



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLAN TO ATTEND A BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Residents are encouraged to attend Board of Commissioners meetings. The schedule for the remainder of the year is below:

NOVEMBER 20 2018 Julius Engel Gardens, Willard Dunham Drive, Edison

DECEMBER 18 2018 Robert Holmes Gardens, Reverend Carpenter Blvd., Edison

Shopping Transportation • Hours vary
Call the Edison Senior Center at 732-248-7345 to schedule an appointment.

1st Annual Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 31

14 Robert E. Holmes Parking Lot & Community Room

5:30 - 8:30 PM

Join us for a Night of Halloween family fun!

Come in costume for Food • Candy • Games • Fun

Parking Lot Trick or Treating



Edison Housing Authority
Robert E. Holmes Gardens
14 Rev. Samuel Carpenter Blvd.
Edison, NJ 08820

Tel 908-561-2525 | **Web** edisonha.org
Fax 908-561-7517 | **Email** info@edisonha.com



UPDATES

- Abandon Car Clean Up
- Smoke-Free Policy
- EHA Receives Grant

NEW

- Message from the
- New Executive Director
- Walk in Wednesdays
- Mentoring Program for Kids

BLAST FROM THE PAST

- Who Was Walter Holmes?
- Julius Engel Residents Host
- Spaghetti Dinner



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THE EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY WELCOMES DEBORAH HURLEY AS ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Deborah Hurley joined the Edison Housing Authority (EHA) on August 1 by bringing with her years of experience serving the housing needs of residents. She comes to EHA from the Greater Newark Conservancy where she was the director of advancement and communications. There she was responsible for marketing, communications, and fundraising for urban agricultural programming. She was also involved with New Jersey Reentry, a non-profit agency that develops job training programs for state prisoners reentering society.

Prior to that position, Deborah was the director of development for the York Street Project in Jersey City, an agency devoted to assisting homeless women and children with housing, childcare, and job training. She applied her fundraising talents to raise \$1.1 million each year and to increase revenue by 20 percent in her first fiscal year. The job kept her quite busy, creating donor awareness events, increasing the number of grants, and spearheading the agency marketing campaign. She worked closely with the housing director to make sure residents successfully transitioned from temporary to permanent housing.

"We are so fortunate to have someone of Deborah's caliber as our new executive director. She brings all the skills essential for a successful housing authority of which the most important is her dedication to serving the needs of others," said Carlos Sanchez, EHA chairman. "We are looking forward to seeing how she will apply her experience and knowledge to continuing to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Edison Housing Authority."

Deborah is a graduate of Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York, from which she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in politics with a minor in sociology. Presently she serves as a board member of the Women's Political Caucus. In 2007, Deborah was one of the recipients of the NJBIZ 40 Under 40 Award.

In the past, she served as an advisory board member for the Center for Business and Industry, Hudson County Community College; a board of trustee for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Newark; and a foundation board member for the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am excited to be at the Edison Housing Authority and am looking forward to building a neighborhood with all of you, residents and staff alike. You see, I am a big believer in neighborhoods where everyone knows and watches out for each other. Your home shouldn't be just the place you reside. It's where you belong. We want to create that neighborhood feeling for the residents at Julius Engel Gardens and Robert Holmes Gardens.

We will all be getting to know each other through programs to give our residents and clients tools for a better life, such as family self-sufficiency and homeownership. Then, there will be the social events to get us all together and

just have fun. I won't let my years of communication skills go to waste either. I am open to listening to new ideas and concerns. Let's make the Edison Housing Authority a place where we are all proud to call home.

RESIDENTS AND STAFF GATHER FOR COMMUNITY MEETINGS



Although Deborah Hurley is already a familiar face in the neighborhood, she was formerly introduced at two community meetings on August 28 at Julius Engel Gardens, and the second at Robert Holmes Gardens. Dozens of residents packed the meetings for an opportunity to voice their concerns and to learn about upcoming events and changes.

By way of introduction, Commissioner Board Chair Carlos Sanchez explained choosing Deborah as executive director. "We wanted someone who has experience in the community. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for every resident. We want our homes to be top quality and to preserve the value of our properties. We want us all to take pride in the community and be proud of where we live."

Deborah echoed that sentiment, saying, "Community is important. I need everyone involved. I can't do it by myself, and my staff can't do it alone. Help me to help you."

She outlined future plans such as workshops on home ownership, a job fair, resume writing, and the S.W.A.G. program for boys (see related article). "There are some great things planned."

Commissioner Raymond Koperwhats was also on hand to speak to the residents. His announcement of the road paving project elicited applause from the audience.

After introducing her staff, Deborah got down to business. She reminded the residents about the HUD-mandated No Smoking Policy. She also asked car owners to get their parking stickers, a policy that will be re-enforced, so the administration can keep track of who is legitimately parked at the public housing authority's property (see related articles). She also requested contact information such as cell numbers and email addresses, so the staff can quickly communicate important information.

Deborah concluded, saying, "Please look out for your fellow neighbors."

DOOR IS OPEN FOR SECTION 8 RESIDENTS

Walk In Wednesdays policy is now instituted at EHA for Section 8 clients. Walk In Wednesdays is an open house for any Section 8 residents with questions such as rent changes, issues with landlords, update client information, etc. For more information, contact the Section 8 caseworkers Veronica Long or Michelle Thorne at 908-561-8489.

PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS GIVE JULIUS ENGEL GARDENS A FRESH LOOK

Julius Engel Gardens got an early summer clean-up on June 27 when a team of professional cleaners descended on the breezeways. The two-day housekeeping project involved window-washing and scrubbing the walls, floors, and railings. Residents can now enjoy a clean, debris-free entrance to their homes.

NEWS FROM HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Edison Housing Authority recently received approval of funding for its 2018 capital fund grant. The grant that was awarded is approximately 20 percent higher than grants received over the past several years. EHA management and the board of commissioners are planning to use this funding to renovate the heating system at Robert E. Holmes Gardens.

JULIUS ENGEL RESIDENTS HOST SPAGHETTI DINNER MANGIAMOS!



A group of residents brought a little bit of Italy to Julius Engel Gardens when it hosted a Spaghetti Dinner on June 15 that attracted more than three dozen neighbors. The conference room was transformed with festive lights, colorful tablecloths, and homecooked food. The tables were decorated with candle holders made from wine bottles.

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE SAFETY RULES TO PREVENT FUTURE FIRES



Smoke alarms should always be in working order because they are your best early warning systems. Every level of your home should have a smoke alarm, including bedrooms if your family sleeps with the door closed. Keep your smoke alarms in working order by testing them once a month and replacing batteries once a year or whenever the alarm beeps. Replace alarms that are more than 10 years old.

At least twice a year, practice an escape route with your family. Everyone should know at least two ways to get out of the house. As part of your plan, decide on a meeting place outside of your home.

In the case of a burn, run cool water over the injured area for 10 to 15 minutes and never apply ice. See a doctor if the skin blisters or is charred.

ABANDONED CAR CLEAN UP



Abandoned cars will soon be a thing of the past. The housing authority is strictly enforcing the parking policy by removing all cars that do not have a permit to park on EHA property. This will free up parking availability for residents and improve the overall look in the neighborhoods. We thank all residents for their cooperation.

LET'S CLEAR THE AIR WITH A NO SMOKING POLICY



The housing authority has put into effect the HUD-mandated No Smoking Policy prohibiting smoking in all EHA buildings and restricting it to within 25 feet of any structure. These buildings include apartments, hallways, lobbies, entryways, laundry rooms, community rooms, bathrooms, patios, recreational areas, and yards.

HISTORY CORNER

WHO WAS ROBERT HOLMES?

When Robert Holmes moved his family to Edison in 1956, they were one of the first African-American families to integrate into the neighborhood. Once in his new home, he became an active member of the community, according to Kathryn Neal, an EHA commissioner. He was very civic-minded and ready to help any of the housing residents. His namesake son went on to an illustrious career becoming the highest-ranking African-American in state government when he served as assistant commissioner of the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs under Gov. Brendan Byrne, and as the first African-American partner at Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer. Holmes joined Rutgers Law School as a clinical professor in 1997.

SCHOOLCHILDREN START THE NEW YEAR WITH A MENTORING PROGRAM, BACKPACKS, AND SUPPLIES!



The lazy days of summer came to an end, and students got ready to begin a new school year at two events on August 30, hosted by the Township of Edison.

At the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, students received a free backpack and supplies and a free haircut. There was also pizza, burgers, and ice cream.

Residents signed up their sons, ages 11 to 14, for the S.W.A.G. mentoring program that night, too. Edison Township introduced the S.W.A.G., (Success, Workforce options, Accountability, Goals for the future), a 12-week, multi-faceted program for middle school boys with the goal of academic and career development, workforce opportunity and life success. The program is offered in partnership with the Dale Caldwell Foundation, Tata Consultancy Services, and Beyond M2M Communication. S.W.A.G. will also provide mentoring and homework help.

This mentoring program is sponsored by Mayor Thomas Lankey and the Township of Edison Municipal Council and is scheduled from September 25 to December 6 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, in the Edison Housing Conference Room at Robert Holmes Gardens. Sign your child up as soon as possible.

For more information call or email: Michael Campbell, youth outreach coordinator, 732-248-7354 or 678-314-4760.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY PRESENTS SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

The Edison Arts Society (EAS) has been celebrating its 20th Anniversary showcasing the extraordinary talents of the Edison community. They have created a Sculpture Garden at Lake Papaiani that represents people from all nationalities who have made Edison their home.

The first piece is The Family, created by artist Fernando Da Silva, who also produced the mural in front of Edison Town Hall. The figures are made of steel, the tower consists of over 1,000 handmade tiles, and the 'wave' holds 50 stars representing the 50 states. The sculpture consists of a little girl holding a dove representing peace; a little boy holding a book representing the Constitution; a mother holding a child representing the heart of the family; a young woman and man representing first love; and an older couple holding hands representing unity.

ANY ASPIRING POLICE OFFICERS IN YOUR HOME?



The Edison Police Department offers two programs to introduce interested young people to careers in law enforcement.

The Junior Police Academy introduces the youth of Edison to the inner workings of the Edison Police Department. Contact Lt. Robert Dudash Jr., at 732-248-6442 or rdudash@edisonpd.org for more information, and to find out when the next Junior Police Academy is scheduled.

A certified Police Explorers Post is open to all Edison youth between the ages of 14 and 21. The program is administered by officers from the Edison Police Department. To learn more, view the Police Explorer's web page or call Sergeant Michael Loreti at 732-248-7461.

Information about both programs can be accessed through the www.edisonnj.org site.