

Neighborhood UPDATE



MHACY
Municipal Housing Authority
for the City of Yonkers

MAY 2022

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

A Letter from Wilson Kimball



Everyone knows that Earth Day is in April. It's April 22, to be exact in case you missed it. But as we know from the extreme weather that has impacted our own community, Earth Day should be celebrated

every day. What kind of extreme weather you may ask? Well, if you don't live at Loehr Court you may not know that as a result of Hurricane Ida the brand-new community room, laundry room, electrical system and heating system were all destroyed in part of the complex totaling over \$1million in damages. It was a massive setback not only to us as an organization but to so many families that wanted or needed to move into those renovated units. Walsh Road units were also faced with flooding issues at that time. These are not problems that present themselves once or twice and should be quickly forgotten.

Recently I attended a tenant meeting at Curran Court where a very helpful tenant reminded me that we have not been doing our best to recycle. Recycling is not only the law in Yonkers and Westchester, but also the right thing to do. It's the right thing to do for the environment. It's the right thing to do for future generations. We all need to be

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JUNETEENTH

Freedom Day

MHACY Adds Juneteenth to Its Holiday Calendar

Following the City of Yonkers and cities and states across the country, the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers will recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday.

Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, will be celebrated this year on Monday, June 20 since it falls on a Sunday. MHACY employees will have the day off and essential staff will earn holiday pay.

"We recognize Yonkers' Mayor Mike Spano's leadership on marking this important day in US History. MHACY, like the City of Yonkers, will also be adding Juneteenth to its staff holiday schedule," said MHACY President and CEO Wilson Kimball.

Mayor Spano said, "I commend MHACY for joining the City of Yonkers in recognizing the social responsibility

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better at it.

In order to bring the recycling message home to all tenants, MHACY is going to be developing a three- point plan. First, we will be working with the resident coordinators to educate all the tenants on the rules around recycling. For example, what can be recycled and where does the recycling go? Second, we will be educating our maintenance staff on the proper separation of recycled items, maintaining recycling bins, cleanliness, and the storage of recycled items until it is time for their pick-up from the City of Yonkers Department of Public Works. Third, we will be finding places throughout the properties to place recycling bins. We don't expect everything to go smoothly all the time. That is why we rely on tenants' feedback on what we can do to improve this process as well as any process. You are our tenants and our clients. You are on the front lines of our housing services. We need to hear from you what we are doing well and what we are failing to do well. Only through this healthy dialogue can we get better as an organization and serve you better.

I look forward to seeing more of you and hearing from more of you in the future! We really appreciate your sense of pride in your home, and we share that pride with you. Let's all work together to make it the best experience for everyone.

Wilson Kimball
President & CEO
Municipal Housing Authority for
the City of Yonkers

MHACY Adds Juneteenth to Its Holiday Calendar

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we have to our growing diverse communities. Juneteenth is our opportunity both to celebrate our history, as one city and one community."

Chairman of the MHACY Board of Directors James Landy added, "It's the absolute right thing to do."

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed.

Juneteenth National Independence Day became a national holiday after it was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Thursday June 17th, 2021.

History of Juneteenth

On January 1st, 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared the end of slavery with the Emancipation Proclamation. Two and half years later, and two months after the end of the Civil War, Union troops arrived in Galveston on June 19th, 1865 to find that news of the proclamation had not yet reached Galveston and that people were still being held as slaves in Texas.

The leader of the Union Troops, General Gordon Granger then formally announced the emancipation from the balcony of the former Confederate Army headquarters.

The reason why the news about the emancipation took so long to reach Texas is subject to speculation. One theory is that the messenger who was originally sent with the news had been killed before he reached Texas. A more likely scenario is that the local slave owners simply held onto the information, ignoring the emancipation order.



MHACY Celebrates Earth Day with Town Hall Guests

In honor of Earth Day, MHACY invited special guests on its monthly Town Hall to discuss how residents can help keep our communities clean and green.

On the Facebook Live show on April 7 were Brigitte Griswold, Executive Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley, Sara Kelsey from Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct and Jinzhou Lu from 511NY Rideshare.

They discussed ways to reduce our carbon footprint, save energy and get in touch with nature. Groundwork educated us on a new program called Community Solar where residents can benefit by solar power without actually having to have solar panels on their homes. People who sign up can be eligible for up to 10 percent off on their electric bills. To learn more and sign up visit sustainablewestchester.org/solar/.

They also talked about clean up projects that took place along the Old Croton Aqueduct and the Saw Mill River on Earth Day, but if you missed those you can still volunteer on upcoming weekends.

Sara Kelsey shared some information on the Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct and how residents can volunteer to give tours or help remove vines and clean up trash. The Old Croton Aqueduct is a 41-mile long stone-covered, brick-lined pipeline beginning north at the Croton Dam and ending where the NYC Public Library now sits at 42nd Street. The group is always looking for volunteers to lead free walks and tours along the Aqueduct including portions of Yonkers' Lenoir Preserve, Untermeyer Gardens, and Tibbetts Brook Park also to help with trail clean ups and cleaning up graffiti. You can find more information on aqueduct.org.

The final guest Jinzhou Lu from 511NY Rideshare explained how residents could sign up for carpooling and other ridesharing programs to save money and the environment. To find out more about ride sharing visit 511nyrideshare.org. You can watch the entire show on our Facebook Page at facebook.com/mhacyonkers.



Brigitte Griswold and Mayor Mike Spano join other volunteers for the cleanup.

Fun in Store at Yonkers Arts Weekend May 21

The 8th annual Yonkers Arts Weekend (YAW) festival is on Saturday, May 21. The festival is a one-day event, filled with exciting new programs, workshops, exhibitions and more.

“Yonkers continues to secure its reputation as an artistic hub in the region and we are so excited to share that with residents and visitors each year during Yonkers Arts Weekend,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “Yonkers’ rich history, coupled with our thriving arts community, transforms the City, especially the historic waterfront district, into a walkable museum. I’m thrilled that we can continue to bring this event to our community.”

Since its inception in 2014, YAW has created a prominent arts district in the City of Yonkers. Several city galleries have opened, along with dozens of local and international renowned muralists and artists contributing to the City’s downtown revival. YAW attracts more than 10,000 visitors a year to city galleries, the Carpet Mills Arts District, Hudson River Museum and Untermyer Gardens.

The festival includes:

- Pop-up galleries & art workshops in the Downtown Waterfront District
- The 19th Annual YoHo Artist Open Studios at the historic Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, and now designated the Carpet Mills Art District
- Untermyer Gardens — music by the Untermyer Performing Arts Council
- Hudson River Museum — new programs and workshops.

Hop on a FREE SHUTTLE at Van der Donck Park (across from the Yonkers Train Station). Visit yonkersartsweekend.com for more information.

Ride the Bee Line Free This Summer



Rides on the Bee-Line Bus in Westchester County will be free beginning June 1. Westchester County Executive George Latimer said free fares will run through Labor Day. “That savings is profound for people who use mass transit,” said Latimer.