



HAP Board of Commissioners

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Viola Barco
Vice Chairwoman
Cleveland Burton, Jr.
Commissioner
Cliff Simon
Commissioner
Donald Davis
Commissioner
Geraldine Harvey
Commissioner
Jeanette M. Edghill
Commissioner

Board meetings are held every 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. View the full [2024 board meeting schedule here](#).

Richmond Towers Management Offices



510 E. Front Street,
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Message from the Executive Director

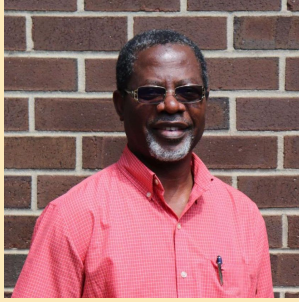
Spring is here and all of us at the Housing Authority of Plainfield are eager to welcome warmer weather and more community activities and opportunities.



We recently had a very informative roundtable discussion in conjunction with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church and Reverend Lynn Santulli. The event fueled a conversation to provide solutions to the homelessness crisis and was featured on NJ Spotlight News. Thank you to all of the executive community leaders and others who joined us. Special thanks to Joanne Hollis Gardens' Community Resource Center Director of Community Programs Eric Graham, PHM and Deputy Director Scotty McFarland for organizing this event to benefit Plainfield residents.

In this newsletter we have several updates to share, so read on to learn about Vice Chairwoman & Resident Commissioner Viola Barco who is an important part of the Richmond Towers community, our successful homelessness prevention roundtable event at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, and our upcoming event at the Community Resource Center at Joanne Hollis Gardens on April 24th. We hope to see you there!

As always, we at HAP are dedicated to our



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people, proactive in our plans, and focused on our future.

Thank you so much for being part of our community.

Randall "Randy" Wood



HAP Spotlight: Vice Chairwoman & Resident Commissioner Viola Barco

The Housing Authority of Plainfield offers countless services and programs for HAP residents as well as the residents of Plainfield. Vice Chairwoman & Resident Commissioner Viola Barco is committed to best serving the needs of Richmond Towers residents.

This month HAP would like to shine the spotlight on our Vice Chairwoman, Viola Barco, who first moved to Plainfield in 1964. As a longtime resident of Plainfield, Viola says that there is no city like it. She became a commissioner 7 years ago but has been living at the Housing Authority of Plainfield for the past 30 years.

She raised five kids by herself and then raised four of her grandkids while simultaneously studying for her master's in sociology and psychology when she went back to school in 1967. She earned a degree in special education so she could help her son and as a result he turned out very well. Vice Chairwoman Barco continues to take college courses to this day because she is passionate about education.

Even before Viola was appointed as a commissioner, she has played a big part at HAP and in the community of Plainfield to improve outcomes for everyone. She has always been very involved with politics and the city government and attended city council meetings. Viola made it a point to always be involved in meetings that included helping and coming up with programs or services that benefited the children of Plainfield. A lot of people knew who she was which helped residents feel comfortable talking to her.

She loves serving as a commissioner because she gets to be directly involved with HAP's residents. Viola is a dedicated individual, an important part of the community, and everyone knows they can go to her and she will do the best she can. She has a reputation of giving back to her community, being respectful of others, listening to their

problems, and helping them come up with solutions. She has loved every minute serving as commissioner. "I'm proud of everything that we have accomplished, we have come a long way with our residents," explained Vice Chairwoman Barco.

Viola is proud to be part of HAP's board of commissioners who all work together to consider everyone's point of view. HAP residents can attend monthly board meetings to ask as many questions as they'd like to feel very comfortable where they live. Viola also met Randy Wood many years ago when they both attended city hall meetings, stating "He has always been an integral part of this city." She also notes that Executive Director Randy Wood has implemented many good things and is always working on something to improve the quality of life for HAP's residents.

Viola is in the Richmond Towers Community Room every day from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm for anyone who needs her assistance, "I am very happy here and I do all I can to make our residents happy."

Thank you, Viola, for all that you do!

HAP in the News: Executive Community Leader Homelessness Prevention Roundtable Featured on NJ Spotlight News

On Wednesday, April 10, the Housing Authority of Plainfield and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church held a roundtable discussion with executive community leaders addressing solutions for homelessness prevention. The event, titled, "Leveraging Community Partnership with Executive Community Stakeholders Initiatives for 2024" was co-hosted by HAP's Joanne Hollis Gardens (JHG) Community Resource Center and served as a community behavioral health platform for crisis management through educational awareness.



HAP Executive Director Randall M. Wood stated, “The quality of life for families and children of Union County has been improved drastically as a result of this initiative, and it's the efficient collaboration of community leaders that has made it possible.”

