



Troy Housing Authority
 Administrative Offices
 1 Eddy's Lane
 Troy, New York 12180
 (518)273-3600
 info@troyhousing.org

NEIGHBORHOODS

Troyhousing.org

August 2020

Inside this issue:

From the desk of the Executive Director	2
Updates on plans for Taylor and Fallon Apartments	2
A discussion with two Summer Youth Employees	2
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions Update	3
Complete the 2020 Census	3
THA Contact Information	4

2020 Commissioner Elections

The Tenant Commissioner elections for 2020 have been concluded. The election was to determine who would fill two seats from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. Only two tenants submitted nominating petitions with the required 50 signatures; incumbent Walter Howard and Wildelia “Nancy” Roman. Therefore, these two candidates will automatically become Tenant Commissioners for the term of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

This was also a Special Election to fill the unexpired term of Leonard L. “Lenny” Watkins. As the only non-incumbent candidate elected, Wildelia “Nancy” Roman will immediately begin to serve alongside Walter Howard as the two Tenant Commissioners representing the tenants of Troy Housing Authority.

Meet New Tenant Commissioner Wildelia “Nancy” Roman

Wildelia “Nancy” Roman has been selected to serve as a Tenant Commissioner for the Troy Housing Authority. This was a Special Election to fill the unexpired term of Lenny Watkins as well as a Regular Election. Therefore, Ms. Roman will immediately begin serving the tenants of Troy Housing Authority and will then start her first 2 year term on January 1, 2021.



Ms. Roman, was born in Puerto Rico and raised in the Bronx where she worked as a Doctor’s Assistant. She came to Troy 49 years ago, raising her family in North Troy while working as an Assistant Teacher for 32 years at the Commissioner on Economic Opportunity (CEO).

Even though she is retired, Ms. Roman continues to serve as volunteer in CEO’s Foster Grandparent Program. Her love of teaching was passed on to one of her two sons who is a Teacher in the Lansingburgh School District while living in Clifton Park. Ms. Roman also has four grandchildren.

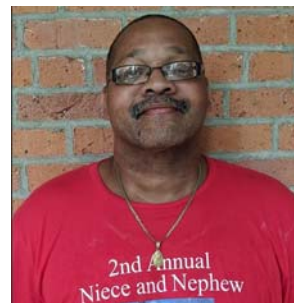
Ms. Roman expects that her years of working with families at CEO will help in her duties as Tenant Commissioner. She is able to speak English as well as Spanish and this will help her to connect with all of the tenants at the Troy Housing Authority. She is ready and eager to listen to the tenants and their concerns so that she can provide meaningful input at Board Meetings and help to ensure effective outcomes for the tenants.

As a tenant of the Troy Housing Authority for the past 7 years, at Kennedy Towers, Ms. Roman has found the staff to be helpful, the buildings to be clean and the rents to be reasonable.

Walter Howard Will Serve Another Term As Tenant Commissioner

Tenant Commissioner Walter Howard will continue to serve Troy Housing Authority tenants through December 31, 2022. Mr. Howard has been on the Board since January 1, 2018 when he was first elected as a Tenant Commissioner.

Mr. Howard has been a tenant of Troy Housing Authority for 20 years. He has primarily lived at the Martin Luther King Apartments, but was temporarily relocated to Griswold Heights during Phase I of the Martin Luther King Apartments renovations. He is now back at Martin Luther King and loves his new apartment.



He looks forward to the improvements being made at all Troy Housing Authority locations in the coming years.

Mr. Howard is retired from a career that included nursing and cooking. He comes from a very large family and is presently raising two great nephews. He feels his experiences at work and in life will continue to serve him well as a Commissioner for the Tenants. He looks forward to listening to the tenants and helping them to improve the community. He is doing this for the children who represent our future.

From the desk of the Executive Director

Deborah A. Witkowski



These have been very difficult times for all of us and we want to thank you, our residents, for your patience as we have dealt with Coronavirus (COVID-19). Throughout this situation we have done our best to keep you informed as we have strived to keep everyone safe and healthy.

