

The PHA Experience



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

Issue 26

A Community Newspaper for and About Residents

October 2011

Michael Kelly accepts new position

On August 4, PHA held a special pre-board meeting with resident leaders to announce that PHA Administrative Receiver Michael P. Kelly would be staying permanently as the agency's new Executive Director.

PHA Commissioner and Acting Deputy HUD Secretary Estelle Richman offered Mr. Kelly the post.

"Mr. Kelly came to PHA at a very difficult time. He immediately focused on creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, getting back to basics in property management and resident services and making PHA accountable and transparent in business practices," said Ms. Richman. "We are quite pleased Mr. Kelly has accepted our offer."

Mr. Kelly is a public housing veteran and an expert in turning around troubled housing authorities. He came to PHA in December 2010 as Interim Executive Director, on loan from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). He



Michael P. Kelly has accepted an offer to become permanent executive director at PHA. His new role became official at a special meeting of the PHA Board of Commissioner. Also shown with Kelly are Commissioner Estelle Richman (left) and PHA's new General Counsel Barbara Adams.

was later named Administrative Receiver when HUD took control of PHA. As PHA Executive Director, he will continue to serve as Administrative Receiver.

During the pre-board meeting, Mr.

Kelly thanked resident leadership for their ongoing support and pledged to continue working with residents to improve PHA communities.

"I continue to learn from folks like

[resident leaders] Nellie Reynolds and Asia Coney," said Mr. Kelly. "I stand on the shoulders of great residents and look forward to learning and growing with you here in Philadelphia as we return to greatness."

As part of the agency's recovery plan, Mr. Kelly has also recently filled two important positions at PHA.

Barbara Adams began serving as PHA General Counsel in August. She oversees the agency's team of in-house lawyers. She is also PHA's Ethics Officer and is responsible for enforcing the recently revised Standards of Ethical Conduct. Before coming to PHA, Ms. Adams served as the General Counsel for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under former Governor Ed Rendell.

Kelvin Jeremiah accepted the post of Director of Audit and Compliance.

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PHA launches new after-school program for teens

This fall, PHA launched a new after school program for residents between the ages of 14 and 18. The new Youth Achievement Program replaces PHA's Skills for Life Program and is designed to help participants succeed in school and prepare for college or a career.

"Our youth face a variety of challenges," said Enrico Crispo, PHA's General Manager of Workforce Development. "PHA wants to provide them with a safe place where they can learn, spend time with their peers and mentors, and gain access to the resources they need. The great staff at the Youth Achievement Program is dedicated to helping participants reach their full potential."



Bartram teens meet with Teddra Lindsay from EducationWorks at an awareness program for PHA's Youth Achievement Program, a new after-school program for young residents.

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Queen Lane Apartments coming down

PHA has informed residents of the high-rise at Queen Lane Apartments that they will be moving soon. The agency plans on demolishing the aging, obsolete site in Germantown next spring and building a new development with a design that fits in better with the low-rise character of the surrounding neighborhood.

Michael Johns, General Manager of Community Development and Design, told Queen Lane residents about the agency's plans during a special meeting at Mount Moriah Baptist Church, across the street from the 16-story high-rise.

The new development will have 55 units in a mix of two-story flats and walkup apartments, and three-story townhouses.

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Keith Caldwell, Executive General Manager of Operations, and Vannie Miller, Relocation Supervisor, discuss the relocation process with residents of Queen Lane during a meeting in August. PHA plans to demolish the high-rise in January.

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or see your manager



Investment in residents and jobs = savings

PHA's decision to reassemble its small equipment repair team is saving the agency money, increasing efficiency, and providing job opportunities to residents like Pre-Apprenticeship graduate Saladin Bradwell.

The team is responsible for making repairs to small equipment like electrical saws and vacuum cleaners in-house. This move saves the agency money it would have otherwise spent on outside vendors.

"We don't have to schedule with a contractor. We're not paying a contractor hourly rates. We're not paying pickup and delivery charges," said Dave Walsh, PHA's Director of Warehouse Operations and Facilities Management.

The in-house workers also have a shorter turnaround time. They fix equipment and tools faster and get them back in the hands of maintenance crews who take care of PHA work orders.

Tom Gillen, the mechanic who heads up the repair team, said one repair item stands out among all of the ones they handle.

"Lawn mowers are the biggest thing. They're the biggest casualty. You can't see everything that you're mowing. They



The work space for small equipment repairs at the Bartram Avenue warehouse is almost six times bigger than the previous location at Passyunk, and it has docks that make it easier to load and unload equipment. Shown here are (from left) Saladin Bradwell, Tom Gillen, and Karima Allen.

take a beating," he said.

The savings for handling this type of repair in-house is great. Recently, Mr. Gillen's crew completed a rack and pinion replacement on a John Deere mower. The rack cost \$375, and the job was completed in four hours. Sending the same mower

out for repairs would have cost as much as \$1,500, plus time and shipping.

Mr. Gillen adds that some vendors really aren't equipped to handle mowers or other specialized equipment.

"They're used to automotive. They're not used to a motorized vacuum cleaner," he

said. "Do you want to take your Cadillac to a Volkswagen dealer?"

Saladin Bradwell is one of four Pre-Apprenticeship graduates who were hired to work on the team. The graduates were sent to the Philadelphia Automotive Training (PAT) School in northwest Philadelphia to receive training in automotive repair and small engines, such as lawn mowers, weed whackers, and chainsaws. He's now putting that knowledge to good use at the warehouse.

After a layoff from a company at the shipyard and a string of temporary jobs for the past 10 years, Mr. Bradwell couldn't be happier tearing apart and fixing things at a decent paying job with benefits.

"That's something I liked ever since I was a kid, so I enjoy doing it," Saladin said. "It gives you a little mental therapy. It's a challenge, an opportunity, and there is room for advancement."

George Johnson, the Director of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, is proud of Bradwell and said he has leadership qualities. Johnson also said that there's plenty of opportunity these days for people who can fix machinery.



Saladin Bradwell is one of four Pre-Apprenticeship Program graduates who work on the small equipment repair team at PHA's Bartram Avenue warehouse.

For more information about the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, please call 215-684-8049.

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PHA residents get ready with National Preparedness Month

In August, Philadelphians experienced a surprise, 5.3 magnitude earthquake that shook the East Coast. A few days later, they braced for Hurricane Irene, one of the worst storms to hit the area in years. So residents have seen their fair share of disasters lately.

But the best time to prepare for an emergency is before it happens. That's why PHA partnered with the City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Red Cross and Target to recognize September as National Preparedness Month and to hold

Emergency Preparedness Workshops at 4 PHA sites.

PHA also took part in the National Preparedness Month Kickoff with Mayor Michael Nutter on September 2. The kickoff event was held at a Target store in the Northeast. Officials and members of the Police Explorers and Red Cross Youth Council stuffed 174 emergency kits which will be distributed to PHA residents who attend the Emergency Preparedness Workshops.

"PHA is excited to partner with the City to help our residents prepare for

emergencies," said PHA Administrative Receiver Michael Kelly. "We encourage all our residents to take advantage of these Emergency Preparedness Workshops and make sure they are ready for anything."

