

# Neighborhood News



**SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
*Building Neighborhoods. Growing Dreams.*



Winter 2020



Darron Vecchio, SHA Crew Leader, brought some holiday spirit to the residents by putting up holiday lights on a beautiful tree next to the building. SHA brought some PPE and a few Holiday treats. SHA appreciates the maintenance team for spreading joy for everyone to share.

**Happy Holidays!**

## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

### RESIDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Learn about what our Resident Support Services staff offers!

Page 01

### SUMMER AND FALL HIGHLIGHTS

What we've been up to this Summer & Fall!

Pages 02 - 06

### COVID UPDATES

Stay safe this holiday season!

Pages 07 - 16





# Resident Support Services

## FINANCIAL LITERACY



Household budgeting  
personal savings programs  
\*1st time HOME buyer programs  
Credit repair



## LEASE COMPLIANCE

Understanding your lease  
Housekeeping issues  
Counseling or support to maintain successful tenancy  
Conflict resolution, Grievance disputes

## JOB SKILLS TRAINING

Computer training and access for jobseekers  
ESL and High School Equivalency (GED)  
College applications and scholarships  
Job training programs, skilled trade job training  
Finding a job, or a better job



## CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Summer programs, swim lessons, and camp scholarships  
College scholarships  
Computer access for children and youth

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Access to health insurance  
Finding a doctor or dentist  
Nutrition and cooking classes  
Community gardens  
Becoming more active



**Please call for information or to make an appointment !!!!!!!!!**



# SHA CONTACTS

SHA Security  
315-475-6181 Ext. 5

Emergency Work Orders / Maintenance  
315-475-6181 Ext. 3

Resident Support Services / Social Work  
315-475-6181 Ext. 4

Toomey Abbot Towers  
(315) 428 0187

Central Village, Almus Oliver Towers &  
McKinney Manor  
(315) 478-1671

Ross Towers, Vinette Towers, Fahey  
Court & Eastwood Heights  
(315) 422-0408

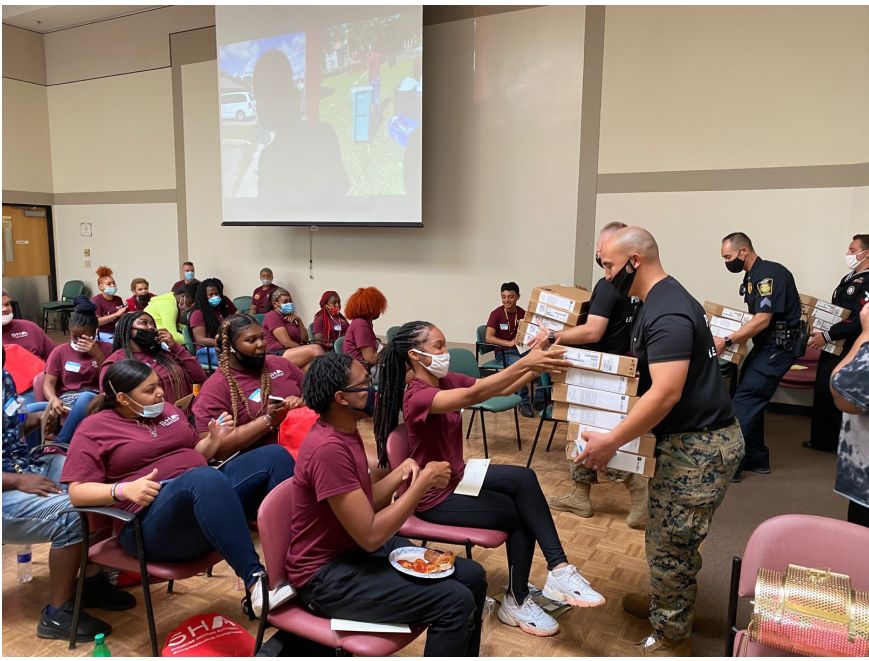
James Geddes & Benderson Heights &  
Scattered Sites  
(315) 470-4421

Pioneer Homes  
(315) 473-6810

Freedom Commons  
(315) 470-0556

Eastwood Homes, Leonard Buildings &  
Homes of Syracuse  
(315) 433-1262





## PIONEER HOMES CLEAN-UP

Our Summer Youth Employees were immensely helpful throughout the entire 8 week program, but especially during a special Pioneer Homes Clean-Up Day!

