

Residents Set Housing March In Washington



Resident Advisory Board President Asia Coney urged residents to be knowledgeable because that knowledge might save their homes.

“If you care about the future of affordable housing in this country you must let your voice be heard.” With those words, PHA Resident Advisory Board president Asia Coney announced plans for a march in Washington on June 20.

The announcement came at a summit on affordable housing in Wilmington on April 10, where about 200 residents and housing agency leaders gathered to discuss the latest round of federal budget cuts threatening the future of public housing.

Organizers have formed a group to coordinate the D.C. march – The National Coalition to

Preserve Public and Assisted Housing. Coney says the group consists of resident leaders from across the nation. Coney says this is a grass roots movement that will depend on neighbors calling neighbors. “We are still planning our marching route, but you can count on HUD seeing and hearing us,” Coney said. She also said the group would ask for about \$5 from each resident traveling on the bus to DC to help defray the costs.

Anyone interested in learning more about participating in the June 20 event in Washington should call 1-888-443-0978.

Public Housing Families Fuel Falls Ridge Sale

It took just three weeks to close out the sale of 28 new homes at PHA’s Falls Ridge development located in East Falls. Eight of the new homeowners are PHA residents, making the major step from renter to homeowner. The rest of the buyers came from the general public who met the income guidelines. The sell out at Falls Ridge was the fastest of any PHA site so far, the other three being Blackwell Homes, Greater Grays Ferry Estates and Martin Luther King.

PHA has set a new housing trend at Falls Ridge, with public housing and market-rate housing built side-by-side. These homeownership units are the second phase following 135 rental units completed in 2003. Westrum Development Company has begun building 128 market-rate homes on the same site.



East Falls homes almost done.

PHA plans to continue this new model in future developments as part of a commitment to create balanced communities.

Elizabeth Williams, a medical assistant at Thomas Jefferson University hospital, bought the very first home. Elizabeth is a Housing Choice Voucher recipient who lives in Philadelphia’s Wynnefield neighborhood and has a 9-year old-daughter.

When she first came to the HCV program, Elizabeth learned that she had seven years to become self-sufficient. PHA hooked her up with a self-sufficiency coordinator. She went back to school and obtained a diploma to become a medical assistant, eventually landing her job at the hospital. Williams also began to repair her credit and save money for a down payment on a home.

“I couldn’t see renting for the rest of my life.

(Continued Page 13)

Lex Street - An Amazing Transformation

It took years to complete the transformation but now the West Philadelphia homes on Lex Street have gone from depressing to inspiring. The Philadelphia Housing Authority has totally revitalized the area making this street vibrant, alive and new. This is the same street that made national headlines in December of 2000, as the scene of the worst mass execution in the city’s history. Gone is the house where ten people were shot and seven died in what was known as the Lex Street massacre.

A ribbon cutting earlier this year officially heralded the opening of the new Lex Street, 18 brand new homes. Today, residents live in these attractive houses as part of the PHA’s Lucien E. Blackwell development. With new homes, streets, and landscaping, PHA has revitalized this once drug infested neighborhood, improving the quality of life for those who live in and around the development.

Brenda Mosely is one of the residents who moved in

recently. Although she remembers little of the Lex Street murders, she recalls the deplorable conditions that existed. “A few years ago this area needed a ‘do not enter’ sign. Now the sign should say ‘welcome.’ It is beautiful and a great place for my disabled

daughter and myself. This home accommodates my daughter with wider entryways, accessible bathrooms, ramps and more. PHA is trying to make this new

(Continued Page 14)



Longtime neighborhood resident Cynthia Waltoncuts ribbon at Lex Street opening. PHA Exec. Dir. Carl Greene (R) led the celebration.

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Photo courtesy of Bruce Frazier Grace Notes All-Star Jazz Ensemble

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SP0913 2/07

National Honor - And A New Contract for PHA's leader

March proved a rewarding month for PHA Executive Director Carl Greene. On March 21 in Washington, DC, one of the nation's top affordable housing advocacy groups presented Mr. Greene with its first annual advocacy award. The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials cited Mr. Greene's successful efforts to raise the profile of public housing on a level well beyond Philadelphia and even Pennsylvania. Mr. Greene and PHA have won numerous awards for real estate design and development, resident training programs and technology, but Mr. Greene feels this one is extra special because so many housing authorities across the nation have followed PHA's example in bringing the issue

of inadequate federal funding to the public's attention.

Mr. Greene will continue to guide PHA well into the future. On March 29, the PHA board of commissioners voted unanimously to sign the housing authority leader to a five-year contract. Mr. Greene had worked without the benefit of a contract for his first nine years at the helm, but last fall Pennsylvania law was changed to allow for housing authority senior management to have contracts. The signing is a message to investors, residents of PHA, and the general public that the agency will continue under the same stable leadership that has produced so many positive changes in both the public housing and Housing Choice Voucher program.



Executive Director Carl R. Greene receives the NAHRO Award for national advocacy leadership to restore funding.

PHA Sells Off Fleet Vehicles To Reduce Expenses



The PHA vehicle auction drew just over 250 registered buyers, although many more showed up to watch.

There was excitement in the air before PHA's vehicle auction held in the lot across from PHA Police headquarters in South Philadelphia. Never before had the agency conducted such an event.

PHA had no trouble attracting buyers

to its auction of cars, trucks, trailers, and heavy machinery in late February. The auction successfully raised \$221,000, another step toward eliminating the budget deficit caused by federal funding cuts. With fewer vehicles, PHA will lower its ongoing overhead costs.

Unfortunately some services to transport residents have been eliminated.

Aside from the cash brought in by the sale, the elimination of the vehicles also means a savings of \$200,000 a year in insurance and maintenance costs, according to PHA Contracts and Procurement GM Shari Hamilton. "I'd say the auction was a success because of outstanding teamwork and a comprehensive marketing strategy," Hamilton said.

Brian Lyons, the auction coordinator, said the event drew over 250 registered buyers, although many more showed up to watch. He said widespread publicity helped to create a "phenomenal turnout."

Bidders from a wide geographic area came to the auction for money saving deals and business opportunities. Some came to pick up a second

car for the family. Small business owners came to buy heavier equipment at a bargain price. Others came to buy vehicles that could be repaired and resold by themselves or dealers. One of the successful bidders represented a dealer from western Pennsylvania.

The largest purchase was a 1996 Ford truck with a "cherry picker" basket and a "tree chipper" that sold for \$32,000 to a New Jersey businessman who runs a tree service.

PHA Police Department Commander Raymond Hartfield, who arranges transportation for residents to events, says PHA will not be able to offer nearly the service to residents that it has in the past. He says the agency has neither the employees nor the vehicles to transport residents to such events as senior summits. *(Continued Page 14)*

Community Partners Program in Full Swing

Despite the recent staffing cuts at PHA, the Community Partners Program is still operating with a full range of educational and training opportunities for residents.

"The Community Partners Program is in full swing," says Leighanne Tancredi, the manager of the program. "Anyone who is interested can enroll by following the sign-up procedures with their economic self-sufficiency coordinator."

PHA recently met with representatives from all Community Partners to clarify procedures on reporting and tracking residents' progress in the programs.

"We emphasized the link

between the training offered in the programs, employment and self-sufficiency that will open up homeownership opportunities to residents," Tancredi said. "Residents can take advantage of PHA's homeownership programs if they are employed."