JHG Community Resource Center Director of Community Programs Eric Graham, PHM said, “The Leveraging of Community Stakeholders Initiative meetings are all-inclusive with an approach of obtaining wraparound services for the entire family through results-driven communication and community partners to decrease the duplication of services and make a significant impact to all residents.”

The Briar Patch Collaboratory Executive Director Alexis Jemal, LCSW, LCADC, MA, JD, PhD served as the event's Distinguished Guest. Key moderators and panelists included Union County Prosecutor William A. Daniel and Community Prosecution Division Director & ARRIVE Program Director Gina Iosim as well as Plainfield School District Board of Commissioners President Hanae M. Wyatt. [Learn about all of the panelists and view more photos from the event here.](#)





For more information about HAP's Joanne Hollis Gardens Community Resource Center, contact Eric Graham at ericg@hap-nj.org or call [908-769-6335](tel:908-769-6335) extension 604.

**Read
More**

HAP Reestablishes Employee of the Year Program

Do you know someone who is worthy of recognition? HAP is now accepting feedback for the 2024 Employee of the Year Program!

HAP encourages residents and staff to share their gratitude for those who make a difference here every day. As Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."



Getty Images

“

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

”

- MAYA ANGELOU

HAP Residents are invited to share their compliments for HAP team members in several ways:

- Visit the administrative office at Richmond Towers
- Visit the Community Resource Center at Joanne Hollis Gardens
- Call us at [908-769-6335](tel:908-769-6335) or email info@hap-nj.org

Your submissions may also be included in future newsletters and other materials

Upcoming Events

**HAP's JHG Community Resource Center “One Stop Resource Center for Sustainable Partnerships” Presents:
The Spring Health and Wellness Awareness Day of Community Resources 2024 – April 24th**



JHG Community Resource Center Presents

The Spring Health and Wellness Awareness Day of Community Resources 2024

Wednesday April 24, 2024

at

1pm-5pm

543 West 3rd Street
In attendance will be

Logos of participating organizations include: THE SALVATION ARMY, Big Brothers Big Sisters OF AMERICA, SAINT PETER'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, FACT (MILES & COMMUNITY TOGETHER), RESCUE, HYACINTH (STRENGTHENING HEALTH, SECURING WELLNESS), PROCED INC, JFS JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF CENTRAL, StarRehabs Inc. (Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Clinic), Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services, UNION COUNTY FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE COALITION, Jazz 4, PREVENTION LINKS (Foster, Empower, Sustain...), PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE UNION COUNTY, BRIDGES, Neighborhood Health, PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Partnership for Maternal & Child Health OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF UNION NEW JERSEY, Job Corps, DRUG MART PHARMACY, Brown's Funeral Home, ORGANIZATION FOR RECOVERY, Hackensack Meridian Health, Family Promise, and HOPES.

Free Hot Dogs available during the event along with free giveaways by Community Agencies (Rain or Shine)

Please join us for an informative spring health and wellness fair (rain or shine) with free hot dogs and giveaways from community organizations. Many different organizations from Plainfield and Union County will be in attendance for residents to learn about.

The Joanne Hollis Gardens Community Resource Center offers workforce development, referral services, youth services, and educational, health, and wellness resources, and is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information email jhgresourcecenter@gmail.com or call [908-769-6335](tel:908-769-6335) ext. 604.

Exercise Class – May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th

Exercise classes are held at Richmond Towers every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.





Food Banks – May 18th & 23rd

Food banks are held at Richmond Towers every fourth Thursday of the month and at Joanne Hollis Gardens every third Saturday.

2024 Board Meeting Schedule

May 20

Joanne Hollis Gardens

June 17

Richmond Towers

July 15

Joanne Hollis Gardens

August 19

Richmond Towers
(Optional)

September 16

Joanne Hollis Gardens
(Annual Meeting 8:00 p.m.)

October 15

Richmond Towers

November 18

Joanne Hollis Gardens
(Optional)

December 16

Richmond Towers

*The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. In the case of a holiday, the meeting is held the next day.

Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at alternate locations; Richmond Towers Community Room located at 510 East Front Street and Joanne Hollis Gardens HAP Center located at 543 West 3rd Street in Plainfield, New Jersey.

About The Housing Authority of Plainfield

HAP will collaborate with residents and public, non-profit, and private entities to create viable, healthy communities and to empower residents to achieve financial independence. We will achieve the above while

maintaining strong internal controls, and developing and maintaining a strong culture of mutual respect, fiscal responsibility, and ethical behavior by our employees, residents, and other key stakeholders.

We encourage you to forward this email to your friends and colleagues so they may join our email list.

Join Our Email List

Contact Us

Visit Our Website

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The Plainfield Housing Authority | Richmond Towers Senior Citizen Bldg, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060 www.hapnj.org

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