



NEIGHBORHOODS

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

Troyhousing.org

April 2018

Inside this issue:

Message From The Executive Director	2
The Quality of Life Committee Wants To Hear From You	2
Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule	2
THA Participates In HUD's Strong Families Initiative	3
Recent Activities At The Troy Housing Authority	3
Summer Youth Employment Opportunities	4

Troy Housing Authority Mission Statement

The Troy Housing Authority strives to improve the quality of life within the City of Troy by providing decent, safe and sanitary homes to the families and individuals who choose to live in our settings; increasing the availability of economic opportunities and affordable housing to promote self-sufficiency & homeownership; and assuring equal access to fair housing for everyone in the community.

Recognizing that efficient operations are essential in order to continue to perform the vital role that we play in the community, we commit ourselves to open communication, professionalism and fiscal responsibility as we develop partnerships with others to best meet the needs of our residents, whom we recognize as our most valuable asset.

2018 Troy Housing Authority Tenant Commissioner Elections

The Troy Housing Authority is governed by a seven-member board of commissioners. Every two years there is an election during which two tenants are elected by tenants to become tenant commissioners. The other five members of the board are appointed for five-year terms by the city government.

The commissioners serve as the Housing Authority governing officers. Some of the responsibilities are to provide leadership and advocate for public housing; set the policies that will govern the Housing Authority's operations and chart the direction of current and future programs.

The Board of Commissioners also establishes policies to prevent fraud, abuse, mismanagement, all forms of discrimination and ensure that the Housing Authority acts legally and with integrity.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR TENANT COMMISSIONER?



The election will be held August 29, 2018. Polling places will be in the community rooms of housing sites. To obtain a Nominating Petition or ask any questions relating to the election see your site manager or contact:

Tom Hulihan, Clerk of Election
Troy Housing Authority
One Eddy's Lane
Troy, New York 12180

Phone: (518) 273-3600 ext. 221
E-mail: hulihant@troyhousing.org

THA Tenant Commissioner Elections Rules Regarding Nominations & Elections

Nominating Petitions for the tenant commissioner election can be obtained on or after **May 1, 2018** at site offices or from Tom Hulihan, Clerk of the Election, at the THA Administration Office. Completed nominating petitions must be returned to him by 4:00PM on **June 15, 2018**.

To be eligible to nominate a candidate, to become a candidate or to vote, tenants must have their name listed on the lease, live in an apartment owned or managed by the Troy Housing Authority (including Section 8 participants and residents of Kennedy Towers) on **May 1, 2018** and be 18 years old or over on the election date (**8/29/18**).

Fifty signatures of qualified residents are needed to have a candidate placed on the ballot. An eligible voter may sign up to 2 nominating petitions.

Elections will be by secret ballot. Polling places will be located in the community rooms of housing sites for voting on the day of the election. Section 8 participants will vote at the Taylor Apartments. The election will be monitored by staff of Troy Housing Authority.

Tenant Commissioners of Troy Housing Authority also serve on the Board of the Kennedy Towers Housing Development Fund Corporation and the MLK Housing Development Fund Corporation.

From the desk of the Executive Director Deborah A. Witkowski



Over the past few months I have been part of the Listening Tour set up by the Quality of Life Committee of our Board of Commissioners. The meetings were scheduled so that residents could talk with board members freely. See the schedule below for the remaining dates.

Originally, my role was to introduce the board members, answer questions about operations and take notes about comments made. After the first session I learned that I have a much more important role at these events.

So many residents raised important concerns or shared useful ideas about things we can do to improve the Troy Housing Authority. After each meeting I have been working with the board and staff to assure that what we heard from our residents is acted upon in a timely manner to the fullest extent possible.

This approach has been very successful for the meetings held at Griswold Heights, Kane Apartments and Taylor Apartments and I intend to continue it for all upcoming meetings.

In addition to these meetings, I also was able to attend the meeting of the board of the Resident Empowered Action Council of Troy, Inc. (REACT, Inc.) on March 22, 2018. In addition to operating the Food Pantry for all our residents, REACT is the City-wide Resident Organization for the Troy Housing Authority.

REACT provides guidance and support to site based tenant associations and to tenants interested in forming a site based tenant association. REACT also seeks out and manages grants used to support the programs for our residents. REACT board members are nominated by their Tenant Association or elected by the tenants at their site and then confirmed by REACT.

I encourage all of our residents to get involved in your community by:

- Attending one or more of the upcoming Listening Tour sessions to talk with our commissioners.
- Getting involved with, or starting, the tenant association for your site.
- Sharing your thoughts, ideas and any concerns with staff (if we don't know about something we can't fix it).

The Mission Statement of the Troy Housing Authority concludes by saying we recognize that you, our residents, are our most valuable asset. Our goal is to assure that you feel valued, recognized and heard.

Deborah A. Witkowski,
Executive Director

Tell Us What You Think About the Troy Housing Authority

We want to hear what you like, what you don't like, and your ideas about how we can improve.

(Including, but not limited to, your apartment, the buildings, the grounds, your rent, our staff, community activities, ... anything we can do to improve our operations).

During 2018 members of the Quality of Life Committee of the Board of Commissioners will be available to hear from residents. Any resident can attend any meeting at any site. *

Upcoming Meetings:

May 21, 2018, Monday at 5:30PM – Corliss Park

June 14, 2018 Thursday at 10:30AM – Kennedy Towers

July 16, 2018, Monday at 5:30PM – Martin Luther King Apts.

