

Syracuse Housing Authority

# Neighborhood News

& Lifestyles

Summer 2019

## UPcoming EVENTS

### July

4 Independence Day\*

### August

11 Eid al Adha begins

### September

2 Labor Day\*

8 Grandparents Day

23 Fall begins

29 Rosh Hashanah begins

\* SHA office closed



William Simmons and Jerlene Harper attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Eastwood Heights Food Pantry.

The new pantry is being organized and run by the Tenant Association, which received a *What If* grant from the Gifford Foundation.



## I-81 Open House Draws a Crowd 6/18/2019

Numerous SHA residents and staff were among the 800 people who attended the NYSDOT Open House on the Interstate 81 project. Attendants had the opportunity to see architectural drawings and charts and ask questions about the process and expectations of the DOT during the five-year plan to complete the project.

Syracuse Mayor, Ben Walsh attended a portion of the open house, stating he was encouraged by the number of people in the room. "There is energy and excitement in the room," Walsh stated.

Not everyone got answers at today's events. Before it started, I-81 Project Director Mark Frechette noted the information was light on details about construction, which state officials say would last five years. Details such as when construction would begin or whether crews would work overnight - will come later.

What will happen to my home and job were the chief concerns for SHA residents and staff alike. "We support the grid option," said Bill Simmons. "But people want to know more about what's going to happen."



I-81 Project Director Mark Frechette shows three different futures for the I-81 corridor in Syracuse.  
Source: Teri Weaver | tweaver@syracuse.com

## Executive Director Seeks Resident Input on I-81 Construction Impact

SHA Executive Director, Bill Simmons, issued a letter to tenants seeking to survey their needs and gather their ideas about safeguarding resident safety and quality of life during the I-81 demolition and reconstruction.

Earlier this Spring, the DOT released a 15,000 page long Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) & Environmental Justice (EJ) analysis which contained some details about construction vibration or noise levels which can be expected during the I-81 project. But it takes an astute reader to find and understand those details. In fact, the document indicates that many of the construction details will come later, after the state hammers out contracts with builders.



"That waiting can foster rumors and worry," said Bill Simmons. "Our letter seeks to identify the most pressing questions and concerns about health, safety and quality of life for the people who will have to endure the greatest disruptions during the process."

SHA residents are part of an environmental justice population and therefore NYSDOT must demonstrate that no disproportionality high and adverse effects would be predominately borne by SHA residents.

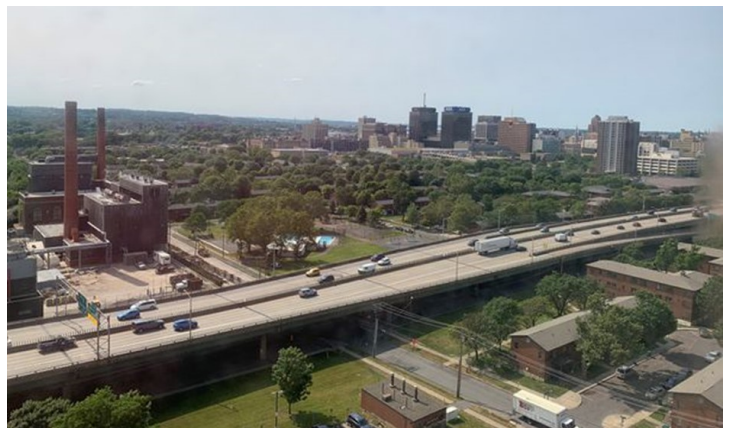
Residents and advocates have already made a number of suggestions, some of which include:

- Central air conditioning and sound-proof windows so Toomey Abbott Towers residents can avoid opening windows during construction.
- A new road to guarantee constant access to Toomey Abbott and a portion of Pioneer Homes.
- The ability to move to another subsidized home if the construction gets to be too much for individuals with certain health conditions.
- Respiratory testing of residents both before and after construction to monitor for health problems that might be associated living next to the area's biggest construction project in generations.

The full letter can be read on the SHA Facebook page: [//www.facebook.com/syracusehousing/](https://www.facebook.com/syracusehousing/)

"Most residents still like the idea of the community grid," said Simmons. "Their wish list isn't an overall criticism of the proposal."

State transportation officials have said they are listening.



## Home Moisture Problems – Sources, Issues and Solutions

Do your apartment windows look like this? Warm moist air feels good to many of us, but did you know that very high humidity can cause problems or damages to your home.

Excessive moisture could come from any number of sources, and can cause issues ranging from slight discomfort to musty smells to mold/mildew to indoor air quality concerns. It can even cause wood to rot or concrete to erode and crumble causing structural damage to apartment buildings.