Tancredi also says the Community Partners Program gives residents flexibility and variety. For example, some residents may need training in a specific skill, others may need their GED to enter a training program, and others may want to learn about starting their own business.

Participation in the Community Partners Program

is particularly important for residents in the Housing Choice Voucher program. Residents who have entered the HCV program since 2003 have 7 years to become independent, before their voucher expires (excluding the elderly and disabled). People who successfully take part in the program go from zero income to earning a living wage (now averaging \$11 an hour at the start) and they put themselves on track to move up the economic ladder.

"The contracts with the Partners are in place and the money is there," Tancredi says. "We want our residents to take advantage of these programs and get ahead."



Leighanne Tancredi, manager of the Community Partners Program explains the connection between training, employment, and self-sufficiency, that open up home ownership opportunities to residents.

Computer Course Graduation For PHA Seniors

page 4

The fourth graduating class of computer students has received their Certificate of Accomplishment award for their achievement. In three months, the 50 graduates from Norman Blumberg and the Johnson Homes developments learned how to navigate through Windows, surf the web, send emails, text messages, design documents and learn that Microsoft Word is more than just a word.

Carolyn Warren, Tenant Council President at Herbert Arlene Homes was among the graduates. "Before I couldn't open attachments, make address books, navigate through programs or make presentations. After attending the computer graduation of a friend, I was inspired to take the class myself. William Brown is an excellent instructor and he's so patient." Now using email several times a week, Carolyn shares

pictures and notes with her daughter Barbara who is in the Air Force in Japan.

The computer center opened at Johnson Homes four years ago. The Center offers after school programs for children, computer lessons for seniors, and general access to computers for a segment of the population that often can't afford their own PC's. Students who have taken the course range from eight years old to eighty-seven. PHA Commissioner and resident, Nellie Reynolds took the first course offered a few years ago and says it's fantastic. "I didn't even know how to turn the computer on but realized that if I didn't learn the basics I would be left far behind. This course taught me how to surf the web and respond to email messages. And besides, the games are a lot of fun."

The facility is open not only to public housing resi-

dents but also to anyone in the surrounding community. PHA Executive Director Carl Greene believes very strongly in the importance of technology and has made these classes a priority. The program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that calls centers such as this one "Neighborhood Networks."

The goals of the program are to use technology to increase academic performance for children and adults, increase the employability skills of adults and working age young people, and increase computer technology skills among all demographic groups.

William Brown has been the instructor from the beginning, "Through diligence and commitment, anyone no matter how old or young can grasp the concepts. Thus far we have people who have been able to start from the beginner's class and graduate to the advanced class and use every application in the Microsoft Office Suite with ease, while becoming successful with email and web surfing. Thank you Commissioner Reynolds and PHA for the opportunity to give back not just to the younger generation, but my mother and father's generation who have sacrificed so much for us to be where we are today."

PHA just received another federal grant making it possible to open even more centers. Computer training is available at Bartram Village, Harrison Plaza, Hill Creek, Spring Garden Apartments, Westpark Apartments, Norris Apartments and Johnson Homes. If you want to learn computer basics or improve your skills call Monet Williams at 215.684.4628, or instructor William Brown at 215.684.8660.



Fifty proud graduates from Norman Blumberg and Johnson Homes developments can now surf the web, send emails and make presentations.

The PHA Experience • April 2007

PHA Senior Programs Special Committee Meetings and Special Events Schedules 2007*

May		Location: Wilson Park Community Room 2508 Jackson Street
May 1	Event: Tai Chi with Bob Location: Wilson Park Community Room 2508 Jackson Street Time: 11:00 am -12:00 noon	
May 1	Event: Yoga Class Location: Emlen Arms 6733 Emlen Street Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Info: Class held every Tue. & Thurs.	May 13
May 4	Event: Arthritis Foundation: "Self Help Workshop" Location: Wilson Park Café area 2508 Jackson Street Time: 10:00am- 12:00noon	May 18
May 7	Event: Computer Lab Class Location: Wilson Park Computer Lab 2508 Jackson Street Time: 1:30pm- 3:00pm Info: Class held every Mon.	May 25
May 9	Meeting: Senior Advisory Board Meeting Location: Holmecrest 8533 Erdrick Drive Time: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	June 4
May 11	Event: Arthritis Foundation: "Self Help Workshop" Location: Wilson Park Café area 2508 Jackson Street Time: 10:00am- 12:00noon	June 5
May 15	Event: Tai Chi with Bob	June 5
		Location: Mount Olivet 642 N. 41st Street Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
		Meeting: Senior Town Meeting Location: Abbottsford 3226 McMichael Street Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
		June
		Event: Computer Lab Class Location: Wilson Park Computer Lab 2508 Jackson Street Time: 1:30pm- 3:00pm Info: Class held every Mon.
		Event: Tai Chi with Bob Location: Wilson Park Community Room 2508 Jackson Street Time: 11:00 am -12:00 noon
		Event: Yoga Class Location: Emlen Arms 6733 Emlen Street Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Info: Class held every Tues. & Thurs.

www.pha.phila.gov

Attractive Alternative To Nursing Home Care



Germantown House will open a LIFE Center this spring to keep seniors living independently.

If you or a loved one is experiencing health problems, disability or memory loss that limits your ability to be independent, you may be eligible for LIFE (Living Independently For Elders). LIFE provides comprehensive medical and social services for adults age 55 and over.

LIFE helps chronically ill or disabled adults by promoting independence at home. The program provides primary medical care, social work services, physical and occupational therapies, assistance with personal care at home, transportation and much more.

Since 1998, St. Agnes Continuing Care Center and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing LIFE programs have been helping older adults throughout the community regain their independence.

Two years ago, PHA opened (*Continued Page 14*)

Housing Choice Voucher Key to Homeownership



Margaret Brown

Many people buy homes when they are in their 20's or 30's and think that if you wait much longer you're too old. Well, don't tell that to Margaret Brown, now in her 50's and happy to be off the Housing Choice voucher program. She recently bought a home as a first time homebuyer. "This is just wonderful. A bigger place was needed for the kids and myself. When I first saw this house I knew it would be my home." PHA gave her the idea by asking her if she wanted to buy a home. She originally told them she was too old. PHA told her they would show her how.

Margaret who has a disability, has four adopted girls, 13-year-old Shartece, 11-year-old Malika, 10-

Margaret Brown

year-old Markita, and 8-year-old Tanisha. The girls are excited to have moved from a two-bedroom apartment to a four-bedroom house. They now have a nice sized kitchen, big basement, backyard and a front porch. And equally important is that they live in a good neighborhood, close to their church.

For most people it takes about a year from the start of homeownership seminars, to actually moving into a house. Margaret was very lucky. The whole process in her case only took three months. She went to the required homeownership classes, found the lender, searched for and found the house on Springfield Avenue and then closed the deal on the \$83,500 home in record time. Now she is taking the time to furnish and decorate her home.

"I am truly blessed. This is beautiful and the kids are so happy. I'll never have to move again. This was meant for me."

Since **Naytisha Sheaff** was a teenager, she always wanted to own her own home. That dream came true earlier this year. Naytisha now enjoys the comfort of a new home along with her 7-year-old son, Anwar.

year-old Markita, and 8-year-old Tanisha. The girls are excited to have moved from a two-bedroom apartment to a four-bedroom house. They now have a nice sized kitchen, big basement, backyard and a front porch. And equally important is that they live in a good neighborhood, close to their church.

"It's a great opportunity to buy a home, in my case a three-bedroom dream home and now it's mine."