The workshops, which are scheduled to be held at Queen Lane, Raymond Rosen, Wilson Park and Bartram Village, are designed to teach residents what they need to know and what they need to have in the event of an emergency or disaster. Speakers included representatives from the Red



PHA Administrative Receiver Michael Kelly receives a proclamation from Mayor Michael Nutter declaring September 2011 to be National Preparedness Month in the city. A kick-off event was held at the Cottman Avenue Target on September 2.



PHA is partnering with the City's Office of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross to hold Emergency Preparedness Workshops at 4 PHA sites in September. City officials and volunteers stuffed emergency kits which will be distributed to PHA residents who attend the workshops.

Cross, OEM, the Philadelphia Police Department's Homeland Security Unit and PHA Police Department.

Some of the topics include pet preparedness, neighborhood evacuation routes, the Ready Notify PA emergency alert system, and the "See It, Report It" campaign, which encourages residents to report any suspicious behavior.

National Preparedness Month emphasizes the importance of planning ahead. Families should talk with each other and decide what to do, how to find each other, and how to stay in contact during an emergency. Everyone should know what to do if there is a house fire, snow storm, power outage, hurricane, or terrorist attack.

The emergency kits or go bags contain things a household will need if they are told to evacuate such as a first aid kit, flashlight, batteries, and nonperishable food. Families are encouraged to customize their own bags to fit their household's needs and include copies of important documents and cash in case there is a power outage and ATMs stop working.

For more information about National Preparedness Month and emergency preparedness, visit the Office of Emergency Management's website at www.phila.gov/ready or the Red Cross' website at www.redcrossphilly.org



PHA YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Achieve now and prepare for the future

PHA is bringing a new after-school program for teens to Blumberg Apartments, Fairhill Apartments, Bartram Village and Raymond Rosen Manor.

- Academic support
- Career exploration
- Life skills
- Arts and technology
- Mentoring
- Guest speakers
- Field trips
- and more!

Participants will develop the skills and gain access to the resources they need to succeed in school and beyond.

To be eligible for the program, you must be:

- A PHA resident
- Between the ages of 14 and 18
- Currently enrolled in school



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For more information, please call 215-684-0393 or visit www.pha.phila.gov/youth



PHA working with Sharswood residents to transform neighborhood

PHA has begun working with residents of the Sharswood neighborhood in North Philadelphia on a plan to redevelop the community. The agency, in cooperation with residents, has applied for a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The money would fund two years of planning work with the goal of obtaining another grant to carry out the plan, possibly worth as much as \$30 million.

Sharswood is bounded by Girard and Ridge Avenues and 27th and Oxford Streets. Girard College and PHA's Norman Blumberg Apartments are located in the neighborhood, which is distressed because it has large amounts of vacant land and property. The decline

of Sharswood began after World War II as people moved to the suburbs and the population declined.

Two public hearings took place on July 22nd; PHA managers met with neighborhood residents at Blumberg Apartments and Vaux High School. Enrico Crispo of the agency's Partnership and Resource Development Department told residents that the Choice Neighborhood grants are different from anything done in the past. The grants link housing improvements with services, schools, public assets, transportation and access to jobs.

Michael Johns, PHA's General Manager of Community Development and Design, said the agency chose to focus on Sharswood because it

believes that it bears some responsibility for the neighborhood blight. The agency has many scattered sites that are unoccupied or vacant land.

"You've got things happening along Ridge Avenue—the 'Ridge Avenue on the Rise.' If PHA doesn't deal with... these abandoned properties and these other issues that we have in this neighborhood, Ridge ain't never gonna rise," Mr. Johns said.

Rylanda Wilson, who is one of the agency's grant writers, said a transformation plan for the neighborhood would be based on the opinions of residents and they could change their minds over the two-year period. The ultimate goal is a mixed income, viable community.

"Is it possible to get some medical [services] between here and 30th Street?" asked Lamont Greer, VP of the resident council for the Blumberg senior building. "[Families] do need that medical. And I think that's one thing that we need to jump on."

"Is this really real? Is this going to happen?" asked neighborhood resident Jeannette Brown.

Mr. Johns told Ms. Brown that PHA is committed to neighborhood, whether



Lamont Greer, VP of the resident council for the Blumberg senior building, spoke at the hearing about the Sharswood neighborhood's need for medical services.

or not it gets a grant, and that PHA will resolve issues that it is responsible for.

"As long as we have your support and we got your commitment to work with us and to work with our leaders, we'll be able to do something," he said. "Don't get discouraged."

State Senator Shirley Kitchen, who attended the hearing at Vaux High School, told the audience that a balanced approach between public housing and homeownership is important.

"I think that you should listen and that you should engage and put some of your ideas in," she said. "If we can do this, this is a big plus for the neighborhood."

Resident Benita Cummings believes the plan needs to include financing for people who want to fix up their homes.

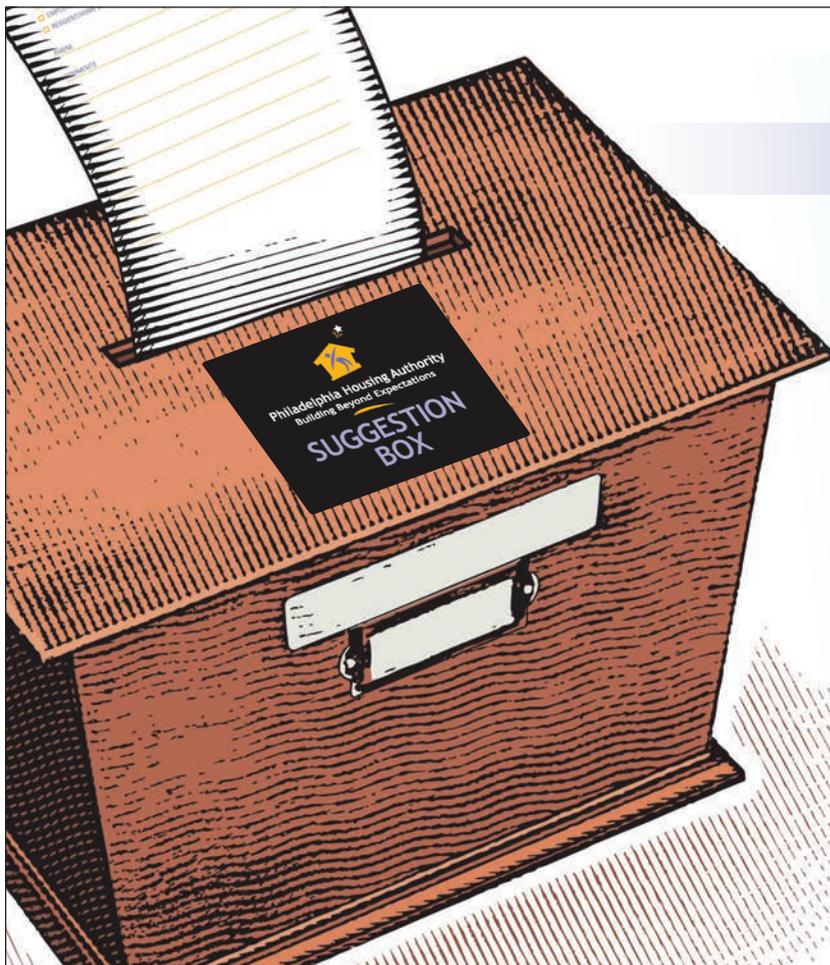
"The problem we have now is that the banks will loan you money for debt... but you can't get \$80,000 or \$100,000 which would allow you to renovate your home," Ms. Cummings said. "Even if you don't get a planning grant, that issue should stay on the table."

