



HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

IN THIS ISSUE:

2009 Marks BHA's
70th Anniversary 1

From the
Executive Director.....2

Looking Back: 1940.....2

Highrise Highlights.....3

Recreation News.....3

Residents' Reminders.....4

Former BHA Resident
Now a Successful Author.....4

Construction Checklist.....5

Family Self-Sufficiency.....5

Housing Choice Vouchers.....5

Administration and
Board Members6

Upcoming Events.....6

Important
Phone Numbers.....6

2009 Marks BHA's 70th Anniversary

From the depths of the Great Depression came a program, designed to help a struggling American construction industry as well as the many thousands of people who were ill-housed for various reasons. The program, one of the main platforms in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" for the American people was successful in rebuilding the construction industry, but for many millions of average Americans, public housing has been perhaps the greatest legacy of one of this country's finest leaders. The public housing program has changed since the National Housing Act became the law of the land, but the basic premise, "to provide safe, decent housing for those in need" has been the watchword for the 3,000 housing authorities in the USA. Bethlehem was at the forefront when then Mayor Robert Pfeifle declared a need for public housing in this city back in 1937. BHA was formed and became official in 1939 and for 70 years, has met its mandate. Today as in every decade since the beginning, BHA has provided affordable housing for income eligible city residents. Low-income citizens including the elderly and the disabled have consistently found a place to live despite recessions, depressions, wars, booming economies

and any other factor which could adversely affect the housing market in Bethlehem. Even in good times, there are people who for a variety of reasons, cannot afford market rents or are shut out of the home buying market. BHA's inventory of apartments has consistently been at or near full occupancy. Presently as this is written, the vacancy rate at our Authority is around .05 - 1%. During the coming months we will delve into our archives and share images and articles in an effort to help you to learn about BHA and the rich history we are so proud of. This issue, we look back at some early articles and pictures from the 1940's. ▲



BETHLEHEM
HOUSING AUTHORITY

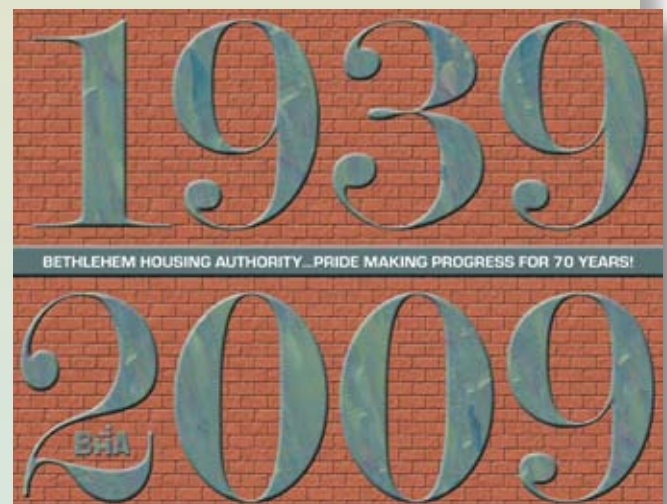
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If you have not received one yet, look for your copy of BHA's beautiful, commemorative 2009 calendar, celebrating our 70th anniversary. The calendars are full of interesting facts and beautiful photos. We hope that you will also find your calendar to be useful all year 'round.





BETHLEHEM HOUSING AUTHORITY...PRIDE MAKING PROGRESS FOR 70 YEARS!

1940

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been one year since our Board approved an "Energy Conservation Measures" strategy, presented to us by Ameresco, the company chosen to oversee these energy and cost saving measures. In late November, contractors started this program by implementing the upgrading of apartment lighting and the installation of high efficiency motors. Additionally, heating systems and plumbing components will be upgraded. All of this is being done in an effort to conserve energy, to save money and to improve service and comfort to residents. With HUD reducing our annual subsidies, all housing authorities are being challenged with finding ways to get things done, using less money. Over the years, we have been successful here at BHA because we have taken innovative approaches to problem solving. We will soon be holding meetings at all family development and high rise sites to inform tenants of our plans and to give you a clear idea of what to expect as this program proceeds. Your presence at these meetings is important so you can understand what your responsibilities will be in this process. If at any time during this process you have a question or concern, call your Management Office; they are there to assist you.