Moving from the Housing Choice Voucher program to homeownership is wonderful. Now I have the fun of decorating each room one at a time," she says.

It took **Naytisha** a year to find the reasonably priced new home in North Philadelphia that cost \$82,500, and she says the time was worth the wait. The thought of looking for a home came after reading articles about PHA residents who had gone through the homeownership program and were successful in purchasing homes. The program works like this: Potential homeowners bring all of their financial information to the homeowners' workshops. Advisors then help clients set up a bank account and if necessary help set a strategy to improve bad credit. Clients are also given information on how to take care of a home and how to budget. And in Naytisha's case, PHA's programs help out with the house payments. Money that would have gone toward her rental voucher now helps toward her mortgage.

Naytisha originally planned to use the extra room for the computer but was happily surprised to learn that in June it will become a room for her new baby. Until the baby is born, Naytisha will continue to work a part-time job at the Allegheny School in Philadelphia and has this advice for anyone thinking of buying a home: "don't get discouraged when the road gets bumpy. Just keep trying and you will succeed."

"I love it, I love it, I love it." That was the glee from Sherita Goodmond who recently bought an \$84,000 house in the Germantown area of Philadelphia, not far from where she used to rent. She is happy that she has finally been able to move from the Housing Choice Voucher rental program by becoming a homeowner. Khaseem, Sherita's six-year-old son, loves having his own room. "It doesn't get much better than this, and PHA is applying the housing voucher money toward my mortgage," said Sherita. The amount applied (Continued Page 14)



Naytisha Sheaff and Anwar

OIC Hospitality Training Graduation



Congratulations to the PHA residents who graduated from the hospitality training program at Opportunities Industrialization Corporation, Inc. (OIC) in mid-March at the Pennsylvania Convention Center! Feature in this photo are (front-center) Shirlene Pugh, Devanna Foster and Reethal Blackwell. (First row) Leighanne Tancredi, manager of PHA's Community Partners Program, John Wallace, Kevin Davis, Khadijah Reid, Aisha Perry, Rebecca Phillips, Starrlisa Roebuck, and Saema Saunders, PHA economic self-sufficiency coordinator. (back row) Yvette Simpson and Aaron Jones, OIC recruiter/coordinator. Students of OIC take part in one of four training programs that run from 9 or 16 weeks, with a two-week on the job internship.

A Message from the Executive Director

I recently had the honor of accepting an award from the U.S. Department of Energy in recognition of PHA's energy conservation program – and specifically for becoming the first housing authority in Pennsylvania to build homes to the ENERGY STAR standard. That designation means the homes must use at least 15% less energy than homes with traditional construction.

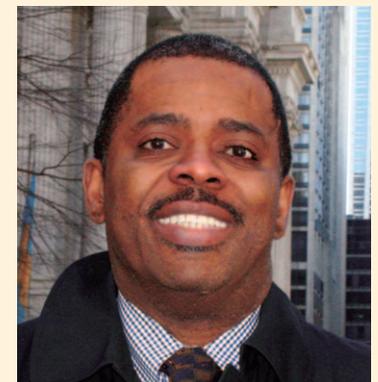
It does cost PHA more to build homes in this way, but that investment will be made up

in saved energy costs. That's why we decided to build our new Ludlow development to the same Energy Star standard.

The cost of utilities has continued to take a larger and larger chunk of our budget, but we have been fighting back. Aside from the ENERGY STAR construction, we have put energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs in all of our buildings, replaced windows, doors, gas heaters and roofing materials, and replaced old toilets with efficient ones.

Still, the most important energy saving asset at PHA is you. If we are to provide affordable housing for the most families possible, we have to use less energy. It means turning off lights and appliances when we leave a room or our home. It means reporting leaks. And it means keeping our homes at 74 in summer and 68 in winter.

We are proud of the energy award. We will be even prouder when we see our energy bills begin to come down.



Carl R. Greene

PHA Teenager Excels In After School Computer Program

page 6

Jonathan Holloway has just received his driver's license, but it's not just a regular driver's license.

Jonathan, age 16, a scattered site resident and a junior at University City High School, has passed the test for his International Computer Driving License Certification, Levels I and II, through an after school program offered by MET, one of PHA's Community Partners.

The International Computer Driving License (ICDL) program is recognized in more than 100 countries as the standard for basic computer skills certification.

ICDL, Level I includes knowing how to use the computer and manage files, word processing, and using the internet and e-mail for information and communication. Level I is considered the most important by ICDL-

US, the agency that administers the program in this country.

Level II certification includes knowing how to use Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and Information Technology (operating systems). Achieving this certification makes Jonathan much more attractive to potential employers in computer engineering.

Jonathan says his participation in the METWorks After School IT Certification Prep Program is a career goal. He'd like to have a career in computer engineering and has applied for a summer program for high school students at Drexel.

Jonathan says receiving his ICDL has paid dividends, too. It has raised his confidence and improved his study habits and grades.

"Gaining the ICDL requires that you retain and process a lot of information about

the computer. I just do the same with other subjects," he says.

Jonathan wants to be an engineer and will continue to use the METWorks Career Prep program to assist other students, for technology related work placements and to explore different types of engineering disciplines and the best colleges for engineering.

"We are finding out that each student who succeeds in any level of ICDL Certification, makes a dramatic impact on other participating students, especially their peers," says Brenda Mitchell, the President/CEO of MET. "Clearly Jonathan is one of our program pacesetters."

METWorks Career Prep program is available to students at University City High School. The next program starts in July. To sign up call MET @ 215-747-2781.



Jonathan Holloway, 16, sets sight on career in computer engineering.

Abbotsford Resident Gives Back By Helping Others

You hardly begin talking to Patricia Thomas and her warm, sunny disposition comes through, even on the phone. The listener can sense a vivacious woman with a bright smile. Thomas is a former welfare recipient who has found her calling as a mental health coordinator for Resources for Human Development (RHD), a nonprofit group based at PHA's Abbotsford development.

Thomas' positive outlook is quite remarkable, considering that her son was murdered and a grandchild died in a fire in the 1990's. The support that she received from the community at Abbotsford even before those tragedies gave her the motivation to change her career and give back.

Thomas came to Abbotsford 28 years ago when she was having trouble making ends meet. She had separated from her husband and was living in a private home in North Philadelphia with four kids. The utility bills were eating her alive.

The more you talk to Pat Thomas, the clearer it becomes that she's very proud of



Patricia Thomas, the mental health coordinator at Abbotsford Family Practice, says residents are welcome whether or not they have insurance to handle their physical and mental needs.

the clinic where she works, known as Abbotsford Family Practice. She points out that the clinic, which also offers medical care, has been in existence for 15 years. As

mental health coordinator for the clinic, Thomas schedules patient appointments, follows up on their conditions, helps patients with their medications, and does community outreach. Before coming to RHD, Pat was a payroll supervisor at the Census Bureau.

Thomas says she was influenced by a caseworker who helped her during a layoff from the Census Bureau. The caseworker referred her to the office of the late State Rep. David Richardson. At that time, reports started to surface that a clinic to serve PHA residents was going to open. It was Thomas' dream to work with folks who needed her. Eventually, her dream came true when Abbotsford Family Practice hired her in 1992.

Now, Thomas views herself as a former welfare person who wants to help others in that situation. "I love

working with people. I am a people person," she says. "This is exactly what I've always wanted to do."

