

NHA Voice is published quarterly by The Newark Housing Authority, 500 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

The Customer Care Center is open for all your compliments, complaints, and concerns.
Ways to contact the Center: Monday-Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm 1-877-NHA-HERE (toll free 877-642-4373)
The Center is HERE because WE CARE. Fax: 973-273-6636. E-mail: customer@newarkha.org
Website: <http://www.newarkha.org>



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Did you know that in 1941, Congress declared July 4 a federal legal holiday? Independence Day, as it is commonly known, commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.



Check out these tips for keeping your cool this summer:

- 1 Draw your drapes**
Keep your blinds, shades and curtains closed on south and west-facing windows during the day to block the heat of direct sunlight.
- 2 Stop cool air from escaping**
Cool air can go right out the window. Add weather stripping on doors and windows and caulk the cracks to keep cool air in and hot air from leaking into your home.
- 3 Use fans**
A fan can make a room feel 6 or 7 degrees cooler while using less energy than a 100-watt light bulb. Run fans only when people are in the room.
- 4 Go oven-less at meal time**
Use the microwave, toaster or a counter-top grill, all of which use less energy than a full-sized oven, when you need to prepare small portions of food.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM



NHA VOICE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY - SUMMER 2009

NHA FAST FACTS

NHA Accepting Applications for Job Referral and Training Database

The Newark Housing Authority is calling on public housing residents to voluntarily enroll in our new Job Referral and Training Database.

does not affect residents' tenancy with NHA or any other public programs that they or any member of their household may already be involved in.

Residents must undergo a drug screening and criminal background check. Those who test positive for substance abuse must complete a certified detoxification program before being referred for employment or training.

Enrollment in the database gives residents exposure to various job opportunities and a chance to become economically independent.

"This is just another way to show our residents that we really care," said Toya Tucker, the program's coordinator at NHA. "We are compiling all types of job leads and training opportunities on a daily basis from various sources. We are also trying to foster partnerships with other organizations and companies who are willing to hire from our pool of residents."

One of the most appealing parts of the program is the energy efficiency training that is being offered. NHA is working with the Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, who is providing training for Newark residents for "Green" energy efficiency jobs. There is a high demand for this type of training. Therefore, residents who are interested will be called back when these free classes begin.

Public housing residents ages 18 through 55 are highly encouraged to inquire about the program through our Tenant Affairs office at (973) 273-6697. Letters were mailed to residents inviting them to enroll in our database. Enrollment

The Job Referral and Training Database program is being partnered with our already established Family Self-Sufficiency and Workforce Learning Link programs to get residents thinking about a future in homeownership and/or to assist them in meeting the standard educational requirements. For more information on our Job Referral and Training program please call (973) 273-6697 Monday through Friday during normal business hours.



At left, Toya Tucker, NHA program coordinator

Summer is a great time of year but it can become a nightmare. Check out these tips for keeping your cool this summer. (See page 4)

The purpose of NHA Voice is to communicate with our residents. We want to keep you informed of our progress, changes and other important information. Comments and suggestions are welcomed by e-mail to: editor@newarkha.org.



NHA Voice
The Newark Housing Authority
500 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Waiting List Reopens for Four Public Housing Family Locations



NHA employees handing out applications to prospective public housing residents

Prospective public housing residents like Latasha Joseph and Henrietta Bailey were among the several thousand applicants that visited our headquarters on June 8 to add their names to a waiting list for four family communities open for the first time after seven years.

"I hope I get in," said Joseph, a mother of two small children. "I've been waiting to get on the list for a longtime."

The waiting list is open for the following sites: Pennington Court, 214 South Street; Millard E. Terrell Homes, 35 Riverview Court; Joseph P. Bradley Court, 40 North Munn Avenue and John W. Hyatt at 2 Roanoke Court. The developments range from one-to four-bedroom apartments.

Executive Director Keith Kinard said the reopening of waiting lists in these family communities indicate that more low-income families in Newark will have a chance to live affordably.

Federal stimulus funds made it possible for NHA to make improve-

ments to public housing units and make more apartment units available, Kinard said.

"Although the demand for a spot on our family waiting list is high due to the flood of applications we've been receiving, the housing authority will do its best to help as many families as we can," Kinard said.

Application packets are available for pick up between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at 500 Broad Street, 1st floor. NHA will accept completed applications via mail until July 3, 2009. Thereafter, completed applications can be hand-delivered between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. beginning July 6, 2009 to the central office.

We will accept only one application per family. Eligibility is based on household income, citizenship and other screening requirements.

For questions regarding the application process, please call (973) 273-6127 Monday through Friday during business hours.

