

# Neighborhood News & Lifestyles

Winter 2017



## Congratulations & Best Wishes to Derrek Thomas

*SHA Commissioner, Derrek Thomas has been appointed a Syracuse City Court Judge by Mayor, Stephanie Minor.*

Mr. Thomas fills a vacancy left by Supervising City Court Judge Stephen J. Dougherty who resigned effective December 31, 2016 in order to assume a position as a Judge of Onondaga County Court.

“Derrek Thomas is an excellent attorney who has provided exemplary service to the City of Syracuse,” said Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner. “His professionalism and demeanor have

enabled him to serve the people of the City of Syracuse and he will make a strong addition to the City Court bench.”

Mr. Thomas has served as the Director of Personnel and Labor Relations for the City of Syracuse since 2013, where he served as the City’s chief negotiator for all organized labor contracts. Prior to that he served as an assistant corporation counsel handling labor matters. Mr. Thomas has worked as an attorney with Turning Stone Resort Casino LLC, the Mackenzie Hughes law firm and the New York State Bill Drafting Commission. Thomas earned his undergraduate, MBA, and law degrees at SUNY Albany and Albany Law School. Mr. Thomas and his wife live on the City’s North Side with their children.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Thomas served on the boards of the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility and the Syracuse Housing Authority.

Mr. Thomas will need to run for public election in November 2017 in order to remain in the position for a 10 year term.

## Winter Happenings

### January

2nd - New Year’s observed, *SHA office closed*

16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day *SHA Office Closed*

28th - Chinese New Year

### February

2nd - Groundhogs Day

14th - Valentine’s Day

20th - President’s Day – *SHA Office closed*

### March

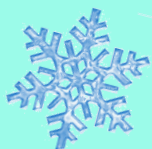
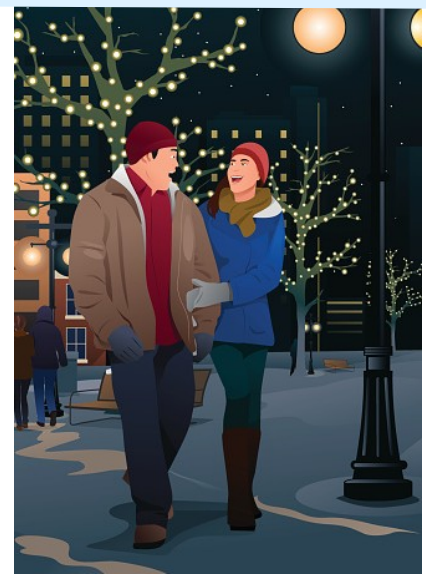
12th - Daylight Savings, clocks spring-forward

17th - St. Patrick’s Day

20th - Spring Starts!

## 2017 SHA Office Holiday Closings

New Year’s Day	Monday	January 2
Martin Luther King Jr Day	Monday	January 16
President’s Day	Monday	February 20
Memorial Day	Monday	May 29
Independence Day	Tuesday	July 4
Labor Day	Monday	September 4
Columbus Day	Monday	October 9
Election Day	Tuesday	November 7
Veterans Day	Friday	November 10
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 23
Black Friday	Friday	November 24
Christmas	Monday	December 25



## AOT's Golden Girls Craft Club Hosts Annual Sale

by Loretta Brown, AOT property Manager

The Almus Olver Towers Golden Girls crafters have joined the children's charity, Knit for Kids. This national charity based in Sewickley PA, distributes hand made sweaters, hats and scarves to children in need in the US and abroad.

These ladies have been doing this type of charity donation for a couple of years now. Year before last we made a lot of quilts for newborns -12 year old. Unfortunately the hospital could no longer receive them, so we donated them to the Women Shelters such as Salvation Army and Vera House.

The Golden Girls host two annual Craft Shows and Bake Sales in order to raise funds to buy knitting supplies for their charity work. Their most recent sale was held on Election Day in the AOT Community Room.

Some of their projects include: Handmade jewelry, canvas art, tissue boxes, trinket boxes, knit hats and scarves, homemade soaps and lotions using natural oils and scents.



Their Spring Sale will be held around Mother's Day! Donations of cash, yarn or new craft supplies are gladly accepted.



