

SPRING, 2021



# Building Block

## VACCINATING OUR OWN!

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021 The Chester Housing Authority hosted a COVID-19 vaccine event, with support from the City of Chester, Crozer Chester Medical Center's nurses and Widener University nursing students. 116 residents were vaccinated who were over the age of 65, as well as individuals under 65 who were eligible due to pre-existing conditions. Wednesday, April 14, 2021 marked the second CHA COVID-19 vaccination event as the agencies 65 and older population returned for their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Both of these successful community driven events were held at the Chatham Senior Village.



**Steven A. Fisher, CHA Executive Director**

Unfortunately, this issue has to lead with the topic of vaccination. Like it or not, we gotta' do what we gotta' do and we have not shrunk from that responsibility. A year into this pandemic, I am amazed how much we have accomplished in spite of and because of it.

As you will read, CHA again orchestrated the most powerful MLK Day event in the city. This year, we paid homage to one of the many forms of racism Dr. King spoke and wrote about, environmental racism. Over 100 people and many news outlets joined us. Our youngest residents were appreciated and honored with events of the EnRichment Academy and a partnership with Crozer Library. Perhaps of most significance, we initiated the Eviction Prevention Program. The courts are open again and we do not want our residents to be victims of whatever hardships the pandemic presented. Please take advantage of the help offered. And oh by the way, Chester had a presidential visit. I know some of you snuck out to catch a glimpse not far from the Bennett and Chatham.

My thanks to Latisha Cunningham and Paulette Mason for putting this issue together. In addition to this, our college interns have really helped keep our heads above water during this time of staff hours on-site being cut back.

Here's to better days ahead but a huge thanks to our communities for your understanding and willingness to work with us to maintain as well as possible.



**Top: CCMC's Gwen Smith, Nurses and Widener University Nursing students**  
**Bottom Left: Ms. Alberta Lynn, Chatham Senior Resident**  
**Bottom Right: Ms. Charlene Martin, Chatham Senior Resident with Widener University Nursing Student Elana Vergules**



## EMPOWERING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH POWERFUL AFRICAN AMERICAN ICONS

The Enrichment Academy Childcare and Learning Center, LLC, hosted their 7th annual African American History Presentation. These young scholars did an amazing job as they portrayed their favorite African American Icon.

The Enrichment Academy Daycare & Learning Center is located at the Ruth L Bennett Homes, for information please visit their website at

[www.weareenrichmentacademy.weebly.com](http://www.weareenrichmentacademy.weebly.com)

**Top: Masyn as Jameer Nelson & Amiyah as Vice President Kamala Harris**

**Bottom: Kayden as Will Smith & Kyndal as Maya Angelou**



## SIX FEET OF FREEDOM

HONORING DR. KING WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

This powerful project was held on January 18, 2021 at Calvary Baptist Church (1616 W 2nd Street). The Chester Housing Authority and New Integration Accommodations, united for the third year to honor the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by calling attention to the urgent need to address environmental racism through a compelling visual. Over 100 volunteers and 1000 plastic bags aligned a mile down 291 (Rosa Parks Memorial Highway) to symbolize unity as well as remembrance.



## PRESIDENT BIDEN VISITS CHESTER

On March 16, 2021 President Biden walked the streets of Chester as he promoted his recent approval of the COVID-19 relief package. President Biden, is dedicated to realigning American values by providing support to those who have been effected by the current

pandemic and aims to focus on providing resources to struggling low and middle class individuals and families as well as schools and small businesses.

President Biden visited Chester's own Smith Flooring, a Black- owned business located at 9th and Townsend Streets.

**Right: Owners James and Krista Smith with President Biden**






# LEARNING AND DEVELOPEMENT CORNER



The J. Lewis Crozer Library has rolled out a major book distribution to highlight 1,000 books to read before kindergarten. This program supports parents and guardians as they use reading to help develop their young child's language, literacy and social-emotional skills. In early February, more than 400 book bags were delivered to the Chester Housing Authority to be distributed to all children aged five and under whose families participate in the Housing Choice Voucher program or live in a CHA development. Each child received a bag with two new books along with information about the program.

Right: Bella DeMarco






## Ruth Bennett Community Farm's FREE PRODUCE BOXES

Starting Thursday, April 8th 2021  
1pm - 3pm (please note time change!)