Four Young People Awarded College Scholarships

Four graduating high school seniors from our public housing communities were awarded a total of \$32,000 this year through the Newark Housing Authority Scholarship Fund.

Each student received \$8,000, a laptop computer and printer, summer internship opportunity and a mentor to guide them through college. Scholarships were based on academic achievement, rigor-ousness of secondary program, extracurricular activities and finan-cial need.

Executive Director Keith Kinard said NHA is excited to be a part of moving city students to the next level. "These students are not only making their families proud, but all of Newark. I wish them success in all that they do," he said.

Award recipients are:

Sophia Tolbert, 18, of Science Park High School. She earned a 3.2 GPA and will attend Rutgers University in the fall to major in biology. Her goal is to become an Obstetrician/Gynecologist (OB/GYN). Sophia will be the first person in her family to attend college. "College means the world to me and it is a chance for me to be able to leave Newark and become a successful Puerto Rican and African-American woman".

Marquisha Edwards, 18, of Newark Tech High School. Boasting a 3.6 GPA, the aspiring attorney will attend Montclair State University and major in Pre-law. Raised

Award recipients, below left to right: Sophia Tolbert, Marquisha Edwards, Malik Covington and Dania Carrion



by her grandmother, Marquisha is the first in her family to attend college.

"A dream of mine since elementary school was to always go to college and become an FBI agent. I plan to attend a four-year college and major in criminal justice and become an FBI agent. I want to give back to my community, to be a leader and to safeguard my fellow citizens".

Malik Covington, 18, of University High School. Malik earned a 3.3 GPA. He will major in actuarial science at Penn State. "My fortitude as a leader and my zeal for educating others are the aspects that make me unique...My dream is to become an actuary. The idea of using mathematics and computers to study risks and statistics in order to assist people throughout the world impresses me".

Dania Carrion, 18, of University High School. She earned a 3.3 GPA. Dania will attend Rutgers University to major in criminal justice. She is the first in her family to attend college. "I always strive for academic excellence because I know that is my only way out of my harsh circumstances...I plan to create a non-profit organization for the financially disadvantaged children of Newark".

Scholarships are awarded annually. If you are interested in obtaining information for next year's college scholarships, send an email to scholarship@newarkha.org or call (973) 273-6516.

'Just Go For It,' Resident Vera Jones Declares

Vera Jones has faced some challenges in life that would probably make the average person want to quit. Most notably, in 2006, the mother of two was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Still, Jones remains iron-willed.

A resident of one of our town home developments, the 54-year-old is enrolled in our Workforce Learning Link (WLL) program to pursue a longstanding goal of obtaining a high school diploma.

Several days a week, Jones visits the WLL computer lab at NHA headquarters to hone her education skills, particularly in math. She said she'd always wanted to become a nurse, but her math skills were poor.

WLL is a free program that gives participants the chance to get the proper basic skills and education needed to enter the workforce. Participants (of Essex County) study for the GED test, develop

basic computer skills, explore the basic education for various jobs and learn about job readiness and development.

Since enrolling in the program, Jones said her math skills have improved.

"The program has empowered me and helped me have confidence in myself," Jones said. "I don't have self doubt and fear of failure... now I can see myself becoming a nurse-- because math was my biggest obstacle."

She will take the GED examination this summer.

Jones is also enrolled in our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. FSS is an employment and savings incentive program to help public housing residents and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program participants become self-sufficient through education, training, case management and other supportive services. The program



Vera Jones with Joseph Campbell, a Workforce Learning Link instructor.

establishes a savings account for participants. Residents keep the money in that account after successful completion of program. Some graduates of the FSS program have used the money toward the purchase of their first home.

The strength to pursue a high school diploma, despite obstacles or age, is due to religious reasons, Jones said.

She hopes to inspire others faced with hindrance. "Just go for it," she said.

For more information on our Workforce Learning Link program call (973) 273-6133 during regular business hours.

Residents Attend FSD's Information Fair

Many of our residents visited the Family Services Division's information fair on April 30 to obtain information about nutrition, family care, health, alcohol and drug prevention and a host of other services.

Held at Metropolitan Baptist Church, our Task Force sponsored the free event. The panel consists of six organizations from different fields of interest. An estimated 30 different service providers took part. The affair was open to the public, too. Our senior and elderly residents were provided with free transportation.

Featured were free screening for blood pressure, blood sugar, blood pressure and sexually transmitted disease. Door prizes, raffles, and giveaways made the event an enjoyable outing.

At right: Residents attend Family Services Division's information fair at Metropolitan Baptist Church

