



## EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I hope your new year is off to a good start! We have a lot in store for 2022. As previously mentioned, part of bringing peace and prosperity to our community is having clear landlord-tenant communication, which is an important part of a positive rental experience. Safety is still a priority for both Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens and we are working with the Edison Township Police Department to ensure the safety of all residents.

The Edison Housing Authority has established policies to protect your comfort, safety, and enjoyment among your neighbors. Our community benefits when residents are mindful of others and we all take care of EHA property. We ask tenants to be aware of parking and accessibility at our buildings. Please only utilize handicapped-designated parking spots if you have the appropriate placard displayed in your vehicle. Please also ensure that your vehicle is fully up to date with registration, license plates, inspection, insurance, and maintenance. Vehicles that have a flat tire or otherwise seem abandoned may be subject to being towed from the property. These precautions will prevent obstructions when emergency personnel need to quickly access our buildings. Please also respect other tenants' property when packages are delivered to EHA doorsteps. Tenants may wish to have packages delivered to alternate pickup locations such as Amazon Hub lockers or FedEx/UPS stores to avoid package theft.

As a reminder, tenants may not keep pets of any kind on EHA property without landlord consent and tenants must always curb their dogs. In addition, tenants are responsible for the general cleanliness and sanitation of the property. Residents must maintain the yard, front, rear, and/or side of their dwellings in a neat and orderly manner. Alterations that will affect property safety and appearance, such as canopies and tents, shall not be permitted without the landlord's prior written approval. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jolanta Kubacka, the new Director of Property Management, at [JKubacka@edisonha.org](mailto:JKubacka@edisonha.org).

The Board of Commissioners, EHA staff, and I are all committed to ensuring a quality of life for our residents at the Edison Housing Authority. If your apartment is in need of extermination services, please contact us to be added to the list. Extermination visits will occur every third Wednesday of the month. We will continue to provide wellness programs and a wide variety of activities for residents to enjoy. The annual activities we have will remain, such as Family Fun Day and Back to School events in the summer, Fall Fest and our Halloween event in October, and the Thanksgiving turkey giveaway and our Christmas event in November and December. Our newly established STEM Mentoring and goIT programs have resumed and will be offered again in April and run through June. We will be adding more programs and events to look out for in the future!

We hope residents remain healthy and safe and continue to exercise caution during the pandemic. We regularly monitor the CDC's guidelines and updates to ensure everyone's safety. This includes recent clarification on the effectiveness of different types of masks. Feel free to reach out to our administrative offices, if you need any PPE products such as masks or hand sanitizer or if you are seeking information about testing or vaccines.

Sincerely,

  
Executive Director

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: PATRICIA TAMBURELLO



Patricia Tamburello

The Edison Housing Authority would like to shine the spotlight on Patricia Tamburello, who leads the Bridges program. Pat is a certified social worker who has been part of the New Jersey Institute for Disabilities (NJID) for 26 years and has been serving the EHA community as a Bridges service coordinator for 12 years.

NJID offers specialized facilities and support across the State of New Jersey and beyond for infants, children, and adults with developmental and related disabilities. It is one of the largest not-for-profit agencies of its kind in the nation. NJID's Bridges is a special project offered to EHA residents 62 years and older which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/Residents Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency (HUD-ROSS). This program "bridges" individuals with disabilities to supports and services that are available in the town and county, "Connecting Today to Tomorrow."

Residents can rely on Pat for assistance with accessing medical and mental health services and are afforded comprehensive social services at no cost. These services can vary from personal check-in visits to intensive case management in order to overcome challenges that can threaten independence. Pat also serves a vital role in assisting residents with disabilities who experience isolation, which has been an especially prevalent issue during the pandemic. Some other services Bridges provides are assistance with transportation, workshops on various topics such as tips for healthier lifestyles, free meals, health screenings, and any other resource residents may be seeking in Edison or throughout Middlesex County. NJID's extensive partnerships and collaboration within the community positively impact the breadth of services offered by the Bridges program. The goal of the program is to improve quality of life by providing residents with pathways to recreational and educational opportunities, solidifying independence, and encouraging their sense of inclusion within the community, while promoting aging in place with dignity and comfort. Visit [www.njid.org/bridges](http://www.njid.org/bridges) to learn more about the Bridges program.

"I love my position as part of EHA and I also can act as a neutral party since I'm part of NJID," said Pat. "I enjoy helping people and being an advocate for them. I'm here to listen if they have problems with housing, rent, or issues with other residents. I help them negotiate and move forward to a more positive place."

If you have any questions about the Bridges program, Pat is available to residents at both EHA sites. Stop by Pat's office at Julius Engel Gardens or call her at 732-205-1901 to set up an appointment for an assessment of your needs.

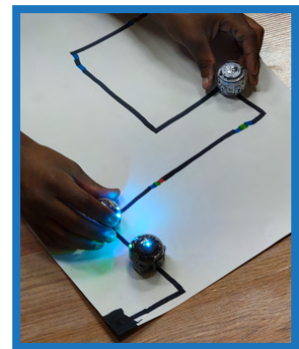
From our team at the Edison Housing Authority, we'd like to thank Pat for all of her hard work and for dedicating her time to helping others every day!

