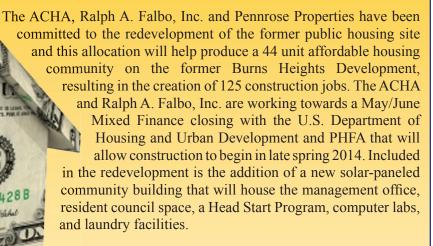


### PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF ACHA RECEIVES LOW-INCOME TAX CREDIT AWARD

Despite not being funded by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) in previous low-income housing tax credit funding rounds, the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) and Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. were determined to give the Duquesne Orchard Park project one last attempt to received low-income housing tax credits from PHFA.

In July 2013, with the support of Allegheny County Chief Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, State Senator Jim Brewster, City of Duquesne Mayor Phil Krivacek, and State Representative Marc Gergley, the application received a low-income housing tax credit allocation from PHFA in the amount of \$1,155,284. Given the current market for selling the tax credit to investors, this allocation will produce an estimated \$10,700,000 in equity to help fund the development.



Construction is expected to last 12-14 months and the buildings should be ready to lease in late fall 2015

~ Ed Primm



WWW.PHFA.ORG

Brian Hudson, PHFA



PA State Senator Jim Brewster



Phil Krivacek, Duquesne Mayor



Rich Fitzgerald, Chief Executive

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2013 was a very difficult year financially, for the ACHA. Sequestration hit the ACHA hard in March of 2013 resulting in fourteen (14) layoffs. Later in the year, the Authority eliminated the Legal Department in another action dictated by the lack of Federal funding. 2013 was also a productive one:

- Andrew Carnegie Apartments was redeveloped by ACHA with the assistance of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.
- The ACHA received funding from PHFA (tax credits) to redevelop the former Burns Heights site to a new development, Orchard Park.
- Sheldon Park Apartments exterior improvements including roof, window, & siding replacement.
- General Braddock Tower modernization of the top three (3) floors.
- Acquired Pine Ridge Heights in Harrison Township adding 40 units of senior housing to ACHA's inventory.

Congratulations to the Housing Choice Voucher Program Department for achieving "High Performer" status.

Congratulations to the Housing Management Operations Department on the excellent audits.

Finally, I would like to thank each employee for their effort and dedication in making the ACHA a better place for our residents.

Frank appayin



Pine Ridge Heights, Natrona Heights, PA

# **ACHA HCVP DEPT. - HIGH PERFORMER**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program was designated a High Performer for the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) certification for fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. SEMAP enables HUD to better manage the Section 8 tenant-based program by identifying PHA capabilities and deficiencies related to the administration of the Section 8 program.

On Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at the Western Pennsylvania Housing Directors Association (WPHDA) meeting, the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) was awarded a Certificate of Superior Accomplishment for recognition of designation as a High Performer under the Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) for the 2013 Fiscal Year. Jacqueline Molinaro-Thompson, Director, Field Office of Public Housing, HUD Pittsburgh, presented the award to ACHA staff members Frank Aggazio, Executive Director, Kim Longwell, Director of HCVP, Robert

Gabbianelli, Associate Director HCVP and Ellen Parker, Quality Control Supervisor HCVP.



#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

The Allegheny County Housing Authority would like to take the time to express appreciation to staff members involved in emergency response and repairs that took place on one particularly terrible day this winter. On January 10th, a very cold day, the Housing Authority found itself having to deal with five (5) incidents throughout our public housing facilities that needed attention as soon as possible. Among those incidents were the failure of heating units, on a day in which the temperatures were in the negatives, a flooding incident at the Homestead Apartments, as well as other issues that needed immediate attention in order to ensure the safety and comfort of our residents.

Staff members from HMO, Maintenance Aides, Trades, Resident Services, MIS and others responded as best they could to remedy all the issues that happened to pop up one after another during such terrible conditions. Staff did everything they could and more with some working far into the hours of the night making sure those in our communities were taken care of. It was truly a team effort and again a debt of gratitude is owed to all who were involved, going that extra mile to make the ACHA a safe and comfortable place to live.

