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EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

TEL 908-561-2525

FAX 908-561-7517

 www.edisonha.org

 info@edisonha.org

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Holiday Season is upon us, and during the coming weeks, we will be hosting several events for all of our residents. Our first event will be our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Give-away. This year, vaccinations will be administered at Robert E. Holmes Gardens during the Thanksgiving event. On December 17th, the Edison Housing Authority will host a Holiday Extravaganza! Santa will be making his rounds at Julius Engel Gardens and Robert E. Holmes Gardens. Families will be able to experience an evening of festive entertainment, food, games, holiday gifts for our seniors and children. These two celebrations bring much joy to our staff and commissioners, as we get a chance to really connect with our families, while spreading a little holiday cheer.



And while we all look forward to this time of year, please be mindful that we are still in the middle of a pandemic and it is still very important for everyone to follow social distancing guidelines to keep yourselves and others safe. Although regulations have been lifted, please remember that COVID-19 is still very much real. While it's the most wonderful time of the year, it's also important to be safe. Our team at Edison Housing Authority makes it our priority to give our residents the resources needed to enjoy this time of the year. If you are seeking assistance with testing and vaccination, please do not hesitate to reach out to us to help guide you toward community resources.

Also, we want to encourage all families that are still experiencing hardships with their rent to reach out to our staff, as we have a team that is committed to working closely with you to ensure your application for the DCA and/or Township of Edison rental assistance programs are submitted properly. In this edition of the newsletter, you will get an opportunity to meet Raquel Landero, Director of Property Management. Please take time to stop by our office and meet Raquel, as she will be helping us create new partnerships and assist with enforcing policies and procedures that will improve the quality of life for residents.

I personally, wish each of our families a wonderful and safe holiday season and look forward to bringing more enriching programs and activities to the Edison Housing Authority in 2022!

Sincerely,

Executive Director

DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT: RAQUEL LANDERO



Raquel Landero

The Edison Housing Authority would like to congratulate Raquel Landero on her recent promotion as the Director of Property Management. Since her first day, she has not only worked hard to create changes within EHA but has become an important asset to our team.

Originally from Panama, Raquel came to the U.S. when she was 26 years old and graduated from Middlesex County College with an associate's degree in liberal arts. Her education career then led her to Rutgers University in 2019 where she later graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in criminology. In 2018, Raquel graduated with her master's in public administration which guided her to where she is today.

Prior to her current position here at EHA, Raquel served in many positions pertaining to her career. She has worked as an assistant supervisor and social service coordinator. Her role played an important part in many families' lives when they needed assistance and resources. She fostered a strong passion for property management as it relates to the housing authority dynamic. Her love for the role brought Raquel to our team.

Raquel has already begun to make many changes here at EHA. In her first two weeks, she has improved the recertification process for families. Next, she will expand the partnership between EHA and community agencies with the goal to provide additional services to tenants and prospective applicants.

"One of the accomplishments that I was able to execute was improving the recertification process," Raquel explained. "We need to be consistent in its effectiveness, efficiency, and provide a manageable process for residents and staff who are involved in recertification."

One of the programs Raquel will be coordinating is the Housing Resource Fair which will take place on Saturday, November 20. This program educates prospective homeowners on how to buy their first home and also assists current homeowners in the community. Whether it's about utilities, rent, or property questions, the program is designed to help and educate everyone on do's and don'ts when it comes to renting or buying property. Alongside all of these wonderful things she is currently doing, Raquel also assists in the process of the rental assistance program with tenants who are already behind on their payments.

"I'm very passionate about what I do," Raquel noted. "I'm committed to serving my communities. I value working with all different kinds of families including people with disabilities in any housing or social service related matter. I am proud to help everyone here at the Edison Housing Authority."

It is easy to see the passion Raquel has for our community and team. Her motivation and perseverance has led her to strive and succeed not only as a leader but as an individual. Her dedication to each person and family is the reason why she is here with us today and why we chose her to lead. From our team at the Edison Housing Authority, we'd like to say a big thank you to Raquel for all her hard work and for inspiring others every day!

SUBSTANCE RECOVERY SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE TO THE EHA COMMUNITY

Through the support of Edison Township, we now have services for people struggling from substance abuse. Stop by Robert E. Holmes Gardens in our community room, every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m., and meet Holly Onorato who has graced us with her presence. Holly has expertise in helping individuals and families struggling from substance . You can reach Holly at 732-248-7295 anytime for help.





AMAZON MAKES A DONATION TO EHA

We wish to extend gratitude to Amazon for their donation which will go towards supporting Edison Housing Authority’s STEM Mentoring and Thanksgiving programs. Also, we extend a special thank you to Councilwoman Joyce Ship-Freeman who introduced the housing authority to Amazon’s government relations department. “It takes a village” to provide the services that we bring to the Edison Housing Authority, and during this time of year, we are filled with much gratitude!

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT AT EHA

This past fall, schools went back to in-person instruction. With the events of COVID-19, many parents still felt the anxiety and fear of taking their children back to school, especially families who were greatly affected. However, Edison Housing Authority put together a back to school event for our residents. Our staff would like to thank the Edison Police Department and Amazon who together donated more than 150 backpacks and food to our children. The kids had such an amazing time with leaders in our community where they ate Rita’s Italian Ice and the boys received free haircuts from our barber. Our children also had the opportunity to play games and the girls were given hairstyle ideas and hair accessories which were provided by the Mobile Family Success. Other organizations also donated to the EHA such as the Martin Luther King School and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Thank you to our donors for continuing to support our mission and children! From all of us at Edison Housing Authority, thank you for assisting our children as they went back to school this year.



SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT EXTERMINATOR VISIT



Attention all Robert E. Holmes Gardens families, please remember that **Corbett Exterminating Inc. will be onsite November 10th and December 8th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please call Carmen Amalbert at 908-561-2525** to place your name on the list for the exterminator. All residents must wear a mask when the technician enters the unit or vacate the unit for service.

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

We encourage all residents in our Housing Choice Voucher Program and Public Housing Program to sign up to receive text messages from the Edison Housing Authority. You will be notified about all of our programs – **Food Pantry, Vaccinations, STEM Program, COVID-19 Testing and More!** This information is important for all families to know about. Call our office at 908-561-2525 and ask for Carmen Amalbert to add you to our call-text feature.





EDISON

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Creating a Community Where Everyone Thrives

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thanksgiving Giveaway:
NOVEMBER 18TH

Join us at Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. where we will be giving out turkeys and celebrating this season of thanks! Vaccinations will also be given at Robert E. Holmes Gardens.



Housing Resource Fair:
NOVEMBER 20TH

The Housing Resource Fair will be held at the Robert E. Holmes Gardens from 10 a.m to 1 p.m. This event teaches first-time homebuyers about renting or purchasing property and provides additional educational tools.



Holiday Celebrations:
DECEMBER 17TH

Ho, ho, ho! Join us at Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. as we end the year with holiday celebrations and have fun activities for all of our residents! Bring your stockings and tinsel!

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
November 30, 2021	Robert E. Holmes Gardens	December 21, 2021	Julius Engel Gardens
TIME	ROOM	TIME	ROOM
6:00 p.m.	Community Room	5:00 p.m.	Community Room

CONTACT US EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Robert E. Holmes Gardens
14 Rev. Samuel Carpenter Blvd.
Edison, NJ 08820
TEL 908-561-2525
FAX 908-561-7517

Julius Engel Gardens
Willard Dunham Drive
Edison, NJ 08837
TEL 732-549-3301
FAX 732-549-5394

 www.edisonha.org
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