

BHA Police Dedicate Emmanuel André “Manny” Wilson Squad Room

At a May 21 ceremony, the BHA Police dedicated the squad room at the new Public Safety Building to Emmanuel André “Manny” Wilson, a BHA police officer who gave his life in the line of duty in 1992. Many of Manny’s family and friends attended the ceremony.

Manny was remembered as a man who clearly demonstrated his deep desire to serve his fellow man. According to BHA Police Chief Stephen Melia, Manny was a “man who was grateful for all he was given and, in return, gave his best effort every day.”

Attending the ceremony were Manny’s mother Arodrothy Wilson, his son Emmanuel Wilson, Jr. and his daughter Jebria. After the speaking program, a plaque hanging next to the squad room in Manny’s honor was unveiled. Carlton Baton, Manny’s former partner, touchingly presented the family with their own plaques in Manny’s honor.

In addition to dedicating the squad room to Manny, BHA Administrator/CEO Sandra Henriquez promoted former Deputy Chief Steve Melia to the position of chief.

“The promotion was made in recognition of Melia’s consistent leadership of the department and the work done to ensure that quality of life issues are preserved throughout the public housing communities in the City of Boston,” stated Administrator/CEO Henriquez.

The BHA was able to design and build the police station as a result of funds leveraged from the West Broadway redevelopment project. In order to provide the best plan for the redevelopment of the

entire West Broadway site, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development agreed to relocate the police station and use the newly vacated land for more housing.

DHCD also recognized that the BHA’s state developments benefit significantly from the services of the police and public safety officers. For these reasons, DHCD agreed to pay for most of the design and construction costs of the new police station. BHA’s Department of Real Estate Development has been supervising the West Broadway redevelopment project, including the construction of the new police station.

Sandra Henriquez, BHA Administrator, sees a bright future in the new station. “This station is a monument to the BHA’s efforts to build safe communities for those living in BHA developments. The help from DHCD has been essential to the

completion of this project.”

The authority’s police and public safety officers
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Manny Wilson’s family arrives at the dedication ceremony led by Officer Carlton Baton.

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Patricia White Task Force Office Gets New Equipment and Face-lift

The Patricia White Tenant Task Force recently spruced up its office, adding new furniture, equipment and decorations to the once sparsely furnished area. Where there used to be just a table, now sits a telephone, computer donated through the CTC Network and Corcoran Management, a copy machine donated by the BHA and Corcoran Management, and additional desks and chairs.

The task force also decorated the office to complete the look. In addition to the donated

items, the task force was able to provide furniture and a telephone through use of its per-unit money — federal funds that are allocated to each tenant task force at federal developments. The task force office is open during set hours each week and members post the hours at the development.

To celebrate the new task force office, located on the first floor at Patricia White, the task force held an open house,

complete with refreshments to present the new space to building residents.



Patricia White residents celebrate the new task force office.

Inside the Old Colony Senior Center

The Old Colony Senior Center is a place where seniors can go to relax, watch TV, play cards or just socialize with their neighbors. In addition, Mary Boyle, president of the center, often organizes outings and holiday get-togethers for members. Outings for the spring included a trip with the Office of Elderly Affairs for dinner and dancing and a trip to Manchester, New Hampshire to dine and shop.

The last trip was made possible through use of a van and a driver from the Old Colony Tenant Task Force. The Senior Center also provides health screenings and offers taxi coupons for sale twice a month. Membership costs only \$1 a week and seniors can sign up at the center at 7 Burke Street, Apartment 289. Center hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Seniors who reside in BHA developments are welcome to join.

MEM Task Force Holds Annual Meeting



A room full of residents and BHA staff came out for the annual meeting of the Mary Ellen McCormack Tenant Task Force. MEMTTF members presented an agenda chockfull of information about past successes and future plans for those who attended. The task force has formed four committees to work on resident issues, special events, youth programming and fundraising. Residents interested in participating in any of these committees should contact the task force office. Refreshments were served both before and after the meeting and a good time was had by all.

New Tropical Atrium and Greenhouse Debut at Hassan

Hassan elderly/disabled development in Mattapan is looking a little greener these days. Exotic tropical plants are thriving once again in the large atrium at the front of the building and a newly refurbished greenhouse along the south wall now greets excited residents.

The greenhouse repair was part of a larger “building envelope” job funded from the capital construction budget. The building envelope is the outside skin of a building. This includes the roof, siding, windows, foundation walls, slab, flashing = any part of the building that keeps the weather out. The Capital Construction Department first had to identify and prioritize the parts of the envelope that were the most in need of repair.

The masonry and flashing along the edge of the roof was in serious need of repair. The four-story glass atrium and lobby had some cracked panes and quite a few leaks. The greenhouse had been locked up and abandoned for a long time. Pieces of the sloped overhead glass were broken and the weather had been getting in for several years.