August 13, 2018, Monday at 5:30PM – Phelan Court

September 13, 2018 Thursday at 2:00PM – Conway Court

October 15, 2018, Monday at 5:30PM – Taylor Apartments

November 19, 2018, Monday at 5:30PM – Fallon Apartments

This is your chance to tell us what you think.

2018 Meeting Schedule Board of Commissioners

All Meetings will be held on Thursdays at 4:30PM unless noted otherwise. *

1/11/18 Martin Luther King Apartments

5/17/18 Griswold Heights

6/28/18 Fallon Apartments

8/9/18 Conway Court

9/20/18 Corliss Park

11/1/18 Kennedy Towers

**12/13/18 Martin Luther King Apartments
(Friday at 12:NOON)**

At each meeting there are two opportunities for public input. Prior to the meeting the public is invited to comment on any item on the agenda. During the Old & New Business portion of the meeting comments are welcome on any topic.

*** Any changes to the schedule of these meetings will be posted on our website and at all site offices**

TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY IS ACTIVELY TAKING PART IN HUD'S STRONG FAMILIES INITIATIVE

The Troy Housing Authority is very actively participating in "The Strong Families Initiative" of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Through this initiative we are hosting events during May and June that are designed to strengthen family bonds, empower parents and support children.

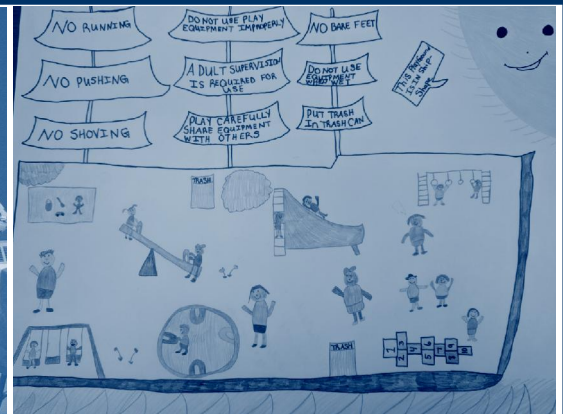
Events will be held at several locations throughout the City of Troy. Troy Housing Authority tenants may participate at any event at any site. Events are intended to serve as a way for families to have fun together. All we ask is that you sign up in advance at your site office so that those running the program are prepared for everyone attending. More events may be added to the schedule below. Check your site office for details.



May 11, 2018 9AM-NOON Griswold Heights	May 12, 2018 12-2:30PM Fallon Rainbow Center	June 2, 2018 10AM-NOON Griswold Heights	June 9, 2018 10AM-NOON Taylor Apartments
Kids Clothes Closet at the Community Center. The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) is holding this event. Free Infant & child clothing & shoes available.	The Ark, Inc. will be at the Fallon Rainbow Center doing activities that will be a part of their summer program (arts & crafts, beading, card making, potting plants, drumming, etc).	Troy Boys and Girls Club will host Flapjacks for Families at the Community Center. Come enjoy a free family breakfast. Kids will serve and then dine with their parents.	Malone's Kenpo Karate will hold demonstrations and recruit new participants for their year round programs at the Taylor Apartments Community Center.

Remember to visit your site office to sign up for any of these events and to check on additional events. The Tri City Valley Cats also donated a Family Pass that will be raffled off at one of our events.

RECENT ACTIVITIES AT TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY



Children in the Homework Club at Corliss Park Apartments recently made bonnets in celebration of Spring (top left).

Children from all sites were invited to participate in the annual Playground Safety Poster and Essay Contest (top right). Participants are being invited to an award ceremony and local first place winners are being submitted to a national contest run by Housing Authority Insurance Group.

Families and staff at Phelan Court and Sweeney Apartments cleaned up their neighborhoods as part of Earth Day.



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



Connect with THA



Troy Housing Authority on Facebook
@Troy_Housing on Twitter
and at troyhousing.org
For 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
Luz Marquez Benbow
Daryl Freedman, Tenant Commissioner
Leonard Watkins, Tenant Commissioner



Summer Youth Employment



TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Troy Housing Authority will be hiring a limited number of youth to work in the Summer Nutrition and Recreation Program this year. Motivated resident youth, ages 14-17, who are eager to work are encouraged to apply at the site office where you live. Not everyone who applies will be hired. Applicants will be screened to select those most willing to work. Applicants that seem most suited for employment will be interviewed by your Site Manager for further screening.

At the interview be prepared to discuss why you are the best candidate for a job, and whether or not you have other commitments this summer (summer school, sports, camps, etc). Youth hired will work up to 20 hours per week with assignments beginning as early as June 25, 2018 and continuing through August 31, 2018. Any eligible youth not initially hired will be placed on a waiting list. The work involves setting up for breakfast and lunch, serving breakfast and lunch, cleaning up after breakfast and lunch and leading activities between meals. See your Site Manager to complete an application.



Because the Troy Housing Authority is limited, all youth are also encouraged to apply to the Rensselaer County Summer Youth Employment Program

RENSELAER COUNTY

The Rensselaer County Summer Youth Employment Program offers eligible youth, ages 14-18, paid job experiences during July and August. Work locations may include Troy Housing Authority sites.

Applications are available through, and should be returned to, School Guidance Offices or by calling **270-2860** (Rensselaer County One-Stop Employment Center).

Opportunities in the Rensselaer County Program are limited, so apply as soon as possible. Completing an application does not always guarantee employment.

Those youth who complete the **entire application** and submit it by the deadline are eligible to **competitively interview** for a position this summer. At the interview be prepared to discuss what kind of work you would like to do this summer, the transportation you will have to and from work, why you are the best candidate for a job, and whether or not you will be attending summer school.