# THE FIRST TEE CLUBHOUSE



In the summer of 2012, the ACHA awarded contracts to Moret Construction, Controlled Climate, Merit Electric Group, and Merante Plumbing to begin construction on The First Tee of Pittsburgh @ Pleasant Ridge Clubhouse. The Clubhouse, located at the 3-hole golf course in Pleasant Ridge, is a 2,000 square foot facility featuring a classroom area to teach the nine core life skills values to The First Tee of Pittsburgh @ Pleasant Ridge program participants. The building also has a game improvement area, which houses two golf simulators, allowing for First Tee participants to practice their game in a controlled environment. The building is now complete and operational since the summer of 2013. The clubhouse is staffed and operated by The First Tee of Pittsburgh with operating costs funded through The First Tee of Pittsburgh @ Pleasant Ridge Golf Outing. Special thanks to Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and State Senator Wayne Fontana for their support of this worthwhile endeavor.

To learn more about The First Tee of Pittburgh visit ~ *Ed Primm* www.thefirstteepittsburgh.org













# NOT JUST GOLF LESSONS. LIFE LESSONS.



TheFirstTeePittsburgh.org





# FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY SUCCESS - RONISHA HARPER



Ronisha Harper moves into her new home

The Resident Services department would like to take the time to congratulate Ronisha Harper on her graduation from the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) and her recent purchase of a new home this past year. For those unfamiliar, FSS is a benefit program offered by the ACHA to its residents in the hopes of promoting self-sufficiency. ACHA staff works closely with FSS program clients in obtaining both public and private resources to become free of welfare and other types government assistance, with the goal of gaining/furthering employment and becoming financially and economically independent. Ms. Harper signed up for the program in 2011 and along with her FSS caseworker Terri Hinkofer mapped out an individual service plan which included, among other things, her main goal of home ownership. Along the way she was able to find steady employment and was also referred to and completed credit and home ownership counseling as well.

One of the main benefits of the program is whenever a participant has an increase in earned income a portion of their rent increase may qualify to be placed into an escrow account in their name. The contract lasts a period of up to five years and upon completion of the program you are able to collect that money set aside in the escrow account. Ms. Harper took advantage of this benefit after she gained employment and over the course of her participation accrued monthly installments into her account. With home ownership being her ultimate goal she chose to use the money accumulated to be used as a down payment on the new house she now shares with her two sons.

The ACHA applauds Ronisha for her participation in the FSS program and the hard work and determination she put forth during her time as a LIPH resident. We wish her the best of luck and support as she moves forward in this new chapter of her family's life. If you have interest or questions about the FSS program please feel free to contact us or review the information on the Resident Services page of the ACHA website. 2 = 2 ach Leplev

## **BRINGING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO SENIOR COMMUNITIES**

**O**n December 16, 2013, Allegheny County Housing Authority executives and staff visited several senior citizen communities to deliver kindness and cheer in the form of Christmas carols. The tour included R.J. Corbett Apts., West View Tower, Blawnox Manor, Dalton's Edge, Harrison Hi-Rise, G.W. Carver Hall, and Jefferson Manor.



# ACHA WEBSITE GETS AN EXTREME MAKEOVER

The Allegheny County Housing Authority's MIS Department recently gave the agency's aging website an "Extreme Makeover." The updated site was unveiled and "live" on November 22, 2013. The website was completely rebuilt to integrate improvements and new features making the site more user friendly and content dynamic.

Information is presented in a practical manner and is much easier to locate and access. Important links in the right sidebar change with the relevance of the pages you visit making common actions just one click away. From application, to paying rent, it's easier than ever for visitors, residents, and business partners to navigate and find exactly what they're looking for quickly. The new "Frequently Asked Questions" elements will help service and support common inquiries. Program information, forms, and applications are now easily accessible to the public.

