

NEW TERM, SOME FAMILIAR FACES

Newly elected RAB takes office

November elections are still months away, but don't tell the 43 members of the BHA's Resident Advisory Board (RAB) that May doesn't pack any political punch. "There was an abundance of interest and motivation to serve on the RAB," said John Kane from the Planning Department. "I was pleased with the overall turn-out and speeches that were made."

According to Kane, the majority of RAB members elected also held office during the previous term. However, there are a number of new members as well that bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the group. "The high rate of incumbents who ran and were elected again show the strong dedication of the members," said Kane. In addition, alternates to the group were elected for the first time to help insure consistent participation and representation at meetings.



BHA Administrator Sandra Henriquez presents member Edna Bynoe with a certificate at the RAB's first meeting.

The newly elected RAB has 10 representatives each from Section 8, BHA family developments and elderly/disabled apartments. The 13 remaining posts are alternates, who are non-voting. The RAB consists of public housing and Section 8 residents who assist the BHA and make recommendations regarding the development of the Agency Plan. The Agency Plan defines the agency's mission and goals and provides details about the agency's strategy for handling operational concerns, residents' concerns and needs and programs and services for the upcoming fiscal year. In submitting the final Agency Plan to

the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the BHA must include a copy of the recommendations made by the RAB and a description of the manner in which the BHA addressed those recommendations, said Kane.

continued on page 6

BHA TAKING APPLICATIONS IN NEIGHBORHOODS

Elderly and disabled people can now apply for housing at developments throughout Boston. The new process, designed to make applying for housing more convenient and client friendly, took effect Monday, June 25.

Nineteen sites in neighborhoods across the city are now accepting applications for elderly and disabled housing. Each site has staff prepared to provide information about the Authority, each of its developments, and how to apply for housing. These services had previously been limited to the BHA's Housing Service Center at 56 Chauncy Street, which will continue to take applications.

"I believe bringing the application process to the

neighborhoods will enable us to better serve the elderly and disabled population of Boston in keeping

continued on page 6

CONTENTS

Franklin Field Youth Center gets a facelift	2
Charlestown resident steps closer to dream	2
Charlestown cheers diversity at Bunker Hill Parade	3
BHA hosts statewide resident services conference	3
Advocating for a new direction	5
New Employees.....	5
Developments hold summer Unity Days	6
BHA in Bloom expanding throughout the Authority	7
BHA takes the boards off of Orient Heights' housing ...	8

FRANKLIN FIELD YOUTH CENTER GETS A FACELIFT



Celebrities and athletes were on hand to paint the Franklin Field Youth Center on Saturday, June 16, as part of The Reaching Back Foundation's annual charity fundraiser. The Center also received new computers, furniture, and office supplies.

Thirteen groups of three people each were assigned to paint different areas within the Center, including the entranceway, main room, quiet room, office, television room, and computer center. After the work was completed, participants were treated to sausage, pizza, and donuts, followed by T-shirt and hat give-a-ways.

The day's event was co-sponsored by DARI (Developing Attitude, Respect, and Intellect) Associates, Inc., which has been working jointly with the Foundation to bring technology-based after school programs to the Dorchester-Mattapan area. Youth Worker Anthony Meeks' commitment to providing quality technology to the Center's youth led DARI to choose Franklin Field as the site for this benefit.

The event, called "Community Service/Technology Day" was the first of three days of activities making up the Foundation's annual "MasterCard Celebrity Challenge for Charity." This year's benefit also included a celebrity meet-and-greet and a golf tournament.

Youth Program/Policy Coordinator Eric Mitchell helps his daughter paint one of the Center's walls during the charity fundraiser.

CHARLESTOWN RESIDENT STEPS CLOSER TO DREAM THANKS TO SCHOLARSHIP

Charlestown resident Carolyn Sanders is one step closer to her dream of working with troubled teens thanks to a scholarship from Bunker Hill Community College. The Charlestown Housing Development Award was presented to Sanders at a May 31 ceremony.

Each year, the \$500 award is given to a BHCC student in good academic standing, with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. According to Sanders, the candidate must also reside in the Boston Housing Authority's Charlestown development and submit an essay on his or her reasons for attending school. In her essay, Sanders credited her son with giving her the strength to return to school.