Thomas, however, is hardly putting her life on cruise control. She has plans to go back to Philadelphia Community College to get her associate's degree. Best of all, she has become engaged to a gentleman who works at Boeing Aircraft and has plans to move out of Abbotsford to private housing.

Still, Pat Thomas plans to continue working at the clinic. "Don't be afraid," she says. "Come on in. The smile is there!"

FAMILY PRACTICE CLINICS

PHA residents have access to four family practice clinics that offer medical and mental health treatment. Residents are welcome at any one of the sites, even if they don't live in that neighborhood, whether insured or uninsured.

THE FOUR CLINICS ARE:

ABBOTSFORD FAMILY PRACTICE

3205 Defense Terrace 215-843-9720

FALLS FAMILY PRACTICE

4333 Kelly Drive 215-843-2580

11TH STREET HEALTH CENTER

11th & Poplar 215-769-1100

THE HEALTH ANNEX

58th & Kingsessing
215-727-4721

This summer Abbotsford Family Practice will move to 47th & Wissahickon. That's because PHA is demolishing some of the buildings at Abbotsford, with plans to redevelop the site.

The PHA Experience • April 2007

www.pha.phila.gov

PHA Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) Numbers

215-684-4000

Main Phone Menu Options

- 2 Public Housing Maintenance Work
- 3 Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- 4 Public Housing
- 5 Homeownership
- 6 All Other Departments
- 8 PHA Police (Non Emergency Calls Only)
- * To Repeat the Phone Menu



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Building Beyond Expectations

For Police / Fire / Medical Emergencies - Dial "911"



Resident Questions For Mayoral Candidates

“What is the most important issue the next mayor should address first?”



James Schank

Controlling guns is the most important issue facing this City. If the violence is allowed to continue, people will continue to die. A city cannot grow or prosper under these conditions.



Harold Barber

Taking care of the gun problem is number one to me. The credibility of this city will disappear if this issue is not addressed and not at the expense of any minority or neighborhood.



Theresa Brown

Why does everyone miss the big picture? Our city focuses on crime but the solution is not more police or fewer guns but a better education for the inner city children. Society should know by now that putting them at risk puts us all at risk.



Audrey Nash

More housing for the seniors is what the next mayor needs to address. Their needs are being ignored and their conditions get worse each year.



Reuben Drew

Reducing crime is central to the prosperity of any city. I've lived here a long time and this city is turning into the wild west.



James Welsh

Education, crime and jobs go hand in hand. If our children don't get a good education, then they are lured into a life of crime and violence. Then we all suffer and some of us become victims and die.



Marie Emanuel

I haven't heard one of the people running for mayor say anything about doing something for the seniors. Everyone will become a senior one day if you're not one already. The conditions we set for them will apply to us.



Abraham Jones

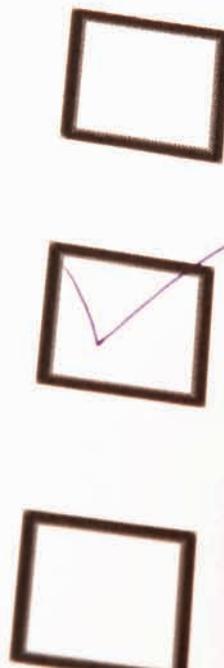
Clean up the City and get the drug dealers off the street. Everyone is talking about the shootings. But drugs can also destroy an individual, a family and a city.



Kimberly Ordick

The next mayor needs to address the horrible educational system in this city. If you don't give someone hope with an education, they don't have hope for themselves. Instead of putting more cops on the street, put that money in the schools."

REGISTER TO VOTE



**SILENCE IS NOT THE SOLUTION
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**

It's too late to register for the primary, but you are entitled to register to vote in the general election if:

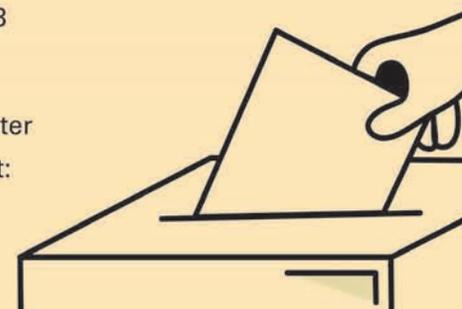
- > You have been a citizen of the United States for at least one month
- > You have been a resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least thirty days
- > You will be at least 18 years of age

IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTRATION
May 16 to October 9

ELECTION
November 6

For more information and voter registration form, please visit:
www.phillyelection.com



PHA Community Partners PHA Community Part Education/Job Training Programs Education/Job Training Programs Educa PHA Community Partners PHA Community Part Education/Job Training Programs Education/Job Training Programs Educa PHA Community Partners PHA Community Part

Administrative Assistant Job Readiness Program

This program (132 hours) prepares students to serve as administrative assistants by providing training in the areas of life skills, customer service, computer use, workplace etiquette, filing, job searching and interviewing.

Location: Center City

Provider: Community College of Philadelphia
1700 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: 215.496.6125

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)

This 150 hour state approved nurse aide training program includes classroom instruction and hands on experience in the clinical setting. Graduates are eligible to register for the PA State Nurse Aide Competency Exam. Excellent employment opportunities are available at hospitals and long term care facilities.

Location: Northwest Philadelphia

Provider: Professional Healthcare Institute
1333 West Cheltenham Avenue
Melrose Park, PA 19027
Phone: 215.792.8810

Commercial Drivers License

This 16-week course (130 hours) trains participants to drive commercial vehicles such as trucks, buses, and ambulances. Upon completion of classroom training, students receive a Commercial Drivers License Permit. Students then go to work for commercial bus and trucking companies to earn either a Class A (Tractor Trailer) or Class B (small trucks and buses) drivers license.

Location: Center City

Provider: New Wave Resources, Inc
42 S 15th Street, 16th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215.496.9388



Environmental Services/Custodian

This 16-week program provides janitorial/housekeeping training with an emphasis on handling hazardous materials. Students pursue jobs as janitors, building maintenance personnel, hotel housekeeping, environmental services, custodial work, health care facilities maintenance, floor care specialists, and carpet cleaners.

Location: Center City

Provider: New Wave Resources, Inc
42 S 15th Street, 16th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215.496.9388

Customer Service

This 16-week course provides training for careers in hotels, restaurants, food service at schools, financial services, airlines, personal care facilities, and retail.

Location: Center City

Provider: New Wave Resources, Inc
42 S 15th Street, 16th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215.496.9388

Financial Services Job Readiness Program

This program (120 hours) is designed to prepare students for jobs in the financial services industry with a focus on customer service and clerical skills development. The program includes life skills, math skills, accounting skills, customer service, computer skills, workplace etiquette, job search and interviewing skills.

Location: Center City

Provider:

Community College of Philadelphia
1700 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: 215.496.6125

Home Maintenance Repair Program

This certificate program targeted for future homeowners consists of 12 three-hour sessions (held on Saturday's). Training by highly credentialed instructors includes: painting, plumbing, electrical wiring and carpentry. Must be registered in the Homeownership Program (See Homebuyer Ad on page 12).

Location: Northeast

Provider: Orleans Technical Institute
1330 Rhawn Street
Philadelphia, PA 19111
Phone: 215.728.4725





Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations

PH/MTE/Family Services Program Homebuyers Club Workshops

(Please plan to attend both sessions when registering)

Workshop 1
Sponsored by Citizen's Bank

Workshop 2
Sponsored by Wachovia Mortgage Corp.

