



HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BHA

IN THIS ISSUE:

Lehigh University and BHA partner to achieve "Global Citizenship"	1
From the Executive Director	2
A Passion for Renovation	2
Recreation News	2
Highrise Highlights	3
BHA Staff Walks for Fitness	3
Animal Food Bank	3
Residents' Reminders	4
Family Self-Sufficiency	4
Construction Checklist	5
In Memory of	5
Organ Donation of the Musical Kind	5
The Most Beautiful Yard	5
Did You Know?	5
Administration and Board Members	6
Upcoming Events	6
Important Phone Numbers	6



BETHLEHEM
HOUSING AUTHORITY

645 Main Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

610-865-8300

Fax: 610-865-8318

TDD 610-865-8333

www.bha645.com

Lehigh University and BHA partner to achieve "Global Citizenship"

ON September 2, Professor Gisella Gisolo and twenty-two of her Lehigh University freshmen visited the Litzenberger House to pitch an idea to interested residents. The initiative, known as the "Global Citizenship" program is a highly selective semester long class for first year students designed to help the students become good citizens of the world. This course, "Introduction to Global Citizenship" is intended to explore such topics as ethical relativism, charity vs. duty and international aid. The real goal for the students is to learn practical lessons by combining experience with action and to try to learn the importance of global change through local interaction. The students, who come to Lehigh from as far away as Alaska, China and Vietnam (as well as all over the USA) interacted with the residents and exchanged stories about who they are and where they are from. Residents spoke to the students about their past and their nationalities. The students met with the residents at least once a week, hopeful to find points on which students and residents could interact. The program ended with a farewell dinner at Litzenberger on December 2nd. Students and residents said their goodbyes, some exchanging contact information to insure that they would not lose touch with each other. A photo collage of the students and residents showing various activities held as part of the program was presented to BHA by Professor Gisolo on behalf of herself and her students. The Housing Authority will prominently display the collage in the Litzenberger community room.



Caleb Davis is seen here making paper maché mixture for a recent project with residents.

Here are the names of the students participating in the program: Catherine Abate , Devon Acevedo, Amanda Adami ,Yu Yu Aung, Caleb Davis, Emma Diehl, Joelle Dorskind, Marek Giszter, Yu Hin Hau, Isabella Lindgren, Jesus Luna, Adam Neupauer, Ayowonuola Owoseni, Esperanza Pacheco, Stephanie Riker, Vanessa Rodriguez, Marissa Roque, Alexis Rubalcava, Samantha Schmidt, Georgia Staurinos, Joel Van de Rijn, and Raven Wilson-Boles, Mollie Garvey and Deborah Strehle. ▲





FROM THE
**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

**PUTTING AMERICANS
TO WORK**

In February 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). It has also been referred to as the "Stimulus Money". BHA was lucky enough to be awarded a little over \$3 Million. With stringent conditions set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obligate and spend the funds by a certain date, we immediately started our plan to increase the number of Marvine homes that we will renovate to 110, giving a major boost to this project. This grant was designed to "put Americans to work" and we have done our part to make that happen. There are approximately a dozen men at work on any given day in the ARRA assigned homes. We expect the Contractors to complete the renovations by October 2011, leaving us with only 139 Marvine units to renovate. In the next few years, we will complete these apartments using Capital Fund Grants offered yearly by HUD, unless another stimulus is offered, which will give us a second boost to completing this project. The renovations include new kitchens, bathrooms, windows, flooring and doors. The residents have handled the disruption of being moved very well and we do appreciate their patience.

Clara A. Keady

A Passion for Renovation

The new kitchen, baths and windows at Marvine, the air conditioning in the halls at Bodder and Bartholomew high rises, the new windows at Parkridge, the storm windows at Lynfield and all the other improvements that we see on our properties are funneled through the hands of our Planning and Construction Manager, Curt Kichline and George Nagy, our construction inspector.

Curt has worked for BHA almost 19 years and has taken us from crumbling, warping structures to oak cabinets, solid surface counter tops, new windows, doors, new concrete pavements and most recently energy efficiency improvements to all our developments.

To get his mind off the drawing board and technical specifications, Curt spends his spare time working on cars. Not just any cars, he likes a challenge. Pictured here you can see the results of two years of work to take a completely gutted 1979 Volkswagen Golf GTI that he transformed into a showroom masterpiece. Curt was interviewed and the car will soon be featured in an upcoming edition of Hemmings Sports and Exotic Cars magazine. ▲



