

HOUSING HEADLINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM HOUSING AUTHORITY

IN THE
FALL 2024
ISSUE

- Choice Neighborhood Project
- Local Food Pantries
- Executive Director's News
- Happy Retirement
- BHA's Finest
- Local Resources Here to Help
- Recreation Ringer
- FSS Snapshot
- Highrise Highlights
- Construction Checklist
- FDO in a Flash
- Maintenance Memos
- Welcome Aboard!
- Upcoming Events
- Important Phone Numbers



645 Main Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-865-8300

Fax: 610-865-8318
TDD 610-865-8333

www.bethlehemhousing.org

 BHA is now on Facebook.
Look for us and like us!

Choice Neighborhood Project

IT HAS BEEN ONE YEAR since the planning grant was awarded to the City of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Housing Authority.

Since then, there has been a lot of engagement with the BHA tenants, and local businesses, in the surrounding areas. At this stage of the planning grant is very important to know the wants and needs of our tenants. A large part of the information is gathered through surveys. Different events were held to get the surveys filled, including cookouts, carnivals, pop-up events, and a lot of knocking on doors. The data collected from the surveys will help shape the new development.

There are four Choice Neighborhood Ambassadors, who are residents of BHA and the surrounding areas. Having strong bonds in the community and relationships with the tenants, they have been essential in gathering information for the surveys and have had great success getting the surveys filled out. Several City of Bethlehem officials are also dedicating their time to ensure the success of the planning grant phase of the Choice Neighborhood. BHA's Field Day was held on September 7, 2024, and concluded the resident surveys for the Choice Neighborhood Project.

Local Food Pantries

Central Moravian Food Pantry (Northampton County residents only)	73 W. Church St., Bethlehem	610-866-5661
New Bethany Ministries (Picture ID; Monday-Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m.; once every 30 days)	333 W. 4th St., Bethlehem	610-691-5602
West Bethlehem Emergency Food Pantry (Proof of residency for ongoing monthly basis; 18018 zip code area; Wednesdays 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; last Wednesday of month 6-8 p.m.)	514 3rd Ave., Bethlehem	610-865-8216
Pennsylvania Avenue Interfaith (1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6-8 p.m.; 18017, 18018, 18032, 18109 ZIP code areas)	1900 Pennsylvania Ave., Bethlehem	610-865-3603
Calvary Baptist Food Pantry (1st full week of the month; Mondays & Tuesdays only)	111 Dewberry Ave., Bethlehem	610-365-5300

Dear Community,

As the leaves turn vibrant hues and the crisp autumn air settles in, we find ourselves reflecting on the past months and gearing up for the exciting opportunities that fall brings. This season is always a time of change and renewal, and we are embracing it wholeheartedly.

REFLECTING ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past year, our team has worked tirelessly to advance several key plans, and I am thrilled to share that we've reached a significant milestone. We have successfully completely overhauled our "ACOP" Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plan, it was completed and approved by our Board of Commissioners at the July board meeting. Also, our Administrative Plan for the Section 8 program is very close to being completed as well. I commend all the staff who have spent countless hours working together to better serve our community, it has been encouraging, and it reinforces our commitment to making a difference.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look forward to 2025, we are excited about the plans and projects on the horizon. Our goals include expanding our support services through our FSS programs and launching new community engagement initiatives and continuing to improve the quality of life for all our residents.

As we move into the fall season, we are filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead. Change is always accompanied by opportunities for growth, and we are ready to embrace it. We invite you to join us in this journey, as together, we work towards a brighter future for all.

John Ritter



PAT DONCHEZ started with BHA in 1982 as a temporary employee and worked in various departments. In 1984, she was hired full-time in the Tenant Selection Office/Section 8 Department eventually working with only Section 8. Several years later, Pat became the Asst. Manager. She has gained vast knowledge of the Section 8 HCV Program and met many interesting people, HUD staff, tenants and landlords alike. Pat also enjoyed going to many conferences, workshops, and training courses to learn a lot more about the Section 8 Voucher Program. She worked under 5 Executive Directors and 3 Supervisors and truly appreciated the staff that she worked with throughout the years.