"I had been supporting my son for almost 10

years," she said. "We sat down and talked about it, and he told me he felt it was time for me to go back to school. That's what I put in my essay."

In her third year at the college, Sanders is studying criminal justice. She would one day like to form a program with housing officials and municipal police that helps high-risk teenagers avoid drug use and violence.

"Some of these kids are unable to communicate with their families and need someone to interact with them, to talk with them," she said. "They need someone who has been in the same predicament as them."

Sanders expects to receive her Associate's Degree in June 2002.

CHARLESTOWN CHEERS DIVERSITY AT BUNKER HILL PARADE

BHA residents and staff united Sunday, June 10 to march in Charlestown's Bunker Hill Day Parade. This year's "float," a red and green trolley sporting colorful balloons and banners, marked the Authority's second appearance in the annual parade.

Themed "Building Diverse Communities," the BHA's showing was part of an endeavor by the Civil Rights Department and Bunker Hill Tenant Task Force to promote diversity throughout the development and surrounding community. Born out of a 12-hour diversity-training workshop, the effort was continued from last year's parade.

"I would like to see the rest of Charlestown become more diverse and involve people from other ethnic backgrounds the way the BHA has," task force

chairperson Phyllis Senna said. "Walking through the development and marching up these streets, you can see that 'Building Diverse Communities' has been successful because there is such a diverse community here."

Central to "Building Diverse Communities" is the idea that residents of the Charlestown development are also members of the greater Charlestown community. According to Regional Property Manager Sally McAward, events such as the parade help to make this idea a reality.

"There was such a positive response from the crowd to the children marching this year," she said. "Folks were clapping, cheering, and giving us big smiles. You could see how proud the children were."



Charlestown residents enjoy the parade from inside the BHA's trolley float.

BHA HOSTS STATEWIDE RESIDENT SERVICES CONFERENCE

The Elderly and Disabled Housing Program's Resident Services Department hosted the Massachusetts Association of Resident Service Coordinators in Housing (MARSCH) Annual Conference on June 13. The statewide event was held in the student center at Roxbury Community College.

According to Director of Resident Services Al Davis, hosting this event is a great honor for Resident Services and the BHA. "It's a chance for our service coordinators to share their ideas and provide information about how an urban housing authority provides service," he said. "Now the state can see that BHA is a customer service oriented public housing authority."

Topics were discussed at this year's conference that had not been extensively covered at previous meetings, including mental health and new innovations in substance abuse treatment. BHA Administrator Sandra Henriquez discussed housing in the millennium, while Davis and Director of Property Management Regina

Dennis spoke of elderly/disabled housing and housing services available to the elderly, respectively. Director of Community Services Ron Marlow discussed the need to develop services for today's youth, and Family Manager Greg Davis talked about the impact communities have on substance abuse.

Other speakers included Elizabeth Burden, a geriatric social worker at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital and Peggy Lester of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., the conference featured a slide show presented by the BHA's Laurel Newson and Cynthia Collins, as well as a continental breakfast and buffet luncheon.

In order to obtain the honor of hosting this prestigious conference, Resident Services submitted a written proposal earlier this year. Each year, MARSCH holds this conference to conduct spring training and elections.

JOB WELL DONE

Many thanks to Legal's **Jake Lavin** for his help in caring for a Bromley-Heath resident who became ill during Housing Court proceedings.

Congratulations to **Denee Harris** of MIS and **Cynthia Byner** from Orient Heights for walking all 20 miles to complete May's Walk for Hunger. Great job!

Congrats to former Building Manager **Carol O'Shaughnessy** on performing her cabaret show as part of "Partners in Transportation's Celebration of Gay Pride Month."

Congratulations to **Dick Marston** of Gallivan and **Samuel Alicea** of Mary Ellen McCormack for successfully passing the Pesticide Applicators License Exam. Great job!

Congratulations to **James Mervin**, of Elderly and Disabled, on receiving a Special Award at Brighton High School's Parent Graduation and Awards Night on May 25.