Clara A. Keady



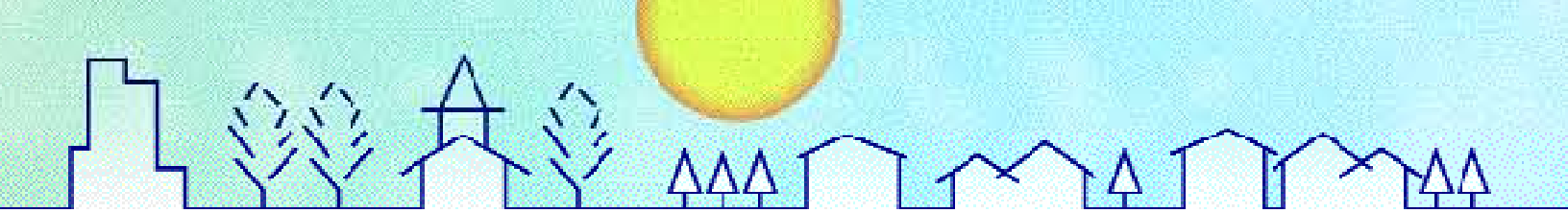
South Terrace caption

We begin the year-long salute to BHA's 70th Anniversary by examining some news articles from the first decade, the 1940's. These yellowed clippings proclaim BHA's first projects as being among the state's first and largest. Other articles talk about early meetings concerning the projects, early discussions about payments made in lieu of taxes, as well as construction progress photos of the new communities. The articles reveal interesting numbers regarding costs. South Terrace and Parkridge were built at a total cost of \$1.8 million. That amounts to approximately \$3,600 per unit. The projects were originally built in the early 40's and were designed as "temporary war worker housing". Following the war, the two projects were turned over to BHA to be used as low-income public housing. They stood in this capacity until the late seventies, early eighties. Today, the modern Lynfield and Parkridge communities stand in the exact spot where the original war projects stood. Next issue, we will share archives covering the 1950's - 1960's including the expansion of the Authority with design and construction of new family units and attention to the needs of senior citizens. Remember, for more historical information on BHA, logon to www.BHA645.com anytime.



Parkridge caption





HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS

MILLIE MATOS

We have spoken in the past about the importance of tenant councils in our communities and I would like to take some time to appeal to those of you at Bodder House and at Monocacy Tower to consider starting a council in your building. A working council really adds so much to a high rise community, providing a direct communication link with BHA, fun trips and a variety of other activities tailored to your community. We are willing to assist in any way and to this end, we will be arranging to have special sessions at your building, moderated by tenant council members from Bartholomew House and from Litzenberger. Take the time to come and listen to these leaders and learn about the wonderful opportunities that exist when there is an active tenant council in your building. You will be able to ask questions and obtain answers. Keep an eye out for the time and date for these meetings. ▲

RECREATION NEWS

The weatherman cooperated and we were able to have a wonderful "Field Day" at Blazer Field in Pembroke in early September. The residents who participated had fun enjoying fellowship and free food and beverages. There was a raffle, and lots of great prizes were made available to all. Our basketball tournament was a success, there were fun rides and attractions and all in all, plenty to do for people of all ages. I want to thank BHA staff members who volunteered their time on this day to help me. Also, thanks go out to Jerald Brown, Steve Godbolt,

the Bethlehem Fire Department and to corporate sponsors like Just Born for their assistance.

This fall, we ran buses to the Pocono's to view the changing leaves. At Christmas, we scheduled our popular "Lighting Tours", showing off historic downtown Bethlehem and other areas of the Christmas City for participants.

Coming up in 2009, we look forward to another successful year with our innovative First Tee Golf Learning program, which takes place at the Center in the Marvine area.

To all residents, I want to encourage you to keep an eye on your bulletin boards for information about trips and other events. Our goal is to provide wholesome opportunities, but your involvement is critical. I can't run the bus without full participation! If you ever have an idea on where to go or what to do, please call me and I will gladly give all ideas consideration. I can be reached at 610-865-8351 weekdays from 8 - 4 PM. ▲



RESIDENTS' REMINDER

Winter is here and as usual, I want to remind all family development tenants about the simple yet effective tips, which can keep families warm and comfortable, while helping to save energy dollars. Some of these ideas are very simple and require nothing more than adjustments to lifestyle and attention to small details. For example, if you have heat convectors, do not block the flow of air around these devices. This means move drapes, carpets, and furniture away so the convectors work properly. Another small but critical tip concerns your window air conditioner. If you have one in a window, you need to remove it. No matter how well you cover or try to insulate it, if it remains in your window, it will allow cold air inside and allow heated air to escape. The net result? *Cold feet and a waste of money!* Our website has other tips and of course, the maintenance department of the family development Office stands ready to answer any questions you may have.

Lately, we have had incidents involving pellet guns on BHA property. I remind one and all that the lease and in house rules prohibit possession of these guns on BHA property. A notice went out to all residents last fall on this very subject and adherence to this rule is to be strictly enforced. Thanks in advance for following this and all rules.

I'd also like to tell all of our family Community residents that we are again planning to meet with you in your communities during the spring, so keep an eye out for the announcement, usually around May-June.