Pat plans are to spend more time with my grandchildren and continue going to shows and concerts with her sister (she loves music and theater). She wishes to thank everyone at BHA for their kindness and help throughout her 40+ years. Pat said that she would truly miss them.

BHA'S FINEST

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and keeping our communities safe!



LOCAL RESOURCES HERE TO HELP

MENTAL HEALTH

Integrated Counseling Services	146 West Broad St., Bethlehem	484-401-7092	info@integratedcounselingservices.org
Solutions Counseling	35 E. Elizabeth Ave., Ste. 37, Bethlehem	610-865-1303	solutionscounseling.net
LVH Adolescent Behavioral Health Services–Muhlenberg	2545 Schoenersville Road Bethlehem	484-884-2425	LVHN.org
Wisdom Way Counseling, LLC	60 W. Broad St., Bethlehem	484-554-5103	

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley	444 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown	610-437-3369	turningpointlv.org
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------	--------------------

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

CleanSlate Outpatient Addiction Medicine	1401 Easton Ave., Bethlehem	484-893-1482	cleanslatecenters.com
Lehigh County Center for Recovery	1620 Riverside Drive, Bethlehem	484-895-1486	sobernation.com
Substance Abuse Service Center	544 Main St., Bethlehem	310-807-0210	sobernation.com

RECREATION RINGERS ■ Robert Robinson

'TIS THE SEASON...



FSS SNAPSHOT ■ Gwendolyn Flores

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY (FSS) DEPARTMENT strives to further educate our community, promoting knowledge and resilience while we guide our residents towards self-sufficiency.

MONOCACY'S PAINT & SIP



MONOCACY'S TACO DAY



PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY DAY



HIGHRISE HIGHLIGHTS ■ Zulma Rodriguez

2024 RESIDENTS AND STAFF MEETINGS

I WANT TO THANK ALL THE RESIDENTS OF OUR HIGH-RISES who attended our annual residents and staff meetings and voiced their concerns, ideas, questions, complaints, etc. We had a good turnout in attendance, and everyone enjoys the grilled hot dogs, chips, beverages, and ice creams!

Building trust and improving communication is what these meetings are all about! BHA's goals have always been to strengthen communication between staff and residents with these annual meetings. Every time our management staff engages with our residents, it's important that it's meaningful and productive. These annual meetings empower our high-rise residents to voice their concerns, exercise their rights, and play an active part in the decision-making process within their own high-rise/community. We believe that these

meetings give value to our residents' ideas and requests and puts them in the driver's seat of their high-rise. These annual meetings allow residents and staff to talk about life in the community that can be anything from maintenance and repairs, lease violations, house rules, rent determination, tenants' rights and responsibilities, smoking issues, police issues, direct care-givers issues, laundry room issues, security and safety issues, pest control issues, and needs, etc. It's a time when residents can ask questions, get clarification, express concerns, or offer information to help staff provide improvement. These meetings help the staff and residents to avoid potential conflicts, misunderstandings, and complaints in the future. In addition, it has always been important to BHA to involve the residents in our planning as much as possible and keep them updated. We are all in this TOGETHER!

CONSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

■ Curt Kichline

The summer months are a busy time for the construction department. The contractor is working in the last of the 3 buildings that are part of the Pembroke renovation. With our involvement in the Choice Neighborhoods program, this will be the last building in Pembroke to be renovated.

The elevator modernization contract for Bodder and Bartholomew has been awarded. The equipment has been ordered, and work shall be starting soon.

There has been a roofing project going on in Marvine that started in July. There are a few buildings left and then that project will be completed.

Both Monocacy Tower and Litzenberger House are having the sprinkler systems replaced. This includes the piping and sprinkler heads in both the hallways and apartments throughout both buildings. They started in Litzenberger and once that building is complete, they will start Monocacy.

We still have plans to convert the unused First Tee building in Marvine into 12 apartments. The drawings are complete and have been submitted to HUD for their review. It seems like we are in the home stretch and can hopefully put it out to bid over the winter.

