



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

NEIGHBORHOODS

Troyhousing.org - CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE!!!

JUNE 2024

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Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners is the governing board of the Troy Housing Authority. The Board establishes the strategic vision for the Troy Housing Authority and sets the policies the Troy Housing Authority staff will follow. These policies must be comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Board members do not get involved in the day to day work being done by staff of the Troy Housing Authority.

The daily operations of the Troy Housing Authority are done by staff members who report to the Executive Dir. The Board of Commissioners hold regular meetings every six weeks in accordance with the schedule posted at all sites and on the website of the Troy Housing Authority.

Troy Housing Authority – Retirement Service and Stories from the Heart



Barb McGivern retires after 36 years at THA



As we begin 2024, there will be a number of changes within the Troy Housing Authority.

Noticeable changes include renovations of Griswold Heights and the revitalization of Taylor Apartments. There are also a number of changes in staffing at THA, new faces will be introduced later in this edition of the Neighborhoods Newsletter.

Another major change happening is the retirement of a dedicated member of the THA team; **Barb McGivern**.

Barb retired from her current position as Asset Manager at the end of January. Barb will take with her over 36 years of service to the Troy Housing Authority and all of the strong bonds and connections to both residents and employees in THA.



Henrietta Edge retires after 30 years at THA



Another major change for THA is the retirement of a dedicated member of the THA Maintenance team; **Henrietta Edge**.

Known to most residents and staff as “Etta”, Henrietta has worked in numerous roles for THA including her latest position on the Maintenance Team.

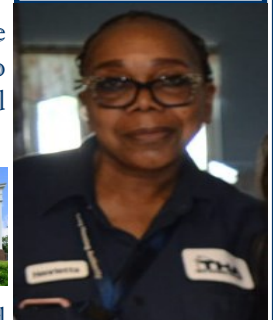
Etta played a huge part in the successful Pop-up Food Pantry held at Kane Apartments the last Tuesday of every month. The seniors at Conway Court will also miss the presence of Henrietta. Once a week Etta transported a van full of seniors up to the Walmart on Hoosick (just a few miles away) so they can get groceries and necessities needed. Marisol the Asset Manager of both Kane and Conway as well as other sites does not want to see Henrietta go. “I don’t know if anyone can fill those shoes, she’s a hard worker, a teacher and takes her job seriously. No excuses Etta puts in the work, you don’t have to worry about attendance or slacking. She will truly be missed, I’ve been trying to tell her she’s only on vacation and will come back to help out in some way.”

One thing is certain both Henrietta and Barb are certainly missed.

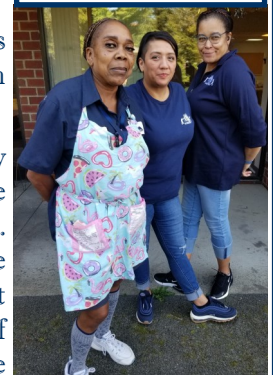
HAPPY RETIREMENT



Barb & Marisol



Henrietta Edge



Etta Angela & Marisol

Troy Housing Authority - Poster Contest

As part of a mission to teach playing safe and avoiding dangers on the playground, THA held its Annual Playground Safety Poster Contest for all kids residing in Troy Housing Authority.

This year 17 kids participated and submitted a poster. All participants were awarded with a certificate of participation.

Age 6 to 8:

- First Place: Lina Gushlaw
- Second Place: Jamyra Eaddy
- Third Place: Janyla Eaddy

Age 9 to 11:

- First Place: Regina Hamilton
- Second Place: Sky Hall
- Third Place: Brycen Medley



First Place Poster Winners

There were *no submissions* for the age group **12 to 14** years old.

The Troy Housing Authority gave prizes of \$20 to the 1st place winners in each category; \$15 to the 2nd place winners in each category; and \$10 to the 3rd place winners in each category.

Two first place winners also had their drawing submitted to the 2024 National Playground Safety Poster Contest by the HAI Group for a chance to win a bigger prize if selected as the winner.