Youth employees assisted SHA Ground Crew Members and Pioneer Homes Staff by picking up discarded waste throughout the entire 600-unit AMP.

Their efforts not only add to the beautification of our residents' homes, but created a feeling of togetherness by helping the community.

## SHA GIVES BACK

As an eligible use of CARES Act funding, SHA created a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) that began in July and ended with a Youth Employment Fair! For (8) weeks, from July to September, our youth employees have been busy cleaning, assisting with creating and distributing COVID-19 related educational materials, assisting residents with technology needs, and helping locate scarcely found supplies needed to protect employees and residents against the virus.

As a thank you for all of their hard work, all of our youth employees received a surprise CHROMEBOOK!!!

Thank you to all of those that played a part in making this program a SUCCESS!



## SHA's Exterior Improvements Project Creates Opportunities for Section 3 Businesses and Residents



Quan of JMJ7 & Son.

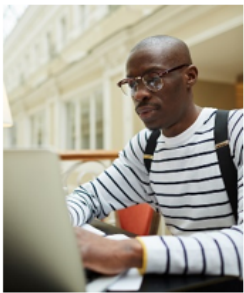
Prime contractor, S&L Specialty Contracting, LLC, has been making exterior improvements to SHA's Benderson Heights and Scattered Sites properties. The improvements include masonry repairs, and the installation of new soffits/facias, windows, doors and siding. The S&L company hired Section 3 sub-Contractor, JMJ7 & Son to do part of the work. That opportunity gave JMJ the ability to hire a few people from the neighborhood to help out. Good fortune continued to flow from there as one of JMJ's employees, Isaac Mendez (not pictured), was able to help his two brothers to get hired by Innovative Construction, another sub-contractor on the job.



(l+r) Brothers, Orlando Mendez & Isabello Ortiz; (c) Tim Fera owner, Innovative.

## Thanks to Residents for Your Participation in Census 2020.

(Questionnaires, Job Recruiting & Resume writing.)



Census 2020 is complete. SHA thanks all of our residents who participated in Census 2020 by filling out their census questionnaires and congratulates those who were able to gain employment through the census jobs recruitment sessions. The sessions were held at all of our developments and included the Onondaga County Public Library who participated by creating resumes for those who needed them. The OPCL has offered to continue providing resume services to SHA's residents.

## Section 3 Business Concern, MAC, Hired non for Two Year Contract.

SHA's Vinette Towers has been undergoing major construction for the past two years. Lupini Construction Inc., a Woman Owned Business, was hired to replace most of exterior panels on the twelve-story building. As with all HUD funded projects, Section 3 residents/business-concerns are given preference in hiring when the opportunities arise. MAC Construction Corp., a Minority Business.



Enterprise and a Section 3 Business-concern, was hired to pressure wash and paint the windows and surfaces that were not replaced by Lupini.



Lupini removes siding at Vinette Towers

## Reach out to SHA for your next opportunity!

HUD Section 3 is about providing economic opportunities to low/very-low income residents in the neighborhoods where HUD funded projects are taking place. If you are looking to connect with contractors who want to provide opportunities for low-income people, or if you would just like to get the Onondaga County Public Library to help you with your resume, reach out via email us at [rseigler@syhousing.org](mailto:rseigler@syhousing.org). We are also currently looking to identify residents and businesses for the 2021 construction season.

# CHILDREN'S BOOK & MEAL GIVEAWAY



In partnership with SUNY Upstate's Healthy Neighbor's Partnership and the Pioneer Homes Tenant Organization, SHA had a giveaway on September 10th of school supplies, children's books, and a boxed Subway Lunch!



Representatives from the Healthy Neighbor's Partnership provided residents with important information on resources and services aimed at improving the health and living conditions of those living in Pioneer Homes and handed out wonderful children's books to those that attended.

Residents were also able to receive helpful information about the importance of receiving timely mammograms from SUNY Upstate's She Matters® representatives, which is a community outreach program that educates women on the importance of breast cancer screenings.



It was a great community day for all!