Renee Bowers complained that there are no food markets in the neighborhood, noting that the market at 26th & Girard was torn down and never replaced.

Anthony Abrams agreed with Ms. Bowers, adding that the neighborhood has too many vacant lots.



Michael Johns, General Manager of Community Development and Design, said PHA chose Sharswood because the agency believes it bears some responsibility for the neighborhood blight.



SUGGESTION BOX LOCATIONS

As part of ongoing efforts to foster a culture of respect and encourage an open dialogue among staff, residents, and management, PHA has installed suggestion boxes at the following sites.

To help us address your issues and concerns promptly, please remember to put your name and contact information on your suggestion card.

CONVENTIONAL AND PAPMC LOCATIONS

Abbottsford Homes
Bartram Village
Bentley Hall
Champlost Homes
Emlen Arms
Fairhill Apartments
Germantown House
Gladys B. Jacobs Manor
Haddington Homes
Harrison Plaza

Hill Creek Apartments
Holmcrest Homes
John F. Street Community Center
Johnson Homes
Katie B. Jackson Plaza
Lucien E. Blackwell Homes
Morton Homes
Mt. Olivet
Nellie Reynolds Gardens
Norman Blumberg Apartments

Oxford Village
Queen Lane Apartments
Raymond Rosen Manor
Spring Garden Apartments
Suffolk Manor
Warnock Village
Westpark Apartments
Whitehall Apartments
Wilson Park

SCATTERED SITE LOCATIONS

3417 Spring Garden Street
3226 McMichael Street
400 W. Huntington Street
1821 Vineyard Street
3218 W. Susquehanna Avenue

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

712 N. 16th Street

HCV LOCATIONS

Team A (South Philadelphia) - 1172-74 South Broad Street
Team B (West Philadelphia) - 5207 Walnut Street
Team C (Northwest Philadelphia) - 5538 "A" Wayne Avenue
Team D (North Philadelphia) - 2850 Germantown Avenue - area 1
Team E (Northeast Philadelphia) - 4346 Frankford Avenue
Team F (Project-Based) - 2850 Germantown Avenue - area 2



Blumberg residents rebuilding her life--gets high school diploma



Tamika Shank, a Blumberg resident, proudly displays her high school diploma which she received this past June. She went back to school 12 years after dropping out to provide a positive example to her young son.

Tamika Shank, who has lived at Blumberg Apartments for five years, has faced many challenges in her life, including abuse, depression, and four years in a homeless shelter.

So it was with great joy that she finally experienced something that she missed while growing up in the Sharswood neighborhood that surrounds Blumberg: her high school graduation ceremony.

Ms. Shank, 32, dropped out of Strawberry Mansion High School 12 years ago while she was shuttling between her father and stepmother. It was tough going to school because she needed to work from the time she was 14 years old. Eventually, she left school to help her mother, who had health problems, pay the bills. All this time, the only thing that stood between Ms. Shank and a high school diploma was three credits. She went back to school for her son, Damon, as much as for herself.

"He's a very smart student. I even had two recommendation letters for him to go to Girard College. But he can't seem to go because of his fighting and his

behavior in school. I wanted him to see even mommy goes through trials and tribulations," she said.

Ms. Shank made sure that Damon came to her graduation at Germantown High School this past June to see her in cap and gown with all the other seniors. She describes herself as a mother who pushes her son and wanted him to see that hard work and persistence pays off. Her course work covered chemistry, English, and math. Passing English was like climbing a mountain.

Getting her diploma was a great confidence builder for Ms. Shank.

"It did boost me. I know I can go and find me a job because I have a high school diploma now. I won't get turned away from many jobs," she said.

Ideally, Ms. Shank would like to attend Community College of Philadelphia next January. From there, she hopes to land a decent paying job or eventually start her own business. Real estate comes to mind. For the immediate future, Ms. Shank is focused on helping her son and her father who is suffering from dementia.



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Classes Locations:

Bartram Village

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Blumberg Apartments

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Blumberg Seniors

2311 W. Jefferson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Harrison Plaza

1240 N. 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Hill Creek

5573 Hillcreek Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19120

John F Street Center

1100 Poplar Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Johnson Homes

2630-D Norris Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Spring Garden

715 Brandywine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Westpark Apartments

300 N. Busti Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

White Hall

4749 Tackawanna Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

For class times please contact:

Jerel Brooks, Computer Technology
Coordinator at **215-684-0393**
or Jerel.Brooks@pha.phila.gov



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3rd Annual Family Affair Event most successful ever



Debra Peterkin of EDSI (left) answers questions from Anita Wright and Naomi Williams during the agency's 3rd Annual Family Affair Event. EDSI helps people with their resume writing and job interviewing skills.

PHA's 3rd Annual Family Affair Event at the John F. Street Community Center was better than ever, drawing over a thousand people to the festivities. The hot, sunny weather made it an ideal day for parents and kids alike, as parents met with companies offering training and services, and kids played on the lawn or had their faces painted. Music and food was enjoyed by all.

Enrico Crispo, General Manager of Workforce Development, said the festival focused as much on summer fun for adults and kids, as it did on services to PHA and neighborhood residents.

"It's summertime. Let's have fun with the kids, make sure that they know that we're here to help them have fun, especially with the Boys and Girls Club,

a great PHA partner," he said.

The highlight of the event was the graduation ceremony held for over 100 residents who successfully completed training in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Each graduate received a netbook.

More than 500 children received backpacks complete with school supplies, courtesy of the Freedom Rings Partnership, a group of grassroots organizations, government agencies, and universities that run the BTOP program.

Adults who took part in the Family Affair Event were able to meet with over 40 vendors offering training and services.

David Ballard, a Spring Garden resident, came to the event with his entire family. He was most interested in All Things Through Learning, Inc., an after school tutoring program for kids in grades K-8. The company has a contract with the Philadelphia School District to serve low-income families.

"I think tutoring helps them a lot. My kids need it," Mr. Ballard said. "There's not enough teacher's aides in the classroom."

Debbie Capers, a pre-school teacher for the district, was trying to find out more about the Community Engagement Unit (CEU) run by the Mayor's Office of Community Services. The CEU helps people with a number of issues such as paying property taxes and utility bills, getting rent rebates, registering to vote, and community organizing.

Anita Wright, who lives at Cecil B. Moore Homes, was recently laid off

from her job and was interested in services offered by Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI), a firm that helps people with their resumes and interviewing skills.

And Tanya Walker, a PHA resident who lives in West Philadelphia, was interested in First Home Care, an agency that helps adults become certified foster parents. She has six kids and enjoys taking care of children.



David Ballard (left) asks about a tutoring program run by All Things Through Learning, Inc., during PHA's Family Affair Event. Company representatives Ebony Tanner (center) and Dorothy Hudspeth were more than happy to help.