Griswold Renovation Update

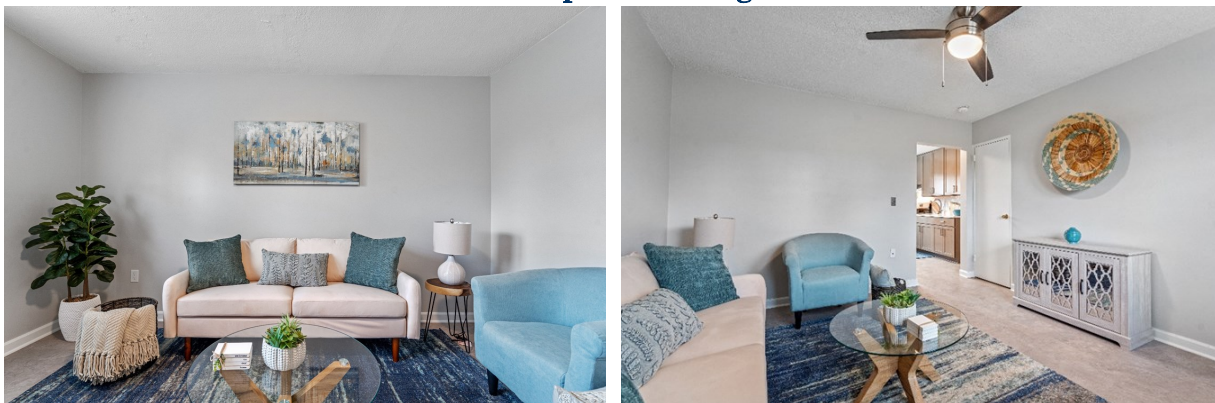
Construction teams were hard at work throughout the winter months. Early Spring MDG & THA staff announced the completion of some units and released pictures. Some of the pictures are shown below.

For more pictures, info and the latest updates please view the THA Website and Social Media.

Griswold Before & After (Kitchen & Bathroom)



Griswold Updated Livingroom



From the desk of the Executive Director

Deborah A. Witkowski



I am extremely excited to report that on October 11, 2023, the Troy Housing Authority along with our Development Partner, MDG, successfully closed on its funding for the proposed Griswold Heights revitalization project. Over the next 24 months' renovations will occur at Griswold Heights on all units, buildings, roofs, sidewalks, landscaping, playgrounds, the Community Center and much more!

Concurrently, the Troy Housing Authority and MDG are continuing to progress all pre-development due diligence necessary for us to begin our renovations work for "Bundle 2" which includes Corliss Park, Margaret Phelan, Catherine Sweeney, and Grand Street apartments upon our financial closing anticipated for early summer of this year! Like the Griswold Heights revitaliza-

tion project, our goal with "Bundle 2" is to upgrade the buildings mechanical systems, site landscaping, social activity spaces, and renovate all apartment units.

Along with the excitement surrounding the redevelopment projects, I was thrilled to learn that Troy High School student and Troy Housing Authority resident was named the 2024 NYSPHADA Annual Scholarship Program Winner. The hard work *Aaliah Barreto* puts into her education and Art speaks for itself and I cannot be more proud.

The participants of THA's Annual Playground Safety Poster Contest have also impressed us with the drawings submitted. The creativity expressed in each poster shows the kids had fun taking part in the contest and I was happy to hear the Awards Ceremony/Pizza Party was a success.

Although we were only able to select 3 winners in each age group., I am excited to receive an update on the 1st Place posters by *Regina Hamilton* and *Lina Gushlaw* that were sent into a much bigger and National Poster Contest sponsored by the HAI Group. Finally, I want to thank former THA Employees *Barb McGivern* and *Henrietta Edge* for their hard work over the years and wish them a Happy Retirement.

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ON THA'S NEW 'RESIDENT PORTAL' COMING SOON...

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Witkowski
Executive Director

THA Tenant Commissioner Nominations

What is a THA Tenant Commissioner?

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. Tenant Commissioners may also serve on the Board of other affiliate organizations of the Troy Housing Authority.

Fifty signatures of qualified residents are needed to have a candidate nominated and placed on the ballot.

To obtain a **Nominating Petition** or ask any questions relating to the election see your Site Manager or contact:

ShaQ. VanNess, Troy Housing Authority - One Eddy's Lane Troy, New York 12180
Phone: (518) 273-3600 ext. 431 E-mail: info@troyhousing.org

All completed nominating petitions must be returned to a Site Office by 4:00PM on June 15, 2024.

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, 2024 and be 18 years old or over on the election date (August 28, 2024).

The election will be held August 28, 2024.

DO YOU WANT TO
BE A CANDIDATE
FOR TENANT
COMMISSIONER?



