

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

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**Sun Facts:
Protecting Your Kids**

- If a child gets even one blistering sunburn, his/her risk of skin cancer doubles, so don't skip even one afternoon of protecting your kids.
- Clothing doesn't offer complete protection. A plain T-shirt only offers SPF of about 4, so kids still need to be coated in sun screen.
- You can put sunscreen on babies younger than 6 months.
- The skin needs about a half an hour to absorb sunscreen, so apply it to kids before they go outside or in pool.
- Sunscreen should be lathered on thickly about every 2-4 hours.
- Be sure to purchase sunscreens of SPF 15 or higher with a broad spectrum formula that protects against both UVA and UVB rays.
- Protect your child's eyes by making sure they wear sunglasses. Look for glasses marked as 100% UV protection. If your child will not wear glasses, make them wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect eyes from sun. Sun damage can lead to vision problems later in life.

*Info gathered from
www.unitedwaypittsburgh.com*

**THE HOMES AT PLEASANT RIDGE
SALES OFFICE NOW OPEN**

Whether you have already begun the process of buying a home at Pleasant Ridge or you are newly interested, you can now stop by the Sales Office located at the former OVA site, now called Pleasant Ridge. The office is located on Jefferson Drive, McKees Rocks in the Pleasant Ridge Community Center. Come in and speak to sale representatives about your progress in becoming a home owner . You can also stop in and learn about what steps are needed to become a homeowner at Pleasant Ridge.



*Pleasant Ridge Construction Progress
Spring 2005*

[First Home at Pleasant Ridge Purchased by Former OVA Resident!](#)

The very first home reserved for purchase at Pleasant Ridge will go to former OVA resident Anjeannette Chandler who has made her deposit and chosen a lot for her very own home. We are currently working with other residents who would like to purchase homes at the new community. It is not too late , you can stop by the sales office or call Erica and Ann at 412-771-0328 for more information on how you too can own your very own brand new home.

**The Sales Office is open Wednesdays from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM;
Saturdays 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; and Sundays 12:00PM to 6:00 PM.**



Free Homebuyers' Workshop

Neighborhood Housing Services is offering a free Homebuyers' Workshop sponsored by Sky bank on Saturday July 30, 2005. This informational workshop will assist residents interested in learning how to buy a home. The workshop will be located in Downtown Pittsburgh. Anyone interested should call Julie Hearth at (412) 281-9774 or email at info@nhsdpa.org.



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

The Allegheny County Housing Authority would like to recognize Alia Wahid for her outstanding achievements while living in Public Housing and participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Alia graduated this year with her Bachelor's Degree in English/Writing from the University of Pittsburgh. She is already planning to return to the University of Pittsburgh's Communication Department next

year to get her Master's Degree.

Alia was able to accomplish her educational goals while holding down a full time job as well as raising four children on her own. She credits her children and faith with motivating her to keep going even when things were tough.

Alia has been published in the University of Pittsburgh Newspaper. She also has books of poetry written and is interested in

writing a novel of her own one day.

Alia wants other single mothers out there to



Alia Wahid on graduation day

know that although it isn't easy, they too can accomplish goals such as she did by getting her degree. Alia says, "Anything is possible with dedication and faith in Christ".

Alia would like to go on to obtain her master's degree and then work on obtaining permanent employment.

The ACHA applauds Alia for all her accomplishments and wishes her luck and encouragement is her future endeavors.

HOPE VI GIVES NEW ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TO A NEW GROUP OF PUBLIC HOUSING, SECTION 8 AND LOW- AND VERY-LOW INCOME RESIDENTS THROUGH IT'S SECTION 3 PROGRAM

An additional Resident Construction Training Initiative has been created for public housing, Section 8, low- and very-low income residents of the Pleasant Ridge Community and surrounding area families.

The initiative is called, "The Resident Construction Training Initiative" and it has been very successful, not only at the Pleasant Ridge Community, but also in the Meyers Ridge HOPE VI Community. The concept is basic—and successful. We, that is ACHA, believe that "opportunities for low

income public housing and Section 8 clients help prepare those who are on social assistance" for the construction trades work. We believe, basically, all residents should be given an opportunity to explore and succeed in their career choices. We, at Allegheny County Housing Authority, in collaboration with Mistick Construction, Inc., want to provide the opportunity for residents to become equipped for the construction job market.

Residents are interviewed on a first come basis. They may have never used a hammer or hit a nail or held down a full-time regular job. Most of the applicants have either a GED or high school diploma. Last year, according to Charles Brown, the Associate Director

of Business and Economic Initiatives, ACHA placed eight (8) residents in regular full-time construction jobs. And, as of this date, in 2005, ACHA and Mistick Construction, Inc. have placed an additional seven (7) residents in the construction trades. A total of fifteen (15) have secured regular jobs through the training initiatives.

The Resident Construction Training Initiative offers on-the-job construction trade training through the pre-apprenticeship program. The initiative is designed to address each resident's need by providing on-site personal and educational counseling, formal math, reading, blueprint reading, tool safety and life skills training. Each resident, at the end of the training, is interviewed by a contractor for employment and/or further training in the

trade discipline of choice. The residents are monitored after placement. All clients are expected to graduate and secure jobs.

At the end of the initiative, the trainees would have helped revitalized an entire community.

We, at Allegheny County Housing Authority and Mistick Construction, Inc., look for people who are willing to learn a trade, who want to be taught, who seek to be successful, and who want to go beyond self-sufficiency to excel at the craft of choice.

