

Neighborhood News



SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Building Neighborhoods. Growing Dreams.

Fall 2021



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I want to personally welcome you to the Fall Edition of the Syracuse Housing Authority Newsletter. As a resident you should remain proactive in voicing your concerns regarding the impact that the I-81 project and the East Adams redevelopment will have on you. I want you to be well informed throughout the entire I-81 construction project and the East Adams redevelopment. It is important to know how it will affect you and your family. You may also call us with questions you have about the process, or check for updates on our website **www.syrhousing.org** or **Facebook page @syracusehousing**.

Enjoy the Newsletter !!

Sincerely,

William Simmons
Executive Director





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 (315) 475-6181 Ext. 4 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





Sponsored by:
Syracuse Housing Authority

Coffee Hour with *Executive Director* **Bill Simmons**

OPEN TO ALL
SHA TENANTS

Speak and be heard.....

Please be on the look out for flyers within your buildings for
coffee hours coming up.

The Executive Director wants to hear your ideas, solutions, issues
about what's going on within your neighborhood and or building.



**TOOMEY ABBOTT TOWERS
COFFEE HOUR 10/1**



**EASTWOOD HEIGHTS
COFFEE HOUR 10/6**





OCTOBER IS 
breast cancer
awareness month
Perform self-breast exams
monthly and get screened!

UPSTATE
CANCER CENTER

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among United States women, no matter your race or ethnicity. Breast cancer may not cause any symptoms in its early stages. With early detection breast cancer is usually easier to treat and has better outcomes. A mammogram is the best test to detect breast cancer early.

Free mammograms are available through the Onondaga County Cancer Services Program (CSP) for women between the ages of 40 and 74 who do not have health insurance or who experience other barriers to completing their screenings, along with any necessary follow-up.

Call 315-435-3653 or visit their website at
<http://ongov.net/health/cancerscreening.html>

to register online. Take care of yourself and schedule your mammogram today!

FLU SHOT CLINIC



Thank You to Tops Friendly Markets' pharmacist, Mike Cook, for providing over 100 flu shots this year to SHA's Senior and Disabled buildings! This was our most successful year yet, and we couldn't do it without the support from Tops and our residents!



What is Section 3, and Do I Qualify?

Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, or simply, Section 3, intends to ensure that the recipients of HUD's financial assistance, whenever possible, direct economic opportunities toward low/very low-income persons, referred to as Section 3 Workers; and to the businesses that employ them substantially, known as Section 3 Businesses.

Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA) facilitates this responsibility by identifying qualified Section 3 Workers and Businesses and connecting them to the training, employment and contracting opportunities made available on Section 3 covered contracts.

Qualified Section 3 Workers are:

- *Residents of public housing or public housing-managed properties,
- *Residents of Section 8 assisted housing; or
- *Low/very low-income residents of the Syracuse Metropolitan Area.

Qualified Section 3 Businesses are:

- *Businesses owned 51% or more by Section 3 resident(s); or
- *Businesses that utilize Section 3 workers to complete 75% or more of its work hours.

If you would like to know more about Section 3 or if you think that you may qualify as a Section 3 Worker/Business, please send your contact information to the Section 3 Coordinator, Reggie Seigler at: rseigler@syrhousing.org.



SECTION 3

Two African-American Women Earn Master Electrician's Licenses



Shawni Davis of Luminary Electrical



Karen Jones of Eco Electrical Solution

In 2021, Karen Jones and Shawni Davis became the first two African American women in Syracuse to achieve the levels of master electricians.

Karen had been a union journeyman for many years and decided to start her own business called Eco Electrical Solution. Eco was selected as a sub-contractor to work on the Toomey Abbot Towers roofing project and the Vinette Towers boiler replacement project.

Electricians work in all types of environments, both finished/ unfinished, indoors/outdoors, and sometimes have to travel to the locations where their skills are needed. "To be successful," Shawni said, "a person must also have the 'emotional intelligence' needed to navigate the culture of the construction industry." She was referring to the fact that the industry hadn't traditionally been inclusive of Blacks and Women. Shawni has 15 years' experience and her own company called Luminary Electrical.