PHA residents getting connected through BTOP



Queen Lane resident Calvin Smith speaks at the graduation ceremony for residents who successfully completed BTOP training. As part of the program, graduates received a netbook computer. Mr. Smith called BTOP a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" for him.

One hundred and sixteen PHA residents received netbooks during a special ceremony held on August 11 during the agency's Family Affair Event. The ceremony celebrated their successful completion of training under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

One of BTOP's goals is increased broadband Internet usage by people who otherwise could not afford

Internet service. In Philadelphia, 41% of the population is not connected to the Internet. Many of those same people lack the skills necessary to use online services to their best advantage. BTOP is made possible thanks to \$11.8 million in federal stimulus funds.

PHA Executive Director Michael Kelly congratulated the graduates, noting that in this day and age, residents can't afford to go without Internet access.

"It's a vital link to finding a job, managing your finances, and learning about important events and information," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing more residents graduate from this program, which will bring more technology to our communities."

The program plans on distributing a total of 5,000 netbooks to residents. A netbook is a small, light, low-power notebook computer that is suitable for word processing, running a Web browser and connecting wirelessly to the Internet.

PHA teamed up with the Freedom Rings Partnership, a group of organizations, government agencies, and universities, to run the BTOP program locally. Drexel University, the Urban Affairs Coalition, the City of Philadelphia, Wilco Electronic Systems, and Tenant Support Services, Inc. (TSSI) worked with PHA to get the training program up and running.

"I think broadband is a civil right. When you don't have broadband, you don't have access to opportunities as other people do," said Brigitte Daniel, executive vice president of Wilco.

Enrico Crispo, PHA's General Manager of Workforce Development, agreed

with Ms. Daniel's sentiment.

"A netbook connects people to 21st century resources," he said. "People can connect to medical resources. Adults can get online and look for jobs instead of knocking on doors. Kids can use the netbooks for school work and locate educational resources."

To receive a netbook, residents had to successfully complete 8 hours of instruction at Community College of Philadelphia. The course covered topics such as the basic elements of a computer, connecting to the Internet, types of software programs, using the Internet to conduct job searches or find free resources, creating a resume, and using a portal.

Pam Coleman of Suffolk Manor thinks the training was fabulous and believes that it has opened up a whole new world to her.

"I had never Googled, but I'm doing it now," she said. "It's connecting me with my grandchildren. I don't understand everything, but I ask questions and they explain to me."

Calvin Smith, Jr., of Queen Lane Apartments said that the training he received through BTOP was a once-in-lifetime opportunity. He felt the course work has helped him to make

better use of the Internet and the information it offers.

Mr. Smith, who has worked for the City and the federal government, is working on obtaining his master's degree in public administration, so his netbook and new computer skills will come in handy.

"I was introduced to web sites that I never knew anything about," Mr. Smith said. "Just being able to investigate or see a web site that you never knew anything about...it's always been there, but I never knew anything about it."

Shirley Spencer, the president of the Resident Council at Raymond Rosen, believes the training will make her a more organized person.

"They showed you how to make a folder and divide stuff up into different folders. So everything is where you can find it," she said. "You can go back and get what you want, when you want it."

Ms. Spencer is looking forward to using her netbook to take notes at meetings and still be connected to the rest of the world.

Residents who want to enroll in future training sessions can call 215.684.1016 Or 5300.



This past summer was filled

The summer of 2011 is over, but it has left us with memories of fun-filled activities.



The participants and staff for the Summer Food Program at Abbottsford Homes were all smiles this summer. This year, the PHA Summer Food Program provided nearly 46,000 healthy meals to youth at 19 PHA sites around the city.



This year's Family Affair Event featured a "back-to-school" theme. Over 500 children, including members of the Boys & Girls Club, received backpacks courtesy of the Freedom Rings Partnership, the coalition of local organizations behind BTOP.



PHA and the Freedom Rings Partnership celebrated the first PHA graduation from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. The goal of BTOP is to increase broadband Internet usage by people who otherwise could not afford internet service. Over a hundred PHA residents successfully completed computer training and received a netbook computer.

with memorable moments!



Residents interested in PHA's Homeownership Program had the opportunity to talk to realtors and housing counseling agencies at a homeownership seminar held at the John F. Street Community Center.



Hundreds of PHA residents received health care information at PHA's annual Senior Health Summit. This year's event was held on June 21 at Wilson Park in South Philadelphia. Seniors in attendance met with vendors and took advantage of information on nutrition, prescription drugs, health care insurance, mammograms, blood pressure, diabetes, hearing loss and more.



It's never too early to learn how to be money smart--kids at Raymond Rosen attended a FLIP for kids session facilitated by Karl J. Bernhard, a Certified Financial Counselor from the Philadelphia Federal Credit Union.



PHA held a building dedication ceremony for the new Plymouth Hall on July 26th. Pictured from left: Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, Councilman William Greenlee, former Resident Council President Creasie Ashe, Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, PHA Administrative Receiver Michael Kelly, Resident Liaison Nellie Reynolds, State Senator Shirley Kitchen, and Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman Chaka Fattah/Democratic nominee for City Council (8th District) Cindy Bass cut the ribbon on the new green roof.



Homeownership Tips

Thinking about buying a home but not sure how to get started? Here are some tips from PHA Homeownership partners for residents who are thinking about making the jump to homeownership.

This issue, we spoke to a housing counselor and banker. Check out the next issue for tips from a realtor and home inspection company.

Housing Counselor

Scott Winfree is the Program Director for the Housing Association Information Program.

“The first thing to do is initiate a savings plan and develop and maintain a sound budget for monthly expenses. You should also seek housing counseling from a certified housing counselor,” Mr. Winfree advises clients.

Housing counseling covers topics like foreclosure prevention, anti-predatory lending, the purchasing process, how a loan works, the borrower’s responsibilities, credit counseling, budget and savings. Clients also learn about different ways to acquire property and how to do home repairs once you own a property.

Avoiding foreclosure is something that’s always in the back of Mr. Winfree’s mind. He wants buyers to learn the pros and cons prior to purchasing so foreclosure is not an issue for them.

Housing counselors also educate borrowers about how a loan works so homebuyers understand there is a difference between how much you borrow versus how much you actually pay.

“You may borrow a certain amount, but actually pay back far more in interest and principal payments,” Mr. Winfree explained. “It’s important to understand that because when you go to the settlement table and you see the documents, it’s alarming.”

He also counsels hard about understanding what you could inherit by purchasing a property. Make sure that there is title insurance on the loan which will cover any liens and encumbrances and always

have a home inspection even if it is new construction. PHA residents are required to get two, so it should be a fail proof system. If one misses, the other won’t.

“Overall, the important thing is to be educated and understand the process,” Mr. Winfree said.

Banker

The first thing Tenita Kennedy, a Home Mortgage Consultant with Wells Fargo Bank, tells a client is to work on their credit and savings and see what their can afford before jumping into the process.

- Credit - Research your credit report and know what’s on it. You can go online to www.annualcreditreport.com for a free copy. You’re entitled to one free copy a year from all three credit reporting companies.

