



EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioner

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Secretary / Executive Director

EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer! Safety continues to be a top priority for all of our residents and, as always, we're coordinating with the Edison Township Police Department in preparation for all upcoming community events. We hope to see you at our annual Back to School event this summer! We'll be giving out school supplies and food, free haircuts for our young boys, and blood pressure and glucose screening will be available.

In case you haven't heard, we offer a garden club at both properties that you can participate in. EHA resident Neha Jain has volunteered to water our garden at Julius Engel Gardens daily and Ms. Betty Collins has taken that responsibility at Robert E. Holmes Gardens. Residents may reach out to Jolanta Kubacka for more information about the garden club at 732-549-3301.

We ask all residents to keep their properties clean, organized, and to be respectful to their neighbors, including in the parking areas and street parking surrounding Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens. It's important to ensure that your vehicle is fully up to date with registration, license plates, inspections, insurance, and maintenance. Vehicles that don't comply with those standards, have a flat tire, or otherwise seem abandoned may be towed at the owner's expense.

We are still remaining cautious and aware when it comes to COVID-19. If you have any questions you can always visit our website at www.edisonha.org/eha-coronavirus-updates. You can also subscribe to our text/-call feature to get the latest updates on vaccinations and all EHA events and notices. From all of us at the Edison Housing Authority, we hope you continue to have a lovely summer!

Sincerely,



Executive Director

EDISON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL LIASON TO EHA SPOTLIGHT: JOYCE SHIP-FREEMAN

The Edison Housing Authority would like to shine the spotlight on the Edison Township Council Liason to EHA, Joyce Ship-Freeman. A lifelong Edison resident, Joyce



Joyce Ship-Freeman

Ship-Freeman has worked with various departments within the township and in particular her leadership has influenced positive change regarding issues that concern EHA. One such example is that she assisted with the process to remove commercial trucks and trailers from EHA property. She is an alumna of both The College of New Jersey and Kean University. Over the years, she has contributed to the community as a state commissioner for Amistad curriculum, NJEA policy board member, Edison public library trustee, YMCA trustee, NAACP member, reading specialist/mentor, and volunteer for sports and committees.

Long before she became a councilwoman, Joyce Ship-Freeman began her career as an educator in Perth Amboy. She initially worked within special education and got so involved that she eventually became a literacy coach. Her background includes her role as a New Jersey Department of Education's Amistad commissioner. The purpose of this commission is to ensure that New Jersey schools incorporate African-American history into their social studies curriculum. Joyce Ship-Freeman has a passion for teaching the Amistad curriculum to beginning teachers.

Most recently, she was recognized in John P. Stevens High School's Hall of Honor for the Class of 2022. This accolade celebrates JPS alumni who have attained personal achievements and outstanding accomplishments in their career and community,

so these alumni serve as excellent role models for current students. Last year, EHA honored Joyce Ship-Freeman with an award for her dedicated service to EHA, as well as her steadfast involvement as the Edison Township Council Liaison to the EHA board. From our team at EHA, we cannot thank Council Vice President Joyce Ship-Freeman enough for her ongoing commitment to improving the lives of our residents and the community of Edison as a whole!

GOIT AND STEM PROGRAMS AWARD CEREMONY

From April to June, the goIT and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Mentoring programs are available to elementary and middle school students. It successfully brought together mentors and youth through fun activities. Students participated in projects that promote communication and teamwork while learning about computer science, technology, and problem-solving, which lead to academic success.



The STEM programs consisted of two classes—one for children from kindergarten to 3rd grades and another for 4th to 5th grade students. The children love these programs so much that they even want to come in on the days we do not have the programs. They enjoy being with their friends and working with the robots and Legos. The goIT program is a small class of talented students from 6th to 8th grades. These students continued from the program last semester, having now advanced to a new level with the support of the program staff. Everyone is very committed to accomplishing their work.

On June 15, 2022, Edison Housing Authority celebrated STEM program students' accomplishments with a ceremony, where each student was proud to receive a certificate for completion



of the program and a medal for their project. On June 27, 2022, we celebrated the goIT Program students' accomplishments with a ceremony, medals, and certificates. Those who completed the goIT program also received a \$50 stipend. Ambassadors and those who assisted with recruitment received a \$100 stipend. Congratulations on a job well done this year!

Special thanks to everyone involved in making this program a success: The Township of Edison, Edison Department of Health & Human Services Director Jay Elliot, John Adams Middle School, MLK Elementary School, TATA Consulting, YMCA of Edison and Metuchen, Ferraro's Pizzeria, and Miali Wilson. Funds to support the programs were made possible by the Edison Township Community Development Block Grant.

