



RHA TIMES NEWSLETTER



675 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14611

Our Mission:

Rochester Housing Authority is an essential housing resource for the greater Rochester area providing quality housing opportunities and related services for those in need.

Continuing Our Mission

There are many exciting and positive events that have happened over the past few months at the Rochester Housing Authority.

On April 16, RHA attended the Celebrate City Living Expo at City Hall. Our staff had the opportunity to interact with City residents and community partners to inform them of our Section 8 programs, inspection processes, Section 3 business opportunities and Public Housing. This event helped us promote a real understanding of the services the Rochester Housing Authority provides.

On April 21, we held a "Homeowner Forum" with participants from our Homeownership program to gather feedback and learn about participant successes and obstacles faced.

In addition, we hosted our Contractor Open House on April 28. More than 60 local contractors attended to learn about RHA's Procurement processes, contract opportunities, and how they can work with and provide their services to RHA. Future endeavors will focus on specific areas of interest, requested by the attendees.

Most recently, we held a "Business Bootcamp" workshop with the Small Business Administration on May 25. More than 20 local contractors came to jumpstart their company and learn how to work with RHA and other local community organizations to build their business.

Later this summer we will be holding a Homeownership Fair where attendees can get free information from finance institutions, home buyer clubs, and learn about low interest financing options. If interested in this event, please contact our Residential Services Department at 585.232.1112.

RHA is committed to being an essential housing resource, providing quality housing opportunities and related services for those in need throughout the Greater Rochester Area. We're excited to continue offering exciting activities and informational opportunities to the community, so be sure to follow us on Facebook and sign-up for our mailing list at www.rochesterhousing.org to learn what's coming up next.

Sincerely,
Shawn Burr
Interim Executive Director
Rochester Housing Authority



Become a Contractor with RHA

Interested in contracting with Rochester Housing Authority but not sure where to start? RHA offers several options for community contractors.



1. Respond to Public Bids: RHA is always working to improve our more than 25 complexes and over 400 scattered sites. There are several capital improvement projects that are currently open for bid.
2. Join the Contractor Development Program: this program provides an organized progression for new contractors to develop a successful, working relationship with us as a qualified Section 3, MBE, WBE, or SBE contractor.
3. Register as a Section 3 Contractor: receive a variety of preferences developed by RHA and our community partners including field staff training, company development seminars, and vendor credits.

To learn more about all of our contractor options visit our website at www.rochesterhousing.org/working-with-us.

RHA Resident Spotlight Shines on Dorothy Tucker

Dorothy Tucker has been president of the RHA's Jurisdiction Wide Resident Council for four years now. "I'm there to keep the meetings in order," laughs Dorothy, who's celebrating a decade of living at the Hudson Ridge Towers, a 16-story high rise assisted living community on Seneca Parkway.



"Often residents talk to each other about problems, but they won't report it to management." Once Dorothy gathers all the necessary information, she'll talk to the RHA's interim director Shawn Burr or Sandy Whitney, Director of Public Housing.

It's not just solving problems for Dorothy. She is also active in a "Sunshine Club," where neighbors visit the sick, grocery shop for others, send cards to the hospitalized or bereaved. She also helps to plan social events where residents can play cards or work on plans for a community garden.

of the Council to "strategize to find a solution" in response to resident complaints from the entire RHA community.

"We bring [the complaints] from all the sites to the table and try to solve them," Dorothy said.

Modesty notwithstanding Dorothy was elected by the voting membership to be a vital part in promoting RHA's mission to create a positive living environment for residents in Public Housing. Dorothy meets each month with other members

Improvement Work in Your Neighborhood



RHA is dedicated to upgrading and improving our more than 2,500 housing locations across Monroe County. More than three million dollars has gone into capital improvement projects this year alone. Danforth Towers parking lot paving and the Kennedy Tower bathtub upgrades are two major projects that were recently completed. Combined they contracted with several local vendors over six months and invested over half a million dollars to improve resident living spaces.

The Danforth Towers project included improvements to the parking lots, sidewalks, landscaping, storm

water drain replacement, site lighting and the installation of a new smoking shelter. The Kennedy Tower bathtub project included replacing tubs in 80 units and upgrading shower heads and installation of safety hand rails.

There are more than a dozen capital improvement projects currently on the list for completion this year including: roof replacements, masonry repairs and the installation of a new parking lot. All public bids are posted on RHA's website www.rochesterhousing.org.

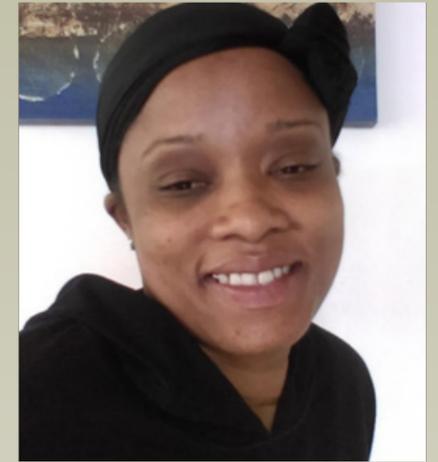
Getting on the Right Track with HCV

Valencia, a single mother, struggled to stay on top of her family's expenses. A few years ago a friend told her about the Housing Choice Voucher program, commonly referred to as Section 8, through Rochester Housing Authority and signed up for the waiting list right away.

"I signed up for this program because I knew I didn't want to be on welfare because those types of programs keep you down and I wanted something that would give me a hand-up so I could get back on my feet."

Valencia had been on the waiting list for a few years but was recently accepted into the program and it changed her life. "It was so worth the wait and I never gave up," she said. "This program helped me tremendously and I'm so grateful. If it wasn't for the Section 8 program my kids and I would likely be homeless or in a shelter right now."

Since getting on the program Valencia has an apartment and is keeping up with her bills. "I feel like RHA has high expectations for people on



this program and I really like that," Valencia stated. "Other programs don't care about how you're living and that makes the people they serve not care about it either. Having clear expectations helped give me discipline and stay on the right track."

Valencia is now starting to get her finances in order and she hopes to one day have enough saved so she can buy a house for her family.

Finding Success with FSS

Fourteen years ago, a family emergency brought Vetania Rodriguez to the U.S. She found herself in a new country with a young son, learning a new language, and starting over.

After years cleaning houses, and having twin girls, she found herself in need of assistance. "A friend told me about the Section Eight Program," said Vetania. "I applied, and they sent me information about the self-sufficiency program."

While in the program she enrolled at Monroe Community College, and earned an A.S. in Business Administration and a certificate in Office Technology. "I got a lot of support from my [FSS] worker," said Vetania.

She got encouragement and support and eventually received her B.A. degree in Human Resource Management from Strayer College.

Along with dreams of owning a home soon, Vetania is on her way to a Master's Degree in Business Administration in Health Services. "I didn't give up on my goals and dreams," said Vetania.



LIKE Our New Facebook Page



Rochester Housing Authority is now on Facebook! Like our page to receive real-time updates and helpful information like employment and scholarship opportunities, relevant community events, contractor registration details and other types of assistance that's available to you.

Visit www.facebook.com/RochesterHousingAuthority.