Thanks to all BHA staff that helped with May's event at Orient Heights. A special thanks to **Sandi Henriquez**, **Bill McGonagle**, **Lydia Agro**, **Ed O'Brien** and his crew, **Deborah Goddard**, **Dana Dilworth**, **James Potvin**, **John Carleo**, **Linda Lefever**, **Gwen Friend**, **Hugh Donovan**, **Jim Reed**, **Lori Luce**, **Linda Fahy**, **David Esterbrook**, **Billy Woodford**, **Nereida Sanchez-Tejada**, **Frank Rinaldi**, **Pamela Ly**, **Cynthia Byner**, **Ken Byrne**, **Arthur DiNapoli**, **Thomas Nee**, **Angel Rivera**, **Ken Watkins**, **Candido Rodriguez**, **Richard LeBlanc**, **Anthony Jamison**, **Shirley Steed**, **John Clements**, **Keith Norton**, **Ed Kelly**, **Sandy Ortiz**, **Marilyn O'Sullivan**, **Gloria Meneses**, and **Ron Beyer**. The site looked beautiful and the event went very well!

Congratulations to Budget Analyst **Morris Flood** on his acceptance to Vanderbilt University's Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn. Flood will pursue a Doctor of Education degree in fall 2002. Good luck!

The Synagogue Bani Moshe awarded J.J. Carroll Task Force President **Rueben Borok** a plaque for his community service. **Al Davis**, Program Director for Elderly/Disabled, attended the ceremony and Borok's son Emmanuel, former master of the Dallas Symphony, performed for the guests. Borok is the Gobai of the Congregation of Bani Moshe in Brighton. Congrats!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the City Year

event at Lenox; including, the staff at Lenox, who organized the event, **Gene Volosevich**, who took photos, and City Year. Great job everyone!

Kellie Dean, Manager of Franklin Field, would like to thank her laborers and Region 1 laborers (and their managers and superintendents) for the spectacular job they did preparing the development for June's DARI event at the Youth Center. Their performance was outstanding, the landscaping professional, and the development beautiful. Thanks to: **TC Woods**, **Billy Perez**, **Emanuel Anderson**, **Vitol Brutus**, **Rafael Gonzales**, **Tony King**, **Wayne Luacaw**, **Joe Earner**, and **Al Simmons**, all of Franklin Field; **Bob Burgess**, Cathedral; **Riccardo Ortiz**, Whittier; **Henry Anisle**, Lenox/Camden; **Roy Williams**, Alice Taylor; **Joe Horgan**, West Newton; and **Carlos Velasquez**, Franklin Hill. Additional thanks to **Denise Murphy**, **Bill Wuschke**, Youth Worker **Anthony Meeks**, who advocates so strongly for his center, and to **Geoff Bynoe** and **Eric Mitchell** for assisting with the event.

A special thanks to those who participated in the Bunker Hill Parade on June 10; including, the Civil Rights Department, the Communications Department, BHA Police and the management and staff at Charlestown. The day went wonderfully and the following staff participated: **Robert Trestan**, **Jamie Heggie**, **Michelle Ekanem**, **Sally McAward**, **Francina Brown**, **Declan Breslin**, **Sergeant Sclafani**, and others.

Manager **John Moulton** thanks Elderly/Disabled's **Dennis Caulfield**, **Bill Mckeeon**, and **Paul Norton** for their fast and competent work in repairing the air conditioning at Monsignor Powers. Great job!

Former Building Manager **Carol O'Shaughnessy** thanks **Bob Graham** for his hard work in posting over 4,000 pieces of mail in one day. She'd also like to express her appreciation for the gathering held in her honor by the Operations Department on her last day.

Four youth and staff teams from the BHA's CSD Department participated in the Mass. Union of Public Housing Tenants Basketball Tournament on Saturday, June 30 at Assumption College. Three of the four teams were champions in their respective divisions, while the fourth team took second place. Congrats to all kids involved!

ADVOCATING FOR A NEW DIRECTION: CSD HOSTS SUMMER JOB FAIR



Understanding the needs and concerns of the unemployed has become the driving force behind Raysa Stroud's work ethic. After weeks of job fair preparation, which includes posting flyers, training job seekers and calling employers, Stroud has discovered the importance behind her job as an employment advocate at West Broadway. "Everyone needs someone to help them get back into the job force," said Stroud. "It's hard for someone without training because at times people feel lost."