EHA APPRECIATION AWARDS

EHA held an award ceremony at the June 21, 2022 board meeting at Robert E. Holmes Gardens. Commissioner Walter Szoludko served on the EHA board for more than 10 years and was presented with an Appreciation Award by Chairman Carlos N. Sanchez. He was a very dedicated member during his time on the board and displayed a commitment to ensuring our families had a quality of life. Commissioner Lou Mangione, Jr., Esq. served on the board for four years and was presented with an Appreciation Award as well. He is a practicing attorney and was born and raised in Edison, NJ. We thank both Walter and Lou for their efforts to shape our community for the better.



Commissioner Walter Szoludko & Chairman Carlos N. Sanchez



Commissioner Lou Mangione, Jr., Esq. & Chairman Carlos N. Sanchez

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Join us on August 25th for a Back to School Event at Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens in partnership with the Mobile Family Success Center, the Jewish Renaissance Foundation, and the Township of Edison. From 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. there will be free COVID-19 vaccinations, eye screening, blood pressure checks, and hamburgers and hot dogs for all Edison Housing Authority families. From 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m there will be a DJ, food truck, free haircuts for young men, and backpacks with school supplies.

RAD (RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION)

In April, EHA held the first community meeting for residents of Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens regarding the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, a voluntary program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). RAD seeks to preserve public housing by providing Public Housing Agencies with access to more stable funding to make needed improvements to properties. Learn more about RAD and view the informational video on our website at www.edisonha.org/rad-program.



The second tenant meeting on June 23, 2022 was a success. A significant achievement for EHA took place as board members, pictured here, approved the submission of the RAD application to HUD.

Our RAD consultants, also pictured here, Brooke Group's Principal Richard "Rick" Ginetti and Partner Charles Lewis, presented the steps of the RAD application that will be submitted to HUD. Phase I of the RAD Program will start with Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Phase II will proceed with Julius Engel Gardens.



NEW DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Edison Housing Authority would like to congratulate Jolanta Kubacka on her recent promotion from Property Housing Manager to Director of Property Management as of April 1, 2022. Jolanta now manages both EHA properties so if you have any comments or questions, simply reach out to her at JKubacka@edisonha.org or 732-549-3301.



Jolanta Kubacka, Director of Property Management

SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT EXTERMINATOR VISIT



Attention all Robert E. Holmes and Julius Engel Gardens families, please remember that exterminations occur every third Wednesday of the month. Corbett Exterminating Inc. will be on site September 21st and October 19th 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.

JOB LEADS

The Edison Housing Authority encourages residents to pursue a wide range of careers and offers resources for jobseekers to find and apply to job openings. If you are interested in being part of an organization providing individuals, children, and families with essential health, human services, community development, and youth programs, **Jewish Renaissance Foundation is hiring. To learn more and apply, visit jrfnj.org/employment-training or email Jobs@JRFNJ.org.**

SHARKS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

This year the 2022 Sharks Youth Football Camp for ages 6-18 years old took place on June 20th at J. P. Stevens High School. EHA believes in the purpose of this event and was instrumental in making sure that not only that the event's space was secured but also that EHA children could participate free of charge. This camp was open to both boys and girls, and it taught children how to be chosen as part of a team, to try to maintain your best behavior and give your best shot to everything you do, and to get involved in activities and much more as they prepare for their futures.



We thank Mayor Sam Joshi, the Edison Recreation Department, and the Sharks Minor League Football players for dedicating their resources and time to children in the Edison community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 25TH

Back to School Event at Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be COVID-19 vaccinations, eye screening, blood pressure checks, and hamburgers and hot dogs for all Edison Housing Authority families. From 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m there will be a DJ, food truck, free haircuts for young men, and backpacks with school supplies.

SEPTEMBER 15TH & OCTOBER 20TH

Food Pantry at Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens – Every third Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Community Affairs and Resource Center and volunteers from the Jewish Renaissance Foundation are also available to residents at each food pantry event. If you have any questions, contact April Mobley at 908-561-8489.



Picture courtesy of TAPinto Edison

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
August 2022 - No Meeting	No Meeting	November 29, 2022	Robert E. Holmes Gardens
September 20, 2022	Robert E. Holmes Gardens	December 20, 2022	Julius Engel Gardens
October 18, 2022	Julius Engel Gardens		

Board meetings are held at 6 p.m., typically the third Tuesday of the month at alternating locations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, board meetings were held via video conference in the months of January, February, and March 2022. *If a meeting does not occur or a change in location takes place, a special notice will be published in the Home News Tribune.

CONTACT US EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY

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