RECREATION NEWS

Robbie Robinson

WE put a team of teens together to participate in the Fourth Annual Ed Miller Memorial Basketball Tournament at Sand Island on July 25th. Officer Miller was the Community Police Officer at Parkridge and the High Rises until he passed away several years ago. He was also honored when BHA renamed the Parkridge community building after him. *As we usually do, we scheduled our "Fall Foliage Tour" trips for October. Groups from Monocacy, Litzenberger, Bodder and Bartholomew had the opportunity to travel to the Pocono Mountains to appreciate the changing leaves the week of October 12th. We also organized our annual Christmas Lighting tour through the Bethlehem area.* We have continued to provide regular trips to local centers and malls for our seniors. If you live in a senior high rise and wish to visit one of the stores on our list, call my office or sign up at your building. We usually go to Target, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Q-Mart and Country Junction. ▲





HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS

MILLIE MATOS

We are pleased to acknowledge that a high rise resident has been chosen as this year's recipient of the prestigious Josefina Berrios Community Service award. Cynthia Fedorczyk of Monocacy Tower was nominated by the committee for her list of volunteer activities which include monthly stints at the Lehigh Valley Animal Food Bank, at the soup kitchens at Trinity Episcopal Church and at St. Anne's Church. She also signed up to assist at the New Covenant Revival Church's "Code Blue Winter" program. In this innovative program, churches combine to provide emergency one night shelter once night time temperatures dip below freezing. The program will provide bedding, food and clothing. She also works at the drop-in center for LVCMH making crafts and interacting with the residents. The award ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 28. ▲



Members of BHA's Walking Club pose at Monocacy

BHA Staff Walks for Fitness

Experts have said for years that diet and exercise are the keys to fitness and weight control. Several BHA staff members, interested in attaining better fitness recently formed a "Walking Club" in an effort to boost their level of fitness. Knowing that moderate walking improves circulation, helps relieve stress and helps to make the afternoon go by a little quicker, the group was formed in September and they walk each Tuesday and Friday during the lunch hour, weather permitting. The departure point is Monocacy Tower and they usually cover between one and two miles per session. Different routes are taken, including through Historic Bethlehem. Thus far, some of the group has trekked 30 miles. "I have noticed a difference" said Ali Khalfan. "I feel better, more energized following a brisk noon walk". Other members of the club are Mark Iampietro, Diana Moreno, Mirella Snow, Miriam Maldonado, Jeanette Martinez, Dawn Seyfried, Tom Yenko, Betty Mendez, Mari Ortiz, Dave Smith and Robbie Robinson. ▲

Visitors to the Bodder House know the smiling friendly face of Paul Askerneese. Paul was the nice fellow who would sit peacefully at the front entrance at Bodder House when weather permitted. Paul would set up his own personal chair near the door and soon would find himself surrounded by others who learned to enjoy his quiet company. Paul, always the gentleman, had a nice word for all. His sudden passing has left a void inside and outside Bodder House. As a tribute, some of Paul's friends set up a memorial at the area where he enjoyed his good times.



ANIMAL FOOD BANK

The Lehigh Valley Animal Food Bank has 100 volunteers who collect and distribute pet food and help provide vaccines, spay and neutering for pets of low-income families. The food bank has a permanent home at the Southside Center of Northampton Community College at 511 E. Third St. The food bank serves up to 1,000 pets per month, and its coverage area ranges from upper Bucks County to the Poconos, and from Kutztown to New Jersey. Recipients must register to receive pet food. For information on available services or to learn how to donate or volunteer, call 484- 851-8000, or go to www.animalfoodbanklehighvalley.com. Whether you are a low-income pet owner in need of assistance or a resident looking to fulfill your community service commitment, you may want to contact this agency. ▲





RESIDENTS' REMINDER

ZULMA RODRIGUEZ

Although we can appreciate the enthusiasm many residents display through holiday decorations to the exterior of homes, we do have a few important rules which need to be observed. Damaging BHA property in the name of celebrating holidays is wrong and we will impose maintenance charges if we have to repair damages done by the use of improper fasteners. Also, remember that all holiday decorations must be removed from the exteriors within ten days after the end of the holiday. Thanks for your cooperation and call us at the FDO for additional information.

By now you have noticed that **traffic patterns** along busy Lynfield Drive in the Lynfield development have changed. The City Traffic Bureau has essentially created a four-way stop intersection where the north portion of Oberly Street meets Lynfield. The City responded to complaints about speeding by monitoring the traffic patterns over a period of time. It was felt that the addition of stop signs and pedestrian crosswalks would help create a safer environment for residents. In addition, other safety signs have been posted in the area. I urge residents to call police if speeding is still observed.