If you don’t have credit, start building your credit prior to thinking about purchasing a home. Inquire about secure credit cards and secure loans. Tenita stresses the importance of trying local banks and credit unions instead of finding something online so you can go in and talk to someone in person.

If you have bad credit, think about the future and how to produce new credit.

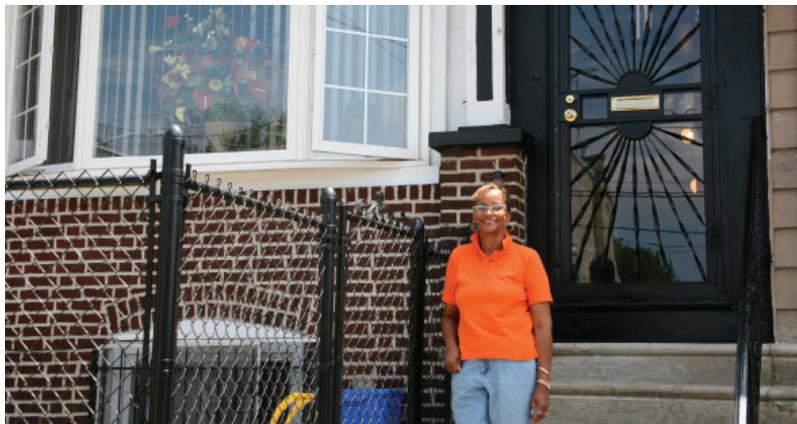
- Affordability

After you have built credit, find someone you can trust and feel comfortable with to take you through the process of determining how much you can afford, how much the house is monthly, and what type of home you should look for. Again, it’s best to deal with someone local, someone who is available to you and whom you can go see.

- Savings

Prospective homebuyers should also work on building the savings they are going to use to purchase their homes. It’s also a good idea to research different programs that may be available to first time homebuyers. You may be able to secure grants or loans from organizations OHCD, PHFA, or the Philadelphia Home Buy Now Program.

For more information about homeownership, call PHA’s Homeownership Division at 215-684-0383.



Philadelphia Housing Authority

Homeownership Program

Interested in homeownership? PHA has two programs that can help you achieve your dream

HCV Homeownership Program

Participants in the Housing Choice homeownership program may use their vouchers to make monthly mortgage payments

Scattered Sites Homeownership Program (Section 5H)

For scattered site residents who are interested in purchasing the home where they currently reside.

For more information, please contact:

PHA’s Homeownership Division

215.684.8018 or 215.684.8926

malvin.reyes@pha.phila.gov



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations



PHA provides equal access to housing and services without regard to race, color, creed, gender, national origin or physical disability.



Mother and son graduate PHA programs side by side

PHA's resident services positively impact families every day. HCV resident Geraldine Brown and her son Mark Billups are one example.

Geraldine was laid off from her job as a peer counselor at a Welfare to Work program last October. It was a traumatic moment for her, because she had really moved up in the organization and loved her job.

But she still has great memories of her time there. "I run into old clients from time to time and they thank me for helping them," Ms. Brown said. "It's nice to know I contributed. That gave me hope during my layoff."

A month after she lost her job, Geraldine and her son Mark went into the South Philly HCV office for recertification. Her service rep and her Economic Self-Sufficiency Coordinator suggested that both Geraldine and Mark sign up for a PHA program.

Geraldine is the kind of person who is eager to learn anything so she was happy to sign up. The fact classes were free to PHA residents was just a bonus. She chose PHA's Certified Nursing Assistant training. Mark, who is 19 and graduated from South Philadelphia High in 2009, decided to start Pre-Apprenticeship while still considering college.

Mark liked the variety that the program offered—from the academic classes to the hands-on training. Through Pre-Apprenticeship, he received forklift training, attended workshops on cultural literacy and financial literacy, and got his Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification. His favorite part, though, was learning how to splice wires and do other electrical work.

Mark was one of the youngest students at the program and the fact he had just graduated from high school helped, especially with math. In fact, he also took advanced classes in algebra and trigonometry, which is necessary for students who want to become electricians.

"I'm glad I did that because it prepared me for the electrical test," Mark said. "I was kind of scared when I took it. But when I looked at the test, it was everything we went over in the beginning. Our instructor said I did really well, that he was proud of me."

Mark plans to interview with the electricians' union soon but he is still thinking about college. After four years in the union, he will be a few credits short of an engineering degree and wants to go back to school then.

He recommends the program to other residents as well.

"I tell my friends all the time to do Pre-Apprenticeship if they're not doing anything," he said. "You get a lot. If you don't want to do union work, they plug you into different types of places like Amtrak or SEPTA."

Meanwhile, Mark's mother received six weeks of CNA training at the Professional Health Institute through PHA's Community Partners Program. She chose nursing because it is in high demand. It also puts her people skills to good use.

"It was a complete career change for me, but I had always wanted to be a nurse," Geraldine said. "The training opened the door."

She liked the hands-on training and interacting with residents during her internship.

During the program, Ms. Brown also worked with a representative from Educational Data Systems, Inc. (EDSI), another PHA Community Partner who helps residents with job placement. They went over resume writing, interview prep, business etiquette, fitness, budgeting and money management.

Geraldine finished the CNA course in March and took the state certification

exam in July. Passing the exam and becoming certified was an important milestone for her.

"It's just a great feeling when you accomplish something," she enthused. "I never thought in a million years I could do this."

After finishing the program, Geraldine received a \$400 stipend. She also received an additional \$200 from EDSI after passing the state exam.

Geraldine is currently looking for full time work. She hopes that once she

finds a position, she will be able to apply for a scholarship that will help her further her studies and become a registered nurse. She also wants to get back on track toward homeownership.

"I'm really looking forward to getting out there and showing my skills," she said.

For more information about PHA's Community Partners Program, please call 215-684-0393. For the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, please call 215-684-8049.



Geraldine Brown and her son Mark Billups signed up for PHA training programs together. Mark graduated from the PHA Pre-Apprenticeship Program and Geraldine completed the CNA training through the Professional Health Institute.

New homeowner turns life around

Twenty-eight year old Salema Lamar is proof that hard work and perseverance can turn your life around.

Salema had a rough childhood—both of her parents suffered from drug addictions and she had her first child when she was 16. To support herself and her daughter, she dropped out of high school and worked different part-time jobs, hopping from one to the next.

Things started to improve for her when she was 19 and received a Housing Choice Voucher. PHA's Homeownership Program was one of the first things Salema heard about when she became a HCV resident. But first, there were a few other things she wanted to accomplish.

When she was 20, Salema decided to go back to high school. She worked hard and graduated in 8 months. It was an important accomplishment for her because she wanted her children to understand the value of a good education and to do the right thing from the beginning. But soon, a high school diploma wasn't enough for her.

"After that, I just wanted more and more," Ms. Lamar said. "I would get bored and feel

like I was missing something, that I wasn't achieving as I should."

This year, Salema graduated from Community College with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. She worked full time at her job and went to school at night and on Saturdays while taking care of her children.

There were other family challenges as well. Her mother fell ill and passed away. She had to juggle her job, school and family life with the work she needed to put in to achieve homeownership.

