



DCHA Police Chief Retires

Chief Madison Jenkins, Jr., thinks it's time for a vacation. After seven years of dedicated service, he retired from his position as Chief of the District of Columbia Housing Authority's Police Department (DCHAPD), effective Friday, January 9, 2004. He plans to spend his free time relaxing, fishing and traveling.

He began his tenure with the DCHAPD in 1996 as the Security Operations Manager and was appointed Chief of Police in 1999. Chief Jenkins is a former member of the Metropolitan Police Department, from which he retired in 1995 after 26 years.

Looking back on his career with the DCHAPD, he leaves a legacy of accomplishments. Chief Jenkins implemented crime prevention strategies that improved the quality of life for the residents and brought national acclaim to the DCHA. Operation Shoe Drop was implemented to remove shoes of slain persons from power lines; Operation Bark and Bite decreased the number of pit bulls and rottweiler dogs from DCHA properties; Operation Zip Lock was created to target illegal drug sells on DCHA properties; Operation Hook and Tow was responsible for the removal of many abandoned or stolen vehicles from DCHA properties.

Chief Jenkins also established an annual fishing trip for DCHA resident youths as an enhancement to

community policing. Under his leadership, the police department has



Chief Madison Jenkins Jr.

obtained thousands of dollars in grant funds to upgrade the police communication systems, personnel equipment and replacement of vehicles.

Chief Jenkins' goal was to make the communities of DCHA safer for all its residents, and he believes this was his greatest accomplishment. "It felt good to see the senior residents sitting outside, because there was a time when they were too afraid to sit outside of their own homes," he said.

Although a lot was accomplished, Chief Jenkins said there is still a long way to go. He would like to see more support for the youth, in order to show them the proper way to succeed in life. The Chief said that he enjoyed his stay and is confident in the force he leaves behind.



Members of the DCHA Police Department; (Left to right)-Deputy Chief William Pittman; Sr. Officer Ronald Powell; Chief Madison Jenkins, Jr.; Captain Jesse Millhouse, Sergeant Earl Gatewood; Sr. Officer Walter Tweedy; and Captain Julia Jones, MPD.



Board of Commissioners

Russell Simmons,
Chairman of the Board

Lynn Cunningham,
Vice Chairman

Marcie Cohen

Dorothea Ferrell

Ken Grossinger

Frank Lancaster

Fernando Lemos

Eric Price

Jacqueline West

From the Office of the Executive Director

Dear DCHA Resident,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As this is the first newsletter of the year, it will look both behind and ahead, as we focus on the accomplishments of last year, and look forward to an even better 2004.

We ended 2003 on a very positive note. At the Resident Leader Appreciation Reception, your resident leadership received a powerful message to carry us into the New Year, the message that we need to do whatever it takes to succeed.

I would encourage everyone to get involved in their respective communities as leaders. Your Citywide Resident Advisory Board will be up and running this year, and there are various community specific opportunities for DCHA residents. This is where you can make a real difference in your community. All current and new resident leaders will be receiving ongoing training to enhance their leadership skills and business capacity.

We will continue our youth programs this year, which includes our summer job program, the annual back-to-school event and a few other surprises, in a goal to expose our youth to unique experiences. Also, we are working on sponsoring a residents' summit this year, so that we can get input directly from you. You will receive more information on this in future months.

Another thing that the New Year brings is taxes. If you work and file taxes, remember to ask about the earned-income tax credit. I know that after the holidays we can all use a little extra money.

If you've been following the news, you know that the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has restructured its Patrol Service Areas (PSAs), basically cutting the number in half. This means there will be more MPD officers in many of the areas where our residents live, which will translate into safer neighborhoods. As you read in the coverstory of the newsletter, Madison Jenkins is no longer with the Agency. He will definitely be missed, and we wish him well in his retirement.

Continue to be on the lookout for great things from your District of Columbia Housing Authority. We will continue to serve you to the best of our ability.



Michael Kelly,
DCHA Executive Director

EXCEL ... **Produced by the Office of Public Affairs & Communications**

Zachary D. Smith,
Director

Cymando Henley
Project Coordinator
Janice Frink Brown,
*Managing Editor/
Writer*

Carolyn Davis,
*Graphic Design and
Layout*

Keith Washington,
Photographer
Joyce Brown,
Distribution
(202) 535-1315



Profile of a Commissioner

Commissioner Jacqueline West has dedicated her life to public service. The native Washingtonian and Dunbar Sr. High School graduate was born on the 4th of July. Elected to the District of Columbia Housing Authority's (DCHA) Board of Commissioners in June of 2003, Commissioner West began her career in government more than 30 years ago, working as a crossing guard for the D.C. Public School system, an ANC leader (ANC 6B), a reservist in the corps of the Metropolitan Police Department and an employee of the United States Postal Service.



Commissioner Jacqueline West

Prior to being elected to the Board of Commissioners, she served as Vice Chair of the DCHA City-Wide Advisory Board and President of the Resident Council of the Potomac Gardens housing development for 15 years. Commissioner West currently resides at Potomac Gardens and has been a resident there for more than 37 years.