## Eastwood Homes Summer Picnic

*"I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your gracious assistance in making the Eastwood Homes Picnic a success."*

Christine Gonzalez,  
Property Manager





## October Health Fair Open to All

Over 200 people attended the Passport to Healthy Living Health fair held in October.

This hands-on event featured cooking demonstrations, Tai Chi and Zumba demos and a wide variety of speakers on health topics such as bone health, diabetes, hearing and vision loss, and much more!

Thank you to all who attendee and worked at the event.

Sincerely,  
*Kim Jackson,*  
 Senior Service Director



## Free Tax Prep service

If your household income is *less than \$54,000*, you qualify to have your taxes prepared free, at a VITA site.

### Items you must bring with you:

- Picture ID
- Social Security Cards and Birthdates of everyone you are claiming
- Proof of Foreign Status if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse, and your dependents on the tax return
- W-2 Forms from 2016 jobs held
- 1099-R, 1099-Misc. from all employers
- Interest & dividends statements from banks (forms 1099)
- Federal and State Tax Returns from last year if available
- Total paid for Daycare provider and Daycare's Tax ID # (providers SS # or their business employer ID #)
- Form 1095-A if you got health insurance from market-place/exchange in 2016
- Health Insurance Exemption Certificate, if received
- For a faster refund, direct deposit your refund into your bank account: bring your savings and/or checking account routing numbers (a blank check will work). If married, or filing jointly, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

*\*Your Earned Income Tax Credit does not affect your eligibility for Public Assistance, Public Housing or Medicaid.*

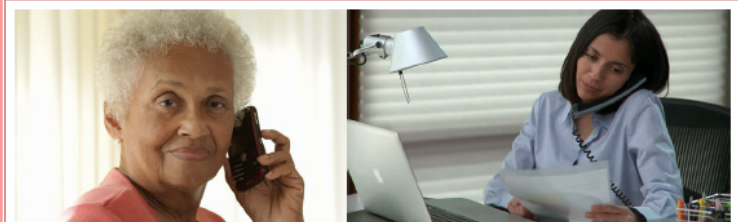
**Call for an appointment at any of these FREE Tax Prep sites**

**Beauchamp Library**  
 211 S. Salina Street  
 (315) 446-3326

**Cooperative Federal**  
 800 N. Salina Street  
 (315) 473-0280

**Syracuse E.O.C.**  
 100 New Street, #4  
 Call ahead (315) 295-1822

**PEACE, Inc. at Shoppingtown Mall – Sears Wing**  
 3649 Erie Blvd. East  
 (315) 634-3756



## 10-Digit\* Dialing Coming February 11, 2017

Starting March 11, 2017 the new 680 area code will be assigned to new telephone numbers in the 315 area code regions.

**Start using 10-Digit-Dialing today**  
 so it will be second nature  
 by the time it is required on  
**February 11, 2017**

\*Traditional landlines will require the digit (1) before the area code.

Information brought to you by:  
 The Onondaga County Department of Adult & Long Term Care Services  
 315-435-3355  [www.ongov.net/adult](http://www.ongov.net/adult)

## NO SMOKING REMINDER

SHA appreciates your support of our smoke-free policy!

All SHA properties are smoke-free. This includes all office and residential buildings, common areas, entryways and stairways.



Please remember that if you smoke, you must do so at least 50 feet away from buildings. Thank you!



Asia Matthews owner of Asia's Lash and Brow Studio

## “Start-it ” Supports Ideas

by Reggie Seigler

Do you have special skills or a business idea that you want to develop? Nearly all of us have them but either we are afraid to pursue them or feel that we don't know how to begin or where to seek help. This thought process almost always leads us to failure.

That was not the case with Pioneer Homes' resident, Asia Matthews. Asia knew that she had the passion and skills to pursue business so she decided to open Asia's Lash and Brow Studio. With some effort and negotiating skill she found a space at 404 Oak Street where she provides lash and brow treatments, facials and massages.

To enhance her business skills and to possibly qualify for a small business loan, Asia signed up for the “Start-it” business training classes. The classes are provided by CenterState CEO and are taught by SHA's Section 3 Coordinator, Reggie Seigler.

Seigler said, “The course is designed to help start-up and emerging businesses to organize their business plans.” The completed plans are eligible for review by Cooperative Federal Credit Union for possible business loans. Mentoring is also available.

