



A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER: THE GRAND OPENING OF MEYERS RIDGE



New Meyers Ridge Dwellings - "The NewFace of Public Housing."



*Allegheny County Chief Executive
Dan Onorato*

The Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) and The Community Builders (TCB) hosted a grand opening for the newly revitalized Meyers Ridge affordable housing community on Tuesday, May 25th. Meyers Ridge, formerly the McKees Rocks Terrace public housing site, was awarded a \$15.8 million dollar HUD HOPE VI grant in 1998 and leveraged approximately \$15 million more to transform McKees Rocks Terrace into the new, mixed-income community that it is today. The ACHA saw a need to revitalize this development and leveraged its HOPE VI funding to transform the development and bring value to the entire McKees Rocks community. The site, which used to hold 288 rental units now consists of 146 larger rental units with modern day amenities and 19 single family for-sale homes, creating a variety of housing options for families of all income ranges. Upon completion of the new site, residents of the former McKees Rocks Terrace had the first opportunity to occupy a new unit and many have returned to the community. Construction of the for-sale homeownership units is still in progress and will be completed within the next year.

The Grand Opening was a successful celebration of the new community and local civic leaders including Chief County Executive Dan Onorato spoke and praised the diligence and hard work of ACHA and TCB staff and residents. In his remarks, Onorato talked about the need to change the face of public housing and complimented the ACHA in "serving as a leader of this necessary physical and image transformation." He also recognized a continued need for quality affordable housing options within the county and stated that "Meyers Ridge provides not only a viable affordable housing opportunity for residents but, more importantly, an overall improved quality of life." *(continued on page 2)*



Credits:

*Production Editor: Patricia Caslin
Layout, Graphics & Design: Dean Allen
Editors: Mariah Joos, Erin Slattengren
Contributors: Frank Aggazio, Patricia Caslin, Erin Slattengren, Dean Allen, Philip Manion, Jim Bulls, Charles Brown, and Barbara Baulding.
Photos by Bob Hayes.*

PERSPECTIVES



Frank Aggazio
 ACHA Executive Director

As summer ends and fall begins we at the ACHA are proud of our communities and what they represent. We must make every effort to maintain our communities so they remain a place that you can be proud to call Home.

During tough times when domestic programs are being cutback, we have to work together to keep our communities top notch. We need your help – (for example) if you see litter – pick it up. If you see something within your community in need of repair, let your Manager know or call the work order number (1-888-223-0391).


Maintain YOUR community with pride. Only by working together can we achieve the level of excellence in our communities that we all desire.

Remember November 2nd 2004 is Election Day. Your VOTE matters – Get Out and Vote.

Grand Opening of Meyers Ridge

(continued from page 1)

The event was emceed by local award-winning commentator and political analyst Jon Delano and leaders that participated in the event included (from left to right in ribbon cutting picture) John Joyce, ACHA Deputy Executive Director; Dennis Davin, Director of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development; Jason Tigano, Pittsburgh Office of Congressman Mike Doyle; Frances Carter, President of the Meyers Ridge Resident Council; Dan Onorato, Allegheny County Chief Executive; Deborah Duff Booker, ACHA Board Member; Derius Swinton, Resident Council Consultant; Brenda Wells, Western Regional Manager of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; Beverly Moore, ACHA Assistant Executive Director; Karl Schlachter, former Vice President of The Community Builders-Pittsburgh; Sherry Campbell, Deputy Director of the HUD Pittsburgh Field Office; Howard Slaughter, Director of the Pittsburgh Partnership Office of Fannie Mae; Anthony Skender, Superintendent of Sto-Rox School District; and Frank Aggazio, ACHA Executive Director.

The event culminated with a ceremonial ribbon cutting, followed by refreshments served in the new community building and tours of the new units. "It was a celebration of a new beginning for the development and the ACHA was very excited to see the positive support of local leaders," stated ACHA Executive Director Frank Aggazio. 

ACHA Integrates Web Cam System

The ACHA has recently integrated a web cam system to its revitalization and construction activities management. The HOPEVI Revitalization of Ohioview Acres, McKees Rocks, PA, is the chosen project for the new system. The camera is mounted on the rooftop of an adjacent 6-story ACHA apartment building, Ohioview Tower. It will be used to monitor construction progress and completion through the year of 2006. The system will be used to create a historical record of digital video and images based on views and schedules set in advance.

Residents, staff, business partners, and interested persons now have full access to the camera system via the ACHA web site. A photo archive of construction activity will soon be available for viewing and progress reference.

Visit our web site at www.achsng.com to have a look at the HOPE VI Revitalization of Ohioview Acres "through the eyes" of our new web cam system.