### Signs of High Humidity

Condensation on windows

Mildew spots on walls and ceilings, especially in the bathroom

Lingering musty smell, watermarks on walls and in basement

Peeling wallpaper

Rotting wood (floors and beams)

### Risks Associated with High Humidity

Mold and mildew

Aggravated health problems such as asthma and eczema

Slow drying laundry

Damage to your home and possessions.

**Call your Property Management office if you see signs of high humidity in your apartment.**

Good housekeeping includes prevention steps such as **running a fan & cleaning up small mold spots.**

**TOO HUMID**  
GREATER THAN  
**50%**  
HUMIDITY



You may notice that your hair is frizzier than usual.

Air conditioning will help lower humidity.

## Reducing Humidity Helps Prevent Mold & Mildew:

Eliminate as much moisture as possible. Steam from hot showers is one of the most common sources of moisture, so ***it is important to use a ventilation fan and keep interior doors open to enhance airflow.***

**TOO DRY**  
LESS THAN  
**15%**  
HUMIDITY



You may notice you're getting zapped by door-knobs and light switches.

A humidifier will help increase humidity.

# Senior/Disabled High-rise Events and Announcements

Look for details on your bulletin boards! (Dates and times may be added and changed at anytime)

See your Program Coordinator for in house events at your individual buildings.

## July

### Shopping EVERY Saturdays

**Date: 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27**

Fit for Fridays – Every Friday @ Onondaga Lake Park  
(Weather permitting)

Date: 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26

Clay Concerts in the Park –Every Tues.  
(Weather permitting)

Date: 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30

Farmer's Market- Thurs.

Date: 7/18, 7/25

Distribution of Farmers Market COUPONS (Random Draw)

Date: Week of 7/15

Specialty Trip-Walmart East, Aldi's, Price Rite, Destiny

Date: 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29

Fishing Trip- Oneida Lake

Date: 7/23

Dinner Night North-Waterfront Restaurant-Brewerton

Date:7/10 North Side

Dinner Night West-Waterfront Restaurant-Brewerton

Date: 7/11 West Side

TBD Seminar sponsored by Upstate Healthlink

Date: TBD

## August

### Shopping EVERY Saturdays

**Date: 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24**

Clay Concerts in the Park –Every Tues.  
(Weather permitting)

Date: 8/6, 8/13

Specialty Trip- Walmart East, Aldi's, Price Rite

Date: 8/5, 8/12 ,8/19

Farmer's Market- Thurs.

Date: 8/15 & 8/22

Cooking Fresh on Fridays @ James Geddes Location

Date: 8/9

Dinner Night North- Golden Corral Restaurant

Date: 8/7 North Side

Dinner Night West- Golden Corral Restaurant

Date: 8/8 West Side

Wellness Luncheon @ Ross Towers-Topic: Hands on CPR Class

Date: TBD

TBD Seminar sponsored by Upstate

Date: TBD

BINGO-Toomey Abbott-Open to all buildings

Date: 8/22

New York State Fair- Senior Days

Date: 8/26 & 8/27



## Creating Opportunities to Work by Reggie Seigler

In addition to SHA's maintenance crews many of you have seen various independent contractors working to prepare SHA's vacant apartments for reoccupation after the previous residents have moved out.

These contractors were pre-screened and selected through a process called request for proposal, (RFP). The RFP subjects the contractors to the rules of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. These rules require them to give preference in training, hiring and sub-contracting opportunities to qualified "low/very-low income area-residents", when the opportunities arise. These residents are also known as Section 3 Residents. All public housing residents are Section 3 Residents.

SHA's Section 3 Coordinator maintains a database of Section 3 Residents who have skills and experience in cleaning, painting, carpentry, light-plumbing/electrical and flooring etc. Resumes within that database are shared upon request with these contractors and other interested employers. If you or someone you know would like your resume to be networked please forward it via email to: [rseigler@syrhousing.org](mailto:rseigler@syrhousing.org); or call for an appointment at (315) 470-4270.



**Johnny Pertillar** of the RA-Menes company works to prepare vacant apartments for incoming tenants.

## Adult & Long Term Care Services

J. Ryan McMahon, II, County Executive  
Lisa D. Alford, Commissioner

[ongov.net](http://ongov.net)

## Keep Moving: Silver Sneakers Visits Vinette Tower by Kim Jackson

**Silver Sneakers** stopped by Vinette Tower for an introductory balance lesson in May.

Silver Sneaker is a program encouraging older adults to participate in physical activities that will help them to maintain greater control of their health. It sponsors activities and social events designed to keep seniors healthy while encouraging social interaction. We had a great turn out of participants and hope that this leads to a healthier lifestyle for our seniors.