Workshop 3
Sponsored by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

Strawbridge Building
8th & Market – 13th Floor
Community Area

FSS Center
N 1516 Judson Way, Comm. Room
23rd & Jefferson Street

FSS Center
N 1516 Judson Way, Comm. Room
23rd & Jefferson Street

Call to register:
Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Christeen Johnson at 215.684.3124

Call to register:
Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Christeen Johnson at 215.684.3124

Call to register:
Mr. Gilbert Vega at 215.684.2057 or
Ms. Christeen Johnson at 215.684.3124

Wednesday, May 2, 2007
9:30am - 11:30am

Saturday, May 12, 2007
10am - 12pm

Thursday, May 17, 2007
6pm - 8pm

First Time Homeownership Orientation

Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.

First Time Homeownership Orientation

Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.

First Time Homeownership Orientation

Learn how to use your Housing Voucher (Section 8) to purchase a home.

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Budgeting & Money Management

Learn how to define income and expenses.

Wednesday, May 9, 2007
9:30am - 11:30am

Saturday, May 19, 2007
10am - 12pm

Thursday, May 24, 2007
6pm - 8pm

Credit Repair/Home Inspection

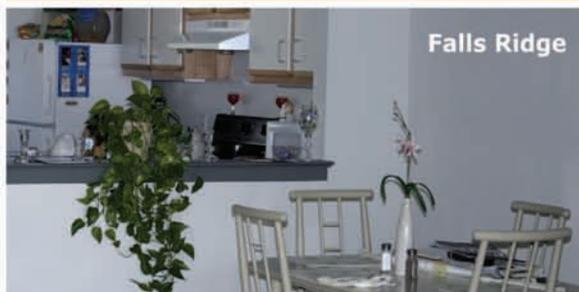
Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit, and tips on how to pass home inspection.

Credit Repair/Home Inspection

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit, and tips on how to pass home inspection.

Credit Repair/Home Inspection

Learn how to establish, maintain and repair credit, and tips on how to pass home inspection.



HCV Landlords Improve City Living



Harold Thomas

Housing Choice Voucher Program landlord Harold Thomas knows the Belmont neighborhood. His father owned a take-out restaurant and a coin-operated laundry at 42nd and Westminister. Thomas literally grew up inside those stores. "I grew up loving shellfish," says Harold Thomas.

Landlord - Peter Krivitsky

The story is as old as the City of Philadelphia. A family, fleeing oppression crosses the Atlantic to find a home in the City of Brotherly Love. Except in this case, that family is not just seeking a home for themselves – they are providing homes for hundreds of people as well.

Meet Housing Choice Voucher landlord Peter Krivitsky. He is the owner of Brilliant Spirit U.S. Inc. based in Feasterville, PA. The company manages 130 rental units in the city that 115 Philadelphia Housing Authority families call home.

"There are a lot of homeless people in the city," says Krivitsky. "A lot of people don't have a place to live for different reasons like poor health or job loss. When that happens the government has to help. My business helps them get a better start on life."

Krivitsky knows about getting a bet-

ter start on life. Born in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, Krivitsky grew up under the rule of communist Russia. He said that since he and his family are Jewish, the government denied them opportunities to practice their religion. It prevented them from attending college and participating in organized sports.

In 1991 Krivitsky brought his father, wife and son to America. His son was nearly three years old when he made this decision to come to Philadelphia because he had cousins that moved here 30-years ago. "I came here as a refugee. The situation for Jewish people was unstable 15 years ago," says Krivitsky. "I wanted a better life for my family and my son. I also feared for their safety."

The Krivitsky family joined their American cousins. They found safety, security and a better life. Then after working several different jobs,

ter start on life. Born in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, Krivitsky grew up under the rule of communist Russia. He said that since he and his family are Jewish, the government denied them opportunities to practice their religion. It prevented them from attending college and participating in organized sports.

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Peter Krivitsky

Krivitsky said he found his calling selling real estate. That interest soon led him to PHA and the HCV program five years ago. Today, Krivitsky is excited to be able to give back to the country and the city that has given his family "a better start on life."

"When people face a bad situation and other people see them in trouble, they have to be helpful. It doesn't matter who they are, its human nature to help people," says Krivitsky. "I like to

"When people ask I tell them Section 8 tenants are just like tenants paying market rate. You have some good tenants and some bad. But that's mostly not true, in Section 8 you have better tenants," says Thomas. "I have had some for a very long time." Thomas said good tenants come because of the better service provided by the staff working the HCV program.

I enjoy working with the people in section 8," says Thomas. "I have a good relationship with the PHA employees that actually place the tenants. They do a great job." Working with good people has made his job of being a good landlord easier. If you are a voucher holder looking for a good landlord, please give TJ Properties a call at 215 477-1268.

work with people. If you ask my tenants about me I don't think you will hear any negative opinions."

Krivitsky says he loves the museums in Philadelphia. He enjoys Penn's Landing and the vibrancy of a bustling downtown. But the one thing he enjoys the most about being a Philadelphian is the view of the city itself.

"When I come down the Delaware River it is very similar to the view you see coming down the river of my home city," says Krivitsky. "I love my native country. I was born there, my childhood was there but it is not a perfect society. Right now the best society people could create is right here in this country. And thanks to the support of the U.S. government we moved here. It's an absolutely different society," he added gratefully.

Voucher holders are welcome to call Brilliant Spirit U.S. Inc. at 215 953-9229.



Peter Caballero

Disabled Housing Choice Resident Has His "Piece Of The Rock"

Benny Caballero never imagined that he would achieve the American Dream of owning a home. He dropped out of school in the 10th grade to work and help his family. Benny's mother, now deceased, was a widow.

In the winter of 1991, Benny was living in a home at 7th & Indiana that was literally falling apart because of a bad foundation. The city's Licenses & Inspections Department condemned the home and he had no place to live.

The Salvation Army put Benny up in a motel for a month or two until his family could take him in. He says someone at the Salvation Army suggested that he sign up for housing with PHA. It was Benny's best hope because he is permanently disabled from injuries received while working as an auto

mechanic for 16 years. He walks with a limp, has carpal tunnel syndrome and tennis elbow.

After two years on the waiting list, PHA granted Caballero a voucher so he could rent a private apartment. With his voucher, Benny first lived in Olney and then moved to the Oxford Circle area.

One day, Benny received a letter in the mail explaining how he could become a homeowner with assistance from the HCV program. He attended a three-day class where he learned how to fix his credit and how to buy a home. It was a long and sometimes frustrating journey that began in 1995. Benny looked at around 300 homes before finding one that was in the right neighborhood that would pass inspection.

On the day after Christmas 2006,

Benny completed the purchase of his home in Olney. It's a little over 1,000 square feet, with three bedrooms, wall to wall carpeting, a front porch and small back yard for his pet Chihuahua. The home has new windows and water piping. Benny moved in on January 10th of this year and considers his little piece of the rock livable and modern.

Benny Caballero is also benefiting in another way from the HCV homeownership program. He's building equity in an asset whose value will go up over time.

"I recommend the program to people who really want to be a homeowner," Caballero says. "I believe it's important so they can be responsible for their future and build a family. It helps the neighborhood."

