



SPOTLIGHT JOCELYN SILVA

The Edison Housing Authority takes great pleasure in highlighting the remarkable career of Jocelyn Silva, who dedicated 25 years of her life to serving the EHA community as our administrative personnel assistant. Throughout her tenure, Jocelyn consistently demonstrated her unwavering commitment and reliability, earning the trust and respect of all who had the privilege of working with her. Her wealth of knowledge, impeccable problem-solving abilities, and unwavering support have been invaluable to our organization.

Jocelyn's exceptional work ethic was evident in her ability to meet deadlines and make herself readily available to assist others. She approached her role with fairness, dedication, and a remarkable team spirit, always willing to go the extra mile to provide support to our residents. Jocelyn's willingness to roll up her sleeves and tackle any task, no matter how challenging, truly exemplifies her dedication to serving our community.

On behalf of the entire team at the Edison Housing Authority, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jocelyn for her remarkable contributions over the past 25 years. Her departure leaves a void that will be deeply felt. We bid her farewell with utmost respect and admiration for the immense impact she has made.

With Jocelyn's retirement, we welcome Sarayu Sameera



SARAYU
SAMEERA

as our new administrative personnel assistant. We encourage each and every one of you to take a moment to visit our office and introduce yourselves. Her skills and dedication will undoubtedly carry on the tradition of excellence that Jocelyn has established.

Once again, we express our sincerest appreciation to Jocelyn Silva for her remarkable service, and we wish her the very best in all her future endeavors. She will be greatly missed.

EDISON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOOD DISTRIBUTION



On June 6, the Edison Police Department organized a food distribution event for families within the EHA community. Police officers distributed bags of food items, allowing residents to choose items to take home. This event provided an excellent opportunity for residents to interact with police officers and foster positive relationships with the law enforcement community. We express our heartfelt appreciation to the Edison Police Department especially Detective Dong for their generosity in organizing this successful and impromptu event.

MENTOR GROUP AND BOXING TRAINING WITH OFFICER WILLIAMS



In February and March, EHA children had the privilege of participating in a special Mentor Group and Boxing Training program led by Officer Williams at MLK Elementary School. This six-week program, open to students in 4th through 8th grade, encompassed mentorship sessions and exercise sessions, which included an introduction to basic boxing principles. Officer Williams shared his valuable insights from his career in the U.S. Navy and the New Jersey State Police, emphasizing core skills such as sportsmanship and self-esteem. At the completion of the program, the children were thrilled to receive well-deserved boxing trophies, celebrating their achievements.

STEM PROGRAM & AWARD CEREMONY



We are delighted to share the resounding success of our highly acclaimed Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program, which owes its achievements to the collaboration with MLK Elementary School. Over a span of six weeks, students enthusiastically participated in this engaging program, with sessions held from 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays for kindergarten to 3rd grade, and on Thursdays for 4th and 5th grades. Through collaborative activities, imaginative exploration with Legos, and the provision of nutritious meals, students not only fostered teamwork but also kindled their passion for learning. By engaging in projects that emphasize communication, teamwork, computer science, technology, and problem-solving, students laid the foundation for future academic success. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Edison Township Community Development Block Grant for their generous support, enabling us to offer these enriching programs.

To commemorate the accomplishments of our STEM program participants, the Edison Housing Authority held an inspiring award ceremony on December 16, 2022. During this special event, each student received a certificate acknowledging their successful completion of the program, along with a well-deserved medal honoring their remarkable project.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that registration for the 2023 STEM programs began in March. The programs themselves were held from April to June in partnership with the Township of Edison CDBG program, John Adams Middle School, and MLK Elementary School. Once again, the generous funding provided by the Edison Township Community Development Block Grant and Amazon made these programs possible. In May, we celebrated the accomplishments of our STEM program students through a dedicated award ceremony, which recognized their outstanding achievements.

The impact of our STEM program has been recognized beyond our community, with a feature on Edison-Metuchen's Patch.com. Principal Regina Paparsenos of MLK Elementary School aptly captured the essence of the program, stating, "We've only just begun, and we're going to keep going and continue to evolve. The STEM program is amazing, and the kids who participate truly consider it to be their own. They are so proud, and the program has a domino effect. It helps the student build trust with teachers and fellow students, and it breaks down walls, making students feel safe and know that they belong."

We extend our gratitude to all who contributed to the success of our STEM program, including our dedicated partners, supporters, and, most importantly, the talented students who continue to inspire us with their enthusiasm and achievements.

EVENTS

- **August 22nd** Back to School at JEG from 3 pm to 6 pm
- **August 24th** Back to School at REH from 3 pm to 6 pm
- **October 5th** Mentor Group and Boxing
- **October 31** Halloween and Fall Fest
- **November 16** Thanksgiving
- **November 18** Housing Fair Resources
- **December 15** Holiday Event



EXTERMINATOR AVAILABILITY

Attention all residents of Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens: Please remember that exterminations occur on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Corbett Exterminating Inc. will be on-site on September 13th and October 11th, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. To have your name added to the exterminator list, please call Carmen Amalbert at 908-561-2525. All residents must wear masks when the technician enters their unit or vacate the unit during the service.