Contact

Mr. Charles Brown, Associated Director of Business and Economic Initiatives

At The Allegheny County Housing Authority
Phone: (412) 402-2487 or
Fax Resume' to (412) 471-8884
E.O.E.



INTRODUCING THE NEW HOPE VI MIXED FINANCE COORDINATOR

Tisha Ghee is the new Hope VI/ Mixed Finance Coordinator in the Development Department. She comes to us with a background in public housing development from both the public and private sectors. She has worked on several development projects for the Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh. These included three successful mixed finance projects as well as Hope VI

projects in the Pittsburgh area. Tisha has experienced the entire process of public housing mixed finance from site acquisition to closing as well as relocation of residents. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and currently holds a real estate license in the state of PA. If you have any questions please contact her at 412-402-2506.



Tisha Ghee, ACHA Hope VI / Mixed Finance Coordinator

TYRELL MORRISON 2005 WOODLAND HILLS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE EARNS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP TO PITT!

Tyrell and his mother, Carol (pictured below) have a lot to be proud



of. Tyrell will graduate in June from Woodland Hills High School with a 3.85 GPA and a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Raised in Hawkins Village, Tyrell is the oldest of six children all of whom are honor roll students.

Tyrell's mother describes him as being very shy, something we were able to discern during the interview, as he did not speak much. A member of the Woodland Hills Wolver-

ine Football team, Tyrell is a wide receiver. He is also involved in the choir and has honors as a member of the All American Scholars and the National Honor Society. In his spare time, Tyrell works at the Waterfront McDonald's as a crew-member.

Tyrell is a recipient of the 2005 ACHA Partial Educational Scholarship. In college he plans to major in Computer Science Engineering.

Congratulations to ACHA's Class of 2005 High School Graduates

- Burns Heights:** Quallan Hawkins; Aaron Scott
- Millvue Acres:** Erie Gooden
- Prospect Terrace:** Natasha Lowery
- Mapleview Terrace:** Jasmine Bowie
- Sheldon Park:** Whitney Hayden; La Toya McDonald; Emika Harris; Dorian Pollard; Kevin Washington; Katrina Yossa
- Groveton Village:** Marquia Thomas; Matthew Duff
- Hawkins Village:** Tyrell Morrison; Brittany Jones; Jeremy Covington; Tekiya Brown
- Uansa Village:** Marko Twiman

2005 ACHA Scholarship Program Award Recipients

- Kristina Edwards
- Courtney Boyd
- Dyanna Moore
- Charlana Thorn
- Khadijah Allen
- Dorien Gibbons
- Tyrell Morrison
- Dionne O'Neill
- Jayla Phillips

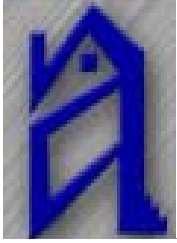
Kid's Corner

Hi Kids!

Finally, it is almost here! All of you coming back that is! They are building your new homes like crazy! I can't believe how much has been built since we last spoke, soon you will all be coming back to live with me at Pleasant Ridge! Many of the rental units are already completed and the homes for purchase are well on their way to being built. I have been listening to the construction workers and they are saying that you may be able to move back in as early as late August! I can't wait to see you!



They have also started working on the new Community Center. Only about one half of it will be ready by the time you all come back but should be totally built by the end of the year. You remember, this is the place where we can all play and have fun. It is also that place where your families can get much needed services to help with just about everything! Please remind your parents to get in touch with their Case Managers, either Ann or Erica to make sure they are ready to move back soon. Time is running out and everyone who wants to come back must call them. Their phone number is (412) 771-0328. Please make sure they call them, I really want to see you again! See you all soon at Pleasant Ridge!



News and Notes

Allegheny County Housing Authority

625 Stanwix Street, 12th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 355-8940
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*
Dick Crowley
(412) 402 2609

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

Housing Choice Voucher Program

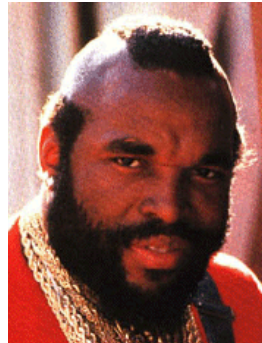
Special Programs Coordinator:
Ellen Parker
(412) 402-2476



GUESS WHO LIVED IN PUBLIC HOUSING?

One of the most recognizable T.V. stars of the early 1980's, Mr. T, was born in public housing. Mr. T, birth name Lawrence Tureaud, was born in a tough Southside Chicago housing project. He was the second youngest of 12 siblings. His father left the family when he was 5 and his mother was left to raise the family in a 3 bedroom apartment on a \$100 monthly welfare check.

Mr. T was devoted to his mother and straightened himself out in early adolescence so he wouldn't shame his



mother by going to jail. He graduated from Dunbar Vocational High School and attended a year of college until joining the Army and serving as a military policeman. He was recruited by the Green Bay Packers but suffered a serious knee injury and went on to become a body guard.

He worked for stars such as Muhammad Ali, Michael Jackson, and Diana Ross.

Sylvester Stallone offered Mr. T his first acting job after seeing him on the TV show 'Games People Play'. He was cast in Rocky III in 1982. He then went on to do the A-Team and even had an action figure and cereal named after him.

Since the A-Team series ended, Mr. T's acting career has been sporadic but he still appears in movies and television shows.

*Info gathered from
www.movies.channel.aol.com*