As an SHA resident Asia's business qualifies for Section 3. Section 3 Business Concerns are given preference for contracting opportunities on all SHA's projects that utilize HUD's funding. Although opportunities in Asia's line of business will probably not arise through HUD's financing she does qualify to be promoted widespread with all of our other Section 3 Business Concerns.

If you or someone you know have a business or are interested in starting a business feel free to reach out via phone or email to: (315) 470-4270 or [rseigler@syrhousing.org](mailto:rseigler@syrhousing.org).

Remember the old saying, “Nothing beats a failure but a try.” So let's give it a try.

## Access real-time bus information anytime, anywhere



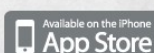
Introducing the

## GoCentroBus app

- Pinpoint real-time bus locations
- See estimated bus arrival times
- Store favorite routes and stops
- Access “Stops-Near-Me” feature
- Create customized travel plans



Download it FREE for your iOS and Android devices at



[www.centro.org](http://www.centro.org)

Syracuse Housing Authority's  
**Housekeeping Standards**

Safe

Units must be free from hazards or conditions that can injure or harm residents or guests.

Sanitary

Units must be free of odors, germs, bacteria, pollutants that can effect the health of residents or neighbors.

Damage Free

Residents must not misuse or damage public housing property.

**Is That Mold or Mildew in My Bathroom?**

Does your bathroom shower look like this?

Mold and mildew are both types of **fungi**

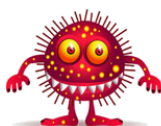
There are hundreds of types of fungi, some good and some bad. Some fungi are good enough to eat, like mushrooms. Good molds

are also used in cheese making and many medicines. However, many fungi, like the stuff that grows on your shower tiles or walls, are bad. Not only are they ugly, they can cause health problems including; respiratory problems, allergic reactions, migraines, joint pain, mental fuzziness, and extreme fatigue.



Fungi love warm and moist climates, just how you like your showers... So removing moisture is your best chance of preventing mold or mildews from forming in the first place. Keep your bathrooms vented and wipe up water that spills onto the floors. Don't leave wet towels on the floor, hang them to dry.

**But how do you get rid of it?**



Mold



Mildew

There are many products you can buy at the store to help remove mold and mildew. Many of these products contain bleach. **Bleach is a great product** to remove the offending spots, but it can also be hard on your skin, and stinky to smell. **But, bleach is toxic** so take extra care when using in households with children and pets.

There are other ways to get rid of mold stains. Here is an old family secret for cleaning mold.

It's nontoxic, safe to use around children and pets and can be used on nearly any surface!

Use **hydrogen peroxide** and **baking soda** to make a paste.



Rub the paste on the moldy surfaces. Let it set for 5-10 minutes, then scrub it off with a scouring pad or old toothbrush. It's that easy!

All these products are available in the Dollar Store!

Try it in the kitchen too!



## We Matter: Let's beat Colon Cancer!

by Linda J. Veit, MPH, Upstate Cancer Center

Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest form of cancer in men and women. BUT did you know that colon cancer is one of the few cancers that can actually be prevented, if detected early?

That's right; you can prevent colon cancer by being screened with either a FIT test or a colonoscopy. Polyps that are found by screening can be removed before they develop into cancers. Screening is also allowing more colorectal cancers to be found earlier when the disease is easier to cure.



If you are 50 to 75 years of age, join the *We Matter* program and find out more information or if you just want to be tested call 217-5825 or contact your Resident Health Advocates at Pioneer Homes or Toomey Abbott Tower.

New York Police Department  
Criminal Record Sheet

NAME: Jerome "Jerry" Seinfeld  
ALIASES: Dylan Murphy  
Race: White Sex: Male DOB: 4/29/1964  
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown  
Build: Slim Weight: 180 lbs. Height: 6'11"  
Address: 129 West 81st Street, Apt. 6A New York, NY 10024  
Last known whereabouts: Incarcerated, Latham, MA

**MISTAKE** Unpaid library dues resolved

**MISTAKE** Public Urination excuse: uro-misotists

**MISTAKE** Movie piracy Top quality

**MISTAKE** Arson Leapin' Larry's store

**MISTAKE** Impersonating sub... Mailman

## Do you have an Arrest Record?

Did you know about 75% of official Criminal Records, "Rap Sheets" have mistakes?

