

**Family Self-Sufficiency and Community and Supportive Services**  
*News and Notes*

**HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT**



Construction of the for-sale homes at the former Ohioview Acres site, now known as **Pleasant Ridge**, is scheduled to begin this spring. A total of 15 single-family detached homes will be built. The first nine homes will be started in April.

The standard home will be two stories high with 3 bedrooms and 1-½ bathrooms. Each will have a basement with a one-stall garage. Accommodations can be made for a homebuyer with disabilities. Additional options including upgraded flooring and a fireplace can be added for

an increased price.

Credit ready, former Ohioview Acres residents who meet income requirements and qualify for the necessary mortgage loan will be given a first preference to purchase these homes. If you are interested in buying a home at Pleasant Ridge and are not quite ready, the ACHA has a homeownership program that will assist you with working toward your goal.

Workshops are being scheduled to provide detailed information about the homes, discuss assistance programs available, and announce necessary



*This is what a typical house for sale will look like at the new OVA, Pleasant Ridge.*

qualifications. Attendance at one of these workshops is required for all potential buyers. Please look for your invitation in the mail!

Please call Amy Fox, Hope VI Homeownership Case Manager, at **(412) 402-2481** to express your interest.

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***"KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE"***

You have the drive to succeed in life. What you need is money to help pay for your education. Up to \$3,000 will be awarded to a qualified ACHA resident for use towards a college, university or accredited training or post secondary institution. All applicants must be an ACHA Low Income Public Housing (LIPH) Resident or Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Resident; Maintain a mini-



imum 2.5 GPA; Be accepted to a post secondary institution or

training program; Compose a short essay (300 word minimum) highlighting educational goals and career aspirations; Obtain two reference letters (personal and educational).

Applications for the scholarship were mailed to all residents in January. If you need another application, call 412-402-2449 or visit our website [www.achsng.com](http://www.achsng.com).

# Upcoming Opportunities

## TEEN SUMMIT

On Saturday, June 4, 2005 the Public Safety Department in collaboration with the PA State Police is hosting the second annual Teen Summit at Hays Manor. The summit is for youth between the ages of 12 -17 years old residing in ACHA communities.



The event is free and food as well as door prizes will be provided. Early registration sign

ups will be held in various communities during the last week in April. Individuals who register early will be entered to win a prize at the Summit. More details to follow.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY CAMP CADET

The Allegheny County Housing Authority, Public Safety Department along with various other law enforcement agencies are partnering with the PA State Police in hosting the first Allegheny County Camp Cadet at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg. The camp is free to any youth between the ages 12-14 and must be a resident of Allegheny County. The camp is from July 24th to July 30th. The youth will stay at Camp Guyasuta for the entire week and will participate in a graduation ceremony on July 30th.

**For more information on either of these events or to obtain an application, contact Investigator Robinson**

# DO YOU PLAN ON RETURNING TO THE REVITALIZED OVA?

The time is coming for all those interested in returning to the revitalized OVA, renamed Pleasant Ridge, to begin preparing. There are a few things that will be required before you can move back. Take this opportunity to make sure you are eligible. The requirements are as follows:

- 1. Housekeeping classes:** All residents over the age of 18 will participate in a housekeeping class.
- 2. Criminal Background Check:** All residents over the age of 18 must pass a criminal background check.
- 3. Job Training/Education:** All residents over the age of 18 must be employed, in a job training program, or enrolled in school.



Construction in progress on January 24th. For more pictures on the progress of OVA check out the webcam on our website [www.achsng.com](http://www.achsng.com).

### (exclusions over 60 and those with disabilities)

These requirements will apply to all residents (former and new) who wish to live at the new OVA. Anyone in the household who is over 18, regardless of whether or not they are Head of Household, will be held to these require-

ments.

If you do not meet these requirements there is still time to prepare, contact Support Specialists Ann Boyda or Erica Fields at 412-771-0328. They can assist you in meeting these requirements. We look forward to seeing all of you move back to your new community!

## RESIDENT CONSTRUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM

"Section 3", the popular name of the HUD program that ensures employment, job training, and other economic opportunities is generated by HUD financial assistance. To the greatest extent feasible, this program is being directed to Public Housing, Section 8, and low-income residents of Allegheny County.

The Allegheny

County Housing Authority is conducting an outreach effort to notify you of a resident construction training opportunity in Monroeville, PA. This will provide you with a chance to work with skilled trades people who can walk you through each step of a particular trade.

Other employment and/or training opportunities may exist at the end of this

program at other sites including the former Ohioview Acres in McKees Rocks. If you wish to be considered, please contact:

Charles Brown,  
Associate Director  
Business and Economic Initiatives  
(412) 402-2487.

# THE FIRST TEE IS COMING TO PLEASANT RIDGE

The ACHA and Development Team executed a facility and partnership agreement with The First Tee of Pittsburgh to develop The First Tee program and practice facility at Pleasant Ridge.

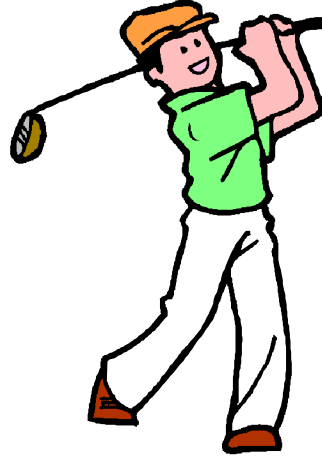
The First Tee is a national program of the World Golf Foundation that teaches youth between the ages of seven and 18 life skills through the game of golf. A new indoor/outdoor facility will be developed at Pleasant Ridge for youth that live on-site and in the

surrounding community. The ACHA will be working in partnership with The First Tee of Pittsburgh to raise the funds to develop this facility. For more information about the program see:

h t t p : / / [www.thefirstteepittsburgh.org](http://www.thefirstteepittsburgh.org) or call Erin Slattengren at 412-402-2506.