Beginning in January 2009, the City recycling program will be accepting paper products at the curb. This includes newspaper, corrugated cardboard, flat board, mixed office paper, magazines, catalogs, wrapping paper, shiny paper, phone books, and brown paper bags. These materials are to be placed into a separate blue container, which should have been made available around November or December of 2008. If you did not receive a container, please call your management office today. ▲

Former BHA Resident Now a Successful Author

Years ago, a little girl anxiously awaited the Bookmobile to come to her BHA neighborhood so she could lose herself in a fantasy world of books. Today, as a grown woman, Marisa de Jesus Paolicelli is the author of a children's book called "There's a Coqui in My Shoe".

On behalf of the Bethlehem Housing Authority, Executive Director Clara Kendy presented the book to both the Northeast Ministry and South Bethlehem Neighborhood Center After-School programs. Because the book is beautifully written and illustrated, Mrs. Kendy wanted to make sure that the children living in our family developments are aware of who Marisa is and where she came from in order to insure that a local girl who lived in public housing and attended Bethlehem schools gets the recognition that she deserves.



There is also the hope that her success inspires others growing up in public housing to dream their dreams so that they too can become successful in life. ▲



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Strubeck enjoy a respite behind Monocacy Tower in lovely Johnston Park on a bench donated to Bethlehem Housing Authority. This bench was donated in their name by their son commemorating their 50th wedding anniversary. The bench is located on the eastside of the creek, near the bridge.





CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

CURT KICHLINE

You may not know this, but the Housing Authority spends 2.1 million dollars a year for electricity, natural gas and water for our properties, which means we are always looking for ways to save utility costs. A few years ago, we received information on a program called an Energy Performance Contract (EPC). An Energy Performance Contract involves inspecting and analyzing all of our energy using equipment, calculating possible utility cost savings if the equipment is replaced with new energy efficient equipment, and then determining whether the cost of replacing the equipment will pay for itself with the utility savings.

The firms that specialize in this type of work are called Energy Service Companies, or ESCO's for short. In September of 2006, we advertised for interested ESCO's to partner with us in an Energy Performance Contract. After reviewing proposals, interviewing firms and providing information to HUD, we finally signed an agreement in June of 2008.

Ameresco is the name of our energy service company.

Some of the items that will be done under the EPC are replacing light fixtures with a more energy efficient type, replacing toilets, showerheads and sink aerators with ones that use less water, replacing thermostats, and decentralizing the heating plant at the Marvine development. Work will take place in apartments as well as offices and common areas. To date, the lighting replacement has been completed in Marvine, and the contractors are currently working in Pembroke. The other work items will start shortly, and we expect to have all of the construction work completed this Summer. With your cooperation and conservation efforts, we can continue to provide affordable housing to Bethlehem residents who need it most. ▲

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

I'd like to report that YWCA's WAND Program is underway. The program (Women Achieving New Directions) is offered in English and in Spanish and presented by Lynn Nonnemacher, the Empowerment Center Director, along with Janet Perez Cardona who serves as a Social Work Case Manager at St. Luke's Hospital. The most recent sessions took place in September and October at the Northeast Family Development Center. There were six sessions, two hours each. Some of the topics covered included – "Broadening Your Sphere of Opportunity", "The Job Search", "Cover Letters", and "Resumes". Participants also learned how to prepare for interviews, including how to dress properly for them. Nine women enrolled and of the graduates, we count two BHA residents. They are Jennifer Rodriguez, a Community Service participant and Vimari Machucha, of our FSS program. For more info on this and all other programs, please call me at 610-865-8323. ▲



Mirella Snow, with

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

NEW CHANGE FOR SECTION 8!!

NOW: Effective 12/1/08, landlords started receiving their HAP rental payments via direct deposit. This means the landlord will no longer receive a paper check in the mail, the rental payments will go directly into their checking or savings accounts.

IN THE FUTURE: We are looking into developing a "bank card" system for tenants who receive utility payments (similar to food stamps, child support, etc). Instead of receiving a check, it will be deposited into a bank card to use almost anywhere. This will prevent lost or stolen checks, checks not cashed because of their small amount or bank fees charged. Information will be forthcoming. ▲





Bethlehem Housing Authority
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 PERMIT #121



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Executive Director

Helen Jarinko,
Executive Secretary

Mark Iampietro,
Deputy Director

Eugene Gonzalez,
Deputy Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Sanders
Chairman

Paul Reitmeir
Vice Chairman

Iris Linares

Joseph Long

George Samuelson

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 30.....	Josefina Berrios Community Service Award presentation Board Meeting, 10 A.M. at Monocacy Tower.
February 9	Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
March 9.....	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