PHA Self-Sufficiency Contacts

Leighanne Tancredi, Program Manager
Community Partners
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way (23rd and Jefferson St.)
215-684-4366 (Fax #215-684-8080)

ESS Staff

Computer Technology
Monet Williams - Neighborhood Network Coordinator
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way (23rd and Jefferson St.)
215-684-4628 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Team A

South Philadelphia Office
1172-1174 South Broad Street
Jenneane Tillar - ESS Coordinator
(215) 684-3051 (Fax #215-684-3066)
Zip Codes: 02, 03, 06, 07, 12, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 53,

Team B

West Philadelphia Office
5207 Walnut Street
Saeema Saunders - ESS Coordinator
(215) 684-1359 (Fax #215-684-1366)
Zip Codes: 04, 31, 39, 43, 51

Team C

Northwest Germantown Office
5538-A Wayne Avenue
Edwina Young - ESS Coordinator
(215) 684-3065 (Fax #215-684-3055)
Zip Codes: 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 38, 41, 44, 50

Team D

North Philadelphia Office
642 N. Broad Street
Ursula G. Alvarado - ESS Coordinator
(215) 684-3126 (Fax #215-684-1023)
Zip Codes: 05, 06, 07, 08, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 33, 34, 40

Team E

Northeast Philadelphia Office
4346 Frankford Avenue
Michelle Henderson-Crystal Marshall-ESS Coordinators
(215) 684-1559 & 2414 (Fax #215-684-1340)
Zip Codes: 11, 14, 15, 16, 20, 24, 35, 36, 37, 49, 52, 54

FSS Staff

Camille Johnson - FSS Coordinator
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor (23rd and Jefferson St.)
215-684-8114 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Gilbert Vega - FSS Coordinator
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor (23rd and Jefferson St.)
215-684-2057 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Christeen Johnson - FSS Intake Worker
Blumberg Development
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor (23rd and Jefferson St.)
215-684-3124 (Fax #215-684-8080)

Audrey Hickmon - FSS Coordinator/Case Manager
1516 Judson Way, 2nd Floor (23rd and Jefferson St.)
Phone #215-684-2682

MET Summer Learning Program

MET Inc., one of PHA's Community Partners, has honored all MET 2006 Students who have achieved outstanding participation status. These students, including five who are PHA residents, have received outstanding recognition for attendance, teamwork and completion of their career/academic study assignments during 2006.

MET Inc. operates an After School Information Technology/Career Prep Program targeted to University City High School students in grades 9 through 12. Students are recruited from University City High School only, sponsored by the School District and the Philadelphia Youth Network.

"The program serves as a crime prevention alternative and allows urban community youth to self



Brenda Mitchell
President/CEO of MET

enroll and develop computer technology certification credentials," says Brenda Mitchell, the President/CEO of MET Inc.

She says the program also helps

students learn about financial literacy, financial aid, college recruitment, campus tours, jobs and service learning placement opportunities.

"Participating students are able to avoid the violence on the streets and take advantage of economic self-sufficiency community exposure," Mitchell says.

MET also manages a summer youth work experience/career placement program targeted to youth largely in West Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Youth Network funds the program, which supports paid summer work experience and academic study. Students interested in science, technology, engineering and math can win scholarships to the Penn State Nano-Tech Camp from MET.

(Continued Next Page)

Whitehall Resident Starts Gospel Business



Business owner Pamela Bernard.

"Don't let your environment or income determine how far you can go." These words are from a woman who says she is now on the road to success. Pamela Bernard, or Ms. Pam as she likes to be called, has been living in the Whitehall Apartments for two years and is now starting a new business from her home that promotes gospel.

"The message of faith is closest to my heart; I am very familiar with the industry and the people involved, and this is a challenge I want," she says. The idea came to her after reading several stories in the *PHA Experience* about people who became self-sufficient. Ms. Pam decided to start a business and become her own success story. But, as with *(Continued Page 12)*

What is New Wave Resources

New Wave Resources is one of PHA's newest community partners. They offer PHA residents training in several different fields, including customer service, janitorial/housekeeping and commercial driving. The courses run 16 weeks.

Robert Daniel, senior vice president for New Wave, says they chose a Center City location to reach the inner city communities that needed the company's services. At first, the company focused on computer training and then branched out to other areas based on the needs of the Philadelphia labor market. Computer training still accounts for about one-fourth of the school's students.

Daniel, who likes to be called "Bob," says the training offered at New Wave is "employer led." Training is based on the demands of area employers, allowing students to immediately move into jobs upon graduation. Starting wages for graduates of the programs offered to PHA residents range from \$12 to \$16 an hour.

In some cases, New Wave students have the opportunity to "shadow" employees, such as those who work in hospitals, hotels or nursing homes. This gives them a real world look at the demands of the job.

New Wave is licensed by the State of Pennsylvania as a business school. It also has links to the PA Department of Labor & Industry and the county assistance office.

Bob Daniel says he has always been interested in workforce development training. He has two degrees in economics and has taught at several business schools in New York City, as well as vocational courses at a Buffalo high school.

"I went from being a teacher to a dean to developing programs," he says. "The most pleasure that I get is seeing a person that didn't have the skills succeed - catching them and giving them a foundation, watching them grow, and then seeing them become a certified (medical) coder, an LPN or studying for the CPA examination."



Robert Daniel, senior vice president for New Wave, says they chose a Center City location to reach the inner city communities that needed the school's services.

The bottom line for Bob Daniel and New Wave is working with people who are interested in advancing themselves into a promising career.

To sign up for courses, call New Wave at 215-496-9388.

Continues Offering Educational Programs

*(Continued From
The Previous Page)*

Both programs provide a high school credit for students who complete either program. As an incentive, MET has special achievement awards to motivate outstanding participation.

“Prior to attending the MET pro-

gram, many students report having little to no access to career prep, employment exposure, or access to college campuses,” Mitchell says. “Nor do they have adult subject-matter role models committed to mentoring and coaching them in career and workforce development activities. The Career

Prep program requires students to create and/or complete collages, resumes, and job and college financial assistance applications.”

Students go through two interviews to enter the program: with MET and with the Philadelphia Youth Network. The summer program begins July 5th and runs until the first week of August. Interested students should call Deborah Grant of MET at 215-747-2781.

Brenda also says that by the middle of the program, student focus groups confirm that most students will pursue a college education and careers in areas such as technology, nursing, medicine, architecture, culinary art, fashion, entrepreneurship and management.

“MET Inc. believes in going the distance for enrollees and parents because they know at the end of their technolo-

gy and career preparation program—students will reward themselves, family and the community by deliberately breaking the cycle of poverty, role modeling productive team spirit, and encouraging others to participate in after school and summer career/workforce development learning.”

MET Inc.’s Board, Staff, Community/Faith Based Groups, Institutional Partners, and Community Stakeholders acknowledge the following PHA resident students.

2006 Outstanding Program Students.

NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	ZIP
Deleita Hopson	- University City High	19104
Danai Richards	- Valley Day High	19142
Robert Richards	- John Bartram	19142
Jonathan Holloway	- Univ. City High	19139
Juliann Holloway	- CHAD	19139



PHA residents were among the students honored for taking part in MET’s after school technology program.



Elizabeth Williams
(Cont from Page 1)

I think the opportunity was a good one,” Elizabeth explained. “PHA said after 7 years you’re not going to have assistance any more. Well, you could pay a mortgage for almost the same amount of rent.”

Elizabeth says her new three-bedroom home is in a desirable neighborhood that’s close to Kelly Drive and the attractions in Center City, with easy access to public transit. She feels it’s spacious, yet not too big, so that should keep her heating bills down.

Elizabeth is excited to move into her new home this spring. “I hope it does set an example for someone or gives them a little bit of hope,” she says. “I didn’t think I’d be here at this point in time.”