To become a master, one must be able to show their documented experience working in the field and demonstrate extensive knowledge of electrical theory, wiring and various systems. To prove their knowledge, they must pass an in-depth test covering all aspects of the subject.

Both women are proven examples of what focus and hard work can obtain.

IBEW 43 is our local area's electrical union. It provides electrical apprenticeship training and good paying jobs (career electrician's wages can reach as high as \$50+ per hour, plus benefits). They offer career advancement opportunities and create pathways to become journeymen. They also maintain your official record of work experience in the event that you might want to become licensed.

To find out more about the electrical union and how to qualify for apprenticeships visit their website at

<https://www.cnyeta.org/apprenticeship.html>, or reach out to the Section 3 coordinator to get an overview.

SECTION 3

Father Mentors Son By Example of Hard Work.



Father and son, Erich and Corey Chaplin

US Marine Corp. Veteran, Erich Chaplin (L); is an experienced tradesman in the construction industry. He stopped for a minute while pouring sidewalks at SHA's Scattered Sites to chat with SHA's Section 3 Coordinator, Reggie Seigler and to pose for a picture with his son Corey Chaplin. Erich believes that hard work is the key to success in life and has tried to impart that value in his children. He has two more sons working in the construction industry and other children working in various occupations.

Erich believes that it is especially important as a Black man that he sets a positive example. "All of us aren't in jail", he said proudly as he embellished the thought. "The majority of our young people just need to find opportunities."

SHA, through its Section 3 program strives to identify the opportunities that Erich mentioned and works to connect our residents to them whenever possible

Minority Business Enterprise Hires Section 3 Workers

Irfan Elahi owns Stalwart Development Group, LLC (SDG). The company is recognized as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) because of Irfan's status as a minority, and as a Section 3 Business Concern due to the fact that the vast majority of his employees are Section 3 workers. The business performs a variety of construction services but focuses primarily on demolition. They won a sub-contracting bid to do demolition (demo) on the roofs of SHA's Scattered Sites properties. One of their employees, Tyrell Rivers, stops to pose for a picture as he works on the project.

The weather plays a big part in roofing demo as it can be done year-round anytime the conditions are dry. To do roofing demo a person must have a healthy respect for heights but cannot be afraid to work up high. They must also be physically and mentally strong as the job is very labor intensive and requires focus. As with many construction jobs the pay can vary however it averages mostly in the higher wage ranges. SDG does other types of demo projects as well, including lead and asbestos abatement.



Tyrell Rivers at Furman Street

If you or someone you know would be interested in being part of a demolition crew. Send your resume to rseigler@syrhousing.org to be networked with Stalwart and other demo firms.

SECTION 3

Companies Work Together to Complete Site-work Project.



Minority Business Enterprise, CNYUR works with Shawn Malone Excavating to haul debris.

Section 3 Worker Wants to Provide Positive Example for Others



(L to R) Trenton Johnson, Daynier Vargas-Fonseca, Daimir Rosa-Hidalgo and Mikail Mumin

If you are looking for opportunities in the construction industry, please email the Section 3 Coordinator, Reggie Seigler at rseigler@syrhousing.org

Shawn Malone Excavating won the prime contractor's bid to replace sidewalks, driveways, and to regrade areas around SHA's Scattered Sites. To align with Section 3 and Minority/Women's Business Enterprise goals, Shawn Malone Excavating sub-contracted Central New York Urban Renovation to participate on the project. Partnerships like these help strengthen business relationships to grow the capacities of minority and women businesses. The two companies are also working together at Vinette Towers building new parking lots and redirecting drainage.

The men pictured are working for Stalwart Development Group. The company has a sub-contract with Diamond Roofing Company and are demoing a roof at one of SHA's properties on McKinley Ave.

Trenton (left) is the experienced leader of the crew. He is multi-lingual and is able to communicate with his co-workers in both English and Spanish. He said, "I came from a household where I was encouraged to learn as much as possible. As a result, I learned to speak three languages. I never knew then why I would need them however they are useful now."

