



(WELL continued)

Kelty was raised in a dysfunctional family. Once heavily overweight and in abusive relationships, she had to struggle to develop her own sense of self-worth. She did it by writing "self-affirmations to myself" on a mirror. "At first, I didn't believe it, but then I did," she recalls. Those messages helped inspire her to lose weight and to start Beautiful U Yes U. Kelty urges implementing change with baby steps, explaining how she was able to lose 115 pounds, but over time. "It's important to take things one day at a time. Get through the day, then work on tomorrow."

Benning Terrace participants in the Women Embracing and Loving life program with Treona Kelty (far left), DCHA Executive Director Adrienne Todman (fourth from left) and Ward 7 Councilwoman Yvette Alexander (center in white) after their graduation ceremony.

Many W.E.L.L. participants continue to confront the temptation of the negative choices they are now struggling to surmount. "The temptations will be there. How do you handle it?" asks Kelty, who views faith as a powerful starting point.

The sessions allow women to express their concerns and to accept advice and support from the group's members and Kelty. "It's not always easy within the group, but the women have hung together. I've had calls from 2 until 6 in the morning from participants struggling to avoid negative choices," said Kelty

She is hoping to expand the program to additional DCHA communities in the near future, while also maximizing her opportunities at Benning Terrace. Kelty is in the process of planning a Beautiful U Yes U fashion show, and is looking for additional participants. If any DCHA residents are interested in participating in the April fashion show, they should contact Treona Kelty at beautifuluyesu@gmail.com or call her at 202-413-4803.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY
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THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

EXCEL

newsletter

Winter 2013

Wired for Success

There was a buzz of activity going on at the Southwest Family Enhancement Center Thursday February 14th, but it wasn't the traditional Valentine's Day activity. Greenleaf Gardens is one of more than 10 DCHA communities that will be wired for low-cost wi-fi connectivity.

Currently, one-third of Americans do not subscribe to broadband services at home and more than 60 million Americans lack digital literacy skills, which are the basic skills needed to use a computer and the Internet.



Best Buy President of Online and Global e-Commerce Scott Durchslag, Institute of Museum and Library Services Director Susan Hildreth, Connect2Compete CEO Zachary Leverenz, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, DCHA Executive Director Adrienne Todman and Beverly Barrow were all smiles at the announcement of the new partnership. Barrow is a Richardson Dwellings resident and a participant in computer training at DCHA Southwest Family Enhancement Center. As a result of her training, she is a Certified Microsoft Specialist

Connect2Compete is a national nonprofit coalition dedicated to helping narrow the digital divide by making high-speed Internet access, computers, educational and job content, and digital literacy training more accessible for millions of Americans without home connectivity.

This spring, Connect2Compete and Best Buy, in partnership with HUD and other partner facilities, will launch a national digital literacy training program with support from Best Buy's Geek Squad. The event announced this as an effort on digital literacy as part of a national initiative to close the broadband adoption gap.

TAKE *a* LOOK

INSIDE

DCHA to Suspend Waiting List

The DCHA waiting list is a data base of applicants who have applied for housing in one or more of DCHA's housing programs, which include Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher Program and Moderate Rehab Program.

DCHA will temporarily suspend the acceptance of new applications after Friday, April 12, 2013. At that time, the list will be reviewed and updated to ensure that people already on it still want and need housing, determine realistic timeframes as to when applicants will receive housing, and make the waiting list process easier to understand and manage.

People who are on the list prior to April 12, 2013 will remain on the list. You may check the DCHA website at www.dchousing.org or call the DCHA Customer Service Call Center at 202-535-1000 to apply, check your status or update your application information.

Any new application must be received on, or postmarked by April 12, 2013 to be considered.

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Above: On the final Monday in February, 17 youth from four different properties were treated to a Skate Party at the Canal Park Ice Rink.

DYB Program Information

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 Do Your B.E.S.T. (DYB) Summer Youth Employment Program. Residents are encouraged to apply on-line at www.dchousing.org/best.

Hard copies of the DYB application are also available in the Office of Resident Services located at 1133 North Capitol Street, NE--Suite 325.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barbara Mitchell at 202-535-2169.

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A Message from the Executive Director



Adrienne Todman
DCHA Executive Director

Greetings All!

I hope you are enjoying what has been, for the most part, mild winter weather. At DCHA, we have been working hard trying to find ways to help you more.

One thing we have done is start a leadership program for DCHA employees. I believe that a better equipped staff translates to improved services and support being delivered to you, the residents. I am also reorganizing the DCHA

Office of Resident Services to make sure we have the resources and skills to meet your needs. I encourage you to find out about new programs, such as the W.E.L.L. program at Benning Terrace highlighted in this issue.