TENANT NOTICE: EHA TEXT-CALL FEATURE

If you wish to:

- Learn about upcoming EHA events
- Receive notices about the food pantry operation and COVID-19 testing
- Have your apartment exterminated for ants, bed bugs, and other pests

Make sure your number is on our Text-Call feature. You will be able to receive important information from the Edison Housing Authority that helps to provide a positive quality of life within your community. Call Executive Assistant Carmen Amalbert at 908-561-2525 and have your name and mobile number placed on our list. Please know that your information is not provided to the public or used for any purposes unrelated to EHA activity.



Robert E. Holmes Gardens
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www.edisonha.org | info@edisonha.org



EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT

Administrative Personnel Assistant
Jocelyn Silva, C-PhM
RETIRES



Message from Executive Director

Dear residents,

I would like to begin by extending warm wishes on behalf of the Edison Housing Authority. We sincerely hope that this year has brought you an abundance of blessings, and we anticipate that the remainder of 2023 will be filled with joy and prosperity for our residents, their families, and the entire EHA community.

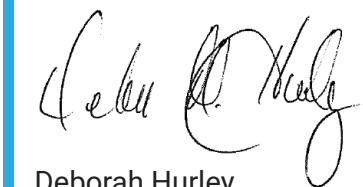
We are delighted to inform you about the success of our recent initiative, the Metuchen Downtown Alliance Food Distribution. This program provided hot lunches every Thursday at two locations, namely Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens, and concluded on May 25th. We are grateful for the opportunity it provided our residents to experience the diverse culinary offerings of our community. In addition to this, we continue to conduct our monthly food bank distribution on the third Thursday of each month.

As we move forward, it is crucial that we remain mindful of the ongoing COVID-19 situation. We encourage you to take advantage of the free COVID-19 testing services and adhere to the recommended safety measures. If you require a test, please feel free to visit our main office where we have testing facilities available. Should you have any inquiries, our website, www.edisonha.org/eha-coronavirus-updates, offers comprehensive information. Additionally, you can

subscribe to our text/call feature to stay updated on vaccinations, EHA events, and important notices.

We eagerly anticipate your presence at the numerous upcoming community events scheduled for the remainder of this year.

Warmest regards,



Deborah Hurley
Executive Director

Metuchen Downtown Alliance Food Distribution

We are pleased to share the success of the meal delivery program sponsored by the Metuchen Downtown Alliance, which brought a delightful culinary experience to EHA residents. Through this initiative, local restaurants partnered with us to offer residents the opportunity to sample their delicious cuisine and foster a sense of community. Every Thursday, starting from September 29, 2022, through May 25, 2023, residents of Robert E. Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens had the pleasure of receiving hot and cold meals from two different community restaurants, namely Torino 2 and Angie's Café and Bakery. The program has been met with enthusiasm and residents thoroughly enjoyed exploring new flavors and culinary delights.

Robert E. Holmes Garden FUTURE SITE AND FLOOR PLANS



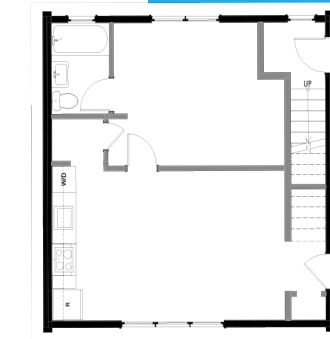
FRONT VIEW



REAR VIEW



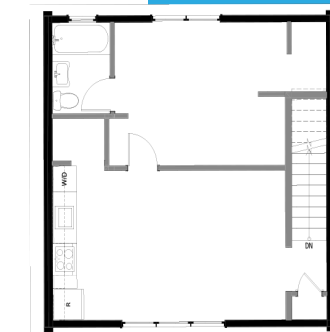
EXISTING AND PROPOSED FLOOR TYPES



EXISTING - FIRST FLOOR - TYPE A1



PROPOSED - FIRST FLOOR - TYPE A1



EXISTING - SECOND FLOOR - TYPE A2



PROPOSED - SECOND FLOOR - TYPE A2

EDISON HOUSING BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Sonali Patel
Commissioner

Deborah M. Hurley, C-PHM
Secretary / Executive Director

Joyce Ship-Freeman
Edison Township, EHA Liaison

RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION (RAD)

EHA remains committed to keeping our residents informed about the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, a voluntary initiative by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) aimed at preserving public housing. We have continued to organize community meetings specifically for the residents of Robert E. Holmes Gardens, where the RAD program is being implemented. These meetings provide residents with updates on the progress of each residence and offers an opportunity to ask questions and provide valuable recommendations for site improvements. Notably, the future floorplans of the apartments include the inclusion of a washer and dryer in each unit, a feature that has garnered significant interest and engagement from families.

To learn more about the RAD program and view an informational video, please visit our website at edisonha.org/rad-program or contact our designated RAD phone line at (908) 444-0723.

EHA is currently finalizing an agreement with a local developer who will oversee the RAD work. Once the developer is secured, the project will commence in a specific section of the Robert E. Holmes Gardens apartments, to be announced. Our utmost priority is to ensure a smooth transition for our residents, and we will communicate every step of the way. The project is estimated to take one year for the conversion to RAD, followed by an 18-month renovation process.

We appreciate the continued engagement and cooperation of our residents as we work towards enhancing the living experience within the EHA community.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023

September, Tuesday, 19, 2023

Robert E. Holmes Gardens

October, Tuesday, 17, 2023

Julius Engel Gardens

November, Tuesday, 28, 2023

Robert E. Holmes Gardens

December, Tuesday, 19, 2023

Julius Engel Gardens