

HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

IN THIS ISSUE:

Partnership Leads to Homeownership Opportunities.....1

From the Executive Director.....2

Recreation News.....2

Did You Know?2

Highrise Highlights.....3

Monocacy Residents Learn Energy-saving Tips.....3

Residents' Reminders.....4

Employee Spotlight4

Construction Checklist.....5

Partnership with local agency makes participation with youth oriented music festival possible for BHA youngsters.....5

Most Beautiful Yard Contest.....5

Administration and Board Members.....6

Upcoming Events.....6

Important Phone Numbers.....6

Partnership Leads to Homeownership Opportunities

Saturday April 17 was a proud day for BHA. Amie Nessa, a former Fairmount resident was given the keys to a brand new house on James Street. BHA has partnered with Habitat for Humanity and Amie is the fourth resident to take advantage of this program. Amie was a member of BHA's Family Self-Sufficiency program. She received valuable guidance from FSS Coordinator Mirella Snow of BHA and spent the past two years putting "sweat equity" toward the construction of her home. Amie managed this while maintaining full-time employment as a mother of two. Daughter Cierra and son Jo Jo were excited to be part of the dedication; also on hand were Amie's proud mother and grandmother. BHA was well-represented by Vice Chair Iris Linares, resident commissioner Dot Saby, FSS Coordinator Mirella Snow, BHA Homeownership Coordinator Gene Gonzalez and Executive Director Clara Kendy. Mrs. Kendy was involved in the Habitat for Humanity-sponsored "Woman's Build" on James Street back in 2008 and she took pride in showing off a door frame that she helped to build in the garage of Amie's new home. We congratulate Amie and wish her all the best in her new home. ▲



(above) The Nessa home on James Street



(left) Homeowner Amie (center) flanked by her mother (left) and grandmother with daughter Cierra and son Joseph is seen accepting the key to their new home.



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FROM THE
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

ENHANCED
POLICE PRESENCE

As many of you know, we have provided "above the baseline" Policing services to our residents since 1990. By "above the baseline", we refer to non-routine Police calls on our properties.

As with any program in place for ten years, we found the need to make some changes. We feel the new arrangement will work out well for our residents and staff.

Our agreement with the Police now allows us a Sergeant and four Officers working out of the Northeast Substation on the corner of Marvine Street and Fritz Drive. All Officers are "bike certified" which means they will be easily recognizable and easily accessible to you. They will continue to patrol, either by vehicle, bike or on foot, through the family developments, high-rise buildings and BHA Community Buildings.

They are ready and willing to listen to you and work with you on any problem that you bring to their attention.

You can reach the BHA Community Patrol Officers by calling **610-865-7222** and leaving a message on their answering machine or by calling the non-emergency Police number, 610-865-7187 and requesting that Sergeant Kevin Spano return your call.

REMEMBER, if you have a Police or Medical emergency you must call 911 for the quickest response.

Clara A. Keady

RECREATION NEWS

Robbie Robinson

CAPERS stands for Community Advocates Promoting Education Recreation Support. It provides conditional scholarships to Latino and black students pursuing careers as teachers, police officers or nurses. Students receiving scholarships agree to return to the Lehigh Valley upon graduation to serve in their chosen field. CAPERS, founded by local educator Jose Rosado, is a partner with the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. To help raise money, CAPERS held its annual fundraiser banquet March 25 at the Holiday Inn on route 100 in Fogelsville. Guest speaker was Russell Valentini of the Allentown School District.

Once again this past season, our recreation basketball team participated in the Boy's Club League. BHA residents who participated were Jose Rodriguez, Byron Rodriguez, Josh McClammy and Thomas Green. Our team finished the season at 6-4, making the playoffs. ▲