Our Do Your BEST summer youth employment program has already kicked off. You can find the applications for the program on our website at www.dchousing.org, your Property Management office, or your Resident Council office. This is the 16th year of the program, a great opportunity for our teens to learn responsibility and acquire a work ethic that will help them all through their lives.

Finally, public housing authorities around the country are feeling the pinch of the "sequester," the term politicians and news media use when talking about the federal government cuts in social service and military programs that went into effect March 1. Unless politicians can find a compromise budget plan, DCHA will be facing a five percent cut in our funds from HUD. This amounts to a reduction of almost \$1 million a month in our operating funds. Our plan to manage our agency through this latest round of cuts starts with taking steps to protect our current clients and voucher-holders.

In spite of this funding news, I know we will continue to succeed through our dedication, innovation and hard work. So I invite you all to join with DCHA, as we welcome spring with spirit of perseverance and a determination to succeed.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Todman

Meet the Chief

Chief Joel Maupin joined the DCHA family in December 2012. A native Washingtonian, he was raised in the Deanwood section of Northeast and brings more than 29 years of experience to his new position.



He is a graduate of both the Management College at the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration and the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) of the Police Executive Research Forum at Boston College.

In 2011 he was recognized with the following awards: President of the United States Award for Volunteerism, Metropolitan Police Department Commander of the Year Award, Metropolitan Police Department Best Performing District Award (Seventh District) and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) Commitment to Excellence Award.

He recently answered some questions about his new role.

Q: What was your knowledge/perception of DCHA prior to your arrival, and how has that changed?

Prior to assuming my position at DCHA, I thought that I had a pretty good knowledge of the sworn police operations. I had worked with many of the supervisors either at MPD or in their capacity as DCHA officers. I knew the members to be dedicated to their profession and striving to do their best with the limited number of personnel at their disposal. Of course I did not know the inner working of the Agency or the Police Department. Now that I have been here for a few months, my perception of the agency has not changed. Now that I know the entire responsibility of the OPS, I have an even greater respect for the members and the challenges of providing public safety and police services to the various Public Housing communities.

Q: What made DCHA an attractive job option?

DCHA was an attractive position because it presented the opportunity for me to remain in my chosen field of law enforcement and in my home town of Washington. Throughout my years in law enforcement, I had the opportunity to work with citizens that reside in the various public housing communities. I know the majority of them to be good people who want to reside and raise their children in a safe community. This position gives me the opportunity to assist our residents in a way that no other position could.

Q: What do you think the most important steps are to keeping the DCHA PD around when so many other housing authorities have had to let theirs go?

The most important steps are continuing to be responsive to our residents. We must provide a level of individualized service that cannot reasonably be expected from MPD. From resident and visitor monitoring at our properties to vertical patrols of the hallways and stairwells in our hi-rise buildings, the DCHA PD/OPS must continue to be the first level of security for our residents.

Q: What would you like to accomplish in your role as Chief?

In my role as Chief, I will develop a better trained, better prepared, better respected, and more responsive department. We will fully implement community policing in our communities and enhance our partnerships with government agencies, the private sector and our residents.

Doing WELL at Benning Terrace

The women of Benning Terrace are in boot camp, but they aren't preparing for war—they are preparing for life. The instructions they are receiving deal with repairing and managing credit, and the instructor is Treona Kelty, founder and director of Beautiful U Yes U, Inc.

The credit boot camp is the newest initiative sponsored by the Women Embracing and Loving Life (W.E.L.L.) program, developed by Kelty to promote positive thinking and healthier living among women. The program was first introduced at Benning Terrace last year at the request of residents.

Kelty's Beautiful U Yes U is a non-profit organization that seeks to boost the sense of self-worth among young girls. A mother of one of the participants saw the positive effects it had on her daughter and asked her to consider implementing a similar program for adult women.



One group exercise involved creating personal Vision Boards. Group members critiqued their own lives, past and present, and developed a vision of their future, explaining their hopes through cut-out pictures and words.

Benning Terrace Resident Council President Tia Newman was impressed enough to have Kelty implement W.E.L.L. after hearing a presentation, and last fall, the program had its first graduating class.

(continued on back page)

If you have any good news you would like to share for a future issue of Excel contact Cymando Henley at 202-535-2805 or an email to chenley@dchousing.org

Canal Park Enriches Community



Canal Park Ice Skating Rink staff Natasha Tucker, Jamal Eaves, Lawanda Harvell, Robert Cowan and Donnia Thomas were in the midst of preparing for a skating camp.

When DCHA cut the ribbon on Capitol Quarter last fall, Mayor Gray made mention of the upcoming Canal Park, and how it would enhance the quality of life for those in the community. The staff at DCHA saw a golden opportunity for the Section 3 Employment Program and began working with local area residents to ensure they were in a position to seize the opportunity.