*Keep moving and stay strong Vinette Tower!*



## Securitas: A New Security Presence in High Rise Buildings.

SHA has a contract in place with Securitas Security Systems. Securitas officers began patrolling high rise buildings this Spring. NYS Certified Security Credentialed officers patrol both inside and outside all SHA high rise apartment buildings 7 days per week.



Patrol officers are a deterrent to criminal or nuisance activities. “We are here for the residents not because of them,” stated JD Thomas Regional Manager of Securitas, “We want to develop a friendly relationship with residents. Officers look out for any suspicious activities and respond to incidents or reports,” Thomas says. “We need to look at this as a partnership to create a safe and enjoyable place to be.”

Securitas is the largest security company in Europe and continues to expand their American footprint. A Swedish company, Securitas has been acquiring large US Security companies since the 1990’s, including Pinkerton, Burns and Doyle, all serving the Syracuse market area.

“We use technology to our advantage,” Thomas states, “Electronic incident reporting and GPS monitoring is helping us provide a better and more cost effective service to all size companies.” Securitas may be new to SHA but they are already providing protective services in some of the largest and most technical facilities across New York including health care organizations, factories, malls and business centers.

Securitas services supplement the work of our traditional SHA Security. SHA still employs Syracuse Police Department officers to provide security patrols in family housing sites.



SHA provides *enhanced security*, which can be described as issues impacting the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Issues such as disbursing nuisance crowds, enforcing parking rules, responding to neighborhood disputes or acting as a crime deterrent.

**Call 911 in an emergency.** As a reminder, SHA does NOT provide emergency security services. If you are the victim of a crime or witness a crime in progress, or feel your health or safety is at risk, you should call 911 for an immediate response.

## FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911! SHA SECURITY: CALL - 315-475-6181

CALL SHA Security to report crimes or other incidents **AFTER** you have contacted 911. Giving SHA notice allows us to track all incidents and to take appropriate action. **Insist that security take a written complaint and ask for a complaint number.**

Call SHA Security to report the following:

- drug or other criminal activity - unless in progress – call 911!!
- that a tenant has abandoned their apartment
- neighbor disputes or noise complaints
- activity that impairs the health, safety or enjoyment of your unit
- unregistered or illegally parked vehicles in the parking lots
- vandalism
- unauthorized individuals living in a dwelling unit or entering the building other health and safety hazards

### ANONYMOUS REPORTING OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

**Syracuse Police Tips App for your Cell Phone:** You may download the SPD Tips App on your smart phone to send an anonymous tip from your cell phone.

**Anonymous Tip Via Text Message:** You may submit an anonymous tip via text message to the Syracuse Police Department, by texting your tip to 847411.

**Contact Lease Compliance:** You may report any incidents anonymously to Compliance or you may openly discuss your situation. All calls are confidential. **315-470-4241**

## New SPD Chief Visits SHA

July 10, 2019

Syracuse Police Chief Kenton Buckner spoke to a crowd of over 50 SHA residents and staff at Toomey Abbot Tower. His first visit with SHA

community members comes six months into his new role as top cop.

Chief Buckner came prepared with local crime data and spoke about the challenges his department faces. He specifically addressed police response times, a major source of frustration for SHA residents. He explained that when calls come in, they are triaged into high, medium and low priority calls, based on the level of risk associated with the complaint. Chief Buckner acknowledged the frustration of callers reporting issues such as trespassers, but stated calls involving bodily injury must be cleared before officers can respond nonviolent offenses.

He acknowledged that a long wait is frustrating for both callers and officers alike. If it takes two hours to respond, there is often not much the officers on duty can do if the subject is no longer in the area. The answer is evident; more officers are needed than what the department currently has available. The Chief then described the efforts his team is taking to recruit and train new officers.

Buckner also described how to make anonymous reports by calling the SPD criminal investigations division at (315) 442-5222. All calls will remain confidential. To avoid retaliation by individuals committing crime on housing property, *you can specifically ask that SPD not come to your apartment.* You can also report crime anonymously using the “SPD Tips” app from a smartphone.

Several members of the audience asked questions about a recent video clip posted on social media which showed an officer using what many viewers interpreted as excessive force. Buckner has publicly supported the officer involved. Several others in the crowd asked questions about their personal rights during traffic stops or when being approached by an officer in a public space.

