



## HAP Board of Commissioners

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**Cliff Simon**  
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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

I encourage all of our residents to take steps to improve their mental well-being this month, seeing that May is Mental Health Awareness



Month. This can be as simple as an outdoor walk, connecting with friends and family members you may not have heard from in a while, or just taking more time to relax and recharge. If you ever need help with any matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff. All of us at the Housing Authority of Plainfield are here to listen and assist.

Our Joanne Hollis Gardens Community Resource Center Spring Health and Wellness Fair was a great success. We were joined by nearly 40 community organizations who came out on a beautiful, sunny day to share their resources with Plainfield residents and the event was [featured on the New Jersey Business & Industry Association website](#). Thank you to everyone 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 our residents.

In this newsletter we have several updates to share, so read on to learn about



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Richmond Towers Superintendent Tracy Brown, national recognitions awarded to Jacqueline Miller and Tracy Brown for their outstanding service to HAP and its residents over the past 30 years, and our successful health and wellness fair at Joanne Hollis Gardens.

As always, we at HAP are dedicated to our people, proactive in our plans, and focused on our future.

Thank you so much for being part of our community.

*Randall "Randy" Wood*



## Jacqueline Miller and Tracy Brown Receive National Recognitions in the American Business Awards®

Our very own Administrative Assistant, Jacqueline A. Miller, PHM who was featured in HAP's March newsletter, and our Richmond Towers Superintendent, Tracy Brown, were both honored with Bronze Stevie® awards in the Support Staffer of the Year Category of the American Business

Awards®! The award program is judged by 300 professionals worldwide during a three-month process. Jacqueline and Tracy were two out of the eight finalists in this award category.

Here are just two examples of the positive feedback the judges shared:

**"Ms. Miller's leadership at HAP is exemplary, fostering success across all levels of the organization. She upholds core values, ensuring a culture of mutual respect and ethical behavior. Going beyond her role, she takes on added responsibilities and oversees vital programs like the Summer Youth Employment Program, demonstrating a commitment to community enrichment and employee recognition."**

**"Tracy Brown's tenure at HAP showcases exceptional dedication and leadership. As superintendent, he oversees critical maintenance operations, ensuring safety and comfort for over 1000 residents. His swift handling of urgent safety issues and meticulous tracking of requests demonstrate his commitment to resident well-being. Brown's focus on safety training has resulted in a remarkable record of no injuries among his team. Moreover, his efforts in hiring, training, and promoting team members reflect his dedication to their professional growth. Brown's proactive approach and focus on excellence make him a valuable asset to HAP and its residents."**

Congratulations, Jacqueline and Tracy, on being honored with this national recognition!

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## HAP Spotlight: Richmond Towers Superintendent Tracy Brown

Tracy Brown has been serving the best interests of HAP's residents for nearly 30 years, since 1996. Extremely versatile, he has completed apprenticeships in areas such as electric, plumbing, and carpentry, and progressed from a laborer, to a mechanic, to a senior mechanic. He then served as supervisor for 15 years and was promoted to superintendent in October 2023 where he oversees a team of about 15 individuals.



The maintenance department is truly one of the backbone supports of the housing authority, seeing that they are who most residents see on a daily basis, interacting and assisting with problems that residents may experience from time to time. Tracy is tremendously passionate about the residents he serves. He's proactive and pushes himself to always figure out better ways of doing things; at the end of the day he cannot go home without knowing his residents are alright. Mr. Brown goes above and beyond his job description, putting in extra time each week as soon as the need arises, motivating his team to advance careerwise, and is committed to answering the call of duty at any time. A prime example of this is an urgent safety issue that arose the day before Thanksgiving in 2023. He began handling the issue the day before Thanksgiving, went home to cook Thanksgiving dinner, and came back to work immediately afterward to find someone who could assist first thing in the morning the next day, on Friday. The issue was handled that morning and he paid the vendor appropriately and expeditiously for their work.