One such resident is Nancy Butler, a former Sheridan Terrace resident, currently on the waiting list for an apartment at Sheridan Station, DCHA's most recent HOPE VI redevelopment. The Section 3 Workforce Development Team helped her to find employment at Canal Park Skating rink, which was partially financed by the DC Housing Authority. Initially hired as a skate host, Ms. Butler was promoted to General Manager in her first month as an employee.

Butler is an inspiration to many of the workers she supervises, because they can identify with her story. Her assistant manager Howard Phifer and cashier Natasha Tucker are DCHA residents, along with another nine other employees. Eight of the staff members at the rink can actually walk to work because they are residents of Capitol Quarter. Butler encouraged and assisted the younger employees with opening bank accounts so they can receive direct deposit and begin learning how to better manage their money.

Fifteen of the employees at the ice skating rink secured employment through the DCHA Section 3 Employment Program.

This program is dedicated to helping residents gain the training, discipline and confidence required to secure and maintain employment in today's competitive job market. For more information about the Section 3 Employment Program contact the Office of Resident Services at 202-535-1517.



The zamboni has become the vehicle of choice for Mike Hudson. All you need to have is a driver's license and a little bit of practice.

Black History Month Activities



On February 14th, senior residents from Judiciary House and Knox Hill Senior attended a Black History presentation, "Harriett Tubman: The Chosen One" at the Arc Theatre. This presentation was given by one woman, Gwendolyn Briley-Strand, who transformed into more than a dozen characters while taking the audience on one of the nineteen journeys Harriet Tubman traveled through The Underground Railroad.

Ms. Strand is an expert on the life of Harriet Tubman and has performed this play since 1993 in many schools, universities and organizations throughout the United States. The residents really enjoyed themselves and expressed that they would like to attend more presentations like this.



In honor of Black History Month, 20 youth from the Barry Farm and Woodland Terrace communities participated in the third annual DANCE PLACE: STEP IT UP DC Workshops and Performance.

The beginner and advanced workshops teach youth that the step routines they do originated in South Africa.

The 12 youth from Woodland Terrace are members of a formal dance program.

Planting Seeds at Hopkins

by Peggy Abena Disroe

I was raised, not only by my mother and father, but by an extended family of many community neighbors in a small town with one high school.

One of my elder neighbors suggested that I pick up pieces of paper that I had stepped over in my own front yard. My first thought was, "I did not throw that paper on the ground, so why should I pick it up?"

I can still remember that lady saying to me, "Honey, this is your front yard. Keep it clean." It is this passion for caring and community empowerment that has shaped my thinking, actions, and respect for community. Sometimes in addition to your own yard, you have to lead by example and clean up someone else's as well.

You learn to be responsible for your actions, and to be more patient with others. These lessons will strengthen our faith, hope, and character. Even though I am a new resident of this community, being a resident is about having a vested interest in your community. It shouldn't matter if it is 10 days or 10 years, home is home.

I decided to spend part of my weekends picking up trash and washing off the graffiti that destroyed the beauty of our neighborhood. After about two months, three young girls who were playing walked up to me and asked me if they could help.

Now I have between three to six children who assist me every weekend. I have noticed a change, not only in the children, but also in the adults. Important seeds have been planted in my community. Seeds of community survival, of community empowerment, seeds of hope and pride in the eyes, hearts, and spirits of the youth here have already borne fruit. With our commitment, will continue to strengthen our community. We need to set an example for others to follow and plant seeds to promote improvement, and we need to be consistent.



Ms. Disroe (pictured above in hat with some of her faithful volunteers) has been a resident of Hopkins Apartments for less than a year. She is the first resident contributor for the Excel Newsletter, and said this is one more example of her leading by example. She hopes more residents will take the opportunity to submit to the newsletter, and that she intends to be a regular contributor.

An Honor to Serve



Many of the brave men and women that serve on DCHA's police force are sworn police officers. This gives them full rights and services throughout the District, not just on DCHA-owned properties. DCHAPD officers perform traffic stops, write tickets and make arrests the same way MPD officers can.

The Metropolitan Police Department made requests for outside police departments to assist with the 57th Inauguration of the President of the United States of America—the second for President Barack Obama. DCHA's Office of Public Safety (OPS) volunteered to participate and was selected to assist MDP with securing the event. Prior to the event, OPS received special credentials, participated in a special briefing and swearing in ceremony for the outside departments.

In preparation for an outdoor shift that went from 4 am to 6:30 pm, officers invested in cold winter gear—some at their own expense—to brave the cold weather that is normal for inaugurations. The prize for the best item goes to Sgt. Street for his battery-powered socks designed to keep his feet warm.

The President's limousine passed within feet of the men and women of the DCHAPD, who did an admiral job in securing the parade route in the 1300 block of Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

"I am very proud of the officers that represented DCHA during the inauguration ceremony," said DCHA Police Chief Joel Maupin. "They did so with honor and professionalism and represented the Authority well. And may I add that they looked good doing so."