"It was hard for me to be the daughter I needed to be, the parent I needed to be to, the employee I needed to be, and the student I needed to be. It was really, really hard," Salema said. "But I wanted to continue to meet my goals. I didn't want to jeopardize the future I was building."

Salema worked with the Philadelphia Council for Community Advancement (PCCA) to prepare for homeownership. Savings was critical--she arranged it so her bank automatically put some of her money into a separate account that she wouldn't touch until it was time. By

June of 2010, she had the go ahead to start looking for a home. She knew she wanted a modern house on a quiet block that was spacious for her kids and able to accommodate their needs.

"I was looking for something that was home, something permanent and comfortable," she said.

Shopping for the perfect home could be discouraging. She saw many houses, but none of them were quite right. Still, she was very careful not to rush because she knew exactly what she wanted. Even when her agent started to get frustrated, Salema stuck with it.

It definitely paid off. Salema and her family are now settling into a beautiful, renovated house in Overbrook that she closed on this summer. Her four children are enjoying their new home and she's happy to be able to provide stability for them.

This fall, Salema will be a transfer student at Temple where she will study elementary education. Her work experience persuaded her to change her major. For 4 years, she has been working as learning support for special education at a charter school in West



Salema Lamar, a former Housing Choice Voucher resident, shows off the kitchen of her new home in Overbrook.

Philadelphia. Her workplace motivates her; the school encourages staff to further their educations and move up in positions. She sees herself becoming a teacher after getting her degree and having a great career.

For more information about PHA's Homeownership Program, please call 215-684-8018.



WIC Program promotes nutrition for young families



Briana Mims (right) and her newborn daughter Heavenly meets with Julia Sundermeier, a nutrition assistant for the WIC program. WIC is a supplemental food and nutrition education program designed to make healthy foods available to mothers, infants, and children.

In a tough economy, programs like WIC are more important than ever.

WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children. The program serves pregnant women, women who have given birth within the last six months, mothers who are breastfeeding, and children up to the age of 5. It helps young families get the healthy food they need.

Qualified participants receive a WIC check/voucher which they can take to any supermarket or store that accepts WIC. An estimated 500 to 600 stores in Philadelphia accept WIC, including mom and pop corner stores and neighborhood supermarkets.

Infants receive formula and baby food through the program. For mothers and children, WIC provides juice, cereal, milk, cheese, eggs, and peanut butter—foods which are rich in calcium, vitamins, protein and iron. Participants are trained on what products and what specific brands are covered by WIC.

The organization NORTH, Inc. administers the WIC program in Philadelphia. There are 15 offices conveniently located throughout the city as well as mobile sites. WIC serves approximately 70,000 individuals.

NORTH, Inc. is hard at work reaching out to qualified mothers who are not

on the program and reminding those who are signed up that it's important to come in to the office for their appointments. The staff goes out to community events to get the word out. They also visit women's shelters and high schools.

"We're concerned about people who are not coming in to pick up their WIC checks. There's a big drop during the summers," said Nichole Vaughn, Human Resources Manager for NORTH, Inc. "But we want them to understand the value of food and nutrition information."

With the rising cost of food right now, it's important for young families to be smart about their benefits and combine food stamps with WIC vouchers to ensure that their family has enough food for the entire month. It's part of WIC's goal to battle food insecurity.

"There are families who are watering down baby formula," Ms. Vaughn explained. "We want to help families so they don't have to experience that."

The WIC program also provides valuable nutrition information and does its part to fight childhood obesity. As part of the program, participants meet with a nutritionist who conducts a nutrition risk assessment and individualized nutrition counseling.

One of North, Inc.'s focuses is on breastfeeding. The program provides baby formula, but studies have shown that breast milk is the best for growing babies – they receive important health. Mothers are encouraged to try breastfeeding for at least six weeks. As part of the program, they receive carrots and tuna fish as well.

NORTH, Inc. also strives to educate kids on healthy food like vegetables. In their experience, kids have trouble recognizing things like green peppers or eggplants so they're teaching families how to incorporate vegetables into their diets.

In addition to one-on-one counseling, WIC offices offer group nutrition education which covers topics like Vitamin C.

"We discuss how it benefits them, what foods contain it," said Ms. Vaughn. "There is a huge education component so families know what to do with the food they receive through the WIC program. It's all about empowering the family and giving mothers the tools to feed her children and help them grow."

You must meet WIC's income guidelines and complete a nutrition risk assessment to qualify for the program. For more information or to sign up for WIC, please call 1-800-743-3300.

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Jerel Brooks
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SERVICE COORDINATORS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

Colette Dunlap
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Nicole Connell

Raymond Rosen Apartments (M, W, F) 215-684-5553
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Stephanie Hamlin

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UFC fighters visit Wilson Park Boys & Girls Club

On August 5, teens at the Wilson Park Community Center enjoyed a morning of fun and exercise as they took turns testing their fighting skills on an Xbox game.

But the biggest draw for the participants at the Boys & Girls Club summer camp was the opportunity to meet a pair of real, live sports celebrities.

Two Ultimate Fighting Championship fighters—Dominick Cruz, bantamweight champion, and Charlie Brenneman, a welterweight contender—came to Wilson Park on the eve of the UFC 133 event in

Philadelphia to speak to the kids about their experiences with mixed martial arts. Mixed martial arts, or MMA, is a sport that combines jujitsu, wrestling, judo and kick boxing.

“We’re here to encourage the kids to do something big in their life as they get older,” they said. “Boxing is a way to keep the body healthy and promote self-esteem.”

Mekhi Williamson, a member of the Boys & Girls Club, really enjoyed receiving fighting tips from the champs and the Xbox simulator.

“This will be a great hobby as I get older,” Mekhi said. “The training also helps you to protect yourself and it is good for losing weight.”

Patrice Bockery, 8, said, “It’s not something I want to do, but it is fun to watch.”

Caren Bell who handles public relations for the UFC, helped arrange this event for the 125 teens at Wilson Park.

“We travel to different cities and try to give something back,” said Ms. Bell. “Hopefully some of the messaging about staying in school and staying disciplined will be absorbed. We also want to thank THQ [a video game publisher] for donating the video game and two Xboxes to the Boys & Girls Clubs.”

As the event drew to a close, children waited in line while contender Charlie Brenneman signed and handed out autographs. After the signing session, everyone gathered for a group photo.

Harold Reed, the Unit Director for the Boys & Girls Clubs at Wilson Park, says this was a positive day for the children.

“The kids benefit from seeing people who reach a goal through perseverance,” said Mr. Reed. “Being fair, having diligence, staying focused makes boxing a tool. Programs like this help them to do better and have goals and dreams.”

The UFC has about 18 demonstrations like this each year around the country, usually a day before the martial arts competition.



Dominick Cruz, the UFC bantamweight champion, shared life lessons and fighting tips with members of the Wilson Park Boys & Girls Club.



The UFC regularly arranges community events in the cities they visit. During the event at Wilson Park, the UFC fighters signed autographs and encouraged the teens to pursue their studies and sports.

This was the first visit by UFC to the Boys & Girls Clubs in Philadelphia and organizers say it won't be the last.