Above: Images of construction activity captured by the new web cam system.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Felix Negley - Updating to Today's Standards

Tarentum Borough will see a new face and name on its Felix Negley Apartments public housing site. The Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) saw a need to rehabilitate the site and provide improved and up-to-date affordable housing opportunities to residents in this area of Allegheny County. The modernized Felix-Negley community will adopt a new name to be announced soon.

Through tax credit financing, the ACHA in partnership with TREK Development Group will transform the 36 dwelling units to a 26 unit site. The new units will be more spacious and planned with modern-day amenities such as laundry hook-ups, air conditioning and a fully equipped kitchen. In addition, a new community room and landscape improvements will be added to improve the aesthetic and overall value of the community. "TREK is excited to work with the staff and residents of the ACHA to make this community a viable and quality affordable housing option for residents of Allegheny County stated Bill Gatti, President of TREK. "This will be a development that Tarentum Borough will be proud to have." Construction is expected to begin this fall and will take approximately one year to complete. All former residents of Felix Negley Apartments have been relocated to other affordable housing options in the area. [A](#)



2004 PAHRA CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The ACHA received six (6) Certificate of Achievements Awards for 2004 from the Pennsylvania Association of Housing and Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA):

- Family Choice Supportive Services Voucher Program
- Section 3 and MBE/WBE/DBE Initiatives
- Sharps Terrace Revitalization
- Public Relations Event Planning Committee
- The Password Program
- Teen Summit Program

In addition, the Family Choice Supportive Services Voucher Program will receive the Best Practice Award. Congratulations to Departments receiving Certificate of Achievement Awards. [A](#)

READ! 365 to Give Kids the Best Start in Life

Parents, grandparents, neighbors, community volunteers... Reading to the children in your world, for just 20 minutes a day, is the surest way to help them become capable readers and grow into successful students and learners all their lives. It teaches them important reading and language skills, even before they enter school. It's the head start every child deserves.

READ! 365 is a community-wide campaign to make people aware of how important it is to read to children, starting from birth.

It's true: every time you read with a child, you read for a child. There are many ways you can help READ! 365 in their mission: Pledge to read to your kids every day, volunteer to read at your local school or library or even hold a community book drive. For more information, visit www.read365.org or contact READ! 365 by phone at (412) 365-2034.

Reading Facts:

- ! Reading is the foundation for all school learning.
- ! Vocabulary begins to develop at birth and continues to grow throughout a child's life.
- ! Children who are read to from a young age start school a full year (or more) ahead in language ability.

The ACHA Executive Staff thanks all new residents for choosing the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) as their new home. All residents leasing Low-Income Public Housing in the past three months are invited to attend a "Resident Orientation." This program allows the ACHA to better serve our residents needs as well as inform them about our various social service and assistance programs. These orientations have been very successful for all those involved!

COMMUNITY DAYS

Community Days are as much a part of summer as the opening day at Kennywood Park and the echoes of “play ball” at PNC Park. A long time summer tradition of ACHA family sites, Community Day is an annual event planned and carried out by the Resident Councils. With the help of our many community partners who support the event, residents feasted on an array of summer time food and fun, hotdogs, hamburgers, fried chicken, ribs, snow cones, popcorn and best of all cotton candy. For the children, there is a petting zoo, face painting, clowns, balloons and a puppet show.



Sheldon Park Step Dancers.

This year, Community Day celebrations were held in Sheldon Park, Hawkins Village, Hays Manor, and Millvue Acres. ACHA staff was present at each of the celebrations and actively involved in the days’ happenings as Dick Crowley provided Snow Cones, Neighborhood Networks operated an information booth and Uloma Simmons gave an inspiration mime performance at Hawkins Village. The entertainment of the day at both Sheldon Park and Millvue Acres were the Step Show performances of the children. The “steppers” were the children from these two communities, who to tunes of the day stepped into our hearts.




Hawkins Village Step Dancers.

Special congratulations to Ms. Dianna Broome longtime Millvue Acres resident and Vice President of Resident Council was honored by her community at their Community Day celebration held on August 20th. Ms. Broome is an active member of this community having served as Resident Council President for number of years and dominating many volunteer hours to the local Boy and Girl Scout troops, BJWL, Head Start and tutoring programs. Ms. Broome who is 90 years old has not let age stop her as she continues to be active in the community and in her church.




Body and face painting fun!

If you are looking for some good clean summer time fun and entertainment, make sure you are a part of next year’s Community Days celebrations. 


ACHA Helps Residents Build Careers

To meet the career needs of residents in Burns Heights, the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) will be creating a Business Development and Career Enhancement Center (BDCE). The BDCE Center will be dedicated to business education training, business plan development, startup support, and technical assistance to residents. The Center will be developed and implemented as a collaborative between the Burns Heights Residents and the ACHA. Other community partners that provide related services will be recruited.