Our business partners will appreciate new sections dedicated to their interests. A new Forum (still in the works) will add a whole new dimension to communication - including, but not limited to ACHA procurement & advertising, Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), Landlord and Tenant forums, Low-Income Public Housing (LIPH) Community specific forums.

Please visit us online at www.achsng.com to explore and discover what the ACHA is all about!

بقر فبنجني فتغتفي



**O**n September 4, 2013, the ACHA responded to a Request for Proposals for Website Design, Development, Hosting & Supportive Services from the Armstrong County Housing Authority. Following a review of proposals the ACHA was selected and awarded the contract. The MIS Department completed this contract while simultaneously working on the ACHA website. Here's a timeline of the Armstrong Housing Authority website development:

Nov. 4 - 29, 2013 - HACA submitted website content (info, photos, forms) Dec. 6, 2013 - All PHP (hypertext preprocessor) pages are completed

Dec. 11, 2013 - ACHA MIS visits HACA to initiate setup of online account with provider.

Dec.18, 2013 - The HACA website is LIVE at www.hacarmstrong.org

Jan.16, 2014 - New Email accounts set up at provider.

Jan. 29, 2014 - All built-in features integrated: Google Map and Calendar, a phpBB3 Message Board, and a Search Tool.

Feb. 5, 2014 - ACHA MIS completed HACA Website and Message Board training. ~ Dean Allen





# ACHA FRAUD HOTLINE

The ACHA Police Department recently launched its Fraud Hot-line on the Allegheny County Housing Authority website. With the help from the Management & Information Systems (MIS) Department, ACHA police can now view on-line complaints regarding fraudulent activity within the public housing and section 8 programs. Please visit www.achsng.com to report fraud from our main page or simply go to the police department page to submit the fraud tip form. All inquiries are kept confidential and there is no obligation to leave your name. All cases are investigated by ACHA detectives and criminal charges are filed when warranted.



#### **EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT**

**B**eginning in October of 2012, the Allegheny County Housing Authority (Three **Rivers** Communities. Inc.--TRCI) joined as a lead agency in the Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program initiative. Eligible activities under ESG include traditional shelter and outreach activities. as well as prevention and



re-housing activities- rental assistance, housing relocation or stabilization services, credit repair, security deposits, utility arrearage payments, and moving costs or other relocation or stabilization activities, as allowable per federal and local policies. These prevention activities are similar to those funded under the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, in which TRCI served a lead agency for the duration of the program, 2009-2012.

Three Rivers Communities Inc. determines rent reasonableness and inspects units to ensure clients are moving into affordable, safe, and sanitary units. Through January 2013, nearly 600 inspections were completed and 500 rent reasonableness requests were processed, for ESG. Staff members working on this project include Bobby Gabbianelli, Bob Potts, Ed Primm, and Kate Vitek.

# ACHA EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH for 2013

For consistently showing enthusiasm and working with an unwavering positive attitude. You've clearly made a difference. We acknowledge our appreciation.

JAN	Kate Gilboy
FEB	Jeffrey Lehew
MAR	LaShawna Hammond
APR	David Majeski
JUN	David Cutone
JUL	Tom Smith
SEP	Marlene Sanders
ОСТ	Jack Kearney
NOV	Ron Yates
DEC	Kathryn Rose

#### THANK YOU!

#### **RESIDENT SERVICES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Resident leaders from across the County representing more than fifteen (15) Allegheny County Housing Authority sites attended the Resident Services Department's Leadership Conference "Leadership Is Its Own Reward". Also in attendance at the Conference were representatives, staff and residents from the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh. The Conference was held in late October at the Allegheny County Department of



ACHA Residents & Property Managers

Human Services Building. Guest speakers included DeWitt Walton, United Steelworkers/A. Phillip Randolph Institute, Lynne Hayes-Freeland, KDKA TV News, Cynthia L. Haines, HUD Field Operations Specialist and Mike Vogel, ACHA Chief of Police.