There are 11 Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the city. Two are on PHA properties: one is at the John F. Street Center in North Philadelphia and the other is at

the Wilson Park Community Center in South Philadelphia. If you are interested in becoming a Boys & Girls Clubs member this fall at either site, please call 215-684-0014.

PHA youth discover All Things Through Learning

This summer, young PHA residents at 4 sites benefited from free tutoring offered by All Things Through Learning (ATTL), an educational organization. Now, ATTL is hoping to continue their work through the school year and expand to other sites.

During the summer, ATTL hired residents in the community and children at Champlost, Harrison, Hill Creek and Queen Lane were able to sign up for the subjects they were interested in. They received tutoring in math and reading, but also explored creative writing and science.

During the school year, ATTL tutors children who are in kindergarten through 8th grade in reading as part of the School District of Philadelphia's Supplemental Educational Services Program or SES.

The organization has a contract with the School District under the No

Children Left Behind Act. Tutoring sessions are offered at no cost to eligible students or their families.

In mid-September, the School District will send letters to students who qualify for tutoring sessions through Supplemental Educational Services. There are two pre-requisites: students must be a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipient and they must attend a Title I school, which is a school that has failed to meet Annual Yearly Progress two years in a row.

Parents are asked to fill out an application, choose a preferred provider from a list, and send the form back to their child's school.

ATTL hopes to be their first choice. The organization has been active since 2006 and currently serves students in Florida, Georgia and Pennsylvania. This is their second year in Philadelphia.

The sessions will be held after school and on Saturdays. Qualified students are entitled to 56 hours of tutoring ATTL's goal is to complete tutoring in 9 to 10 weeks. Attendance is important—too many missed sessions may result in removal from the program.

ATTL provides instructional materials, books, school supplies, and nutritional snacks and beverages to students.

The goal is to help students improve their performance. Participants are tested and grouped together by level. Tutors work with them to get up to speed or to help them move forward.

ATTL staff does regular assessments to track a student's progress but there is testimony from parents and students to help them measure their success.

“One of our kids this summer would be dancing around the room because

she was so happy that she could read. Her grandmother told us that before she came to us, she couldn't read at all and now she's reading at grade level,” said Dorothy Hudspeth of ATTL. “We get comments from parents about their kids making the honor roll for the first time and those are the things that encourage us to work a little harder.”

The ATTL staff is excited to work at PHA developments this year. The community centers are ideal because students are close to home when the program finishes around 5:30pm.

ATTL is holding meetings with resident leaders at the proposed service sites. The tutoring sessions are expected to begin in late October or early November so please keep an eye out for the letter about SES from the School District.

Get connected!

Comcast is offering affordable Internet service for \$9.95 a month for families with children who receive free lunches at school and meet other qualifications.

To learn more, visit www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376) to request an application.



PHA team shines through power outage

PHA staff showed once again that it is up to challenges large and small—especially unexpected challenges like the summer heat wave that caused power outages at 9 PHA sites the weekend of July 22nd.

Most of the sites lost power for just a short time, but a serious power outage took place at Wilson Park. The outage lasted from 6:30 PM that Friday evening until noon on Saturday. Site managers,

maintenance personnel, and others worked all night and into the next day to see that the problem was fixed and that seniors who live in the towers at Wilson Park were comfortable and safe.

Denise Snead, the manager at Wilson Park, said the outage was the biggest she's ever faced. High heat can prove deadly to seniors, especially those with medical conditions.

"We had no elevator service. You're looking around. You're running all around. And you're asking yourself, 'Did I see this resident? Did I see that one?'" she said.

As electricians and mechanics worked hard to restore the electrical systems, laborers and resident services staff checked out all the units at Wilson Park to ensure that seniors and families were okay. Older residents who wanted to

leave their apartments in the towers received assistance and were moved to the community center, which had power and air conditioning.

PHA staff also distributed food and water to residents and made sure that no one was suffering from dehydration or heat exhaustion. Once power was restored, staff helped frailer seniors move back to their apartments. PHA also provided hot meals for the evening.

Executive Director Michael Kelly thanked everyone on staff who gave up much of their weekend to see that power was restored and that everyone was safe.

"You demonstrated great dedication to the job and commitment to our clients," he said. "It's one reason among many why I'd put PHA staff up against employees of any housing authority in country."



Senior Calendar

OCTOBER 2011

Intergenerational Programming

Volunteering trip to Cradles to Crayons Thurs., October 20th- 10am

Health and Wellness

Nutrition Workshop - Fiber Fun Date TBA - 10:30am
Wilson Park - 2508 Jackson Street

Flu Shots Monday, October 31st - 9:30am - 11:30am
Katie B. Jackson - 400 N. 50th Street

NOVEMBER 2011

Health and Wellness Workshops

Emlen Arms Tuesday November 1st - 9:30 - 11:30am
6733 Emlen Street

Nellie Reynolds Gardens Tuesday, November 1st - 9:30 - 11:30am
2653 Glenwood Avenue

Wilson Park Tuesday, November 2nd - 9:30 - 11:30am
2508 Jackson Street

Cataract/Glaucoma Screenings Tuesday, November 8th - 10am
Wilson Park - 2508 Jackson Street

Socialization

Black & White Ball Saturday November 5, 2011 - 4pm - 8pm
Emlen Arms - 6733 Emlen Street

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The New Generation of mature adults...

Alive and Blessed Senior Program
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am to Noon

Offering computer classes, bible study, crafts, indoor exercise and much more. Program is open to the community.

For more information, contact Senior Programs at
215-684-1183

Ridge Avenue Eldercare Services and participants thriving together



Participants at Ridge Avenue Eldercare Services enjoy arts and crafts and each other's company. The center, which is co-located at Nellie Reynolds Gardens, has been serving seniors since January 2010.

PHA has always been committed to the health and well-being of its seniors. Over the years, the housing authority has created lasting partnerships with agencies such as Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Long Term Living to deliver important services to PHA seniors.

In January 2010, PHA further demonstrated its commitment to seniors with the opening of the Ridge Avenue Eldercare Services (RAES), an adult day center co-located with the state-of-the-art, green roof-topped Nellie Reynolds Gardens senior building.

With Ms. Kelly Williams at the helm as Center Administrator, RAES provides a place where seniors 60 years and older can spend half a day or a whole day engaging in therapeutic activities geared towards the improvement of their mental and physical health. Programs include fitness and exercise, health and wellness education,

arts and crafts, socialization with peers, and field trips.

The program gives seniors who would otherwise be isolated and alone in their homes a chance to interact with their peers, receive nutritious meals, and have their minds engaged. There is also a computer on site to help with mental skills.

Ridge Avenue started with just 6 participants. Since then, enrollment has more than quadrupled, with a current enrollment of 39 participants.

PHA believes every senior should have the right to age in place in their communities and homes, and RAES helps them do exactly that!

Ridge Avenue is always looking for more participants, so if you know of seniors in your developments or in your neighborhood who would benefit from RAES' services, please have them contact the center at 215-684-2464 to discuss eligibility requirements.

Queen Lane Apartments

(continued from page 1)

The redeveloped site will use the entire square block with the new units surrounding a secure courtyard and parking spaces.