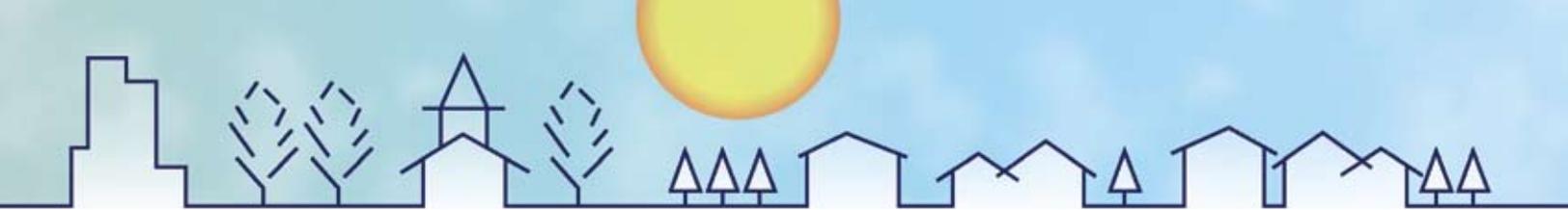
l-r: Byron Rodriguez, Jose Rodriguez, Mrs. Kendy, Oliver Paulino-Rodriguez



DID YOU KNOW?

...that only about half of all public and assisted housing residents receive public assistance? Or that families with children receive three-fourths of all Section 8 vouchers, compared to only one-third of project-based Section 8 assistance? ▲





HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS

MILLIE MATOS

A big question many seniors may be asking now that **health care reform** is upon is - "How does this affect me?" As of this moment, senior citizens and older American's who are covered by Medicare will be less affected by health care reform than other citizens. Americans over 65 years of age (and some who are younger and permanently disabled) qualify for Medicare, which is funded and run by the federal government. Medicare recipients won't experience a drastic change in how they receive medical care. They won't have to worry about choosing an insurance company, whether they have to opt-in or opt-out of public coverage, or whether they will be affected by rationing. For additional information, logon to www.ask.com and follow the links.

This past May, we held our annual "High Rise Fire Safety" program at each building. To those of you who participated, I thank you. Fire safety in a high rise is everyone's responsibility. We are looking for high rise residents who would be willing to look after the flower gardens outside of their buildings. If you would like to help your home look good all summer, please call us at **610-865-8353** and we will talk to you about this. ▲



Monocacy residents received basic energy conservation tips from Ameresco representatives at this meeting in March.

Monocacy Residents Learn Energy-saving Tips

"The power is in your hands" is more than just a catchy phrase. It also happens to be the name of a neat educational program aimed at public housing residents. One of the requirements of the Energy Performance Contract BHA entered into with the Ameresco firm is that representatives from the company visit BHA properties and provide energy saving tips to residents. The tips are an important follow up to the actual physical work that took place during the first phase of the program. "In addition to replacing old electrical and plumbing fixtures, the contractor is committed to educating the residents as to what they can do to further enhance the energy improvements" explained BHA's Director of Capital Improvements Curt Kichline. "We are well aware that in addition to the physical improvements, certain user habits may also need to be modified", he continued. "The ultimate goal is to counsel residents on the basics of energy saving." The sessions, which took place in each community this past March, were designed to explain the steps that residents can take to lend a hand. Ameresco representatives patiently explained simple tips everyone can follow regarding water use, lighting/electricity and heating. Simple, personal adjustments made by residents can further enhance overall energy savings, when added to the other physical changes that have taken place. Some of the simplest energy saving tips are probably the same ones your mother told you about while growing up. Turn off lights when you leave a room. Unplug appliances when not using them (except for your refrigerator). Keep windows closed tight to save heating or air cooling energy. Wash and dry full loads whenever possible. "These time tested tips, when used in conjunction with the adjustments we have made to the building systems will ensure that we save precious resources and dollars", said Mr. Kichline. ▲



RESIDENTS' REMINDER

ZULMA RODRIGUEZ

The warmer weather is here and there are a couple of things I would like to share with my residents. First, use caution when considering placement of a window air conditioner. Remember that **safety codes will not allow placement of an air conditioner in any room with only one window!** Also, remember not to block any window, so that it can be used as an emergency exit in the event of fire. This means that you must not block the window with furniture or other furnishings. If you do not understand this, call us at the development office and we will gladly explain things to you.

Please report the presence of graffiti as soon as you notice it. Call maintenance at 610-865-8319. Join us as we work to make your community safe and attractive.

Remember that you can obtain grass seed to help spruce up your yard. Call the office for information. Once again, we will sponsor the "Most Beautiful Yard" contest. Plant flowers, weed your garden, apply mulch and who knows, perhaps your yard will be chosen as best in class. Hundreds of dollars in prize money will once again be made available.