The ultimate gratification, says Stroud, is the obvious, witnessing the unemployed find sustainable work. "It makes me feel like I'm here for a reason. I know that I did my job well today because I made someone's life a little bit easier."

Stroud, along with fellow employment advocates Alan Feinberg (Bromley Heath), Troy Heggie (Cathedral Tenants United) and Gloribell Mota (Mary Ellen McCormack), assisted EDSS Grant Manager Rachel Goodman in producing the Community Service Department's fourth job fair.

"The advocates made the registration process go very smoothly working alongside tenant leaders and resident volunteers," said Goodman. "We were able to bring our residents together with members of the larger community and a wide range of employers and local service providers to a meet a real need."

During the job fair more than 270 residents from the Franklin Field and Franklin Hill housing developments and Dorchester community met with approximately 20 employers, who sought to hire new employees from the group of participants. In addition,

several career counselors were on hand to assist attendees with job applications and information regarding training and other services to assist them with employment related needs.

Employers in attendance included UPS, Marriott Hotel, Harvard-Vanguard, Citizens Bank, Job Corps, Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, Vanguard Parking, Star Market, Childcare Choices, ABCD Work

Pathways, and the Center for Women & Enterprise, among others.

"I'm glad that we are able to do this for our community," said Deborah Farnum, Chairperson of the Franklin Field Task Force. "It's definitely something that we needed and we think the employers were kept very busy."

The job fair was held through a collaboration between the BHA's Economic Development & Supportive Services (EDSS) Program, the Franklin Field and Franklin Hill Tenant Task Forces, the Committee for Boston Public Housing and JobNet Career Center.



Job Corp representatives Benita Santiago (middle) and Erica Wood (right) pose with BHA employment advocate Raysa Stroud (left) during the Dorchester job fair held in June.

New Employees — May 14 — July 9

Dancy Rivera, *Civil Rights* • Lou Demato, *Legal* • Mildred Mollet, *Gallivan* • Sarah Parker, *Legal* • Dawn Hadley, *Civil Rights* • Carlos Marin, *Civil Rights* • Sandra Negron, *Community Services* • Arthur Arsenault, *Beech Street* • Albert Day, *Vacancy Rehab Crews* • Jean Donovan, *Charlestown* • Brian Farrell, *Charlestown* • Harrison Hunt, *Lenox Street* • Zainab Jama Elmi, *Civil Rights* • Maria Montes, *Leased Housing* • Kelly Hernandez, *Legal* • Paul Shuley, *D & D* • Tom Dapice, *Operations* • Christine Rodriguez, *Vacancy Rehab Crews* • Poy Yee, *South End*

DEVELOPMENTS HOLD SUMMER UNITY DAYS

Developments throughout the city are holding Unity Days this summer. The events, a way for residents to get to know each other better, feature food, entertainment, and games, as well as other activities for kids and adults.

Unity Days were started in the 1980s in response to neighborhood tensions. The first Unity Day was at the Washington Beech housing development in Roslindale. The event was so successful that other developments began having Unity Days and now each BHA housing development has its own annual Unity Day during the summer months.

Face painting and balloons were featured at the West Broadway Development on June 30.



Kids enjoy cotton candy and more at the Faneuil Unity Day on July 14.



New Term, Some Familiar Faces *continued from page 1*

The RAB has held three meetings since the elections. Certificates of Appreciation were given out to those who served on the RAB for its first term. Then, getting down to business, the RAB began discussing the resubmission of the BHA 2001 Agency Plan, budget concerns for the committee and the role and responsibility of the RAB.

RAB elections are held once every two years. The following is a list of the newly elected RAB: Deloris Anderson (Hassan), Philip Askew (Section 8), Barbara Bowie (West Newton), Alice Bush-Franklin (Section 8), Edna Bynoe (Orchard Gardens), Aramis Camps (JJ Carroll-E), Luis Cruz (South Street), Remona Davis (Gallivan), Olive Fulton (MLK), Andre Gallette (Section 8), Gary Griffin (Malone), Dorothea Guild (Section 8), Prince Haraway (Amory Street), Ruth Hardiman (Lower Mills), Christiana Manley (Cathedral), Barbara Mellon (West Broadway), Sandy Ortiz (Orient Heights), Valerie Patilla (Section 8), Martha Pichardo (Section 8), Frank Pina (MLK), Carl Purdy (Holgate), Doris Robinson (Section 8), Elly Saraceni (Maverick), Maria Seifart (Malone), Ernestine Simmons (Section 8), Charles Smith (Section 8), Mary Spalding (Lower Mills), Karen Stram (Section 8), Jeanne Sundstrom (Washington Beech), Barbara Wallace (Faneuil).