A staunch advocate of youth issues, Commissioner West is a former PTA president for Hine Jr. High School. From 1985 to 1993,

she managed the Potomac Gardens Recreation Center. She also worked to ensure summer employment for underprivileged youths of Ward 6 during her tenure as an ANC leader.

She sees being a newly-elected member of the Board as challenging and vows to make a difference. "This is a challenge to me. Because I am a good communicator and a people person, I think I can make some positive changes," she said.

"I want DCHA to be aware of all public housing communities, making sure that everyone has a 501 (c) (3) plan. I would also like to see an increase in security and public safety on the public housing sites as well as an increase in recreation, including more family involvement, such as workshops on parenting skills." "This would help make kids more responsible for the upkeep of their homes and property. Everyone should show more love and understanding for each other," she said.

Commissioner West is the proud mother of three children and seven grandchildren.

Black History Month Events

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004

A play/puppet show called Duke's Place will be held at the Smithsonian's Carmichael Auditorium at 12 p.m. The play is a story about two boys dreaming of becoming jazz musicians and how they sneak into a club to see Duke Ellington's band. DCHA will sponsor 60 resident children and 15 resident adults to attend the event.

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004

Keteta- Gansango Music and Dance, a production featuring stories, music and dance from West Africa will be on stage at the Kennedy Center. Tickets are \$14. DCHA will sponsor 100 adult residents (mostly seniors), to attend the event.



Winter Weather Preparedness Tips

The D.C. Department of Public Works in cooperation with the Office of the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) is encouraging everyone to take preventive measures to ensure their safety and reduce the risk of winter storm damage to person and property.

Preparing an Emergency Kit

Store at least a 3-day supply of water (1 gallon per person, per day). Store the water in a sealed unbreakable container.

Keep a 3 - 5 day supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.

Include a first aid kit and prescription medications (be sure to check the expiration dates).

Maintain a list of family physicians, important medical information and the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.

Include a battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.

Keep identification, credit cards, cash, and photocopies of important family documents in a water and fireproof safe. Inexpensive models can be purchased at most hardware stores.

Have plenty of warm clothes handy, including blankets and sleeping bags. Stock up on disposable diapers for the infants as well as formula and baby food.

If Your Power Goes Out

Remain calm and assist family members or neighbors who may be vulnerable if exposed to extreme cold.

Locate a flashlight with batteries to use until power comes back on. Do not use candles—this can cause a fire.

Turn off electric equipment such as computers, VCR's, televisions and major electric appliances that were on when the power went off. This will help to prevent power surges when electricity is restored.

Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep cold in and heat out.

Do not use the stove to heat your home—this can cause a fire or fatal gas leak.

Do not call 9-1-1 to ask about the power outage. Call the DCHA's Command Center at 202-535-1044. Once you have reported the problem, get a control number from the operator.

Keep your radio tuned to WTOP (AM 1500) News station for the latest on storms and power outages.

Please know that kerosene and propane heaters are prohibited in the District of Columbia. Please know that the use of these illegal items can be cause for fines and eviction from your unit.



Rock Creek News

DCHA Rock Creek Regional Awards Ceremony

In December, the Rock Creek Region held its annual awards ceremony in the recreation room at Sibley Plaza. The Rock Creek Regional staff, assisted by the Sibley staff, sponsored and hosted the event. Awards were presented in 15 categories. Ten properties and 11 individuals were recognized and presented with certificates. The top five winners were; Beverly Scott, Outstanding Support Services; Legal Section, Outstanding Section or Division; Judiciary House, DCHA Property of the Year; Regency House, Private Management Property of the Year; and Arthur Diggs, Employee of the Year. The Regional senior leadership and staff served lunch buffet style in appreciation of the residents' hard work.

DCHA Gift of Love Distribution

Forty-five children were selected from each region to participate in the DCHA Gift of Love Tree, a gift-giving project sponsored by the Office of Resident Services. Participants selected the name of a resident youth and surprised them with a gift. The Rock Creek Gift of Love Tree Gift Distribution/Fellowship was held at the Rock Creek Regional Office. Twelve of the 13 families selected to attend, joined the Rock Creek Regional Staff for an afternoon of

refreshments, music and fellowship.

The Rock Creek Resident Services Division would like to express its sincere appreciation to all of the DCHA staff and commissioners who were gracious enough to adopt a child and provide a gift. As a direct result of your generosity, there were lots of smiling faces this holiday season. Thanks again for your support!!!

Rehoboth Shopping Fundraiser

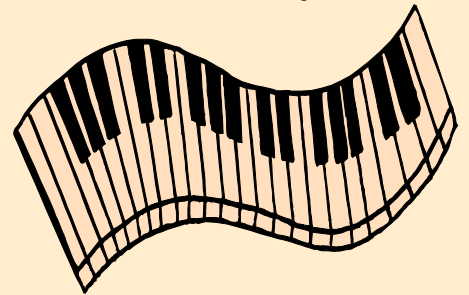
The DCHA Rock Creek Region Fundraising Committee sponsored a fall shopping excursion to the Rehoboth Outlets in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Shoppers enjoyed an exciting day of tax-free shopping at more than 140 outlet stores, including; Timberland, Nine West, Ann Taylor and Coach, among others.