In addition to maintaining our normal operations in sanitary and efficient ways, we have strived to provide you with the resources you need to help you deal with the temporary changes that have come our way. In doing this we have been fortunate to have been assisted by several agencies in our community and I am devoting the rest of my column to thanking them for their support.

First of all, REACT, Inc. (the Resident Empowered Action Council of Troy) found ways to continue to operate their food pantry through the pandemic and I thank them for their assistance.

In addition to REACT, other agencies came forward to make sure our residents received needed food and nutrition. The Boys and Girls Club of the Capital Region recognized that families may be having difficulty because children were missing out on meals provided through the school breakfast and lunch program. This led to Boys and Girls Club creating a program that delivered two meals for every child each day to every family apartment at the Troy Housing Authority and we are most grateful for this service.

Similarly, many of our senior citizens were finding it difficult to get groceries during the pandemic. The Regional Food Bank of the Capital Region initiated a monthly Pop Up Pantry at our senior sites (Kennedy, Kane and Conway). Each month tenants select from an array of free fresh, canned and frozen food items and we are most appreciative of this service.

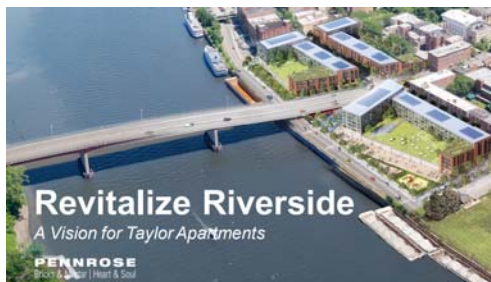
The Alight Care Center recognized that families with babies and small children were finding it difficult to get diapers and face masks. I want to thank Alight for coming to several of our communities with their Mobile Ultrasound Van to give away free diapers and face masks to all the families that needed them.

The Ark, Inc. was able to come up with a way to provide a socially distanced Summer Education Enrichment Program and Rensselaer County found a way to run the Summer Youth Employment Program and School Supply Give Away Program in this environment. We thank these organizations for their efforts to help our children succeed at school and in life.

Deborah A. Witkowski
Executive Director

Taylor Apartments Update

Design planning for the renovated Taylor Apartments has been continuing based on input provided by our tenants and the broader community earlier this year. We are planning to hold more meetings in the near future.

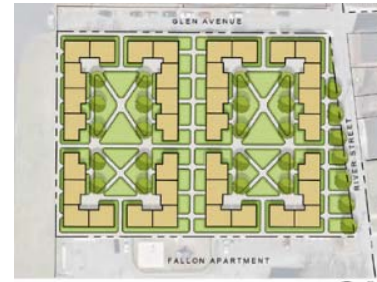


The expected timeline involves applying for funding later this year and if successful starting the demolition of Taylor 1 and 2 in 2021. This will be followed by construction of a new building at that location for occupancy in 2022 (including the relocation of tenants from Taylor 4). Simultaneously, we will be applying for funds to demolish Taylor 4 in 2022 so that we can rebuild at that location for occupancy in 2024 (including the relocation of tenants from Taylor 3). Finally, we will apply for funding to demolish Taylor 3 in 2024 and build a new building at that location in 2026. This will complete the transformation of this site in collaboration with Pennrose.

**Taylor Tenant Meeting August 20, 2020 at 5:30PM
Under the Congress Street Bridge**

Fallon Apartments Plans

Plans are also being developed to revitalize the Fallon Apartments and the surrounding community. This will also be accomplished in phases and will include replacing 21 apartments from Martin Luther King along River Street.



The replacement apartments will be designed to the needs of today's families and the buildings will enhance the charm of the neighborhood. New office and service space is planned to bring more resources to this community. Meetings with our tenants and neighbors are being planned to gain valuable input from everyone concerned.

The Troy Housing Authority is working in collaboration with Beacon Communities as our developer and many of the same team members that are presently revitalizing the Martin Luther King Apartments.

**Fallon Tenant Meeting August 27, 2020 at 5:30PM
Fallon Rainbow Center**

A Discussion With Two Summer Youth Employees

Rasiyah Tibbs is a Rensselaer County Summer Youth Employee working at the Troy Housing Authority. Janea Robert is a Troy Housing Authority employee who worked in the Summer Youth Employment Program in 2001. As youth employees, both worked in the Administrative Offices copying, filing, sorting mail and answering phones. They recently sat down together to discuss their experience. The following are excerpts from the discussion.