Mikail (Right) grew up in both Central Village and Pioneer Homes. He talked about some of the violence and negativity he saw growing up there and admitted that he was headed in that direction for a while. He now sees another way. Mikail recognized that some of his peers have made positive changes, however others have not and as a sad result some are no longer with us. "How do we change all that (negativity), he asked?" Mikail explained that change can be influenced by opportunity and examples set by others, but also "change has to come from within". Mikail hopes that he can provide the example and Section 3 seeks to provide the opportunity.

SECTION 3



Spreading the Wealth Using Section 3 Businesses:

Karen has not only used her business to enhance the lives of those closely associated with her, but she has also been able to share the wealth with other businesses. She hired NJ Jones Plumbing, a Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE), to complete the plumbing and HVAC work at the new Section 8 offices she built. She has plans to use the company on future projects as well.

Karen's Final Words of Encouragement:

"Keep taking those English, science, and especially math classes! Work hard and smart. Learn and take something away from each employer. It will benefit your career no matter what you choose to do next."

Woman Owned Construction Company Wins Prime Contract and Shares Wealth With MBE

Karen owns and operates Bellows Construction Specialties LLC. Her company just finished renovating one of SHA's properties at 203 Martin Luther King East, transforming it from a day-care center into our new Section 8 offices. Being a City of Syracuse and NY State Certified Woman-owned Business Enterprise (WBE); Karen knows how hard things can be. She hopes that her story can inspire women and Section 3 residents to keep pushing forward towards their dreams.

In Karen's Words:

"I never knew that my high school education and all of the jobs I had in my life would roll into my career in the construction industry. I had worked for some local commercial construction companies and then took some time off when my children were born. I didn't start my own business until I was 39 years old. My company is currently in its 18th construction season. Operating my business has created opportunities for me, my family, and my long-term employees that I never imagined were possible when I was younger."

If you would like to network with other businesses for potential sub-contracting opportunities, please email the Section 3 Coordinator, Reggie Seigler, at rseigler@syrhousing.org.



\$10K TOURNAMENT



SHA hosted its first inaugural \$10K youth basketball tournament, marking the launch of a new initiative intended to connect local youth with representatives of local law enforcement, the fire department and local agencies. Leading the initiative is **Syracuse Police Officer, Brandon Hanks**, who SHA is also very fortunate to have on its staff. Officer Hanks' commitment to his city and local youth is commendable.

In addition to bridging the gap with law enforcement, this youth program incorporate mini-classes and training in the areas of financial empowerment, health and wellness, and offer exposure to education and job training programs. The intention of this tournament and training camp was to also introduce future SHA youth programs, complement other city programs and to also serve as a catalyst for additional community involvement. Officer Hanks and SHA's commitment to supporting the community we call home remains as strong as ever.



The winner of our first tournament for ages 13-15 is.....DYCKMAN ELITE!!!

Thank you to everyone that made today's tournament a SUCCESS - City of Syracuse Mayor, Ben Walsh, SFD Chief Monds, SPD Chief Buckner, Syracuse Fire Department, Syracuse Police Department, Who Want Smoke Catering, SHA employees, SPD Officer Brandon Hanks, SFD Firefighter Rakiem Days, countless volunteers, those who played in the tournament, and all those who came out to support our vision of a world free of youth violence!

Change happens when a community comes together!



The winner of our 10K Tournament was **Everybody Eats!**



A huge thank you to our \$10K Youth Basketball Tournament sponsors and partners dedicated to the fight against youth violence and commitment to youth empowerment! Without our partners, this tournament would not be possible. A special thank you to our sponsors, **Upstate Medical University, Syracuse PAL, Syracuse Fire Department, 100 Black Men of Syracuse, Mackenzie Hughes LLP, Jubilee Homes, Urban Realty Group, OG's Against Violence, Vera House, Inc., Crouse Hospital, Cooperative Federal Credit Union, Pathfinder Bank, Food Bank of CNY, Blueprint 15, US Army, US Marines, Center for Community Alternatives, & On Point for College!**

\$10K Tournament









TOOMEY ABBOTT SENIOR FALL FUN FAIR

Toomey Abbott Senior Fall Fun Fair was held on October 15th from 1-3pm. SHA hosted the event in a collaboration with Black Health, Interfaith Works and Vera House. The "Fun Fair" has been traveling throughout Syracuse and being hosted at several Senior Highrises. The event was a great success celebrating with hotdogs, apple fritters, popcorn, apple cider and listening to music while our tenant visited with lots of agency vendors. SHA is hoping to host a "Winter Fun Fair" soon.