The Conference began with a continental breakfast and opening remarks from the Authority's Executive Director, Frank Aggazio. Attendees then moved to the morning session, Leadership-The Good, the Bad, the Ugly presented by Ms. Haines. Residents were then able to select from two workshops, Community Participation or Community Safety prior to lunch sponsored by Gateway Health Plan. Lunch was followed up with a Conversation with Lynne, given by Ms. Freeland. The Conference was capped off with ACHA Bingo using bingo cards designed by staff.

In addition to Gateway Health Plan, special thanks goes out to our other partners and conference contributors, Dollar Bank, UPMC, Coventry Care, American Healthcare Group, Home Depot and Enterprise Rent-A-Car for their donations of money and or materials to this event.

# WEST VIEW TOWER GOES GREEN WITH GARDENING



Mirella Vercillo, West View Tower Resident & Gardener

ACHA'S senior community West View Tower is the site of a fine new garden project organized by resident, Mirella Vercillo. The local Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 83 of West United Methodist Church, were kind enough to help the seniors of West View by excavating the area and installing timber edging, posts & fencing, topsoil & mulch.

The garden features a variety of flowers and vegetables - 5 types of tomatoes, 3 types of squash, peppers, lettuce, garlic, eggplant, peas, beans, zucchini, and an array of herbs. The flowers were selected specifically to attract butterflies and helpful insects. Residents of West View Tower benefit from the produce of the garden.

This year, the local Girl Scouts of America (GSA) Troop will be working on making the area a bird sanctuary and butterfly home. Preparation for the 2014 garden will begin as spring weather breaks.





#### **MWDBE 13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Minority Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Governmental Committee hosted the 13th Annual Conference on March 6, 2013. The event took place at IBEW Hall at 5 Hot Metal Street, Southside. Kim Evans, MWDBE/Section 3 Coordinator of the Allegheny County Housing Authority's Development Department was the Conference Chair. The event was well attended with over 300 people.

The morning portion of the event featured presenters from various companies/agencies from Allegheny County and surrounding areas having contracting opportunities available. Mr. Derrick Wilson, President and CEO, of the Wilson Group LLC delivered the



MWDBE Conference Participants & Award Recipients

DBE spotlight presentation for the conference. Expositions were followed by a networking session around thirty-four (34) exhibit booths representing various government agencies.

The mission of the MWDBE Governmental Committee is "To create effective methods that strengthen economic opportunities for Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. To provide assistance enabling contractors and businesses to secure contracts in goods and service, construction and professional services markets leading to profitability and growth for these businesses". The MWDBE Governmental Committee consists of a group of city, state county and federal governmental representatives.

The Allegheny County Housing Authority's MWDBE/Section 3 Department is striving to increase the number of MBE, WBE, and DBE businesses and resident owned businesses in securing contracts with ACHA and other agencies.

#### ANDREW CARNEGIE APTS. REVITALIZATION COMPLETE - 100% OCCUPIED



Taking lessons learned from the private developer world over the past decade, the ACHA (through Three Rivers Communities, Inc.) self-developed its first low-income housing tax credit project. On November 1, 2013, Andrew Carnegie Apartments received its Certificate of Occupancy. Meeting the PHFA December 31, 2013, *Placed-In-Service* requirements, with great help and assistance from the Housing Management Operations Department, the building was 100% leased by the middle of December 2013.

The building has been transformed in a beautiful 17 unit building with laundry facilities on all levels to assist the residents with their laundry needs. The development also features a geo-thermal heating and cooling system with individually control systems in the apartments. New landscaping and additional parking have added to the development with fresh curb appeal. The building has completely undergone a transformation in reducing the unit sizes to accommodate the appropriate population for a building that is located on a busy stretch of roadway.