Shearise Webb, who works as a secretary at the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, says she has wanted to buy

Falls Ridge Home Ownership

a home for a while. Even though she earns a modest income, Shearise found that PHA’s homeownership program presented her with a perfect opportunity.

Shearise, who is also an HCV recipient, says she became interested in the new homes at Falls Ridge as soon as she learned about the redevelopment. She has two kids, a ten-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter and currently lives in the Logan neighborhood.

“The location is really good. It’s really nice and kind of close to where I work (in Center City). It’s close to where the kids can walk to events that take place, such as at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Center down the street.”

Shearise says she was surprised to learned that she had been approved for

a mortgage three days after she filled out an application to buy a three-bedroom home at Falls Ridge.

“I was ecstatic. I was so happy,” she says. “I never thought that I would get to this point in my life.”

Her kids are excited, too, because they’ll have their own rooms and their grandmother living nearby. Shearise’s mother lives in one of the senior apartments at Falls Ridge.

“I’m just really happy to be able to own one of those homes,” she says. “It’s a really good feeling and I urge others to do the same.”

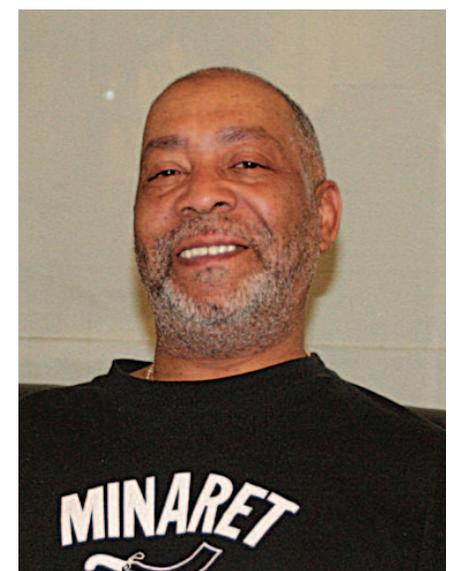
54-year-old Ronald Kelly is a retired sheet metal worker who’s been living with PHA for one year at Emlen Arms. Kelly is disabled and, by his own description, he wobbles when he’s standing up. So, a low-rise home on the ground fit his lifestyle better.

The price of his new home at \$160,000 is good value in Kelly’s opinion, too.

“I know buildings,” he says. “I saw the plans.”

Public transportation was important because Kelly doesn’t drive and SEPTA’s R6 station is nearby. He’s also planning to get married, not to mention that he has two daughters with grandchildren on the way. So, Kelly will need room for the kids when they visit on the weekends.

Like the other new homeowners at Falls Ridge, Ronald Kelly is excited, especially since he’s never owned a home before.



Ronald Kelly

The Falls Ridge site has generated a lot of interest because of its unique hillside location with a suburban atmosphere close to public transport and center city amenities. The first homeowners will move into their homes before the end of April.



Shearise Webb

The PHA Experience

The Residents’ Newspaper
Published by:
**The Philadelphia
Housing Authority**

Editor: Anne H. Martinez
Executive Editor: Kirk Dorn
Managing Editor: William J. Hanna

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Homeowners Appealing Alternative To Nursing Homes



New Homeowner Sherita Goodman

(Continued from Page 5)

to the mortgage varies depending on income and other factors. This helps significantly since there are now other expenses that she never had before like paying the gas bill.

As with anyone involved in this program, Sherita attended the mandatory homeowner workshop classes that mentally and financially move a person from being a renter to a homeowner, if they are eligible and pass certain PHA criteria. "I have been working at Children's Hospital to take care of my family. This is another goal accomplished as I move forward in my life." PHA encourages everyone with a dream of owning a home to look into the opportunities by calling 215.684.8015.

(Continued from Page 4)

Greater Grays Ferry Estates at 3001 Moore St. in South Philadelphia. Located on the first floor of the senior apartment building, the LIFE health center serves some of the residents living in the building as well as members of the surrounding community. Health care professionals specializing in geriatric care address medical, health and social service needs for LIFE participants.

This relationship between LIFE and PHA continues to grow. The NewCourtland LIFE program has also begun leasing space in PHA's newly renovated Germantown House senior apartment building.

Ms. Hattie Gardner, resident of Greater Grays Ferry Estates and participant of St. Agnes LIFE, is an example of the beneficial relationship between LIFE and PHA. Ms. Gardner moved into Greater Grays Ferry Estates when it opened. She described herself at that time as having poor health and needing the support of a primary care doctor and physical therapy. Six months after living at Greater Grays Ferry Estates, she decided to join LIFE.

"They help me with my walking and everything," she says.

At the center, Ms. Gardner participates in a cooking group once a month, a walking group weekly, and has breakfast and lunch on the days she is scheduled to attend. Her medical appointments are coordinated by LIFE including primary care, podiatry, eye care and den-

tal care. For most members, LIFE offers assistance at home for personal care such as bathing and dressing. LIFE also provides services for family caregivers including respite care and supportive groups.

Joanne Gray, LIFE Center Director at Greater Grays Ferry, says the LIFE program offers older adults the opportunity to be active, vocal and visible in the community.

"Our participants have a central location to voice their concerns about their health and well being," she says.

To be eligible for LIFE you must be:

- Age 55 or older
- Experiencing difficulties due to health problems or memory loss
- Live in a LIFE service area

To find out more about LIFE, or to learn if you or someone you know is eligible, please contact the appropriate office below.

St. Agnes LIFE **215-339-4747**(at *Greater Gray's ferry Estates*)

(Please call this office if you live in the following zip codes: 19106, 19107, 19123, 19125, 19134, 19137, 19145, 19146, 19147, 19148)

The NewCourtland LIFE Program
1-888-NCLIFE4(at *Germantown House*)

(Please call this office if you live in the following zip codes: 19118, 19119, 19120, 19126, 19127, 19128, 19129, 19132, 19138, 19141, 19144, 19150)

Lex Street

(Continued from Page 1)

neighborhood successful by placing the right people back in these homes."

Cynthia Walton lives here also. The difference is she has been here for decades and in that time she has seen it all. She has seen a beautiful neighborhood that resembled a flower, and watched as drugs and violence turned this community into a wasteland. She says it seemed like the vast majority of violence in Philadelphia came from this one part of the city. "For 41 years I have witnessed the good,

bad and the ugly. In the 70's life was peaceful, you knew your neighbors and everyone looked out for one another. Then the older folks gradually died off and a bad group of folks hung around. They used the abandoned homes to sell drugs. You didn't want to know your neighbors; you didn't want to come outside. You were a prisoner in your own home."

Cynthia called the police department and City Hall warning officials of the impending problems but she had little success. Then came the massacre. Then the city demolished the buildings. Only then was there peace. You didn't have a war zone but you didn't have neighbors either. "Now, this neighborhood has been revitalized. It is a new environ-

ment with new neighbors in new homes. I want to welcome all newcomers to the block by setting up a meet and greet night so we can get to know each other. We need to make this a community. You don't have to be friends with everyone, but you should at least be friendly."

And to that end PHA has made every effort to bring back that harmonious environment by building attractive and sturdy homes, screening all applicants before they move in and being sure the new residents know how to take care of their homes. Brenda says, "Hope is here where none was before. This neighborhood is moving in the right direction."