**Mr. Brown is extremely grateful for all of the things HAP has afforded him,** "This job enabled me to do a lot of things in life. When I came here it was a job for me, I told my children I turned this into a career. I went to school and made it a career. And the only way to make the money you want to make is going to school, get the education, and then you can excel."

When he was young, Mr. Brown's family had to move from a house with a three-car garage to the projects. Having experienced an upbringing in which he had to learn what it means to go without, Mr. Brown motivates his employees to be resilient, reach higher, and achieve more. Mr. Brown emphasizes the importance of determination, training, and education in career progression to his team, as well as the value of networking, mentorship, and continuous learning.

**"I want to put the right people in place and prepare them with what they need to succeed. If they move up, they can provide more to their**



family.” Tracy seeks to employ the best people on his team and inspires them to be the best they can be. He manages payment for licenses/certifications for members of his team, in areas similar to that which he was able to take advantage of when he first started at HAP. Everyone has a role to play, so he knows if he doesn’t motivate his team members appropriately, if they don’t possess the dignity to fulfill their duties, or if they don’t understand how the team’s roles work alongside each other, he takes full responsibility for his team and any repercussions that result. Mr. Brown holds his team to high standards and if he points out someone who always needs help, he encourages his team to help the individual, fostering a team player mindset.

Paperwork is crucial in the maintenance department and documentation demonstrates if an employee is excelling. Mr. Brown makes sure to always provide this documentation to senior leadership to promote those who possess the correct qualifications and are deserving of advancement and pay raises, resulting in the pay raises for four members of his team.

Thank you, Tracy, for all that you do!

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## HAP in the News: JHG's CRC Spring Health & Wellness Fair Featured on New Jersey Business & Industry Association Nearly 40 Organizations Seeking to Assist Low- and Middle-Income Families at Community Event



HAP’s JHG Community Resource Center Deputy Director Scotty McFarland, Councilwoman Terri Briggs-Jones, Councilman Richard Wyatt, President of the Plainfield Public School District Hanae M. Wyatt, and HAP’s JHG Community Resource Center Director of Community Programs Eric Graham at JHG’s CRC Spring Health & Wellness Fair on April 24, 2024.

On Wednesday, April 24, the Housing Authority of Plainfield welcomed residents and the Plainfield community at “The Spring Health and Wellness Awareness Day of Community Resources 2024” at Joanne Hollis Gardens (JHG). This event included information regarding resources offered by the City of Plainfield and Union County, child care, cancer care, funeral home services, LGBTQ workforce development, community services, and public safety as well as senior citizen, youth, disability, and health and mental health services for families and children.

**Community Resource Center Volunteer and sixteen-year JHG resident**

Bridgette Graham says, "The center has been a great success. We have been doing very, very, very good in the community." She explains, "I really love what I do working with other residents. More and more people have sought out our services and I'm proud that we have this center to offer to people because if you participate it will work for you. Residents often thank me for connecting them with Mr. Graham."

HAP's JHG Community Resource Center emphasizes the importance of these various wraparound services, also known as the Wheel of Opportunity for residents. The JHG Community Resource Center is led by Director of Community Programs Eric Graham, PHM, and Deputy Director Scotty McFarland. Graham states, "We are pleased to host a spring resource fair to complement the fall and winter health and wellness fairs. It takes time for people to get comfortable and understand the services that are available in the community and we're excited to offer such a wide variety of organizations at today's event."

On behalf of the Executive Director and the HAP Board of Commissioners, "We extend our appreciation for the community partners who continue to help provide resources for the families and children of Joanne Hollis Gardens."



[Learn more about JHG's CRC Spring Health & Wellness Fair and view more photos and videos here.](#)



For more information about HAP's Joanne Hollis Gardens Community



**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."

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](mailto:info@hap-nj.org)

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



## Upcoming Events

### 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](#)

**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.

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### 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.

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List**

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Us**

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**The Housing Authority of Plainfield**  
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