Address: 1318 Carla's Lane, Chester PA 19013  
(at the pavilion near basketball court)



Strict COVID-19 Precautions are followed. Masks are required.

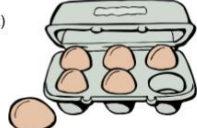
**2021 DATES:**  
**Every other Thursday April-November**

April 8th + 22nd	
May 6th + 20th	
June 3rd + 17th	
July 1st, 15th + 29th	
August 5th + 19th	
September 2nd, 16th + 30th	
October 7th + 21st	
November 4th + 18th	

**WHAT'S IN THE BOX?**

Boxes are fresh, local and seasonal. Each week is different! A sample box in spring may include:

- | Kale or Collards
- | Baby greens
- | Onions or garlic
- | Potatoes (white or sweet)
- | Radishes or turnips
- | Beets or carrots
- | Apples or strawberries
- | Broccoli or cabbage
- | Eggs




Contact Farm Manager  
Natania, at (201) 788-8158 or  
[nschaumburg@chesterha.org](mailto:nschaumburg@chesterha.org)  
with questions.

## COMMUNITY FARM

RUTH L. BENNETT HOMES

The first Bennett Box distribution was Thursday, April 8th from 1pm-3pm. The food boxes will continue to be distributed every other Thursday until Thanksgiving when the farm closes for the winter. Distributions are free and open to all Chester residents, located at 1318 Carla's Lane.

For current information and upcoming events you can visit the farms website at [www.ruthbennettcommunityfarm.org](http://www.ruthbennettcommunityfarm.org)



Thank you to Foundation for Delaware County, The Leo & Peggy Pierce Foundation, and CARES ACT funding for making these boxes possible!



## EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

### Did you know that CHA has a scholarship program?

The CHA is dedicated to providing support to the community through higher education. The M.A.D scholarship awards \$1000 to Chester residents who are interested in continuing their education. Applicants must be a Chester resident who is either a high school senior and is planning on enrolling in an accredited college or university or is currently enrolled in a college or university.

For details on when and how to apply, please visit <https://www.chesterha.org>, look for the "Community Investment" tab, and click "Scholarships."

### HCVP COMMUNITY REMINDERS

All repairs should be reported in a timely manner to ensure no further damage as well as the safety of all tenants. Contact your landlord first if you have any repairs that need to be completed. If the owner does not respond in 24 hours for an emergency repair or 4 days for a routine repair, contact Sheena Renwick at 610-904-1111, Ext. 109.

### MAILING LIST

Have you joined the CHA mailing list yet? Stay up to date on waiting list openings, special events, and other important information. If you would like to subscribe, please go to <https://www.chesterha.org> and hit the subscribe button.

### GENERAL REMINDERS

All occupancy specialist are completing certifications and income adjustments for their respective caseloads. CHA residents, please continue to use email and voice mail to reach your assigned Occupancy Specialist. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the HCVP and admin staff have limited in-person office hours and will continue to work remotely until further notice.

### RENTAL ASSISTANCE

DELCO-ERA Rental Assistance Program has a rent program that is willing to help residents who's rent is backed up 6 months or more and have received an eviction notice. This program may be able to provide the help that you need to avoid eviction.

For more information, please contact DELCO-ERA at 484-729-4200 or [www.delcoera.com](http://www.delcoera.com)

### EVICITION PREVENTION PROGRAM

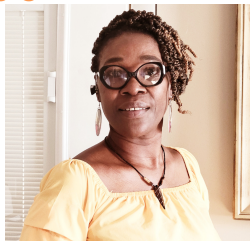
Eviction court resumed as of January 28, 2021. If you are experiencing any hardships at this time and are delinquent with your rent, CHA is dedicated to providing resources as well as additional opportunities for you and your family to avoid being evicted. If you would like to explore available options to rental assistance, please contact Mrs. Marrea Walker-Smith, at 610-904-1111 ext. 127 or via email at [msmith@chesterha.org](mailto:msmith@chesterha.org)

### SPRING INTERNS & WRITERS



*Latisha A. Cunningham*

Latisha, is an undergraduate student as well as a first generation college student at West Chester University, majoring in Social Work.



*Paulette M. Mason*

Paulette, is a final year Social Work student as well as a first generation college student at West Chester University.



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