Alternates: Ed Agro (Section 8), Dolly Battle (Whittier Street), Doreen Brown (Section 8), Rene Franks (Section 8), Theodore Hampton (St. Botolph), Dorothy Haskins (Section 8), Linda Henson (Franklin Hill), Dorothy Lepore (Fairmount), James McLaughlin (Pasciucco), Lauro Quintero (Section 8), Chris Tucker (Hassan), Della Webb (Frederick Douglass), Norman Younger (Holgate).

BHA taking applications in neighborhoods

continued from page 1

with Mayor Menino's mandate to provide affordable housing to all of Boston's citizens," said Regina Dennis, Assistant Director of Property Management for the Elderly and Disabled Program. "Our mission is to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing for those folks who cannot afford conventional rents, and this new process helps us to do that."

In addition, applicants can now attend screening appointments at the neighborhood locations, as well as return any forms or documents related to their application. Staff will be available at individual sites for a specific period of time each week on a walk-in basis, making appointments unnecessary.

Continuing its effort to bring occupancy functions into the neighborhoods, an Elderly/Disabled Occupancy Office has been established at the BHA's Amory Street development in Jamaica Plain. The satellite office performs admissions and occupancy functions that used to be completed at the Authority's downtown office. The Assistant Director of Occupancy, together with two occupancy specialists and two occupancy assistants are now based at the Amory Street location.

For more information about application locations and schedules, see the BHA's web site at www.bostonhousing.org or call 617-988-5019.



Everybody can benefit from the therapy of gardening. There is something enchanting connected with the vision, sounds and energy of a garden, a harvest beyond the blossoms or produce that a plant yields. BHA residents find comfort in beautifully landscaped grounds at their sites, often designing and planting their own gardens.

In recognizing this, the "BHA in Bloom" program was established last year to develop a culture throughout the Authority. The program educates on the importance of curb appeal, while stressing urban gardening as vital to the health and well being of residents and staff.

Gardening tasks following the inaugural "BHA in Bloom" training sessions were mainly performed at the Elderly/Disabled Program's Amory Street development. This year, however, "BHA in Bloom" sought to expand.

In April 2001, over 30 maintenance crewmembers and regional managers, in addition to Regina Dennis, Assistant Director of the E/D Program, and Jim Fenton, Building Maintenance Manager, attended the workshop, which was held at Groveland and instructed by Landscape Management Coordinator Linda Fahy. This year's program consisted of an educational component, to teach crewmembers the importance of beautification and promotion of curb appeal at BHA sites, and a practical element.

Staff were given horticultural handouts to supplement training of landscape maintenance techniques, standards, trouble shooting and problem solving - gardening topics beyond the scope of the workshop. Afterward, Safety/Worker's Compensation Manager Barney Murphree instructed attendees on landscape equipment maintenance and safety.

After the theory session, the attending group was divided into four teams. Teams Groveland, Foley, J.J. Meade, and Hassan were each assigned specific gardening tasks at their designated sites; including, spring cleaning, mulching, and designing and preparing

flowerbeds for planting.

With the success of "BHA in Bloom" at E/D sites, the educational program was expanded in May 2001 to include state developments, spawning the "Bloomin' Statie Gardening Program."

Program Maintenance Supervisor Lori Luce and Jim Reed, Assistant Director of Property Management for the State Program, worked in conjunction with Fahy to organize the training program and establish crews. One maintenance staff member from each state-funded development was selected to participate in this experimental program, including: Shirley Steed (West Broadway), Keith Norton (South Street), John Clemens (Archdale), Ed Kelly (Fairmount), Richard Seward (Gallivan), and Kenny Watkins (Orient Heights).



Sean Connaughton (l) helps "Bloomin' Staties" crewmember Shirley Steed plant flowers at the West Broadway development.

