



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

NEIGHBORHOODS

Troyhousing.org

July-August 2018

Inside this issue:

Message From The Executive Director	2
Kids Enjoying Summer at the Troy Housing Authority	2
Martin Luther King Apartments Renovations Update	3
It's Already Time To Think About Back To School	3
The Quality of Life Committee Wants To Hear From You	4
Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule	4

Because only two residents submitted nominating petitions for the two tenant commissioner seats there is no need for an election on August 29, 2018.

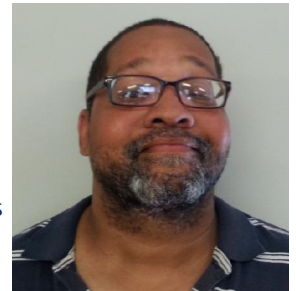
Leonard Watkins and Walter Howard To Serve as Tenant Commissioners

The deadline for filing petitions to run for Tenant Commissioner has passed with two candidates submitting petitions of nomination. The nominations came from current Tenant Commissioner Leonard Watkins and long time resident Walter Howard. Since there are two seats to fill and only two candidates, the two nominated candidates are declared victorious.

Leonard Watkins has been a resident of Kennedy Towers for over three years and is presently serving his first term as tenant commissioner. Leonard is now retired but has worked as a Manager at The Center for the Disabled as well as at Residential Opportunities, Inc. He also worked for MetLife as a Human Resource Specialist and Program Support Analyst.



Walter Howard has lived in Troy Housing Authority apartments for over 30 years and now calls Martin Luther King Apartments his home. Walter has worked in nursing at Hospice and as a cook at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Leonard and Walter will serve as Tenant Commissioners for the upcoming two year term that begins on January 1, 2019. "A Tenant Commissioner should have a heart for the people, be honest, have integrity and good communication skills and be well liked by the people they represent," said Leonard Watkins.

"I want to make things better for all residents; I want to help my community and continue to help the young and the elderly" added Walter Howard.

Please be sure to congratulate the new Commissioners when you see them.

U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Visits Kennedy Towers



Above: Senator Gillibrand with Michelle Loiselle-Collis.
 Right: Dignitaries in attendance.

Recently, the Troy Housing Authority hosted U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand at Kennedy Towers. Senator Gillibrand is sponsoring legislative to assist senior citizens with the rising cost of prescription drugs.

Troy Mayor Patrick Madden provided welcoming comments; Senator Gillibrand spoke about her proposed legislation that will drive down costs and increase access to safe and affordable medications; Michelle Loiselle-Collis, a Kennedy Towers resident, spoke of her own experiences both in the health care field and in dealing with the rising and at time overwhelming costs of prescription drugs.

THA Board Chair Susan J.W. Steele, and Executive Director Deborah A. Witkowski were in attendance along with several local elected officials, many Troy Housing Authority residents and staff, and numerous reporters.



From the desk of the Executive Director Deborah A. Witkowski



It's hard to believe that we are more than half way through 2018. I hope all our residents, staff and friends are enjoying all that our area has to offer each summer. During the extreme heat at the beginning of July, I was particularly pleased to see so many kids enjoying and staying cool in the Splash Pads we have at our family sites.

Here at Troy Housing Authority much has been happening in 2018. First, I want to congratulate the residents that submitted nominating petitions with more than 50 signatures for Tenant Commissioner for the 2 terms that start on January 1, 2019 and run through December 31, 2020.

Leonard Watkins and Walter Howard were the only two residents to submit nominating petitions for the two seats. Therefore the election has been declared and there will be no need to vote August 29, 2018. I look forward to working with both of these residents on the Board.

Next, I would like to update everyone on our conversion to RAD (the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program). The Troy Housing Authority and our RAD consultants from The Gill Group, along with our RAD attorneys from Reno & Cavanaugh, are continuing to work with HUD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on our conversion to RAD. As you can imagine, there is a great deal of work involved, but we are hoping to have this process completed for most of our sites sometime in the fall.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff, volunteers and partner agencies for making the summer time so enjoyable and productive for our children and youth. So much is going on here at the Troy Housing Authority and I am very pleased to be able to provide so many families with safe, decent and affordable housing and a nice place to raise their children.