The bids were solicited and, fortunately, came in relatively low. Major repairs were completed on the masonry and flashing on the north side of the building and some minor work was done on the glass atrium. The

low bids also allowed the BHA to reconstruct the greenhouse, which had been unused for years.

While inspecting the building envelope, Leo Murphy, project manager, noticed the empty planter at the base of the atrium. The tenants reminisced about the plants that used to grace the lobby. Murphy happened to have a friend, known as Doktor Dan the Plant Man, who was a botanical enthusiast and had in his possession unwanted tropical flora. After a call from Murphy, Doktor Dan readily agreed to donate some foliage to the atrium. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Murphy and the Doktor transported the living cargo to Hassan and spent an afternoon re-greening the atrium.

Doktor Dan is a self-taught lifelong gardener, very skilled at pruning young trees and shrubs. He is a member of the Randolph Garden Club and has participated in the Master Gardener Program — a cooperative extension of UMass. “We are planning on inviting musicians and choir groups to perform in the atrium,” said Irene Noiles, president of the Hassan Tenant Task Force. “It was mind-boggling to come down and see all the greenery after Thanks-

giving, it is hard to express our thanks,” espoused Noiles.



Above: *The new greenhouse will look a lot greener this summer.*

Below: *Irene Noiles, president of the Hassan Tenant Task Force, and resident Clara Caliz stand beside the foliage in the atrium.*



KeySpan Sponsors Building Operator Certification for BHA Staff.

Recently, eight BHA employees earned their Building Operator Certification (BOC), after successfully completing 56 hours of classroom work spread over seven months. The training includes courses in energy conservation techniques, HVAC systems and controls, efficient lighting fundamentals, maintenance and related codes, indoor air quality and facility electrical systems.

The training, sponsored by KeySpan Energy Delivery, focuses on the most current knowledge in building operations, providing the opportunity for participants to expand their overall facility maintenance and operation skills. Each of the seven training courses consists of classroom study, small group exercises, tests and, for some of the courses, a project performed on your own facility. Projects demonstrate

“The training includes courses in energy conservation techniques, HVAC systems and controls, efficient lighting fundamentals, maintenance and related codes, indoor air quality and facility electrical systems.”

competence in: locating building equipment, distribution paths and control points; equipment energy consumption; HVAC energy inspection reporting; lighting surveys; indoor air pollutant sources and pathways; and facility electrical distribution.

The BOC instructors are all experienced in facility maintenance and operation. They have employment experience in the specialty they are teaching, plus an average of ten years of instruction experience in the workplace.

From the BHA, James Fenton (Elderly/Disabled), Donald Graham (Franklin Field), Michael Holmes (Whittier Street), Lori Luce (West Broadway), Carlos Morales (McCormack), Eugene Volosevich (Old Colony) and William Wuschke (Whittier Street) all successfully completed the Building Operator Certification.

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are not the only people excited about the new station. The plan for the police station received strong support from the residents of 125 Amory Street and the surrounding community.

This is the first time in its existence that the BHA's Department of Public Safety will have a permanent home. For the last couple of decades, the department has found temporary housing in a variety of locations. The first office was located in Columbia Point, a former BHA development. Two years later the department moved to 125 Amory Street — where it operated for eight years.

In 1994, the department moved to a city-owned building on Hancock Street in Dorchester, and in 1997 the department moved once again to its most recent location at West Broadway. There, the police force and public safety officers moved into a building that had most recently been used as a garage and storage facility.

The new station provides a modern facility for the authority's officers. Located on Amory Street in Roxbury, the station is close to Egleston Square and the geographic center of the City of Boston.

Refreshments for the dedication were provided by the International Brotherhood of Police Officers.



Carlton Baton, Manny's former partner, presents Manny's son, Emmanuel Wilson, Jr., with a plaque.

Stellar Landscaping Echoes Solar System at Mary Ellen McCormack

Planet Walk, an educational walkway focusing on astronomy, is currently under construction at the Mary Ellen McCormack development. The BHA Capital Construction Department and Kevin Trombly from Cer-Trom Construction Corporation are managing the project. The Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund is providing funding for the construction of this Planet Walk.

The intent of the Planet Walk is to create a stimulating learning experience for the general public as well as the residents of the development. Located in a largely unused courtyard, the Planet Walk will act as a link between two other public spaces within the development: Veterans' Park and Henry Sterling Square.

Dana Dilworth, senior project manager at the BHA, applied for a Browne Fund grant in 1999. Dilworth "envisioned the park providing an educational experience for the children and families living within and near the development." Dilworth and two interns, Taylor Stewart and Sang Taek Kim, developed a concept sketch for the site emphasizing the solar system as a theme. The BHA was awarded the grant in May of 2000 and subsequently commissioned landscape architects Moriece & Gary to complete the design.