The playground at Queen Lane will be no more. Miriam Davis, who lives nearby on the 5300 block of Priscilla Street, raised concerns about the lack of a new playground.

There is another playground nearby and Mr. Johns told Ms. Davis that PHA will have to work with the City's Parks and Recreation Department for other opportunities, but the new design for Queen Lane calls for a secure courtyard to limit access to residents only and reduce the possibility of crime.

Shakira Butler wanted to know how PHA will organize the moving process.

Vannie Miller, who supervises relocation for the agency, told her that he'll work with residents starting at the top floor and move down. However, seniors and persons with disabilities will have priority.

"We're going to do a needs assessment with each family," he said. "We're also going to do a social service assessment."

The needs assessment confirms the size of the family and the number of bedrooms needed.

"You are a priority. So, if there are units available, they're going to be offered to you," Miller said.

Miller also said that he'll be on site at Queen Lane from "morning 'til night" and could even meet with residents on weekends. Residents will be taken to see their replacement units while movers will do the packing for the elderly and disabled. PHA will fast track those residents who want to move into the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Enrico Crispo, General Manager for Workforce Development, urged residents to ask the relocation team about the programs and services that PHA offers.

"Think about where you want to move and what programs are there," he said. "Think about where you want to see yourself. Think about, 'Is this what my kids would take advantage of?'"

For instance, 4 PHA sites will have after-school programs starting this September in addition to the Boys & Girls Clubs at two locations.

Emlen Arms President remembered for energy, and for his persistence



Benjamin Robinson, President of the Emlen Arms Resident Council.

Benjamin Robinson, the president of the Emlen Arms Resident Council who passed away on July 26th, will be remembered as someone who wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

"He was a go-getter," said Arnold Walker, vice president of the Council. "He was the type of person that you respected for his abilities, for his fighting [to get things done]. He didn't sit back and wait for things."

Mr. Walker, who saw Mr. Robinson just hours before he passed at Vitas Innovative Hospice Care in Northeast Philadelphia, said he really looked up to him.

Mr. Robinson fought for and won several improvements for residents at Emlen Arms. He made the sign-in desk and the back parking lot accessible, got a computer lab for the development, and got PHA to create two more laundry rooms in the high-rise on the fifth and ninth floors.

A personal experience led him to push for making the back of the building accessible to wheelchair residents such as himself. During a drop off by CCT (SEPTA's accessible transit service), his wheelchair fell from the lift and on to Emlen Street.

Benjamin (Benny) Robinson had spent his work life as a painter. He painted bridges and large church steeples throughout the country. While riding across the Walt Whitman or Tacony Palmyra Bridges, he'd often comment, "I painted this bridge."

No structure was too high or too far for Benny to paint. He was last employed at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard as a painter/sand blaster foreman. For a while, he retired to Ladson, South Carolina, but returned to Philadelphia when his health began to fail. Mr. Robinson had served for over five years as president of the Resident Council at Emlen Arms.

He was 68 years old.

Kelly accepts position

(continued from page 1)

As former Inspector General of NYCHA, he was responsible for providing external oversight and conducting investigations in partnership with law enforcement agencies. He worked closely with Mr. Kelly, who was General Manager of NYCHA before coming to PHA.

At PHA, Mr. Jeremiah will help various investigative agencies complete their look into past business practices and help prevent waste, fraud and abuse. Both he and Ms. Adams are responsible for reporting to the Executive Director and the PHA

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Have you become a new homeowner? Started your own business? Graduated from college or a professional training program?

The PHA Experience would like to share your story with our readers. To get your story into the Experience, call Nancy Loi at 215-684-8645 or send an email to nancy.loi@pha.phila.gov

PHA launches new after school program for teens

(continued from page 1)

PHA is partnering with three education providers: EducationWorks (EW) serves the Bartram Village community, Foundations Inc. oversees the program at Fairhill Apartments, and People for People offers the program at Blumberg Apartments and Raymond Rosen Manor.

To promote the program, PHA held several information sessions at the sites in August so students and families could have the opportunity to meet the staff and learn more about their plans for the school year.

One major focus of the Youth

Achievement Program is academics. Participants receive tutoring and homework help. Students will also benefit from social service support.

But the program is designed so kids are having fun too.

"After six and seven hours at school, we don't want it to feel like school at a different location," said Craig Heim of EducationWorks. "It's a combination of fun and professional development."

The Youth Achievement Program emphasizes arts and technology for teens so they can spend time on things that interest them and learn valuable, 21st century skills that can

lead to a successful career.

At Bartram, participants will be using the site's computer lab and working with staff on projects like webs development and audio/video production.

Fairhill students will receive transportation to Foundations' Philadelphia Center for Arts and Technology (PCAT) where they will have access to the facility's dance studio, art room, music studio and computer labs. PCAT also offers physical electives like karate and gymnastics so kids can stay healthy and active.

There will also be different social

events and field trips throughout the year so participants have a chance to expand their horizons and experience different parts of the city.

The Youth Achievement Program also encourages teens to think about their future beyond high school.

The Foundations staff includes a full-time college and career mentor who will assist teens with career matching, resume-writing, and job readiness skill building.

EW will help participants to start developing professional portfolios and prepare them for the work world. They also plan to help teens

find summer jobs and internships so they can gain work experience.

The providers want parents and adults in the community to be involved as well.

"Our job is to support the kids while they're here, but kids are much more likely to succeed if their parents are a part of that success," said Glenna Deekle of Foundations.

To be eligible for the program, you must be a PHA resident between the ages of 14 and 18 and currently enrolled in school. The program runs Mondays through Thursdays after school. For more information, please call 215-684-0393.



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What's the best time to prepare for emergencies? Before they happen. What's the best place to find out what you need to know? Your local Red Cross. Here are some tips to get you started.

GET A KIT

A well-stocked emergency preparedness kit should contain enough supplies to last you for three days. Some of the things you'll need:

- Water
- Food
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Radio & batteries
- Tools
- Clothing
- Copies of identity cards and important papers
- Sanitary items
- Cash
- Contact information

MAKE A PLAN

It's so low-tech, it's no-tech. But writing down what your family needs to know and do in an emergency could make the difference between disaster and survival. For example:

- Talk with your family. Set responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- Plan ahead. Choose places to meet if a disaster scatters your family.
- Learn essential actions. Everyone should know how to turn off electricity, water, and gas.
- Tell everyone where emergency supplies are kept.
- Practice evacuating your home twice a year.
- Include your pets. If you must evacuate, know what you need to do to take your pets with you.

BE INFORMED

In an emergency, information can be the most powerful life-saving tool of all. So arm yourself with it.

- Learn what disasters—like floods or tornadoes—are likely to affect where you live or work.
- Identify how local authorities will contact you. And where to get important information in the event of a disaster.
- Find out what you can do. To learn about simple first aid techniques, CPR, and basic disaster training, contact your local Red Cross. Make sure at least one member of your household is trained in first aid, CPR, and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Share what you learn with family, friends, and neighbors. Encourage them to be informed too.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE THREE STEPS TO BEING RED CROSS READY, VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.REDCROSSPHILLY.ORG

Be Red Cross Ready

Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed.



American Red Cross

Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