SHA Residents Recognized

Congratulations to Brian Evans and Fredricka Swanson, two of our SHA Residents for receiving an award at this year's 35th Annual Recognition Luncheon on Friday, September 24.

At Interfaith Works, their Senior Services programming disrupts the isolation and loneliness that people can experience as they age. Their goal is to help people stay active, be socially connected, and age with dignity.

They developed a program called Senior Companions. Senior Companions are volunteers 55 years old and older who provide friendly visits to help seniors stay active and socially connected. The program aims to keep seniors independent longer, and provide assistance to family caregivers. To learn more about this program on how you can become a Senior Companion, please call Traci Knieriem at 315-449-3552.



Neighborhood Navigators



We are your Neighborhood Navigators!!!!

Our first priority is ensuring that people who live, work, and serve the East Adams Street Neighborhood are at the forefront of this master planning process! Contact us for information on the project, dates for upcoming resident events, and resources in the community.

Please join us to learn more and share your input!
Quwanka Ellerby, Tara Harris, Supreena Smalls, and Sherman Kearse

www.engagetheteam.com/eastadams



take our survey !!!!
<https://bit.ly/3C4DX20>

Leonard Building Section 8 Open House

SHA's Section 8 Program held an Open House for their new office location 828 Southwest St, Apartment 2 on September 21. The new location will include a Housing Choice Voucher Specialist to provide general assistance to tenants Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 8:30am-4:30pm.



Syracuse Housing Authority in collaboration with Missio Church



SOCCER
@
SKIDDY



Little Library Debut

Thank you to the Junior League of Syracuse (JLS)!

JLS is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

As one of their main focuses for the next few years, literacy, JLS recognizes the importance of providing easy avenues for children and adults to have access to books throughout our neighborhoods.

JLS has graciously donated and will maintain three Little Libraries, located in Pioneer Homes, Benderson Heights, and Central Village.

SHA residents are welcome to borrow or keep books found in the Little Libraries at their own convenience and foster the joy of reading in their homes.



Spring Clean-Up

As part of SHA's Quality of Life Plan, SHA recruited Property Care Mentors to assist in cleaning up our properties and to help empower other residents in taking responsibility for their homes. May 7th's Spring Clean-Up was the kick-off event for the Property Care Mentors !!!!!



Resident Mable Wilson and Pioneer Homes Property Manager Heather



Blueprint 15



Syracuse Parks and Rec

Property Care Mentor, **Gloria Rivers**.

Property Care Mentors receive a stipend to assist in property clean-up and in assisting other residents with their responsibilities.



Pioneer Homes Maintenance Supervisor **Jermene Hackett** provided music

If you would like to become a Property Care Mentor, please contact your Property Manager!!

Spring Clean-Up



Resident and BP15 Navigator, Tara Harris with
Dexter Green, Executive Director William Simmons,
Lew Thomas and Jermane Hackett



Ms. Davis



**If you would like to become a Property Care Mentor,
contact your Property Manager!!**

Pioneer Homes Membership Drive



Pioneer Homes' residents enjoyed a fun-filled Tenant Organization Membership Drive where children and adults enjoyed delicious food, music, games, and balloon animals!



RESOURCES

Vera House 24-HOUR HOTLINE


(315) 468-3260

Telephone interpretation available

TTY Crisis Line (business hours)


(315) 484-7263

verahouse.org

**Onondaga County Department of
Adult and Long Term Care Services**

Adult Protective Services


(315) 435-2815
ongov.net/aps

Office for Aging


(315) 435-2362
ongov.net/aging

Information and Referral


2-1-1 or 1-844-245-1922
211CNY.com

In Case of Emergency Call 9-1-1



723 James St., Syracuse, NY 13203
(315) 425-0818 | (315) 425-8942 F
verahouse.org



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.

