

Rochester Housing Authority times

Letter from Shawn



Happy Fall!

It's been quite the busy Fall following on the heels of a busy – and momentous – Summer!

In August, RHA hosted the groundbreaking for our new Federal Street and Scattered Sites affordable housing development project. We had a packed house followed by many congratulatory remarks from state representatives and our local community partners.

This project will create 18 new homes at the currently blighted RHA property on Federal Street. This includes two low-rise, multi-family buildings and a single-family home, plus free Wi-Fi, an electric vehicle charging station, and a playground.

The remaining 24 sites will create or rehabilitate 53 energy-efficient homes. Located primarily within the Beechwood neighborhood, all housing combined will include 26 two-bedroom, 22 three-bedroom, and five four-bedroom units. Rehabilitated homes will include new high-efficiency boilers, improved ventilation, enhanced insulation, and window replacements. Nine apartments will have supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness. This is the first of many projects to help increase, preserve, and diversify housing options and revitalize neighborhoods.



We are also excited to be moving forward with our next public housing preservation project at Parliament Arms and Fairfield Village, located at 2120 St. Paul Street and 35 Luther Circle. These locations currently house 96 multifamily apartments, none of which are accessible. At Parliament Arms, the current eight-unit building at the rear of the site will be demolished and replaced with a 15-unit, fully-accessible elevator building complete with an accessible community room. At Fairfield Village, three units will receive additions and alterations to be made ADA-accessible. Once completed, Parliament-Fairfield will have 103 total residences. In addition to accessibility, the rehabilitation will

also improve marketability, energy efficiency, and tenant quality of life. We will continue to share the progress on this project with you during the coming months.

Stay tuned and follow us on Facebook (@RochesterHousingAuthority) for project updates and upcoming events.

As we head into the colder months, please stay safe and make sure your smoke and CO detectors are working. Please enjoy this newsletter, and remember, the good that we do affects the good that will continue into the future.

Shawn Burr, Executive Director

Human Resources

Special Congratulations

Please welcome our new staff member Loretha J. McCullough, HR Director. With more than 30 years of corporate experience, Loretha has held roles in Human Resources, Lean Six Sigma, and Customer Experience. She is a graduate of the 2005 Leadership Rochester Program, and in 2006 was recognized as one of Rochester's Emerging African American Leaders.

Special congratulations to Natasha Dicks for starting her new position as DEI Officer. Natasha Dicks is a Human Resource Professional with more than a decade of diverse and progressive HR experience. Her vision is to ensure an inclusive culture, and she is dedicated to creating a diverse environment that builds opportunities of learning and growth to foster respect and belonging within the workplace.

Special congratulations also to Mariam Rodriguez-Machuca for starting her new position as Compliance Coordinator.

Kudos Korner

Employees who have shown exceptional performance or made a significant contribution to RHA can be candidates for Kudos Korner. Congratulations to the most recent Kudos Korner employees: Uttara Chatterjee (Clerk 1); Raul Hernandez (Sr. Housing Specialist); Jessica Ortiz (Clerk III/Bilingual); David Browning (Systems Engineer III); Aleks Gedmintas (Public Housing Inspector); Melissa Berrien (Family Self Sufficiency Supervisor); and Betty Colon (Housing Specialist/Bilingual). If you've had a great experience with one of our staff, you can nominate them by stopping by RHA's headquarters at 675 W. Main Street.



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Language Access Plan (LAP). As part of its ongoing efforts to provide equal opportunity in outreach practices and decisions, the DE&I Committee finalized a Language Access Plan to adopt new procedures and to work with community organizations and Language Access Liaisons to identify opportunities to enhance our services. The committee continues to work with RHA's Language Access Liaisons and other key stakeholders on the implementation of our LAP procedures

We also want to congratulate Deputy Executive Director Cynthia Herriott for being a finalist in the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce's Colors of Success DEI Leadership Awards.



Don't Struggle with High Internet Fees!

RHA residents can qualify for a \$30/month discount on internet services. Applying is easy:

Have your social security number available, then call (877) 384-2575. (Be sure to ask about a one-time discount of up to \$100 for purchase of a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet through a participating provider.)

Once you are approved, contact your Internet Service Provider and ask them to apply the discount to your monthly bill. That's it!



Homeownership

Instead of using your voucher subsidy to help with rent, the RHA Homeownership Voucher Program provides the opportunity for existing voucher holders to use their voucher subsidy to purchase a home and pay for monthly homeownership expenses. We currently have four families with pending home closings and 11 who closed this year throughout Monroe County. Congratulations!



If you're interested, contact the Resident Services Department at (585) 232-1112 or scan the QR code to learn more.