The "Bloomin' Statie" gardening crew were trained in proper flower garden preparation, product selection, design, planting and maintenance. A plot was chosen in front of each development's BHA sign at the six state sites to create "Signature Gardens," flower garden emblems identifying the State Program.

The choice of products and colors for the "Signature Gardens," as well as for flower gardens throughout the E/D sites, were carefully selected to promote cost effectiveness through bulk purchasing of high quality products from reputable growers. The crews have performed additional gardening projects throughout the State program - most noteworthy at Gallivan Blvd. and Orient Heights.

Thanks to the "BHA in Bloom" program, and similar greenspace programs, sites throughout the Authority display increased curb appeal while promoting a positive image to the public. This creates a healthier environment, improving the quality of life not only for the BHA staff & residents but also the surrounding neighboring communities.

This story submitted by Linda Fahy, BHA landscape Management Coordinator



Twenty-four units of long-term vacant public housing were brought back to life in a ceremony at the Boston Housing Authority's Orient Heights development in East Boston on June 6. The units, part of the BHA's commitment to occupy all of its empty units within the next three years, had been vacant for more than a decade due to capital improvement needs.

The dedication was also an important step for Mayor Menino. In last year's "Leading the Way: A Housing Strategy for Boston," Menino pledged he'd take further steps, including financial assistance to the BHA, to combat the city's housing crisis.

"Public Housing is important to all of us because people need a decent, clean, and safe place to live," he told the crowd of about 50 people, which included BHA residents, staff, and several kids from an on-site day care. "People living in public housing deserve what people have up the street. If we work together we will make this a better place."

The BHA has occupied more than 400 units of previously vacant housing since July of last year, in addition to the 24 units at 41-49 Vallar Road. The BHA has also received permits to begin renovating another 140 units, many of which will be available for occupancy by the end of this year.

To achieve this, the BHA has used on-site maintenance and in-house construction crews to cut costs and get work done more efficiently, both of which helped to get the units at Orient Heights back on-line, according to Sandra Henriquez, BHA Administrator.

"Thank you. You are fabulous people who are dedicated and always trying to do the right thing," she said to the crew and other BHA employees in attendance. "When the day is done, I hope you remember the good work that you have done."

Representative Anthony Petrucelli lauded the BHA's ability to work closely with Orient Heights' residents and their Neighborhood Organization Chairperson, Sandra Ortiz, to make the units livable.

"She [Ortiz] called on the BHA to create more affordable housing, and they did," Petrucelli said. "The attention to the East Boston developments is incredible."

Funding for the redevelopment of the Orient Heights units came from the state Department of Housing and Community Development. Marc Slotnick, of DHCD, also attended the event. In addition,

DHCD, which funds state developments like Orient Heights, has committed an additional \$5.5 million to install new kitchens and bathrooms, and waterproof exterior walls in 137 other units at the development.



Sandy Ortiz, Orient Heights Neighborhood Organization Chairperson, hugs the site's Manager, Nereida Sanchez-Tejada to show her appreciation and thank Ms. Sanchez-Tejada for her assistance. Behind them are Marc Slotnick of DHCD (left), Mayor Menino and Representative Petrucelli.

BHA Today is a Boston Housing Authority publication and a BHA 2001 initiative.

Editor: Lydia Agro • **Stories:** Byron Calamese, Cheryl Simons • **Graphic Design and Printing:** Red Sun Press



The BHA Communications Committee advises the editor, guides content for BHA Today and works on other BHA communications related issues. Active committee members are Declan Breslin/Public Safety; Byron Calamese/Administration; Brenda Cora/Elderly; Christine Curry/Elderly; Barbara Donovan/Purchasing; Morris Flood/Budget; Peg Kennedy/Elderly; Jim LaCroix/Elderly; Steve Melia/Public Safety; Bernice Ryner/Leased Housing Inspections; Cheryl Simons/Administration; Kenneth Zanetti/MIS

Comments and story ideas are welcome and should be mailed to **Lydia Agro, Boston Housing Authority, 52 Chauncy Street, 11th Floor, Boston MA 02111** or faxed to **617-988-4133**. BHA Today staff may also be reached by calling **617-988-4380** or **617-988-4109**.