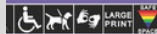
**Vera House provides information, help and services for
adults & children impacted by:**

- **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



SCAN ME

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



Mental Health Round Table Discussion in Today's World!

On October 4th, 2021 Syracuse Housing Authority conducted a Mental Health Round Table Discussion at Toomey Abbott Towers. SHA partnered with Byrant & Stratton Occupational Students and Tim Furgal an instructor from DBSA Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. This class was designed to engage staff, students, and tenants into talking about sensitive subjects such as Depression & Anxiety, Alcohol & Drug Use, Social Isolation, Suicide and Prevention. The morning was filled with great and needed discussion and took the Tabu about talking about these topics without judgment and shame. The students gave out useful literature and tools to everyone who attended. SHA plans on continuing these classes throughout 3 more buildings. For more information contact:

Kim Jackson at kjackson@syrhousing.org.



1-800-273-8255

MASTER PLANNING UPDATE

EAST ADAMS ST. NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATION PLAN

Resident Engagement Strategy Sessions

The Tenant Association Leaders and residents in attendance provided great input on methods to have a successful, inclusive, and comprehensive engagement strategy for Master Planning.

Master Planning Listening Sessions

SHA, BP15, MBS and Urban Strategies gave a brief overview of the Master Planning Process.

Residents discussed what they love about their neighborhood, what problems need to be addressed in the community and what each resident prefers for housing types and neighborhood assets.

<https://www.engagetheteam.com/eastadams>



TAKE OUR SURVEY!

<https://bit.ly/3C4DX20>







MCCORMACK
BARON
SALAZAR

East Adams Transformation



Master Planning Update



The plan for redeveloping the SHA owned housing will be done in 3 parts, identified here. This redevelopment process will take several years.



Scan to complete
resident survey

Scan for more
Information



I-81 Advocacy



SHA Executive Director Simmons had a busy Summer!

As many of you are aware, Executive Director Simmons has been tirelessly advocating since early 2014 to ensure that the needs of SHA residents living within the East Adams Street Neighborhood are met and considered when it comes to construction surrounding I-81.

Mr. Simmons met with several Federal and NYS officials this summer, including HUD Secretary Fudge, NYS Senator Schumer, and US Secretary of Transportation, Peter Buttigieg to discuss the importance of the proposed Community Grid replacement option, the need for Federal support for the project, and need for resources for our residents.





SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY



SHA wants to give a special thank you to **Deputy Chief Elton Davis, FF Rakiem Days, and FF Timeka Mack** of the Syracuse Fire Department for participating in SHA's Fire Safety Class in Pioneer Homes. We would also like to thank LT Joe Fenell, FF Terrance Smith and firefighters from both Truck 8 and Engine Company 1 for participating. Our residents greatly appreciated it.

It was a great kick-off to **Fire Prevention Week!!!!**

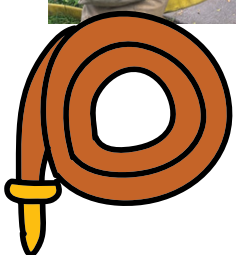
SHA would also like to thank firefighter Rakiem Days for facilitating the event with the SFD and doing an exceptional job engaging with our residents!!!!

It was a great community day for all!

ENGINE CO. 1

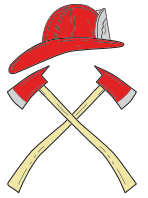


Firefighters from Engine Company 1 demonstrated different tools found on a fire engine





TRUCK 8



Firefighters from Truck 8 demonstrated different tools found on a fire truck such as ladders, hydraulic rescue tools, floodlights, fire hose, fire extinguishers, self-contained breathing apparatus, and thermal imaging cameras.



FIREFIGHTER GEAR



To decrease the fear many children have of firefighters in their gear, Fire Investigator, LT Fenell and Firefighter Days demonstrated how the gear works.



The kids also got to try on the gear themselves!!!