### Examples of mistakes

- RAP sheet still shows charges that were dropped or sealed.
- Charges show as pending even after they were disposed.
- Charges are listed incorrectly.
- A single charge may be listed multiple times, making the record look longer/more serious than it actually is.

Find out if your RAP Sheet has a **MISTAKE** on it before it costs you a job or holds you back.

**JRAP, the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program** is a grant from the US Department of Justice and HUD. This grant will pay the legal fees for current or former public housing youth, up to age 24 to find out if your record has any mistakes. If it does, an attorney will help correct it. Other legal services may also be offered depending on your unique case.

**Don't wait to call \* This grant is only funded now through 2017.**

Legal services provided by the Center for Community Alternatives, your personal info is not shared with SHA.

**Call CCA at (315) 422-5638 ext. 257 for an appointment**

Heather Crimmins is the JRAP attorney. She is available to assist public housing residents, age 24 or younger with JRAP legal services. **All services are free and confidential.**

**JRAP Walk-In Hours at SHA, 516 Burt Street location :**  
Wednesdays from 4-5 PM January 18, 25 February 8, 15, 22

**JRAP Walk-In Hours at CCA, 115 E. Jefferson Street, Suite 300 :**  
Thursdays, 3-5 PM January 19, 26, February 9, 16, 23



# TRASH - TALKIN'



Trash disposal is one of SHA's most difficult challenges.

SHA Property Managers and Ground crews must enforce the City and County rules for trash and recycling. Most of our **family housing sites** are serviced by Syracuse City municipal trash pick up. **Recycling is mandatory.** Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency sets the rules for what can be recycled in our area.

**Residents are responsible for reading, understanding and obeying the trash rules where you live. If you have a question about proper trash disposal call your Property Management office for instructions.**

**Need help with oversized items?** Call your Property Management Office for assistance! In most cases, they can help you out. Please do not dump your items in common areas or next to dumpsters without prior approval.

Most **senior high-rise buildings** have trash chutes and recycling rooms. Please do NOT throw loose trash down the chute. All trash should be bagged and tied tightly. Loose trash or bags that break on the way down cause foul odors and attract pests. **Nobody wants that.**



“Single-Stream” recycling means you can mix plastic, glass, paper and metal together in one blue bin.

## Forbidden from the Bin: Plastic Bags

*Ann Fordock, Recycling Specialist*

Plastic bags and plastic film/wrap of any kind should not go in your blue bin. Also, do not place your recyclables in a plastic bag and drop the entire thing in your blue bin either. **All your recyclables should be dumped loose into the blue bin.** It does not matter if your recyclables go into a curbside blue bin or a recycling container at an apartment or business. Recyclables should always be loose.



### So what CAN you do with all those plastic bags?

1. Use them to pre-bag stinky items, such as food scraps, grease, diapers, and pet waste, before placing in your household trash.
2. Recycle them at the big box store they came from. Most grocery stores and big-box stores have collection bins at their entrances.
3. Cut down or eliminate plastic bags by bringing reusable bags with you to the store.



SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY

516 Burt Street  
Syracuse NY 13202

**Building Neighborhoods.**

**Growing Dreams.**

The graphic features a photograph of three people's feet walking on a snowy surface. Below the photo is a dark blue banner with the text 'WALK SAFE THIS WINTER' in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath the banner, on a light blue background, is the text 'BE CAREFUL WALKING ON SNOW AND ICE, FOLLOW THESE 3 GOLDEN RULES:' followed by a numbered list of three rules.

**WALK SAFE  
THIS WINTER**

**BE CAREFUL WALKING  
ON SNOW AND ICE,  
FOLLOW THESE 3  
GOLDEN RULES:**

- 1. Always wear proper footwear**
- 2. Don't jump or slide**
- 3. Stop and scan for hazards**

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SHA's Neighborhood News is published quarterly. Usually in January, April, July and October. Submissions may be sent to [aabelaziz@syrhousing.org](mailto:aabelaziz@syrhousing.org)

[www.syracusehousing.org](http://www.syracusehousing.org)

Syracuse Housing Authority  
516 Burt Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 475-6181