Current events can also be found on the News & Events page of our newly upgraded website
www.troyhousing.org

THA Highschool Senior Wins Scholarship

Troy Housing Authority (THA), would like to congratulate resident and artist AALIAH BARRETO, the *2024 NYSPHADA Annual Scholarship Program Winner!* The New York State Public Housing Authority Directors Association (NYSPHADA) has implemented a scholarship program for graduating high school seniors living in public or assisted housing who are preparing to enter higher level learning. In order to encourage academic excellence and community responsibility among high school students, NYSPHADA awards one scholarship to a deserving youth currently residing in a NYSPHADA member agency (a runner-up award will also be given).

Aaliah was chosen for the *2024 NYSPHADA Annual Scholarship Program* out of numerous applicants statewide. The scholarship will help pay some of the expenses on the next level of her educational journey.

For many teens who grow up in public housing, dreams and goals seem unattainable due to lack of funds or other resources. Paying for college can seem unrealistic when you grow up in a household seeing your parents struggle to care for your family with limited resources. Aaliah felt like it was a burden she didn't want to add to her family *"I can't afford college, it's expensive so how is that going to work"* says Aaliah. *"I guess I'll just go to Hudson Valley and figure it out from there"*.

Aaliah credits support and encouragement from her teachers with helping her to see that there are programs that exist to help her achieve what seems impossible. *"Honestly I am really grateful for my teachers pointing out opportunities and pushing me to think about a plan for what I want to do for college and beyond"*. Ikea Witt, Guidance Counselor at Troy High School talks a lot about the growth she has seen in Aaliah as a student and artist. *"It's been a pleasure to see her grow and mature into who she is now from the quiet student who kept to herself"*. *"It's been fun meeting with Aaliah and her mom to talk about goals, watching her realize she is much bigger than she gives herself credit for"* says Witt. *"I know Aaliah will do great things and make all of us proud, having the tough talks with Aaliah and her mom helped Aaliah see she has talent, opportunity and shouldn't limit herself."*

Aaliah volunteers at *Hope 7, Make a Wish, 518 Elevated*. Art exhibits at the *Troy Art Center, 4th St Murals, NYSATA, NYSSBA Exhibit*. Other accolades include: *4-year Honor Roll student at Troy High School, Bryant & Stratton Business Class, Troy City School District & Troy High School*.

Marisol Candelario, Caseworker/Translator/Asset Manager for Troy Housing Authority has known Aaliah and her family for over 10 years. *"I've watched Aaliah grow, her mom raised her and her sister right, there is no one who deserves this more than Aaliah"* says Marisol. *"Aaliah is smart, works hard, very talented and has the drive and determination to go far"*. Marisol gave a few pointers prior to my interview with Aaliah... *"Aaliah is shy at first but once she gets comfortable you will see she is a very sweet girl, smart and oh so talented. You are going to want to be her Mom too. Aaliah is walking around here with a lot of Moms who just want to help her, support her and we are all so very proud of her"*.

Aaliah Barreto is thankful the committee selected her as the winner of the 2024 NYSPHADA Scholarship Program. The award ceremony was held during the 2024 Spring Conference for NYSPHADA at Turning Stone Casino.

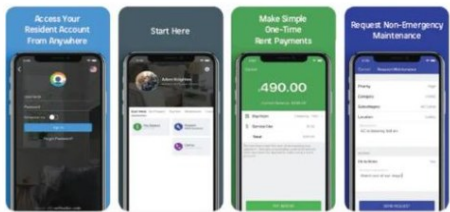
Aaliah, in her award acceptance speech, thanked **Marta** (mother), **Mabel** (sister) and **Marisol** (THA) for being her biggest supporters through her journey. Aaliah also acknowledged she now has more supporters who want to help her achieve her goals in education, art and business and promises she is committed to continue to excel and give back to her community.

Congratulations from everyone here at Troy Housing Authority, we are proud of you AALIAH!!!!



THA APP

Want to pay rent, or submit a maintenance request?
There's an app for that.



TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY
 Has contracted Yardi Software to give all our tenants Access to "RENT CAFÉ" an online portal that will allow Families to:

- PAY RENT
- REQUEST RENT CHANGES
- REQUEST MAINTENANCE
- SEE YOUR TENANT LEDGER

Please list your Email in the space below and return to your site management office.
 To get your registration code electronically when we GO LIVE !!