“Always comply with the officer instructions,” Buckner says. “If you don’t feel you were treated lawfully or with respect you should report to it to the office of internal affairs. “I cannot investigate what I do not know about.” Chief Buckner stated he was proud of his department, but he also acknowledged that not every officer is cut out for community policing. A moment of levity came when he said “The police department is just like your family and mine, we all have at least one relative that cannot use the upstairs bathroom.”

“When we find a bad apple I will remove it,” pledged Buckner, he did however warn the audience not to put all their stock in what you see and read on social media. “You may see a 40 second clip, and it looks real bad. But we get to see the full 6 minute video and that often put more actions into context. Just understand that what you see and read on social media is not always the full story.”

Overall, Chief Buckner acknowledged that his department needs to strengthen relationships with much of the community and he pledged transparency as his department works to do so. “You may not always like to hear what I have to say, but I promise you that I will always speak the truth.” Buckner went on to say, “Change is difficult and not every decision I make will make me popular but I’m okay with not being the most popular guy in the room.”

**Chief Buckner will speak to residents again on August 21st at the Salt Space building at 103 Wyoming St. at 5:30PM.**



## Heal the World

### Aman Sisters Set Out to Help Make the World a Better Place

“Stay Strong. Keep your head on, and listen to your parents.” That is the advice Central Village sisters, Athyang and Alek Aman, have for their peers. “And never give up hope.”

Athyang, age 18 is excited to be graduating from Bishop Ludden in June and will be attending Syracuse University as a Biology major this Fall. Her goal is to become a doctor specializing in infectious disease identification and treatment. Athyang dreams of returning to her birth country, South Sudan, to help people who have very limited access to health care, medication or even preventative health information.

Growing up in a large family of six children, Athyang strives to make life easier for her parents and siblings. She credits her faith in God and strong family values for instilling the will in her to help others live a healthier life. Athyang moved to the US when she was just 3 years old, so her school experience in the United States has been fairly typical. She enjoys an average teenage life of hanging out with friends and watching Netflix. She is a member of her school’s Science Olympiad Team, a science and math based competition between several regional schools. Her team used their protein modeling knowledge to place 2nd place in this year’s Disease Detective competition.

Athyang is following a similar path to her older sister Alek, age 21, also a graduate of Bishop Ludden High School and a current Biology/Pre-med major. Alek plans to be a Pediatric Endocrinologist, a doctor who treats children with diabetes. “I have diabetes myself and I want to help children who also have this condition,” Said Aman, “Nobody should die from diabetes, but people in South Sudan and other parts of Africa have very limited access to health care. Many are never diagnosed and there is not enough insulin to go around.” Alek wants to open health care clinics all around Sudan so that every person, no matter what their resources, can be treated by a physician and have access to life saving medicines.

When she is not studying, you might find Alek in the fitness center working out. She enjoys living a healthy lifestyle of eating healthy and exercising. Although you probably won’t see Athyang there with her, she prefers relaxing at home over sweating it out at the gym. Both young ladies share a special bond with each other and a strong commitment to their family values. “Our parents are our foundation,” both sisters say, “they are always right.” Athyang adds the advice, “Never give up. There will be hard times, but try your best and keep your faith in God.”



### Commissioners Congratulate Scholarship Winners

Front from left: Kate Holmes, Safiya Are (mom), Salma Muse, Jerlene Harper.

Back from left: Christopher Montgomery, Michael Collins, Walter Dixie, Athyang Aman, Angis Gawim (mom), Bruce Connors, Gladys Smith.



## Help Where You Can and Make the Most of What You Have: Salma Muse Just Getting Started



Salma Muse's story starts before she was even born. The Muse family fled their war-torn home in Somalia because of war and violence. They fled to Kenya where Salma was born and lived until the age of 10, when her family had the chance to move to the US.

Salma attended grades K-4 in Kenya where school is taught in a combination of Swahili and English. When her family settled in Syracuse, she entered the 6th grade.

Salma was always good at math, but she recalls struggling with school because her reading and

writing skills were poor. Ironically, it was joining a book club that helped her improve her overall academics. "I just loved the story," Salma recalls of the book *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, "it made me want to read and helped me with my vocabulary.

In spite of a growing love of reading, Salma still gravitated towards math and science courses. She attends the Institute of Technology High School and attends Ptech courses at OCC focusing on Mechanical Engineering. After a job shadowing experience in the 10th grade, Salma has been reconsidering a career in technology. She is now leaning more towards Economics and Citizenship courses. This interest spurred her and some friends to start a Multicultural Club in her school. The club hosts an annual event to showcase the food, attire and cultural traditions of a selected country or region. In addition to sharing her own Somali cultural experience, Salma has particularly enjoyed the food and learning about the Puerto Rican culture.