MAINTENANCE MEMOS

■ Charles Jablonski

RESIDENT SHOUT OUT!

I would like to thank our tenants for doing a great job maintaining our properties throughout the course of the summer, and we are looking forward to them pitching in and giving us a hand with the upcoming fall foliage. Their participation has made their community look good and safe.

Thank you for a job well done.
Maintenance Department

FDO IN A FLASH ■ Miriam Maldonado

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS are only permitted to be used inside your unit but must be mounted with double-face tape or Velcro strips. You are not to mount it on the outside of your unit, as they are prohibited from being mounted on the exterior of the unit.

Doorbell cameras can be used at both entrances.

LAS CÁMARAS DE VIGILANCIA solo se pueden usar dentro su unidad. pero deben montarse con cinta adhesiva de doble cara o tiras de velcro. No debe montarlo en el exterior de su unidad. Ya que está prohibido montarlo en el exterior de la unidad.

Las cámaras de timbre se pueden usar en ambas entradas.

GIVE US A CALL FOR ANY & ALL HOUSING NEEDS!

Miriam Maldonado 610-419-9612 mmaldonado@betha.com	Property Manager	All Developments (Pembroke, Pfeifle, Marvine, Fairmount, Bayard, Lynfield & Parkridge).
Jeanette Martinez 610-419-9483 martinezj@betha.com	Asst. Property Manager	Marvine, Fairmount & Bayard Developments
Johayra Quintela 610-419-9615 jquintela@betha.com	Asst. Property Manager	Pfeifle, Pembroke, Parkridge & Lynfield Developments
Shiela Andrews 610-419-3531 sandrews@betha.com	Clerk Typist II	Marvine Development: Marvine St. (even #'s 1202-1312), Eastwood Rd., Howard St., Lebanon St. (1222-1242), Wellington Rd. & Woodbine St. (1201-1280)
Marquis Wheeler 610-865-8354 mwheeler@betha.com	Clerk II	Parkridge & Pfeifle Developments
Vivian Rodriguez 610-419-3545 vrodriguez@betha.com	Clerk Typist II	Lynfield Development (I,II,III)
Sandra Navedo 610-419-3532 snavedo@betha.com	Clerk Typist II	Bayard Development Marvine Development: Fritz Dr. (1214-1411), Garfield St., Randolph Rd.,
Aria Brandle 610-419-9605 abrandle@betha.com	Clerk Typist II	Pembroke: Marvine St. (odd #'s only 1107-1315)
Aileen Rosado 610-419-3050 arosado@betha.com	Clerk Typist II	Fairmount Development: Woodbine St. (1317-1529), Marvine St. (1316-1408), Lebanon St. (1317-1421)

WELCOME ABOARD!



Aria B. – FDO – Clerk Typist II



Yaseleen R. – CSS – Clerk Typist II



645 Main Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018-3899

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LEHIGH VALLEY PA
PERMIT #121



ADMINISTRATION

John Ritter
Executive Director

Diana Moreno
*Executive Secretary/
HR Manager*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Rev. Lindsey Altwater Clifton
Chairperson

Rogelio Ortiz
*Vice-Chairperson/Resident
Commissioner*

Iris Linares, *Commissioner*

J. Marc Rittle, *Commissioner*

Rachel Leon, *Commissioner*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Nov. 12 Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m.; Monocacy Tower
Nov. 14 Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving – Offices Closed
Nov. 29 Day After Thanksgiving – Offices Closed
Dec. 9 Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Monocacy Tower
Dec. 25 Christmas Day – Offices Closed
Dec. 26 Christmas Holiday – Offices Closed
Jan. 1, 2025 New Year's Day – Offices Closed

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Central Office **610-865-8300**
Central Highrise Operations Office (CHOO); Litzenberger,
Bodder, Bartholomew and Monocacy **610-865-8352** OR **610-865-8353**
Family Development Office (FDO) Pembroke, Marvine,
Fairmount, Bayard, Pfeifle, Parkridge, Lynfield **610-865-8342** OR **610-865-8343**
Maintenance **610-865-8319**