The final plans included two bituminous concrete walkways, imbedded with colored glass beads, which follow curvilinear paths between nine dome-shaped concrete structures, representing all of the planets in the solar system. At the beginning of the walkway to the park, there will be a large interactive sundial, followed by two walkways toward the planet sculptures. One of these two paths will take a more direct route through the site while the other will meander among the planets. Along the pathway will be seating, and informational plaques providing facts and scientific theories about the planets and other elements of our solar system.

Moriece and Gary's landscape designer Paul Simon and his sister, Colleen, produced all the graphics for the plaques pro bono. Colleen also produced original artwork for the sundial. In addition, Cer-Trom performed beyond contract requirements by digging up a few hundred underground concrete fence piers when they first started clearing the courtyard. Cer-Trom did not charge the BHA for this unforeseen condition.

The most intriguing, and artistically challenging piece of the design will be the color rendering of the concrete planets. A high level of skill, attention to detail, and artistic ability will be needed to accurately depict the different textures and colors of the planets. A requirement during the bidding process was to choose a contractor or artist with proven experience producing unique and complex public art. Bill Guthro, owner of Distinctive Concrete, was selected as the sub-contractor to develop the intricate detailing for these planets.



The renderings of the planets are based on actual photographic images made available from NASA and other scientific sources. The contractor will chemically color the planets using a specialized acid staining system. This process will not only provide a detailed image of each planet, but also ensure that the colors remain for a long period of time. An anti-graffiti coating will also be used to protect the surfaces.

In addition to the detailed coloring of each planet, the sculptures will have textures similar to the actual planets in the solar system. Mercury and Mars will have craters, Earth will have scored edges to separate the continents from the water bodies, and Saturn, Neptune and Jupiter will have a broom finish to portray their horizontal gaseous patterns.

The planets will vary in size. Pluto will be the smallest, at 4-feet in diameter, and Jupiter will be the largest.

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Michelle Ekanem, chair of the BHA Black History Month Committee, would like to thank committee members **Debbie Berryman, Sandra Redish, Stephanie Estrada, and Dolores McGee** for their hard work and commitment. She would also like to thank **Dancy Rivera** for designing the flyer and program for the event.

In 2002 the BHA recycled **82,557 pounds of paper**, saving 701.76 trees from certain death. This effort also saved 123.83 cubic yards of landfill space. Three thousands pounds of computer equipment was also recycled during the past year. Thanks go to all those who made a conscious effort to recycle and to Earthworm, Inc. for providing the numbers.

Bill McGonagle, deputy administrator, would like to thank the BHA staff for all their help during the fire at 98 West Newton Street. Six families needed to be relocated. A very special thanks goes to **Chris Cafferty, Paul DeLuca, Dimas DelValle, Hugh Donovan, Bob Franklin, Jim Fopiano, Carmen Figueroa, Neyda Gomez, Zadia Gomez, Greg Jackson, Marie Kerins-Gould, Denise Murphy, Tom Pellegrini, Judith Pralour, Phaldie Taliep, Paul Wilkins, Billy Wuschke**, and the **Occupancy Department** for providing units. Also a special thanks to **David Cortiella** and his staff for providing refreshments, and allowing staff and residents to use the cultural center.

Simone Purvis, a public housing applicant, wishes to thank **Dee Lawson** and the **Occupancy Department** for conducting a bedside interview while she lay incapacitated at the hospital. Ms. Purvis wrote, "it really makes a difference when someone can come and see firsthand my circumstances."

Angel Lopez — manager of Archdale and co-planner of a domestic violence vigil in Roslindale — would like to thank the 50-60 people who attended the event, despite the cold, frigid weather. Many residents from Archdale, private houses, victim's family, politicians, community leaders and police officers attended. According to Angel, the group was

grateful to participate in the vigil, prayers, and songs. "There was a sense of togetherness, regardless of who was who. People felt that something was being done against domestic violence and other crimes," recalls Angel.

Another **\$75** has been contributed to the **Pennies for Sight Campaign**. Over **\$500** has been contributed to Massachusetts Lions Eye Research from BHA staff members.

Risk Management's coveted *Yellow Diamond Award* goes to Charlestown's **Kellie Dean** and **her staff** for their work in connection with a flood last July and their help in the successful defense of a negligence claim related to it.

The BHA has received a score of **92%** for the FY2002 **Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP)** conducted by HUD. SEMAP measures the performance of all public housing agencies that administer the housing choice voucher program in 14 key areas. The BHA scored 81% in FY2001.

Marilyn O'Sullivan, director of housing programs, would like to thank **Joshuah Mello** for all his time, creativity and the common sense approach he took to developing the new and revised application information for the housing programs on the BHA website.