CONTINUED TO P. 05



# REDEEMER CHURCH FOOD GIVEAWAY

On October 27th, Redeemer Church graciously donated and delivered 1,008, 35-pound boxes of food to residents of Pioneer Homes, Central Village, Almus Olver Towers, and McKinney Manor!

Their generous donation would not have been possible without Steve Abdo, Josh Lange, and other volunteers from Redeemer Church.

Thanks again from all of SHA and Residents!



# CONTINUE STAYING SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

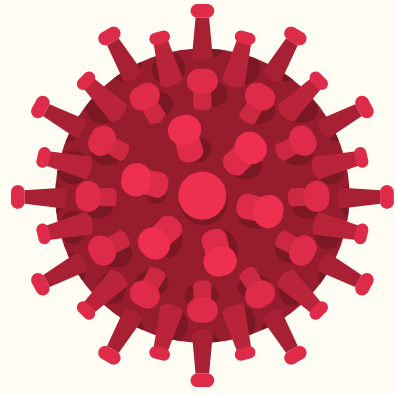
With the upcoming holidays, we ask that you remember that the threat of the virus is still high.

Please continue to follow the below local, state, and federal guidelines for safe COVID-19 practices:

- Wear a mask!
- Wash your hands properly and often
- Clean and disinfect high-touch areas—such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks—routinely, and daily. **DON'T FORGET YOUR CELLPHONE!**
- Avoid holiday gatherings and travel
- Limit access to your house to only the people who live with you. **While this is extremely difficult during the holiday season, not gathering for the holidays is essential for everyone's safety.**
- If possible, stock up on groceries for 30 days and have a 30-day supply of medications and other essentials
- If you must run an errand, go at the least crowded times. Many stores have been offering senior and at-risk person-hours
- If you think you have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, other), contact the SUNY COVID-19 triage line for guidance on testing, # 315-464-3979.
- If you have emergency warning signs for COVID-19 (trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face, etc.) **seek emergency medical care immediately.**
- Testing locations can be found at: <https://covid19.ongov.net/appointments/>
- If you receive a positive result, please follow Health Department guidance on quarantining and report your result to your Property Manager, so we can ensure you receive proper assistance.







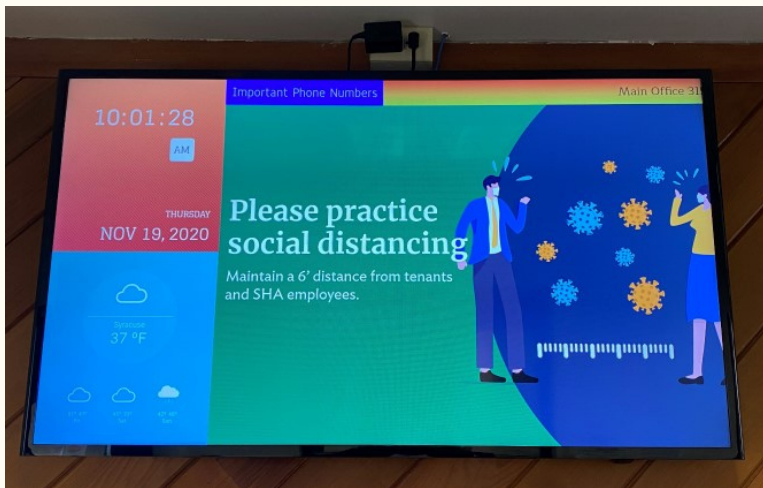
In SHA's ongoing effort to ensure the safety of our staff and residents, we have recently deployed the use of the Victory Innovations professional cordless electrostatic backpack sprayers in our hi-rise buildings and common areas of family unit dwellings. If you see one of your SHA maintenance staff members using one of these backpacks to sanitize common areas of your buildings, please don't be alarmed – we have not had to call in the Ghost Busters! Nor does this indicate there has been a positive COVID-19 case in your vicinity. The use of these machines strictly a proactive measure **to keep you safe.**

These machines are widely used with biocides and disinfectant solutions in an array of businesses, hospitals, schools, and airplanes to name a few.

The professional-grade botanical disinfectant solutions by Bioesque Solutions feature fighting the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19, Coronavirus 2019) in just four minutes, is registered and meets EPA policy, kills cold & flu viruses, and is a one-step nonabrasive disinfectant and cleaning solution.