For high school aged residents of the Northeast properties- Did you know that there is bus service from your area to Liberty High? The "B" bus is the line that runs from Stefko and Rockland at 6:45 am each weekday during school season. If you need further information, go to www.lantabus.com and click on "B" bus. ▲



Doritz Lopez proudly accepts her FSS check from FSS coordinator Mirella Snow as BHA executive Clara Kendy and Doritz's son look on.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

WE have 36 families participating in the FSS program from our family developments. In addition, there are another 11 under contract through the Section 8 program. We continue to work with CACLV and Habitat for Humanity and their home ownership programs. Amie Nessa was assigned her house on July 16, 2008. According to Amie, she already put her 250 hours of sweat equity. Doritz Lopez is working with KNBT and their First Time home buyers program and Elizabeth Lemos is working with Wells Fargo and their First Time home buyers program

Our latest Family Self-Sufficiency "Success Story" belongs to Doritz Lopez. Doritz, a BHA resident since 2004, decided that she wanted to improve her chances for success and in 2008, she applied for FSS. Since that date, Doritz has accomplished her four main goals that she set. The goals included saving money for her son's education, learning to budget her money and to pay off her debts, to clear her credit and to purchase a house. Guidance provided by the FSS program helped Doritz accomplish all of her goals! She has accumulated enough money to be applied toward her son's educational needs, has developed a monthly budget and is currently debt-free. She has paid off old debts and thus qualified for a low interest mortgage, and has successfully completed the home ownership program, leading to the purchase of her own home. *All of this is due to Doritz's decision to take control of her life. We stand ready and able to help you become a success story, like Doritz. Call the FSS office today at 610-865-8372. ▲*



Last Fall, Family Development assistant Miriam Maldonado was contacted by Nelson Ortiz who is a member of the Latin American Motorcycle Association of Bethlehem. Every year they do a toy bike run, delivering donated toys to needy kids. This year, for November 7th, they wanted to support the children of the BHA developments. Miriam got the ball rolling by connecting Mr. Ortiz with BHA's Robbie Robinson. It was a very successful run, with participation by local bike club chapters and others from Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. The real beneficiaries were the dozens of BHA kids whose holidays will be brightened with gifts from these generous citizens.





CONSTRUCTION CHECK LIST

CURT KICHLINE

A busy autumn period ends with this list of jobs and their status: The natural gas line improvements in Marvine have been completed. Marvine apartment renovations are ongoing and the latest round is about 80% complete. Federal stimulus dollars have permitted us to undertake work in some additional units. The Bayard Homes project moves along very well with framing about finished as of this writing. Contractors have completed the roof replacement at Fairmount. In the planning stages, we will be replacing smoke/heat detectors at Bodder, Bartholomew and Litzenberger. Residents will receive notifications when this work is scheduled. ▲



InMemory of...

Bethlehem native and former BHA resident Mark Renninger was one of four Tacoma Washington area officers slain in the line of duty in late November 2009. As a youngster, Sgt. Renninger lived with his family in Marvine. He was described as an achiever by those who knew him. While at Liberty High School, he was a standout strong safety for the football team and an A student. When he went into the military, he became an elite Army Ranger, and when he became a police officer, he wasn't satisfied being on the SWAT team, he taught SWAT tactics to other police forces. In addition to his mother, brothers and sister, he is survived by his wife, two daughters, ages 15 and 12, and their 3-year-old son. We offer our condolences to the Renninger family. ▲

ORGAN DONATION OF THE MUSICAL KIND

For many years, residents of the Litzenberger House enjoyed sing-a-longs thanks to their trusty old piano in the community room. Recently, it was discovered that the piano was inoperative and that repair costs were prohibitively high. When Dolores Sabatine of Bangor PA heard about this, she offered to donate her family's electric organ to the Housing Authority. Mrs. Sabatine's mother, the late Anna Korastinsky was herself a BHA high rise resident and it was felt that this donation, in her name, would be proper. "We had many happy times at home with the organ but we no longer had a use for it", Mrs. Sabatine remarked. "We were only too happy to donate it so that others may enjoy it". ▲



DID YOU KNOW?

Litzenberger House is home to a very diverse population. Residents list their countries of birth as Puerto Rico, Columbia, Italy, Greece, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Brazil and of course, the USA. *Data courtesy BHA's I.S. Department.* ▲

BHA residents show off gardening skills in annual contest

Once again, BHA sponsored an Authority-wide contest to find "The Most Beautiful Yard". All BHA residents from family developments are eligible. This year's winners included Aida Diaz, Lydia Core, Maria Montanez, Jenaro Huertas, Marisol Maldonado, Angelita Rodriguez, Carmen Rivera, Herminia Benscome and Clara Tolentino. The prizes ranged from \$50.00 to \$100.00. The prizes were awarded during a ceremony held September 11th 2009 at the Family Development Office. ▲



Fairmount's Jenaro Huertas accepts his prize from Mrs. Kendy. The Huertas' front yard is consistently pleasing to look at along busy Marvine Street.





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

PRSRT STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 LEHIGH VALLEY PA
 PERMIT #121



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!

- Jan. 28Josefina Berrios Award ceremony,
 10 a.m., Monocacy
- Feb. 8.....Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- Feb. 15.....Office closed for Presidents' Day
- March 8Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- March 17Resident Advisory Board Annual Meeting,
 2 p.m., Monocacy Tower
- April 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