The facility will include a pitch and putt area, short range hitting area, and indoor space in the community building for the program. The First Tee

of Pittsburgh currently operates its program at Schenley Park Golf Course in the city of Pittsburgh.



## Give Paychecks a BOOST!

It's tax season and there are valuable benefits available that could mean putting thousands of tax dollars back into your pocket.

The **Earned Income Tax Credit** is a federal tax credit to help workers make ends meet. If you worked full or part-time and made less than \$35,458 you could be eligible for up to \$4,300! You must file a federal tax return and attach schedule EIC in order to take advantage of this benefit.

The **Child Tax Credit** is available to workers who earned more than \$10,750. Eligible workers can get up to \$1000 for each dependent child under the age of 17. Attach form 8812 to your federal tax return to receive the credit.

Pennsylvania is also giving tax money back to low-income workers. Workers below a certain income level owe no state income tax or only partial tax. File Schedule SP with your state taxes to participate in **PA Tax Back**.

Basic income tax returns are prepared free of charge for individuals of low to moderate income, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking taxpayers and the elderly through the **IRS VITA** program. Sites are located throughout Allegheny County.

Contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to find out more about these and other tax benefits.

## KIDS CORNER



Hi There! I can't believe that it has been over a year since I have seen all of you

wonderful kids from Ohio-view Acres, oops, I mean Pleasant Ridge! I miss waiting with you at the bus stop before school and waiting for you to come home! I wish I could see you again! Did I tell you in the last newsletter that they are building new houses up here? Well it is true and a few of them are almost done. They are building units to rent too but wouldn't it be great to own your own home! The families that have been working so hard on their FSS contract and are moving toward self-

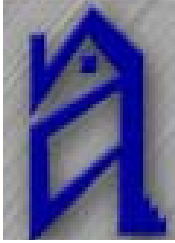
sufficiency may have a chance to buy these new houses. There are some rules that apply though. So tell your parents that they should read the rules in this newsletter and make sure that they will be eligible.

You can see all of the action up here (and there is lots of it) anytime on any day by visiting the ACHA website. To see the pictures, go to a computer with internet access either in your home, at one of the Neighborhood Networks Centers, or at the library. Log on to the ACHA website at [www.achsng.com](http://www.achsng.com) and click on the web cam link at the top of the main page. Who knows, I may be looking in the camera and you will see me as well!

As far as a construction goes, things are really progressing! There are new

streets, and lots of buildings going up! There hopefully will be places to move into by July or August so get ready! I am told that the Community Center will be built in 2 parts. This is so my friends who work in the FSS program and be there to help you and your family when you come back. I can't wait for that! It will be a really cool place for all of us to play as well as a place for adults to get help and services for the things they need. Did I tell you that there would be a basketball court in the new Community Center? That will be built in phase two. I will have to brush up on my free throws!

Well that is all I have to report for now. Please tell the grown up's to keep working on their FSS goals, I want to see all



## News and Notes

### Allegheny County Housing Authority

625 Stanwix Street, 12th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 355-8940  
[www.achsng.com](http://www.achsng.com)

*You'll be glad to call  
it home!*

How to reach us:

#### Resident Services

Director of Resident Services  
Philip Manion  
412-402-2422

Assistant Director of  
Resident Services:  
Barbara Baulding  
412-402-2523

Community and Supportive  
Services Coordinator  
Richard Crowley  
(412) 402 2609

Support Specialists:  
Erica Fields  
Ann Boyda  
(412) 771-0328

Hope VI Homeownership  
Counselor:  
Amy Fox  
412-402-2481

#### Housing Choice Voucher Program

Special Programs Coordinator:  
Ellen Parker  
(412) 402-2476



## GUESS WHO LIVED IN PUBLIC HOUSING?

Whoopi Goldberg was born on November 13, 1955 in the Chelsea Projects of Manhattan. Her birth name is Caryn Elaine Johnson. It wasn't until the seventies that she changed her name to Whoopi Goldberg, as we all know her. Whoopi began performing at the age of eight with the Children's Program at the Hudson Guild and the Helena Rubinstein Children's Theatre. She dropped out of high school and went from job to job and even had periods of unemployment. During this time she had a daughter, Alexandra.

In 1975, Whoopi took her daughter and headed west to start a new life. It was in San Diego she began her career and adopted her stage name Whoopi Goldberg. It wasn't until 1984 that Whoopi was discovered while performing with a theatre group in New York. In 1985, the record album for her solo breakthrough Broadway production won a Grammy Award



as Best Comedy Recording of the year. It was also featured on HBO as Whoopi Goldberg: Direct from Broadway. This was just the beginning for Whoopi. She continues to be seen in films, sitcoms, games shows and has won several awards for her work and a comedian and actress. She has won an Oscar, a Grammy, two Golden Globes, a Tony and several NAACP Image Awards.

*Information gathered from  
[acmewebpages.com/whoopie](http://acmewebpages.com/whoopie)*

### Tips to Keep Your Children Safe in the Kitchen

Never hold a child while you are cooking

Store a fire extinguisher out of kid's reach, but easily accessible to adults.

Use back burners of the stove when possible and turn towards

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safety

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lassware

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1 unplug  
e cords