# **COAL DISCOVERY ON FORMER BURNS HEIGHTS SITE**

**M**uch to the surprise of the ACHA and Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. team, during the demolition of the buildings and footers of the Burns Heights Development, a coal seam was discovered at the development. Even though housing had existed on the site since 1942, because of changes over time to the environmental regulations and laws the geo-technical engineer overseeing the demolition of the buildings needed to report the discovery of coal to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to determine what needed to be done with the coal.



Since the demolition, the coal has remained in place. However, because new housing is being built on the site, the PADEP is requiring that all surface coal be removed and replaced with suitable fill which will provide a solid base for construction. In the redevelopment process, the coal removal is the sole responsibility of the developer. Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. is in the process of obtaining the proper permits to remove the coal, procuring a coal removal company, and using any net proceeds from the sale of the coal to help fund the redevelopment project. As a commodity of the open market, coal prices fluctuate on a daily basis. It is anticipated that the coal sale will net approximately \$600,000. If this amount is not realized, ACHA and Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. will submit an application to PHFA for additional tax credits.

# **VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION - BOOKER CENTER TEENS vs. ACHA STAFF**



The Deborah D. Booker Community Center hosted a Housing Authority Staff vs. the Booker Teens Volleyball Game on May 9th. There was a great turnout of staff and teens. Competition started out light, as the teams began testing one another's skills. Both teams had their fair share of experienced players and the competition began.

Although the Housing Authority Staff came out as the winners, the Booker Teens claim that they took it easy on the "older folks" and let them win. Whatever the case, we thank all participants and a special thanks to those Housing Authority Staff who donated money to the Booker Center to have a Pizza Night. ~ Elaine Dillman

#### THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.

Its mission is "to support, promote, and enhance the personal and professional development of law enforcement leaders by preparing them for complex, dynamic, and contemporary challenges through innovative techniques, facilitating excellence in education and research, and forging partnerships throughout the world." The FBI National Academy is a ten (10) week course and is located on the Marine Base in Quantico Virginia.

WHO ATTENDS: Leaders and managers of state and local police, sheriffs' departments, military police organizations, and federal law enforcement agencies. Participation is by invitation only, though a nomination process. Participants are drawn from every state in the union, Graduation Ceremony March 22, 2013 with FBI Direcfrom U.S. territories, and from over 160 international partner nations.



tor Robert S. Mueller and ACHA Police Chief Mike

THE COURSE OF STUDY: Classes of some 250 officers take undergraduate and/or graduate college courses credited by the University of Virginia in the following areas: law, behavioral science, forensic science, understanding terrorism/ terrorist mindsets, leadership development, communication, and health/fitness. Officers participate in a wide range of leadership and specialized training, and they share ideas, techniques, and experiences with each other, creating lifelong partnerships that span state and national lines.

"THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD": Anyone who's attended the National Academy knows all about the "Yellow Brick Road," the final test of the fitness challenge. It consists of a 6.1-mile grueling run through a hilly, wooded trail built by the Marines. Along the way, the participants must climb over walls, run through creeks, jump through simulated windows, scale rock faces with ropes, crawl under barbed wire in muddy water, maneuver across a cargo net, and more. When (and if) the students complete this difficult test, they receive an actual yellow brick to memorialize their achievement. The course came to be known as the "Yellow Brick Road" years ago, after the Marines placed yellow bricks at various spots to show runners the way through the wooded trail.

ACHA Police Chief, Mike Vogel: The FBI NA is the most prestigious and elite training in the world. I am very honored to have been afforded the opportunity to represent the ACHAPD in such a world renowned training academy. The training was very challenging academically as well as physically. The friendships I made will last a lifetime and the memories will last forever. ~ Chief Mike Vogel

