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EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Robert E. Holmes Gardens
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The bright and shiny new year brings new opportunities, and the staff and I are excited about all of them. We have already introduced several new programs aimed at advancing the quality of life for our families. We launched many of our residents and Section 8 participants onto the road to homeownership, beginning with a recent workshop. Our young students have benefitted by our participation in S.W.A.G., a mentoring program sponsored by Edison Township. This is only the beginning.

This year, we will continue to work to make our community a vibrant, inspiring place for our families by bringing programming such as resume writing workshops and job fairs. For our little ones, we anticipate our playground to be ready by May, and our next project will be the renovation of the basketball courts for all our future NBA stars. Our team is ready to resume the work. Game on!

DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP TAKES A STEP TOWARD REALITY



Residents of the Edison Housing Authority and participants in the Section 8 Project Choice Voucher program began the process of owning their own home at an all-day workshop in the community room at Robert Holmes Gardens, Saturday, November 17. Organized by EHA Section 8 administrators Michelle Thorne and Veronica Mickens-Long and facilitated by

PRAHD's (Puerto Rican Association for Human Development) housing program manager Raquel Landero, the workshop covered every aspect of home buying. In addition, Affinity Federal Credit Union discussed the mortgage process, and Eugenia Hill from Petra's Best Realty advised the audience about how to choose a home. The prospective homeowners' next step is counseling from a HUD-authorized organization. This training makes the participants eligible for grants to help with the down payment.

DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR SECTION 8 RESIDENTS



Section 8 clients are invited to Walk In Wednesdays, a weekly open house. Bring your questions such as rent changes, issues with landlords, update your client information, etc. For more information, contact the Section 8 caseworkers Veronica Mickens-Long or Michelle Thorne at 908-561-8489.



The HUD-mandated No Smoking Policy remains in effect. The policy prohibits smoking in all EHA buildings and restricts it to within 25 feet of any structure, which includes apartments, hallways, lobbies, entryways, laundry rooms, community rooms and bathrooms, patios, recreational areas, and yards.

EHA ESTABLISHES DROPBOX FOR RESIDENTS' CONVENIENCE



Now, it's never been easier to pay your rent at Robert Holmes Gardens. EHA has placed a drop box to the right of the front entrance near the double doors outside of the administration building. The drop box for residents of Julius Engel Gardens is located on the door of the community building.

We are happy to announce our first resume writing session and work resource day that will be held at the Edison Housing Authority. This will be your opportunity to revamp your resume and learn about what the industry is looking for in a candidate. The work resource day is an opportunity for you to meet representatives from companies and businesses that are willing to hire you on the spot. Also, if you are looking to complete your high school diploma, there will be a program specialist available to help you sign up. Make sure to stop by and get connected with resources that will help advance your job skills and career. Refreshments and door prizes will be held throughout the day!

Resume Writing Session
March 28, 2019
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Robert Holmes Gardens
Community Room

Work Resource Day
April 10, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Robert Holmes Gardens
Community Room

Work Resource Day
April 17, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Julius Engel Gardens
Community Room

BOARD MEETINGS

The following is the schedule for the Edison Housing Authority Board Meetings and location for 2019. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

APRIL 16, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
MAY 21, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
JUNE 18, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
JULY 16, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
AUGUST 2019 NO MEETING	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
OCTOBER 15, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
NOVEMBER 19, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820
DECEMBER 17, 2019	Robert E. Holmes Gardens 14 Rev Samuel Carpenter Blvd, Edison, NJ 08820

*If a meeting does not occur, a special notice will be published in the Home News Tribune.



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S.W.A.G. GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS AT EHA

Twenty EHA students are proud graduates of the 12-week, S.W.A.G., (Success, Workforce options, Accountability, Goals for the future), course sponsored by Mayor Thomas Lankey and the Township of Edison Municipal Council. The multi-faceted program for middle school students ages 11 to 14 had the goals of academic and career development, workforce opportunity, and life success.

Under the guidance of Tata Consultancy Services, the group formed teams to compete in an app development contest with the goal to solve a community problem. The students chose a theme, designed a storyboard, and learned computer coding. First prize went to the four girls in the program whose project would make movies accessible to the public, particularly in low-income areas.

For the next three weeks, Beyond M2M Communication introduced the Internet of Things, providing hands-on experience with robotics, sensors, programming and coding. Finally, NaLa Theatrical Group exposed the students to careers in the theater both in front of the spotlight and behind it.

And, of course, there was tutoring by volunteers to help with homework.

Amazon hosted the graduation ceremony December 6 and awarded \$50 gift cards to students with perfect attendance. Jonathan Sirett was named first in the class. "He helped me clean up and was eager to learn," said Michael Campbell, Edison's youth outreach coordinator. "He's a great kid with a great future in front of him."