

Neighborhood UPDATE



JUNE 2023

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

A Letter from Wilson Kimball



When I started at YHA a little over three years ago I would receive one to two e-mails a month from people struggling to get by with their rent. During COVID

that number increased to one to two a week, but now I get one to two e-mails a day from people who are working but don't earn enough, are unemployed, are homeless or have a disability. Each one of these e-mails is hard to read because you know without a safe place to live so many other issues don't fall into place like health, education and employment. It's one of the reasons the YHA staff work so hard every day; because what they do matters. Whether it's the tax credit staff reviewing your applications or the Section 8 staff trying to find you an apartment or pay your landlord, the work here at YHA is never done. That is equally true of the maintenance staff who can't work from home if the air quality is poor due to forest fires in Canada. They work in poor weather conditions, on holidays and on weekends. They literally never stop! So, it's wonderful when a tenant

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June: A Month of Celebrations

In June we celebrate two important holidays that recognize people who were historically marginalized in our society: Pride Month and Juneteenth. The City of Yonkers recently celebrated both occasions with ceremonies and parades.



Juneteenth

Juneteenth is short for June 19th and commemorates the day the last remaining enslaved people in the U.S. — in Galveston, Texas — received word that the Civil War had ended and they had been liberated by the federal orders in President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

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recognizes the staff's hard work and diligence. Here for example is an e-mail of appreciation I received last week:

As always, maintenance staff did a great job. My kitchen sink issue seems to be resolved as I have not heard any gurgling or have had any suds filling in sink.

Maintenance came into my apartment just as I was leaving on Thursday and they returned while I was gone. I had a note on the door for them to help themselves to soda or water in refrigerator thanking them for their services. He returned at the end of the day when I was home to share with me what occurred. Very pleasant and professional.

Anyway, felt you should know, as I have continually expressed how grateful I am to be here and to the staff of MHACY.

It was great to receive this, great to read it and it makes me happy to share it. Our staff, in all of our offices, are here for you. They want to help you. I see it every day and I am glad you see it too.

Happy Summer!

Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the
City of Yonkers

June: A Month of Celebrations

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On June 19th in 1865 Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. That was two and a half years after Lincoln's proclamation. President Biden signed legislation in June 2021 that made Juneteenth a federal holiday.



Pride Month

LGBTQ+ Pride Month commemorated the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York City. In June of 1969, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn staged an uprising to resist the police harassment and persecution to which LGBTQ+ Americans were commonly subjected. This uprising marked the beginning of a movement to outlaw discriminatory laws

and practices against LGBTQ+ Americans. Today, LGBTQ+ Pride Month celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, attracting millions of participants around the world.



YHA Partnership with Westhab Will Help to Preserve Affordable Housing

Low-income residents will be able to stay in their affordable housing units thanks to a new partnership between The Yonkers Housing Authority and Westhab.

Last year, YHA announced a partnership with Westhab to provide rental subsidies to residents by awarding the organization Section 8 housing vouchers. YHA administers the vouchers provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Section 8 vouchers provide critical rental subsidies to income-qualifying tenants, allowing residents to remain in their homes and increasing the stock of much-needed, deeply affordable housing in the Yonkers community.



As of March of this year, 67 households have begun receiving this critical subsidy. YHA and Westhab plan to add 33 more vouchers to the program, preserving a total of 100 units of quality housing for low-income residents in Yonkers, including families with children, the elderly, and the disabled.

“The goal is to preserve affordable housing for people who may be at risk of losing their homes because their incomes are too low to afford housing in our area,” said Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of YHA. “Our partnership with Westhab makes sense on many levels. It helps support low-income residents as

well as a non-profit organization that does such valuable work in our community.”

“We truly appreciate this opportunity to better serve our community. These vouchers greatly benefit our tenants and will help preserve and improve Westhab’s quality, affordable housing stock in Yonkers for the long-term,” says Westhab President & CEO Richard Nightingale.

Westhab, founded in 1981 to address the affordable housing crisis in Westchester, develops affordable and supportive housing, operates homeless shelters, and provides youth programs and employment services in Westchester and New York City.

The partnership with Westhab is part of a larger effort by YHA and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano to expand affordable housing opportunities in the city.

“Housing is key to the vitality of any city. In addition to all the new market-rate housing that is going up, YHA has renovated its public housing stock and is now making more affordable housing available through the use of Section 8 vouchers in partnership with building owners,” said Mayor Spano. “This approach ensures that the City of Yonkers provides a full spectrum of housing, and renews our commitment to provide safe, affordable housing for working families.”

Marc S., a Westhab tenant living in Yonkers, explained how receiving a voucher has impacted his living situation, “Westhab employees have been so helpful and quick to get things moving in the right direction, but I still struggled to pay my rent at times, especially in recent years. These vouchers are helping me tremendously. I am so grateful because this is my home, and I want to stay here.”

For more information on Section 8 vouchers visit YHA’s website at www.mhacy.org.

Birthday Wishes to Commissioner Sansone

YHA Senior Commissioner Larry Sansone celebrated his 93rd birthday on Friday, June 4th. As Larry is a long-term member of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) and Tenant Council Representative from Curran Court, the RAB was pleased to celebrate his special day with a “virtual” birthday party celebration. We love you Commissioner Sansone and congratulations!



Longtime RAB and Tenant Council Leader Amelia Pupchyk Will Be Missed

Longtime Resident Advisory Board (RAB) and Tenant Council Representative, Amelia Pupchyk died on May 9, 2023. Amelia had just celebrated her 102nd birthday on May 5th. Amelia served as the Tenant Council Representative for Curran Court for over 30 years. She is pictured with a letter from President Biden on her 100th birthday celebration. Amelia was deeply loved by all and will be missed.



**YOU MUST NOW
RENEW MEDICAID,
CHILD HEALTH PLUS
AND ESSENTIAL PLAN!**

ACT NOW!

Health insurance rules have changed.

Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan *do not renew automatically!* Don't lose your health insurance.

Avoid the red tape and the hassle of recertifying.

Westchester Disabled On the Move, Inc. (WDOMI) will assist you in staying ahead of the chaos. We help with the entire application and follow-up.

Call **914-968-4717 x109** (English and Spanish)



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