All proceeds will benefit the DCHA Rock Creek Regional Activities Fund, which is designed to support resident and staff initiatives. The Rock Creek Region Fundraising



Committee would like to express its sincere appreciation to all who supported the fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without you!

Talent at James Apartments



Jesse Brown, a musician and resident of James apartments, has played keyboard for several prominent recording artists. In 1960, when he was 20 years old, Brown played at Diamond Jim's, a nightclub located at 14th & Florida Ave., N.W. During one of his performances, renowned musician Bo Diddley came into the club looking for a rhythm band to accompany him on the road and Brown was chosen to join the band. He played with Bo Diddley for eight years. Throughout his career, he has had the pleasure of playing with various artists like, the Coasters, Jackie Wilson, and Junior Walker & the All Stars, just to name a few. In 1968 Brown formed his own group, "Jesse James & the Raiders." His group still performs at local clubs in D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia. We hope that Brown's career in the music business continues to be a rewarding and exciting one!

Potomac Region News

Richardson Dwellings Public Housing Community Gets a New Playground

Last fall, the Potomac Region and “Make Kids Smile” hosted a playground build at Richardson Dwellings, located at 5231 Cloud Place, N.E. The two entities partnered to build a new playground at Richardson Dwellings in order to provide safe recreational equipment and to bring enjoyment to children in the neighborhood.

The playground build costs approximately \$50,000, much of which was donated by “Make Kids Smile,” a local non-profit organization that raises money for equipment

and donates the materials to the recipient. The recipient in turn, is responsible for installing the equipment. The equipment used to build the playground was provided by Playworld Systems, a playground vendor. “Make Kids Smile” was founded by the Ognibene family of Leesburg, VA., to facilitate the resources necessary to provide playgrounds for less fortunate children. Corporate sponsors for the playground build include; West Group Management, LLC; SunTrust Bank; and Guaranty Bank.



A young volunteer takes a break from working on the playground build.



Volunteers work diligently to complete the new playground.



All in a day's work!

Anacostia Region News



DCHA Executive Director Michael Kelly (center) shares a moment with Anacostia Region workers.

Relocation

The kick-off meeting for the second phase of relocation for Arthur Capper/Carrollsborg residents was held on Wednesday, January 7. The meeting provided residents with information on the relocation process and what to expect throughout the transition. Representatives from Housing Management, Facilities, Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), Client Placement, and Relocation, spoke with residents about services and assistance their offices will provide to support the relocation process. Residents were assured that DCHA would put forth every effort to assist in making the transition smooth and stress-free. The

Home Opportunities Unlimited (HOU) contractor will soon begin completing family assessments and working with Housing Management to identify units

Children's Defense Fund Volunteers Community Service

Recently, eight volunteers from the Children's Defense Fund spent a morning at the Knox Hill Senior building painting the hallway walls of the basement. In appreciation of the service, the volunteers were rewarded with a continental breakfast. The project was extremely successful. Every year employees of the Children's Defense Fund provide

several hours of community service at various places around the city.

End-of-Year Fundraising Efforts

As a continuation of efforts to raise money to support the Anacostia Region Christmas Adopt-A-Family program, the Community Relations staff sponsored a trip to the Jersey Gardens Outlet Mall. Members of the DCHA staff, family, residents, and friends who participated in the event enjoyed a continental breakfast, movies, games and slumber while en route to the mall. The group took advantage of Veteran's Day sales at over 100 outlet stores. Everyone had fun, while supporting a worthwhile cause.



Resident Leaders Honored

The Fourth Annual Resident Leader Appreciation Reception was held recently at the Four Point Sheraton at 1201 K St., N.W.

Resident leaders were honored for superb leadership in making life manageable and dignified for residents in their neighborhoods.

More than 100 residents attended the event, which included neighborhood group leaders and members of the Interim Citywide Advisory Board.

Dr. Frank M. Reid III pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Baltimore, Md. was the keynote speaker. He told the audience that no matter what we accomplish in life, still, we are all just regular people. He told residents that the best way to show success is to help others to succeed too.

Michael Kelly, DCHA executive director, also addressed the residents, telling them that 2004 will be the year of excellence for the Authority. "This is the year of resident empowerment," he said,



Angela Lee, Community Relations Coordinator (center), listens attentively to resident leaders' concerns.

also emphasizing that there will be an exclusive summit for residents in 2004.

Other speakers in attendance included DCHA Board Chairman Russell

Simmons, and Deputy Director Karen Moone, who said that the agency will focus on improving customer service in 2004.



District of Columbia Housing Authority

1133 North Capitol Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002-7599