Tenant Name: _____ Apt# _____
 E-mail: _____

*please print clearly *

EVENTS

**Capital Roots
 Community Gardeners
 Needed**
(518)274-8685
 or
 Email
gardens2@capitalroots.org

**Newsletter or Social
 Media Story Ideas?**
Chat w/ ShaQ
(518)273-3600
 or
 Email
info@troyhousing.org

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Amy Hunziker
THA Residents FSS Coordinator
(518) 874-1005 Ext. 101
Amy.hunziker@troyhousing.org

Or

Jewel Evans
Section 8 Residents FSS Coordinator
(518) 271-8353 Ext. 205
Jewel.evans@troyhousing.org

Photos
**Old & New Photos of
 THA Staff or Buildings**
(518)273-3600
info@troyhousing.org

R.E.A.C.T



REACT, Inc. (Resident Empowered Action Council of Troy) is the City-wide Resident Organization for all Troy Housing Authority tenants. **REACT, Inc.** supports site based tenant associations and serves as the Resident Advisory Board to Troy Housing Authority when we are making plans or setting policies that will have an impact on tenants.

REACT also advocates on behalf of all tenants of the Troy Housing Authority. As a recognized not-for-profit organization **REACT** raises funds to help support programs and services to tenants of the Troy Housing Authority.

REACT provides supplies for Homework Clubs and Summer Nutrition and Recreation Programs available at Troy Housing Authority locations.

REACT operates a Food Pantry for Troy Housing Authority tenants.

Tenants needing food should call **REACT** at **518-272-8974**. You will need to provide your name address and the age of everyone on your lease to make an appointment. You also need to bring a current *Shelter Verification form* to pick up your food. Feel free to call **REACT** if you have any questions.

TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 22nd, 2024 - Troy Housing Authority Board Meeting: 4:30 PM @ TBD Location

July 10th, 2024 - Troy Housing Authority Board Meeting: 4:30 PM @ TBD Location

August 21st, 2024 - Troy Housing Authority Board Meeting: 4:30 PM @ TBD Location

October 2nd, 2024 - Troy Housing Authority Board Meeting: 4:30 PM @ TBD Location

November 13th, 2024 - Troy Housing Authority Board Meeting: 4:30 PM @ TBD Location

December 20th, 2024 - Troy Housing Authority Board Meeting: 11:00 AM @ TBD Location

Visit us online at www.troyhousing.org



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



Connect with T.H.A



Visit Troy Housing Authority website at
troyhousing.org
For the latest news and information

Deborah A. Witkowski, Executive Director

THA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Susan J.W. Steele, Chair
Steven Sanders, Vice Chair
Debra Jackson
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Justin Relf

Walter Howard, Tenant Commissioner
Wildelia "Nancy" Roman, Tenant Commissioner

THA LOCATIONS

THA Administration

One Eddy's Lane
Troy, NY 12180

THA SITES

Corliss Park

1450 Corliss Park
Troy, NY 12182

Taylor Apartments

125 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Fallon Apartments

847 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Sweeney Apartments

4th & Trenton Street
Troy, NY 12180

Griswold Heights

100 Griswold Heights
Troy, NY 12180

Phelan Apartments

17 Hopkins Street
Troy, NY 12180

Kane Apartments

5 115th Street
Troy, NY 12182

Grand Street Apts.

521 Grand Street
Troy, NY 12180

Conway Court

12 Conway Court
Troy, NY 12180

Martin Luther King

One Eddy's Lane
Troy, NY 12180

Kennedy Towers

2100 6th Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

SFC Peter M. Guenette Apartments

6-8 115 Street
Troy, New York

Section 8 Program

125 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

THA & DAV Honor Veterans



Troy Housing Authority (THA), has many Veterans of the United States Military who reside in its various sites.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 38 (DAV) reached out to the manager of Kane Apartments and THA Communications to put together an event to honor the 7 veterans living in Kane.

Each Veteran was supplied with toiletries (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant), Jacket, Sweat Shirt, Socks, T-Shirt, Snacks, Boxed Lunch and a Walmart gift card.

Veterans Honored

Richard Gaunay	Charles Kownack
Thomas Shemelia	Duane Williams
Barney Benjamin	Gerald Kodader
	Mark Dunphy

Thank You for your Service!!!

Conway Seniors hold Seedling Party



Senior housing complex Conway Courts is not new to the Plant and Gardening lifestyle. Residents regularly take part in indoor and outdoor planting, gardening and terrarium activities.

In late spring, Resident Donna Pratt hosted a Seedling party in the Community Room of the Troy Housing Authority (THA) Conway Court location.

Donna, Val, Darlene and other residents were able to plant seeds in different containers, mini greenhouses and egg cartons.



Even yours truly was invited to join the seedling party and took home a greenhouse with cilantro, scallion, tomato, squash, lettuce & cucumber seeds planted in fresh dirt and fertilizer.

In only a few weeks the seeds have sprouted into beautiful greenery.