes. The homes were ready to rent by 1962 and were the first in the area dedicated to low-income seniors.

At the 1962 dedication of Pfeifle Homes are Mayor Payrow, BHA chairman J. Robert Judd and then State Senator Fred Rooney.



BETHLEHEM
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Services to Residents

In this time of budget constraints and cut backs, we continue to offer services to our residents through our Service Providers such as Northeast Ministry and the Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem. We encourage you to sign up your children to participate in the many programs that are offered by these two Agencies which are situated in the midst of our Northeast Developments

Additionally, we have a full time Activities Supervisor on our staff. Most of you know Robbie Robinson who works out of the Marjorie B. Fink Community Building, on Fritz Drive in Pembroke. He is looking for children and teens from the Northeast area, Lynfield and Parkridge to take part in summer programs such as our Award-Winning First Tee Golf Program. We have baseball fields and basketball courts just waiting for pick-up games to be organized. Robbie can help organize them, all you have to do is call him and tell him how you wish to participate. Give him a call at 484-239-0567 and start planning your summer fun. Remember we have a 14 passenger mini-bus to pick up and take you to the BHA organized functions.

Look for news about our Annual Summer Field Day coming in August!

Clara A. Keady



Recreation News

Robbie Robinson

Many thanks to Steve Godbolt and the Northeast Ministry, who held a nice Easter party for children who live in the northeast communities.

Once again, we supported the annual CAPERS banquet. CAPERS stands for *Community Advocates Promoting Education Recreation Support* and it provides scholarship opportu-

nities for minority students. The scholarships are based on the promise that students agree to return to the Lehigh Valley as teachers, police officers and as nurses. The banquet is a fund raiser for this worthwhile program, which directly benefits BHA kids like Kim Brown, Jonuel Sanchez and Ashley Rivera. ▲



Representing BHA at the March 31 CAPERS banquet, Kim Brown, Jonuel Sanchez, Ashley Rivera and Clara Keady, Executive Director.



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 Barkanik and his staff for helping us do this.

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

My lease tip of the day is: "Do not sublease your apartment, and do not accommodate boarders and lodgers, or allow long-term guests (more than 14 days)." ▲

Award Winning Author Visits Northeast Ministry for Book Reading and Signing

ON Saturday, May 7, 2011, Steve Godbolt, Executive Director of the Northeast Ministry (NEM) had a fun filled morning lined up for approximately 20 children. All were treated to a book reading of Marisa de Jesus Paolicelli's award winning children's book, "There's a Coqui in My Shoe". Ms. Paolicelli was delighted that her publisher sent her enough first edition books for each of the children. All were personally noted and signed by Ms. Paolicelli and each were given a book mark and name plate to personalize their books. Before she read to the children, a slide show explaining the seventeen different coqui's (frog's) in Puerto Rico was shown. One lucky participant with the lucky number won a red Coqui T-shirt. In keeping with the frog theme, BHA combined funds with NEM and purchased small frogs encased in water filled



plastic cubes with colored stones on the bottom. Each of the children got to choose their own to take home with them. Ms. Paolicelli told the children that she grew up on Marvine Street and although her book was rejected by many publishers, she did not give up and eventually her life-long dream was realized when her book was published. She stressed to the children that they should never give up on their dreams.

Prior to the book reading, several representatives from the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Executive Women's International assisted the children in the making of Mother's Day flowers and cards. They also brought with them a table full of books and allowed the children to pick their favorites as keepsakes. Steve made sure that all the children got home safely with their frogs, books and Just Born goodie bags. ▲

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2011 BHA scholarship recipients Kimberly Brown and Genesis Rivera (right) are joined by board members Dot Saby, Joe Long, Dave Sanders and George Samuelson at the May board meeting.



Meet Helen Jarinko

The year was 1963. “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom” with Marlin Perkins premiered on NBC, the Beatles released “Please Please Me”, Pete Rose tripled for his 1st major league base hit, astronaut Gordon Cooper completed 22 orbits in Faith 7, “The Fugitive” premiered on ABC TV and President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. In Bethlehem, Helen Jarinko joined the Bethlehem Housing Authority. Since 1963, the Beatles have come and gone, Pete Rose became baseball’s all time hits leader, manned space has evolved into permanent space stations, The Fugitive became a motion picture and we have had ten different presidents since then. One thing that has remained constant, Helen Jarinko is still with BHA. The Bethlehem Housing Authority was in existence twenty four years when Helen arrived; this year, BHA will celebrate its seventy second year.

“My first job was as executive secretary, the same job I have today”, Helen told us during a recent interview. “When I started, the central office was located in the old farmhouse on Pembroke Road. We moved to Monocacy Tower when it opened in 1974.” Certainly, there have been some significant changes since Helen started. “Oh yes. When I started, I worked for Mr. Bartholomew who was the Authority’s second director. It turns out that I have worked for three of the four directors who have served BHA since 1939”, she added, the others being Frank Loretta and Clara Kendy. “When I started, we used manual typewriters, carbon paper and rotary telephones. The modern technological advances have really made office work easier, but there are still plenty of challenges”, she added. Helen also has memories of how the properties have evolved. “In 1963, Pfeifle was brand new, the first really new construction in years. That was followed by all of the high rises, which were just for seniors when first built. Parkridge and Lynfield really represent the greatest changes. I would say that they are about as nice as any neighborhoods in Bethlehem”.

Helen says that among her cherished memories are relationships she has forged with many coworkers. “I consider them part of my extended family”, she stated. Helen and husband Rodney have been married for 46 years. Although they have no children, Helen considers her pet dogs “Ridge” and “Mick” as her kids. Helen enjoys counted cross stitch needle work and gardening among her pastimes. Someday, she and Rod will travel, hopefully to Jamaica or to St. Thomas for a peaceful dream vacation. Helen tells us that meeting and working with all current and past coworkers has been the greatest reward of her career at BHA. ▲



RESIDENTS' REMINDER

ZULMA RODRIGUEZ

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.

Also, **we welcome Patricia Inouye to the Family Development Office.** She is our newest clerk, so if you see her, say “hello”. ▲