The solution is non-corrosive with no harmful chemicals, meaning no additional personal protective equipment needs to be worn by the SHA team member during application and requires no special signage or warnings. SHA team members will attempt to take an extra level of caution to ensure the area is clear of residents while applying the solution in an effort to avoid any potential perceived reactions.

# HIGH-RISE INFORMATION SCREENS INSTALLED



Syracuse Housing Authority is excited to announce the installment of 13 digital information screens located at our Main Office, Section 8 Office, and 11 High-Rise properties throughout Syracuse.

The purpose of these screens are to help get information out to our residents and employees in a timely manner. SHA plans to collaborate with outside agencies to announce their community programs and messages that could directly benefit our residents. Messages can be tailored to each specific property or display the same message throughout all of our buildings.

Screens will be used to display emergency alerts, events, meetings, reminders, pandemic information, and more. The screens are free to our community agencies and tenant associations that support our residents.

Please check your screens on a regular basis to be current on what is going with Syracuse Housing Authority or outside supports.



## Congratulations!

Yvonne Mathis from Eastwood Heights High-Rise won a \$50.00 Visa gift card just for filling out the Technology Survey!

SHA would like to extend our appreciation to all of you who took the time to answer questions in regards to your current technology knowledge and future needs! Answering our survey allows us to better serve you during these uncertain times.

Again, thank you to all who participated!

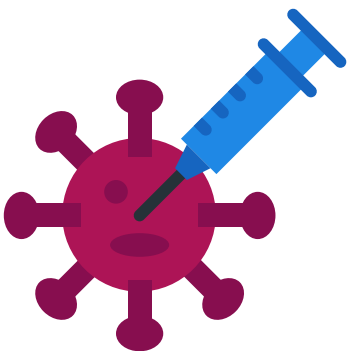
**Facial masks are now required in the following areas:**

- Common spaces
- Elevators
- Hallways
- Lobbies
- Laundry rooms
- + any other shared facilities

# Safe Tips for Holiday Shopping during the COVID-19 Pandemic!



1. Make sure all your devices & browsers update with the latest software and make sure all computers are clear of malware & infections.
2. Shy away from offers that sound too good to be true. Shop on sites with SSL protection & with https in the URL, at retailers you trust, and steer away from unfamiliar retailers.
3. Avoid Google & Facebook offers unless you trust the link. Never click on links from your email or other sites unless you are sure it is legitimate.
4. Use Secure Wi-Fi and never purchase items on public Wi-Fi like at a coffeehouse or library. Use your home Wi-Fi or your phone's hotspot.
5. Keep your Login Info secret and create long & difficult passwords. Use two-step verification when possible, such as logging in, then verify through a code sent to your phone.
6. Never share passwords with strangers or those you cannot trust.
7. Avoid using cards linked to your bank and use prepaid cards, gift cards, & credit cards, when possible.
8. Use trusted payment options like Apple pay, Google pay, & Samsung pay.
9. Never put your card information into a website unfamiliar to you. Avoid money scam links through emails and ads online.
10. Shop online and pick up or pay at the store.
11. Keep Track of Spending Accounts
12. Monitor your accounts for suspicious activity and use your bank app, when possible, to review transactions after you make them.
13. Get alerts from your bank when you spend.
14. Never ignore notices or warnings from your bank, or it could be too late!



# COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A

The Covid vaccine is coming and is our best defense. When the time comes, protect those around you by getting vaccinated. Most covid vaccines have shown to be at least 90 percent effective in preventing covid. Covid vaccines can prevent you from spreading the virus to those around you.

## Is the vaccine safe?

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety is a top priority when creating the vaccine. Clinical trials on tens of thousands of willing participants have been done to make sure the vaccine is both safe and effective.

## How was the vaccine created so fast?

In public health emergencies, the government has brought together everyone from government agencies, international partners, research facilities, universities, pharmaceutical companies, and non-profit organizations to work together on finding a vaccine. This is called “Operation Warp Speed”. The government has invested heavily in manufacturing to create as many vaccines as possible. The goal is to get everyone vaccinated as soon as large amounts of the vaccine are available.

## Who is part of “Operation Warp Speed”?

- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)
- Department of Defense (DoD)

## How soon will I be offered a vaccine?

There will be a limited number of vaccines at first. Vaccines will be offered to health care personnel working on the front lines and residents living in long term care facilities first. A distribution plan beyond that is in the works.