After Graduating with honors this June, Salma will be attending Syracuse University. For now she is undecided in a major but looking forward to taking a variety of courses that SU offers. "I'm interested in Law school, but that is still a ways off," Salma states, "Patent Law would allow me to merge my mechanical, drafting and technology skills with citizenship and economics, but we'll see. I could still change my mind."

"Eventually I want to help support kids who want an education. I may like to return to Kenya to build a business or support schools in Somalia where schools are expensive and not all children are able to attend. No matter what Salma settles on as a career, her friends at Syracuse Housing Authority will be cheering her on and know she will make her family and community proud. Salma's advice to fellow students in Syracuse; "Never give up. Help when you can and try to make the most of the opportunities you have been given."

# 10th Annual Photo Walk

Anniversary event aims to capture a wider scope of the South Side neighborhood

Saturday, July 27

10 a.m. start :: South Side Innovation Center :: 2610 S. Salina St.



the  
STAND

## Freedom Commons Comes to Fruition

Freedom Commons is a \$15 million, new construction, affordable green housing development on the near south side of the City of Syracuse at 450 Burt Street. The project is a partnership between the Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA) and the Center for Community Alternatives (CCA). It is the country's first replication of the housing model started by the Fortune Society in New York City fifteen years ago, called Castle Gardens. The SHA will serve as property manager while CCA will provide various supportive services.



The 54-unit property consists of 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms units, 6 of which are fully accessible and adapted for individuals with mobility impairments and 3 of which are adapted for individuals with hearing or vision impairments. Being developed with Norstar Development USA, Freedom Commons received funding from New York State Housing Trust Fund, OTDA Homeless Housing Assistance Programs (HHAP), KeyBank, and Key Community Development Corporation (KCDC) LIHC Equity, and NYSERDA Incentives



The project will predominately be affordable housing for those with incomes at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI). Approximately 11 of the units will be permanent supportive housing reserved for formerly homeless individuals and/or families who have had some involvement with the justice system and whose income is at or below 30% of AMI.

The project is nearing completion and should be ready for occupancy in late July.



## Air Conditioners Must Be Properly Installed.

### Improperly Installed Air Conditioners are Dangerous.

Residents are reminded that they must NOT install or remove air conditioning units from SHA windows. Please call in a work order for a SHA Maintenance staff to install window air conditioners.

There is a maintenance charge to install and dispose of air conditioning units. There will be no seasonal removal.



## Grease Clogs Drains

A slow draining sink may be a sign of a clogged pipe, which can cause waste water to spill out of your sink, toilet or bathtub.

**Yuck!** Overflowing drains can cause property damage and makes a terrible mess to clean up!

**Please do not pour grease down drains.**





## Komen organization's latest grant for She Matters

For the sixth year in a row, the She Matters team has secured a grant from Susan G. Komen Upstate New York, with the goal of continuing to screen underserved women in Syracuse for breast cancer. She Matters is a peer-to-peer community outreach program that educates women on the importance of breast cancer screenings.

### How does the Pioneer Garden Grow?

Volunteers from the Health Neighbors Partnership help the children of Pioneer homes with spring plantings. A few short weeks later and the garden is now in full bloom.



**Great work everyone!**

# SAFETY AROUND WATER

the Y YMCA

DOWNTOWN YMCA | SUMMER 2019

At the Y, we believe that safe swimming saves lives and that all children should be equipped with the skills to help them safely enjoy the water.

Our **Safety Around Water** program is one of the many ways we help to make time in and around the water both fun and safe.



Thank you to the YMCA and United Way of CNY for donating swim suits to children who sign up for swim lessons!



SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY

516 Burt Street  
Syracuse NY 13202

## Building Neighborhoods.

## Growing Dreams.



Congratulations Near Westside Peacemaking Project. The group revealed a new neighborhood sign on the corner of W. Onondaga St. and Slocum Ave.

Local artist, Brendan Rose helped community members create the sign, and a team of volunteers worked hard to get it painted in its Caribbean-themed colors in time for the reveal.

*Note: there are TWO new signs - the other is at W. Fayette and Wyoming Street. The unveiling ceremony was held at the W. Onondaga location.*



### SHA 2019 Board of Commissioners

Bruce Conner, Chairperson  
Gladys J. Smith, Vice-Chairperson  
Michael Collins      Walter Dixie  
Jerlene Harper      Catherine Holmes  
Christopher Montgomery

Executive Director  
William J. Simmons

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