PHA Sells Off Fleet Vehicles

(Continued From Page 3)

Hartfield says a team of eight employees handled resident transportation before the layoffs. He estimated that this group provided around 1,000 rides a year. Now, Hartfield is down to two asset managers.

"It's sad, but until HUD restores the funding, there's nothing we can do about it," he says. "Residents will have to contact TSSI or make arrangements to get to events the best way they possibly can, including SEPTA and car pooling."

Shari Hamilton says other auctions of surplus PHA materials are possible, based upon the success of the first auction and the agency's need to obtain more cash. She says an inventory of excess and obsolete warehouse materials and furniture is underway. It is



Scott Bolden, a New Jersey businessman who runs a tree service, was elated as he made the largest purchase at the auction, a 1996 Ford truck with a "cherry-picker" basket and a "tree chipper" for \$32,000.

very likely that items that cannot be utilized in the near term will be made available for auction, provided the right market conditions exist.

Gospel Business

(Continued from Page 12)

with most dreams, it takes a lot of work and dedication. Ms. Pam spends six hours a day on the phone bringing together Christian artists who preach, teach, dance, read poetry or sing gospel.

And for Ms. Pam, not having to travel makes this opportunity possible. She must work from home because of an intermittent back problem that sometimes renders her disabled. Ironically, before her disability, she used to be one of the artists she now seeks. With a music degree from Xavier University, she traveled for 30 years around the country promoting Christian beliefs through various performances, sharing the stage with such nationally recognized groups as the

Winans. "We did theatre, single performances and more because we were committed to the message of Christ and a desire to bring a message of hope and peace."

Ms. Pam has a message for anyone who is thinking about venturing on his or her own. "Have a dream and never give up on that dream and remember when things get rough there is a purpose to the madness. Don't let people think that because you don't have a high income that you don't have a dream and a vision." Ms. Pam hopes to schedule her first performance this summer. As for the future, she plans on becoming a homeowner and having her own full time ministry so she can touch the lives of people in need and make a difference.

DARE to be GREAT: A Poem By Sixth Graders

Thanks to a proactive approach to funding, the D.A.R.E./G.R.E.A.T. program continues in 2007. One of our unit's objectives this year is to expose the views of some of our younger students who participate in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. The introduction of lesson number three states, "In today's society, it is common for people to feel isolated and alone." This opinion holds true for some of our younger residents.

To eliminate these feelings, the G.R.E.A.T. program offers a community service activity, "Making My School a G.R.E.A.T. Place." This activity is

designed to have students suggest ways to improve their school, thereby increasing their pride and developing a greater sense of well being and belonging. Research indicates when students feel more connected to their school and developments, they are less vulnerable to destructive activities. Here are examples of some of their views.

The following is an essay submitted by Tanisha Johns, 6th Grader, at the John B. Kelly Elementary School, which services the residents from Queen Lane Apartments and scattered sites.

My experience with the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program has been wonderful this year. It all began last year when we were taught the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. The officer would tell my classmates and me about ways to keep safe and drug free at home and on the streets. Also, he informed us about making positive choices. We were told if you make a mistake once, we do not have to repeat it. He encouraged us to make the right decisions and follow our goals and dreams.

This year I am in the sixth grade. The officer visits our classroom every Thursday morning to share positive and useful information with my classmates and me. We are learning ways to solve problems, peer mediation, along with ways to resist negative peer pressure. My classmates and I appreciate the time and energy the officer spends on us. I am especially grateful for both of these programs.

An Anti-Drug Rap by the 6th grade boys in room 104 at John B. Kelly Elementary School.

Drugs are dumb, don't do'em.
 If you go to a rave,
 you may wind up in your grave.
 Drugs are not cool, it'll drop your I.Q.
 and you'll flunk out of school.
 Get yourself high and you just might die.
 Drugs go down straight to the core,
 right to your brain, they'll make you steal some more.

Not doing drugs is the thing to do, when you're doing drugs they're doing you.
 If you smoke some junk it may make you flunk because your brain can't combine with a drugged-up mind.

Doing drugs will lose people's trust,
 their faith in you will turn to dust.
 Nicotine and alcohol will cloud your head.
 You might wake up in a hospital bed.
 Get - drunk- and you might just slip,
 fall to the ground and bust your lip.

Drinking and doing drugs go to your brain, they'll make you act stupid and drive you insane.
 So don't take these trouble-taking drugs to school,
 don't do 'em at home, on the streets that our rule.

If you're thinking about drugs, think about what we said, we're givin' you a clue for your life ahead.

Get Your Personal Experience Into Your Paper

Tell us about your "Experience" as a client of the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Simply give us a call and tell us your story! Our paper reaches all residents including: Traditional Sites, Scattered Sites, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. This is a golden opportunity, so reach out. It's easier than you think! Call Anne Martinez at 215-684-8645 or e-mail anne.martinez@pha.phila.gov.

NOTICE TO SENIORS AND THE DISABLED

What would you say if we told you - you don't have to pay your credit card bills immediately? Most of our clients say, "Thank you." If your only income is from social security, disability payments, pensions or veteran's benefits - federal law states that your income can't be taken away to repay debt. You don't have to pay, and you don't have to endure frustrating calls and letters from collection agencies. You can live worry free as thousands of our clients do.

- DCSD shelters you from harassment
- DCSD protects your income
- DCSD is not a bankruptcy

Stop creditors from breaking the law - trying to collect debts you can't pay. An alternative for seniors and the disabled who don't need a bankruptcy and can't afford one.

Call Debt Counsel for Seniors and the Disabled at 1-800-992-3275 EXT. 1304

Debt Counsel for Seniors & the Disabled

DCSD

Founded in 1998
 Jerome S. Lamet
 Founder and Supervising Attorney
 Former Bankruptcy Trustee
www.debtcounsel.net



Adult Day Health Care

101 East Olney Avenue •
 Philadelphia, PA 19120
Phone: 215-549-3444
Fax: 215-549-5239

Visit Us @ www.GraceADHC.com

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, we offer care, assistance and social opportunities to seniors while giving respite to their families and caregivers.

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, people with health problems, Alzheimer's disease, chronic illnesses, or physical disabilities are able to continue to live in the community while receiving professional services in a group setting.

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, we found that involvement in an adult day care program can increase a senior's health and outlook.



At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, we provide a safe and caring setting for adults who do not wish to or cannot be left home alone.

At GRACE ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE, seniors can socialize with their peers and participate in outings and activities, as well as be supported with services that include licensed nursing care and nutritious meals.

We provide transportation to and from the center - Assistance with personal care.
 Small groups and individual activities - bingo, crafts, chess and a library!
 Funding is mostly provided by state, or city run agencies to eligible individuals.
 Some long-term care insurance policies may provide coverage.

For more information, or to arrange a facility tour, call: 215-549-3444

Irina Levin, Program Director

There are five Neighborhood Network Computer Labs offering 12-week computer classes, beginning the week of April 23, 2007.



Neighborhood Network Computer Labs

Classes Locations:

Bartram Village

2701 S. 56th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Westpark Apartments

300 N. Busti Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Norris Apartments

1915 N. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Harrison Plaza

1240 N. 10th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Spring Garden

715 Green Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Classes Cover:

1. Basic Computer Concepts
2. Word Processing
3. Presentations
4. Spreadsheets
5. Databases
6. Internet and Email

To Sign-Up Contact:

Monet Williams
Neighborhood Network Coordinator
215-684-4628 or
monet.williams@pha.phila.gov



Philadelphia Housing Authority
Building Beyond Expectations