## GOIT AND STEM PROGRAMS AWARD CEREMONY



The goIT and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Mentoring programs available to elementary and middle school students successfully brings together mentors and youth through fun activities. Students partook in projects which promote communication and teamwork while learning about technology, computer science, and problem-solving, which lead to academic

success. Take a look at the students' projects, where students draw a line on paper and their robot will follow that line. On February 28, Edison Housing Authority celebrated all of the students' accomplishments with a ceremony, where each student was proud to receive a certificate for completion of the program, a medal for their project, and a \$100 gift.



Registration for goIT and the STEM programs started in March 2022, and begin in April 2022. These programs are hosted in partnership with The Township

of Edison CDBG program, John Adams Middle School, MLK Elementary School, TATA Consulting and YMCA of Edison and Metuchen. Funds to support the programs were made possible by the Edison Township Community Development Block Grant and Amazon.



## COVID-19 VACCINATION AND BOOSTER AT EHA

EHA has been regularly providing information on opportunities for residents to receive free testing and COVID-19 vaccinations and booster shots at EHA and in the Edison community. COVID-19 vaccinations took place on February 5th at Robert E. Holmes Gardens from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. At this event, attendees also received free face masks, community resources, and snacks. We extend our thanks to Middlesex County, the Mobile Family Success Center, and the Visiting Nurse Association for providing vaccinations to our residents. We also thank the Township of Edison and Wellcare Transitional Chronic Care Management for providing testing services in Edison. If you have missed any of these vaccination events, you can always register online at [covidvaccine.nj.gov](https://covidvaccine.nj.gov) or call 1-855-568-0545.



## 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.



## DROP BOX AT JULIUS ENGEL GARDENS

It's safer and easier to drop off your rent check each month by placing your rent check in our secure drop box in front of the Julius Engel Gardens office. The drop box is accessible 24/7 for several purposes such as safely dropping off documents, small packages, or keys, making it easier for those who are not able to visit the office during hours of operation. Residents can utilize this contactless option as a means to continue communications without missing due dates. Since the drop box's installation last year, we have received all types of documents from our residents.

## 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. The Middlesex County Office of Career Opportunity provides access to training, job placement, recruiting services, and hiring incentives. Text WORKFORCE to 732-978-9211 for daily hiring event notices and more. Middlesex County residents can call 732-745-3955 (general) or 732-293-1341 (youth ages 16-24) for information about local opportunities.

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEXT EXTERMINATOR VISIT



Attention all Robert E. Holmes Gardens families, exterminations will now occur every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Corbett Exterminating Inc. will be on site April 20th 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.

## THANKSGIVING TURKEY GIVEAWAY

We had a lot of fun at our annual Thanksgiving Party at Julius Engel Gardens and Robert E. Holmes Gardens on November 18th. Turkeys were given out to families and COVID-19 vaccinations were also offered to residents at the event. We hope everyone had a delicious holiday!

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

As we all know, Christmas is about giving. On December 17th, we held another festive holiday party at Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens. EHA took the necessary precautions to protect our families from the pandemic which resulted in over 30 children attending the Christmas event.



The children were excited to see Santa, who was waiting for them by the tree and ready to take pictures.

Everyone received a bag with a hot meal and snacks, a wrapped gift, and had the opportunity to get a gift of choice from the table. This annual event never fails to bring smiles to children's faces!



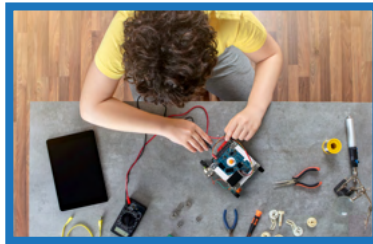
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL 21ST, MAY 19TH, & JUNE 16TH

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. If you have any questions, contact April Mobley at 908-561-8489.

### APRIL 21ST

RAD Community Meetings will be taking place in the community room at Julius Engel Gardens at 4:30 p.m. and the community room at Robert E. Holmes Gardens at 6:30 p.m.



### APRIL 21ST

Community Affairs and Resource Center will be doing LIHEAP (energy applications) and rental assistance applications at Julius Engel Gardens on April 21 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Any changes will be posted at the main door at JEG.

### APRIL 25TH

Registration for the goIT and the STEM programs offered to John Adams Middle School and MLK Elementary School students began in April. These programs will begin on April 25.

### MAY 17TH

Robert E. Holmes Gardens Tenant Association's next meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. If you wish to contact the Tenant Association, please email REHTenantsAssociation@gmail.com.

## BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
April 19, 2022	Robert E. Holmes Gardens	September 20, 2022	Robert E. Holmes Gardens
May 17, 2022	Julius Engel Gardens	October 18, 2022	Julius Engel Gardens
June 21, 2022	Robert E. Holmes Gardens	November 29, 2022	Robert E. Holmes Gardens
July 19, 2022	Julius Engel Gardens	December 20, 2022	Julius Engel Gardens
August 2022 - No Meeting	No Meeting		

For more information on how to participate, visit our website at [EdisonHA.org](http://EdisonHA.org).

Dial (646) 558-8656 (New York)  
Meeting ID 953 7582 1127 Passcode: 642950

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

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