Fraud Hotline

Do you suspect fraud or abuse within our housing programs? We are committed to maintaining the integrity of our programs and ensuring a safe and fair environment for all residents. Your help is crucial in identifying and preventing fraudulent activities. If you have any information or concerns, you may anonymously report them to our dedicated Fraud Hotline. Please call (585) 328-0980 or email reportfraud@rochesterhousing.org.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program Update

Our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a voluntary employment and savings incentive program. We currently have 184 participants enrolled in the program. Recent achievements include two recent graduates who came to the program with employment goals. One who graduated after eight years now is entitled to more than \$14,000 in escrow savings. The second program participant graduated after six years and now is entitled to receive nearly \$9,000 in escrow savings.



If you're interested in learning more about the FSS program, please contact your Public Housing or Leasing Operations Department Housing Specialist or fill out the FSS Interest Form on our Resident Services webpage.



Scanning this QR code will take you to the FSS Interest Form.

Continued Partnership

We continue our partnership with Trillium's COVID testing/Primary Care services.

New HUD Regulatory Requirement

A regulatory requirement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that RHA must inform its public housing residents of the “over-income” mandate. For those families whose income currently exceeds the applicable over-income limit, they have two years from the date of the over-income determination to find new housing, with an additional six-month window for a family to complete its move out of public housing. RHA’s Resident Services department will assist in providing additional opportunities and resources for these families, some of whom also may have the ability to become successful homeowners.

Strong Families

RHA held a series of Strong Family events at seven of our Public Housing apartment complexes throughout the summer, partnering with Rochester Empowerment Center, Anthony Jordan Health Center, CASH, City of Rochester, the Home Ownership program, and Rec on The Move.



Senior Summer Gathering

On August 4, 130 residents attended this year’s senior summer gathering. Attendees had the opportunity to get health screenings by Common Ground Health and to learn about wills and estate planning from LawNY and health care benefits from Fidelis Care and Lifetime Financial Group. Resident DJ Mr. White provided the music and Jamaican Soul catered the event.

Upcoming Events

Our annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway will be held on November 18 at Lexington Court in partnership with Faith Church.

Save the date for our Senior Holiday luncheon, December 14, at Kodak Center, 200 W. Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 14615.

Community Choice Demonstration

RHA is one of nine Public Housing Authorities selected to join HUD’s Community Choice Demonstration (CCD). This six-year study is designed to increase participation from voucher families with children under 17 to receive better access to low-poverty neighborhoods and other opportunity areas with high-performing schools and other strong community resources.

Interested families can reach out to (585) 697-6210 or email communitychoice@rochesterhousing.org.



Scanning this QR code will take you to the Community Choice

Demonstration (CCD) informational brochure.

Capital Projects



Federal Street

The Federal Street project, next to the RTS main terminal, will have two, three-story buildings and a single-family home.



Melville Street

Melville Street is a complete tear down/rebuild of an approximately 700-square-foot house with three bedrooms.



Denver Street

New siding installed at Denver Street.

Maintenance Projects



Kennedy Tower

The gazebo was moved away from the road and closer to the garage for safer, more convenient use by residents. New umbrellas were installed on the outside tables, which were requested by the residents to provide more shade.



321 Lake Tower

A new floor was installed in the community room. Flooring in the offices and kitchen, off the community room, will also be replaced to match, as residents have requested.



University Tower

Outdoor grills were installed, as residents requested.

Maintenance Requests

If you have a non-emergency request, please fill out the form found here: <https://www.rochesterhousing.org/forms/maintenance-request>.

All work orders will be addressed in 1-5 business days. If you are a Voucher Holder or Shelter Plus Care participant, please contact your Housing Specialist at (585) 697-6105 to request an HQS Inspection.

For emergency requests only, please call (585) 464-9600.



Partnerships

The RHA is proud to continue its partnerships with the following organizations: Partners Ending Homelessness, RMAPI Housing Working Group (focus on our community's full housing system, Melissa B. Co-Chair), Boy Scouts of America, City FEC Program Initiative, Connected Communities Housing Committee, Closing the Gaps Six City Cohort, Office of Financial Empowerment, Private Sector Rental Market Study Working Group, Eviction Response Team, and Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning.



Job Openings

Maintenance Mechanic

HVAC Mechanic

Sr. Property Rehabilitation Specialist

Housing Specialist

Computer Communications Technician

Sr. Housing Specialist

Sr. Maintenance Mechanic

IT Call Center Analyst

Chief of Maintenance

Sr. Maintenance Mechanic - Electrical

Project Assistant

Systems Engineer

Sr. Inspector Mechanic

Housing Manager III

Stock Clerk

Accountant

Property Manager

Building Maintenance Supervisor

Director of Compliance

Human Services Specialist



We're Hiring!
Scan the QR code
to apply today.



Administration Headquarters
675 W. Main St.
Rochester, NY 14611
(585) 697-3600

Application Processing Center
270 Lake Ave.
Rochester, NY 14608
(585) 697-7180

Resident Services Center
495 Upper Falls Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14605
(585) 232-1112