#### ACHA WORD SEARCH FUN

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SHELDON PARK APTS BRACKENRIDGE HALL GOLDEN TOWER RACHEL CARSON HALL PHILIP BURTNER APTS PINE RIDGE HEIGHTS SHARPS TERRACE BLAWNOX APTS SPRINGDALE MANOR ROBERT J CORBETT APTS WEST VIEW TOWER HAYS MANOR UANSA VILLAGE ANDREW CARNEGIE APTS OHIOVIEW TOWER GROVETON VILLAGE MILLVUE ACRES GW CARVER HALL HARRY S TRUMAN APTS HOMESTEAD APTS HAWKINS VILLAGE MAPLEVIEW TERRACE GENERAL BRADDOCK TOWER DUMPLIN HALL PROSPECT TERRACE JEFFERSON MANOR WILMERDING APTS JOHN FRASER HALL NEGLEY GARDENS CENTURION COMMMONS CALDWELL STATION FOREST GREEN PLEASANT RIDGE MEYERS RIDGE LAVENDER HEIGHTS MONROE MEADOWS WEST PINE APTS DALTONS EDGE NORTH HILLS HIGHLANDS TWIN OAKS MEADOWS AT FOREST GLEN

### ACHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ATTENDS PRESIDENTS VISIT TO WEST MIFFLIN

A day after his State-of-the-Union speech, President Barack Obama made a scheduled stop at the U.S. Steel Irvin Plant in West Mifflin to give a speech to a crowd of about 1,000 plant workers and invited guests. Among those noted invitees was our very own Executive Director Frank Aggazio. Mr. Aggazio received an invitation to attend this historical event from the White House Office of Public Engagement HUD Regional Administrator, Jane Vincent, and was more than willing to accept.

While the President took a guided tour of the facility, eager attendees showed up hours early to sift through airport-like security screenings and anxiously await what messages the Commander in Chief would share with them. Once inside those in attendance gathered as close as possible to the makeshift stage with a banner reading "OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL" hanging above.

When asked about his expectations prior to the program Mr. Aggazio said he, "wasn't sure, I didn't know what to expect. I really had no expectations personally." What anyone could expect though was once the president was inside, the room filled with the fanfare that often accompanies the President. After the cheers and music had died down President Obama gave a speech that highlighted what he had talked about the previous evening during the State-of-the-Union, amongst those his desire to urge the increase of the minimum wage and his renewed vows to make this a year of action. And action is what next took place in two ways, one for the country as a whole and secondly for our own Frank Aggazio personally.

Concluding his speech the President moved from podium to desk where he signed an order establishing a new retirement vehicle dubbed "MyRA", a program that allows those not able to afford the initial investment of traditional retirement accounts to start a safe and secure account of their own. And as soon as the ink hit paper the President made his way down the steps to meet the masses, or at least those lucky enough to be in the first few rows. And there is where we find Frank, "During the speech I was in about the third row to the left of the podium he was speaking at, but when he stepped over to sign the bill I was directly in front of him."



As one would expect the crowd pushed forward for a chance to shake the hand of the President and Mr. Aggazio was no exception in that role. He edged forward with outstretched arm and soon found himself briefly making contact with the man himself. Now prior to the event it was stated clearly that there would not be an opportunity to meet the President and to be clear there was no formal introduction between the two, but for one brief moment Mr. Aggazio was personally connected to one of the most influential and powerful people in the world. When asked how he felt after the handshake had come and gone Mr. Aggazio simply stated "it was a an honor and thrill being there." A nice surprise it surely was and no doubt a story Frank Aggazio can carry with him for a long time.



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#### **EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2014** ANY OF THESE CONVENIENT WAYS: DEBIT PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE IN LONGER ACCEPTED AT THE **RENT PAYMENTS ARE NO** ACHA CENTRAL OFFICE 625 STANWIX STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA 15222 412-355-8940 • www.achsng.com click PAY RENT ONLINE banner www.achsng.com PAY RENT ONLINE 1-800-961-6184 PAY BY PHONE pay by ACHA monthly statement sign up with ACHA Property Manager automated withdrawal from bank DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT LOCKBOX (by mail) HOUSING COUNTY ALLEGHENY AUTHORITY **ACHA-Rental Payments** Pittsburgh, PA 15264-4721 PO Box 644721