The Burns Heights residents will receive an orientation to BDCE services and simultaneously develop career goals. Enrollees will receive business development related mentoring, coaching, technical assistance and referral services. The ACHA will offer mentoring and coaching experiences and provide participants with networking opportunities. A stimulating environment will be created through the use of a hands-on interactive learning process.

The training center will serve as a model and prototype for other public housing communities. Contact Mr. Charles Brown, Associate Director of Business and Economic Initiatives for further details at (412) 402-2487. 

UPCOMING EVENTS

The ACHA Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 4th, 2004 at the Crows Nest in Sharpsburg. The Cocktail Party starts at 6:00 P.M. with dinner served at 7:00 P.M. Karaoke will be available during cocktail hour and after dinner from 9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. There will be door prizes and a raffle for a Basket of Cheer. Ring in the holiday season with your fellow employees. For more event information, contact Lynn Greer at (412) 402-2452. 

“Ask the Director”

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the ACHA you would like addressed, please E-mail me at franka@achsng.com or call me at 412.402.2450 and I will respond to your concerns.

THE BACKYARD SOFTBALL CHALLENGE

Hawkins Village celebrated their Community Day by challenging the ACHA to a game of Softball. The ACHA rose to the challenge under the leadership of Team Captain, Bill Hohman. In the end, ACHA squeaked through defeating the Hawkins team by a score of 8 to 7.


After careful deliberation, Mark Manuppelli has been awarded the Best Diver on the Team Award. Since the softball game, Bob Hayes has taken to carrying his birth certificate with him at all times.

The injured roster of ACHA employees is too lengthy to mention. Kudos to all who played and the ACHA looks forward to another challenge next year!



CURB APPEAL / COMMUNITY WALK

The Curb Appeal/Community Walk is an on-location tour of pre-selected communities to evaluate grounds and common areas for improvements. Areas needing attention are noted by respective staff and marked for action. Executive staff, department directors and ACHA staff have participated in these Community Walks.

Recently the ACHA staff has been seen walking at Prospect Terrace, Maplevue Terrace, Uansa Village, Sheldon Park and Groveton Village. The numbers have grown to include residents and Resident Council leaders. Residents are encouraged to take initiative in their community by removing debris, planting flowers and beautifying their window treatments. 



ACHA Assistant Executive Director, Bev Moore discussing curb appeal with the Resident Council President of Groveton Village, Lynn Bonner.

NEW BABIES!



Congratulations to:

1. Chris and Michelle Heck on the birth of their daughter Annie Grace, who was born on May 24, 2004.
2. Frank and Renee Magliocco on the birth of their son Gianni Carlo, who was born on August 8, 2004.
3. Chris and Glenda Wroblewski on the birth of their grand-daughter Katie Grace Danforth who was born on August 21, 2004.
4. Johnathan and Kellie Stock on the birth of their son Ryan Clark who was born on July 11, 2003.
5. Ed and Karen Primm on the birth of their daughter Isabella Katherine who was born on May 4, 2003.

ACHA GOLF CLASSIC 2004

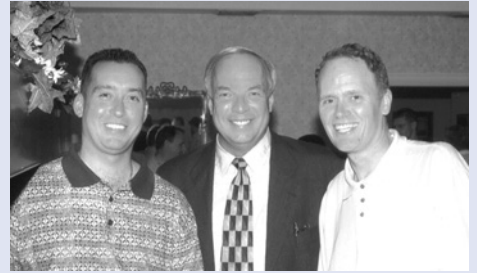
The Falbo/Pennrose 3rd Annual Golf Classic presented by TREK Development Group/PNC was held on Friday, June 11, 2004 at the beautiful Highland Country Club located in West View, PA. The time for the event was 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. This dynamic event featured golf, brunch, dinner, gifts, skill contests, a hole-in-one contest and an auction of exciting donated items. One hundred forty-four golfers participated and attended the Awards Dinner.

The proceeds from the Golf Classic allowed downpayments or closing costs assistance for 2 HCVP participants and partial scholarships to 8 Low Income Public Housing residents. Checks were distributed to the participants at the Awards Dinner by Title Sponsor, Ralph Falbo and Presenting Sponsors: Bill Gatti and Peter Kaplan.

Golf prizes were awarded for: Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Longest Holed Shot, and Hole in One. Prizes were also awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

This has been our most successful golf event to date. It was made possible through the generous contributions of many organizations and individuals. Thanks to all our sponsors and participants! Visit us online to view more photos of the ACHA Golf Classic 2004 - check the "News" section at www.achsng.com.

We're planning the 4th Annual Golf Classic to be held in June of 2005. Please contact Patricia Caslin at 412.402.2542 for reservations at next years event.



 **Allegheny County Housing Authority**
625 Stanwix Street, 12th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222