**SCAM ALERT**

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Scam Alert**

- You likely will not need to pay anything out of pocket to get the vaccine during this public health emergency.
- You cannot pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You cannot pay to get early access to the vaccine.
- No one from Medicare or the Health Department will contact you.
- No one from a vaccine distribution site or health care payer, like a private insurance company, will call you asking for your Social Security number or your credit card or bank account information to sign you up to get the vaccine.
- Beware of providers offering other products, treatments, or medicines to prevent the virus. Check with your health care provider before paying for or receiving any COVID-19-related treatment.
- If you get a call, text, email — or even someone knocking on your door — claiming they can get you early access to the vaccine, STOP. That's a scam.



J. Ryan McMahon, II  
County Executive

**Onondaga County**

**Office for Aging**

**315-435-2362**

**[www.ongov.net/aging](http://www.ongov.net/aging)**



**Are you at risk of eviction due to  
lost income from COVID-19?**



**Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse can help!**

- Are you at risk of eviction or being homeless, due to COVID-19?
- Did you receive a verbal or written threat of eviction?
- Are you staying with friends or family without your own apartment?
- Do you need supporting services or case management?
- Are you behind on your utility payments, due to the pandemic?

**We can help with back rent payments, security deposits and utility payments!**

**Call the Department of Social Services at [315-435-2700](tel:315-435-2700)**

**and select the rental assistance prompt.**

*This is not a DSS program and does not require the DSS eligibility requirements so even if you think you can't or won't qualify for these programs, we may be able to help!*

**CALL NOW!**

For free legal help regarding eviction, codes violations, landlord harassment, and other renter rights, please contact

Phone: 315-807-0043 Online: [www.onvlp.org/intake](http://www.onvlp.org/intake) Email: [housing@onvlp.org](mailto:housing@onvlp.org)





## She Matters

Currently, She Matters is still scheduling mammograms at 550 Harrison Women's Imaging Center. In order to keep you safe and healthy, there are a limited number of patients a day. She Matters will reach out to you when you are due for your mammogram. Please keep in mind you may be scheduled a month or two after your due date. If Covid becomes more serious, we may pause mammograms altogether. Don't worry, She Matters will put you on a waitlist and get you in as soon as we can. After you complete your mammogram, we will mail you a She Matters t-shirt and \$10 gift card. Please be patient as we only mail once a week. If you missed an appointment or would like to join, She Matters, call us at (315) 484-4237.



**Are you collecting  
unemployment benefits?**

## **Important Facts About Unemployment Insurance**

- Unemployment benefits are taxable income, and if you don't have taxes taken out now, then the IRS will get them later.
- It includes money earned from the federal Coronavirus Relief Act.
- NYS does not withhold taxes from unemployment without you telling them to do so.
- Voluntarily taking taxes out will help you avoid a bill from the IRS in the future.

Here are the steps to change your withholding status so you can avoid financial worry next year:

- Log in to [labor.ny.gov/signin](https://labor.ny.gov/signin) with your NY.gov ID
- Click "Unemployment Benefits."
- Click "Payment and Tax Withholding Options."
- Click "Tax Withholding" and follow the instructions After you change your status, they will withhold 2.5% for state tax and 10% for federal tax.

Your check might downsize, but you will avoid receiving a substantial tax bill.





24-HOUR SUPPORT & INFORMATION LINE

315-468-3260

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

We are here for you during Covid-19 and beyond.

DO YOU FEEL UNSAFE?

Our counseling, advocacy & shelter services are still available.



24/7 SUPPORT & INFORMATION

call (315) 468-3260 for free & confidential help.



WEB CHAT

Free, confidential & anonymous web chat service. Click the "Chat With Us" button on verahouse.org.

Vera House provides information, help and services for adults & children impacted by:

- **Domestic violence** - physical, verbal, emotional and financial abuse
- **Sexual violence** - sexual assault, rape, incest, sexual harassment
- **Elder abuse** - physical or sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation
- **Technology assisted abuse** - cyber stalking
- **Community violence** - bullying, harassment



Vera House Administrative & Outreach Offices
723 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203
(315) 425-0818
www.verahouse.org