Hollis Young, general counsel, would like to give thanks and appreciation to two constabulary officers, **Robert Manning** and **Kevin McGrail**, for their swift actions last month. While serving an eviction at a Charlestown apartment, the officers found the tenant unconscious on the floor not breathing. The two officers, employees of Butler & Whitten Constables, and a crew from Legal Movers, Inc. opened the woman's airway and performed CPR until Boston EMS and police officers arrived.

The **Occupancy Department** would like to congratulate their co-worker, **Nancy Lagoa**, for her successful completion of *Project Bread's Walk for Hunger* on May 4.

The **Occupancy Department** wishes to congratulate **Brenda Lowery**, Occupancy Specialist, on her 31st anniversary with the BHA. Ms. Lowery has been with the authority since May 3, 1972.

BHA Unveils New Housing Application Web Pages

People who would like to apply for Boston Housing Authority public housing and rental assistance (Section 8) programs can now download and print the application form and all other forms related to the application process on the BHA website located at www.bostonhousing.org. There is one preliminary application form for both programs and all forms are in downloadable format on the website under Housing Services.

In addition, there is new and expanded information about the BHA's application process and how it works for those interested in applying for housing with the BHA. The information includes descriptions of each housing development, program descriptions, important con-

tact numbers, directions on how to appeal a denied application, how to request a reasonable accommodation for disabled individuals, and what criteria the BHA considers when approving applicants for housing.

For applicants who have already sent in their application packet,

there are forms that allow people to check their status on the waiting list or make changes to their application. Such changes might include a change in address, family composition, priority or development choice. In the past, applicants could only make these changes to the BHA by written let-

ter. The BHA plans to continue to update the website to provide better access to all of its customers.



Stellar Landscaping Echoes Solar System at Mary Ellen McCormack

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est, at 30-feet in diameter. All of the planet sculptures will be raised to provide a domed 3D effect. Twelve-inch wide concrete orbit rings will cross each planet and bisect the two walkways. These orbit rings will help the observer understand that the planet sculptures, although motionless, revolve around the sun.

An asteroid belt, made up of boulders, located between the rocky terrestrial planets and the large gaseous planets in the center of the park is also part of the plan for the Planet Walk. A fiber optic strip will be installed within the concrete orbit-ring, bisecting the asteroid belt.

The stones will be of random sizes, most being at least 18-inches, to allow for seating. Educational plaques will be placed throughout the park providing factual information for every planet, the sun, and asteroid belt. The plaques will provide

information such as each planet's size, its distance from the sun, the number of moons, length of year, temperature and special characteristics pertaining to its own unique qualities.

The plaques will be mounted on large weathered stones, similar to the stones used representing the asteroids. These plaques will provide an education element to the project, allowing the park visitors to gain knowledge and understanding of our solar system.

The interactive sundial is designed to allow someone to stand and read the correct time by observing where his or her shadow falls. The sundial was designed using longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates, providing a very accurate measure of time.

Construction of the Planet Walk will be completed in June 2003. The park sets a new precedent for utilizing empty courtyard spaces at Boston Housing Authority developments.

Maverick Tenants Organization True Partner in Redevelopment

With a great deal of support from the local tenant organization, the Maverick Gardens HOPE VI redevelopment project is moving along both quickly and smoothly. Demolition for Phase I of the project is scheduled to begin in June and construction should start in the Fall. Relocation for Phase I has already begun and will be completed by the end of May. One-hundred nineteen households were involved in this first part of the massive move necessary to create a new neighborhood.



The Maverick Gardens redevelopment is the third HOPE VI project to be completed by the Boston Housing Authority. Both Orchard Park and Mission Main in Roxbury were redeveloped using HOPE VI funding from HUD. HOPE VI, which stands

for Homeownership Opportunities for People Everywhere, is a federal grant-funded program created to rebuild severely distressed public housing developments.

Ruth Capone and Elly Saraceni, leaders of the Maverick Tenant Organization (MTO), have taken an active role in almost every aspect of the planning for the application, design, relocation and construction. The tenant group is also represented at the bi-weekly



meetings to coordinate the use of the \$2.5 million supportive services grant linked to the HOPE VI project. Some of the funds will be used for case management services, rowing lessons for area girls, after-school programming, child care, homebuyer classes and employment training.

The MTO has also been instrumental in the creation and design of a project newsletter and the distribution of information to all residents effected by the redevelopment. Residents set up a table once a week in the development's mail room and distribute information and answer questions regarding the redevelopment project and relocation.

Last month, the Maverick Tenant Organization, in cooperation with Housing Opportunities Unlimited and the BHA, organized a relocation party at the development. The celebration recognized all of the Phase I families who are currently moving off-site and provided an opportunity to come together for some fun and festivities as a community before demolition begins. Over 480 hot dogs were served, guests played musical chairs, and children enjoyed rolling around in "moon bounce," sponsored by Trinity Financial — BHA's redevelopment partner. Despite rainy weather, turnout was large and all seemed to have a great time.

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