We have children enjoying a free breakfast and lunch and summer fun at most of our family sites; we have children participating in cultural and educational enrichment activities through The Ark, Inc. at the Fallon Rainbow Center; we have several youth receiving valuable job experience through our partnership with the Rensselaer County Department of Employment and Training and in our own Breakfast and Lunch programs. Our older residents too at the Conway Court, Kane Apartments and Kennedy Towers sites continue to enjoy picnics, field trips and other summer events.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a warm, safe, enjoyable rest of the summer!

Deborah A. Witkowski
Executive Director

Kids Enjoying Summer At Troy Housing Authority

The Troy Housing Authority has continued to run Summer Nutrition Programs at Corliss Park, Taylor Apartments, Griswold Heights and Phelan Court. At any of these locations children can come in and enjoy a free breakfast from 7:30-8:30AM, engage in various activities during the morning and then enjoy a free lunch from 11:30AM to 12:30PM. Meals are provided by the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) through the Rensselaer County Department for Youth. Activities are led by Children's Program Aides hired from among our residents and assisted by summer youth employees and volunteers.

At the Fallon Apartments Rainbow Center The Ark, Inc. is running a six week summer program for up to 75 children, with at least 20 attending from the Troy Housing Authority free of charge. In addition to meals and fun activities, The Ark is focusing on cultural and educational enrichment, including field trips to places like the Palace Theatre and the Museum of Dance. The Ark, Inc. Summer Program at the Fallon Apartments Rainbow Center is in part supported by a grant from the Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation.



Martin Luther King Apartments Renovations Update

Phase I Work Nearly Complete

Phase I of the renovations of Martin Luther King Apartments is nearly completed. When work started there were 54 apartments in 6 buildings. Now there are 46 apartments in 8 buildings. The 8 apartments that were removed were replaced with new apartments that are known as the Peter M. Guenette Apartments.

The long linear buildings at Martin Luther King Apartments have been divided to create more of a residential neighborhood with easier access to front and rear yards. Four laundry rooms were added, one between every two buildings.

The interior of each apartment was completely replaced, as were all fixtures and appliances. Several apartments were reconfigured to create accessible apartments for the mobility impaired as well as for those with vision and/or hearing difficulty.

Landscaping and other site improvements were also made around the Phase I buildings. Most significantly, a new access ramp is being added to replace the staircase that has been used for many years to connect residents to the amenities in the neighborhoods to the west and to the rest of the Troy community.

All 46 apartments are rented and a waiting list has been established for new admissions. Many of the residents living in the new apartments are the families that were temporarily displaced from Martin Luther King Phase I so that renovations could occur.



Phase II Receives Funding

The Troy Housing Authority recently learned that New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYSHCR) has approved funding for renovations of Martin Luther King Apartments Phase II.

Similar renovations to buildings and apartments will occur along with more de-densification to make room for a new community building and major green space areas for children to play.

The apartments removed from the main Martin Luther King site will be replaced with new buildings on land on the hill to the North of Eddy's Lane.

In addition to funding from NYSHCR, work at the Martin Luther King Apartments will be supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). This work will involve using solar as the primary source of electricity for the site, buildings and apartments. One building will be retrofitted so that it uses no more energy than is produced for its use by solar power.

The NYSERDA work will be used to demonstrate to housing providers ways to create sustainable communities.

Work is expected to begin at Martin Luther King Apartments Phase II in late 2018 or early 2019.

The Troy Housing Authority is grateful to our development partner, Beacon Communities Development LLC- New York, and to our residents for helping us to transform the Martin Luther King Apartments and make them sustainable for many years to come.

It's Already Time To Think About Back To School

The Troy Housing Authority, along with several other community agencies, is once again participating in Rensselaer County's back pack and school supply program. **Request forms are at all site offices and need to be returned for each child by August 7, 2018.**

Through the program 100 children living in apartments owned or managed by the Troy Housing Authority will get a backpack filled with required school supplies. Children will be selected on a first come, first served basis, after eligibility is confirmed.



Child must be going into grades K - 8 in a school in Rensselaer County in the September, 2018 with the exception of children attending Lansingburgh Schools and Troy Prep.

The Lansingburgh School District will be providing their entire student body with the supplies need so they will not be able to get supplies from the Rensselaer County Program. Students for Troy Prep will only receive a backpack from Rensselaer County. School supplies are going to be provided by Troy Prep for all their students.



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



Connect with THA



Troy Housing Authority on Facebook
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
Debra Jackson
Steven Sanders
Luz Marquez Benbow
Daryl Freedman, Tenant Commissioner
Leonard Watkins, Tenant Commissioner

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:

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. *

Remaining Meetings in 2018

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