Janea, what else were you doing as a teenager in 2001?

Going to school, acting classes and enjoying my friends.

Rasiyah, tell us a little about yourself? I will be a senior at Troy High School this year.

Janea, tell us a little about your work experience. I started as a Clerk for the Troy Housing Authority but now I am a Public Housing Specialist. I also worked at a bakery and did data entry and tax preparation before working at the Troy Housing Authority.

Rasiyah, what type of work do you want to do? I have not decided what I want to do as a job when I am an adult but I plan to attend college after high school.

Janea, tell us about your schooling and training. I have an Associates Degree in Accounting and attended many job related trainings.

Rasiyah, what are your favorite school subjects?

I like Social Studies, math and science. I pretty much like all of the things I am learning at school and at work.



Rasiyah Tibbs (left) and Janea Robert.

Janea, how did Summer Youth Employment Prepare you for life? It taught me an appreciation of money and saving money. It taught me to try new things to figure out what I am good at and what I like doing. It helped me to develop a strong work ethic.

Rasiyah, what are you planning to do with some of the money you earn? I plan to buy school supplies and clothes and save some for later.

Janea, what advice do you have for Rasiyah and other youth as they prepare for their future? Always try to do your best. If you know you are doing your best there is no need to compare yourself to others. Learn all that you can from every experience, never stop learning, even your mistakes and bad days can teach you how to improve. Never give up and always stay positive.

Coronavirus (COVID 19) Precautions Update

All Troy Housing Authority offices are open now with the following safety precautions:

- Appointments are strongly encouraged but not required.
- You should not come to the office if you feel sick or have any symptoms of illness.
- Only the person or persons that need to conduct business with Troy Housing Authority should come to the office.
- If you arrive to the office and there is someone in the reception area you need to wait outside until they are out of the reception area.
- You need to stay at least six feet away from other people and staff will likely initially meet with you behind a clear safety shield.
- If you are taken to an office or conference room you will need to sit at the opposite end of the desk or table.
- Masks or other facial coverings are required and you should bring your own pen to assure all business can be conducted in a contactless manner.

Remember, most business with the Troy Housing Authority can be conducted over the telephone or by mail (including the payment of rent). Also, the Rent Collection Box is a safe and effective way to pay your rent in a contactless manner.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.





Troy Housing Authority
One Eddy's Lane
Troy, NY 12180



Connect with THA



Troy Housing Authority is on Facebook
and at troyhousing.org
For the latest news and information

Deborah A. Witkowski, Executive Director

THA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Susan J.W. Steele, Chair

Rev. George William Whitfield, Vice Chair

Debora Jackson

Steven Sanders

Elizabeth Rodriguez

Walter Howard, Tenant Commissioner

Wildelia "Nancy" Roman, Tenant Commissioner

Please Complete Your 2020 Census

By now everyone should have received an invitation to complete the 2020 Census. If you have not done so already, please respond for your home. It only takes 10 minutes and you can do it in one of 3 ways: online, by phone or by mail.

When completing the census, you should include everyone living in your home. The 2020 Census is important. It will impact communities for the next 10 years by determining the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds and how many congressional representatives there will be for each state.

Over the next ten years lawmakers, business owners, and others will use 2020 Census data to make decisions. The results will show where communities need schools, clinics, roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children.

Everyone living in the United States is required to be counted in the Census. Also, while you are required by law to participate, the Census Bureau is also required by law to protect your answers. Your responses are only used to create statistics. The Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information.

Again, the 2020 Census is easy, you will answer a few simple questions about yourself and everyone who is living with you.

Finally, the 2020 Census can be completed online, by phone or by mail.

On-line: www.my2020census.gov

Phone: 1-844-330-2020

Mail: If you receive a paper Census questionnaire it will have instructions on mailing it back.

we count!
RENSSELAER COUNTY
2020 CENSUS

**Take 10
Minutes**

**Go to
Census2020.gov**

**Make sure
you count!**