On April 26th, the Bethlehem Police Department held an **informative session, designed to enlighten staff members about gangs in our communities.** Officer Bill McCauley went over a wide variety of information regarding the influx of gangs and showed slides that shed light on some of the more obvious areas of concern including gang graffiti, gang organization and the names of the various gangs already known to be present in the Lehigh Valley. The thirty five employees who attended came away with plenty of useful information. ▲

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The Bethlehem Housing Authority has served the city's needy for seven decades. In our "Employee Spotlight" series, we will get to know some current associates who have put in thirty or more years with the Authority.

Millie Matos has been employed with BHA since May 7, 1973. She started her career as the secretary for the Tenant Relations office, a program funded by the Department of Welfare and state of Pennsylvania. In 1975, when the Tenant Relations office program ended she was transferred to the Deputy Executive's office as the secretary (Clerk Typist III) and was picked up on BHA's permanent payroll.

By 1989, she was assigned to work out of the Accounting Department assisting the Comptroller until 1995 when she was promoted to Assistant Manager, assigned to the family development office. She held that position for a short period until being then once again promoted to her current position as the Project Manager of BHA's high rises. She also currently holds the position, for a number of years, as the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer (EEO) along with co-worker, Tom Yenko.

As would be the case for any longtime employee, Millie has seen many physical changes to the properties as well as to the various programs. For example, the current "Energy Performance Contract" has already begun to pay dividends, saving energy and utility costs. She also credits the renewed emphasis on safety with improving living conditions at BHA. The community policing program has been very successful.

On a personal note, Millie counts among her many blessings her 15 year marriage to husband Edwin, her son Jonathan and his partner, her granddaughter Janiah and her Shih-Tzu "Baby". Millie also proudly points to what she has lost recently, namely more than 100 pounds of weight. ▲





CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

CURT KICHLINE

As we head into the busy construction months of the Summer, I can report the following progress. Work on the new Marvine gas lines is just about wrapped up; construction of the 20 new Bayard homes is moving along nicely, I would say about half way to final completion.

The ongoing renovations at Marvine are going well with 110 units currently in various stages of completion. We look to wrap these two phases up in 2011. We are planning to make some cosmetic repairs to the underside of the Marvine front porch roofs soon, and on a larger scale, we will reroof Bodder, Bartholomew and Monocacy high rises in coming months. ▲

Partnership with local agency makes participation with youth oriented music festival possible for BHA youngsters.

The ninth edition of RiverFusion took place on May 1 at Monocacy Park in Bethlehem. Thanks to cooperation between BHA and the Illick's Mill Partnership, the music festival was made readily available to high school age kids residing in public housing in the City. RiverFusion focuses upon the music of regional and local performers. In addition to a food court, there were three entertainment sites featuring an eclectic mix of musical styles such as jam bands, urban acts and rock/pop-punk acts. The 2010 lineup featured musical acts Matt & Kim, Julia Nunes, Sandlot Heroes, Post Junction and Trouble City All-Stars. There were learning sites, including the Enviro Village, a place where people of all ages can



Julia and Ben perform...

get educated about go green products and how to become more eco friendly. There were non-profit organizations as well as businesses vending and advertising their products. It was a great chance to expand ones wardrobe with vintage and organic clothing or add to beauty supplies with organic bath-

room products. For the first time, there was a talent contest as well. BHA's involvement was designed to support the worthwhile event, while encouraging involvement by teens from BHA communities. Festival director Karen Dolan and her group of volunteers deserve plenty of credit for creating this event which entertains and teaches each May. The program also supports the ongoing renovation of the historic mill. ▲

MOST BEAUTIFUL YARD CONTEST

BHA will once again sponsor its annual "Most Beautiful Yard" contest. Family Development residents will have an opportunity to win cash prizes and gift certificates. There are no entry requirements; simply apply mulch, plant flowers and keep your front yard looking good. The judging will take place in late summer and prizes will be awarded in early September. In addition to cash prizes, Cantelmi's Hardware Store will provide gift coupons to the winners. For more information, please call 610-865-8342.





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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- July 5BHA office closed for Independence Day
- July 12Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Aug. 9.....Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Aug. 18.....Resident Advisory Board, 2 p.m.,
 Monocacy Tower
- Sept. 13Board 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