

Can You Dig This

On July 20th, residents, friends, and employees of Chester Housing Authority gathered at the AMC Marple 10 movie theater to keep cool and watch *Can You Dig This*, a documentary about urban gardening and the positive effect it has had on urban communities in South-Central Los Angeles.

The movie served as a reminder of why the Chester Housing Authority works so hard to support the Ruth L. Bennett farm and how much community farming and gardening can do to strengthen the community.

Chester Farmer's Market

On August 10th & 24th, Fare & Square will be hosting Chester Farmer's Markets from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on the corner of 9th Street and Trainer Street. The farmer's market will be a great opportunity to buy locally grown, fresh and organic food at affordable prices.

Family Movie Night

On Friday, August 25th CHA will host a family movie night at the Bennett Community Center located at 1350 W. 9th Street beginning at 4:30 pm with face painting, food etc... The movie featured will be *Can You Dig This* a movie about urban gardening in South Central LA. The movie will begin at 5:00 pm.

Bring the family out you're sure to have a great time!



Community Partners from the American Heart Association giving out healthy treats with the Bennett Farm Manager



Victor Martinez, Tina Johnson and Chris Martinez (L to R) received awards for completing their maintenance certification training from the Pennsylvania Apartment Association.



Last day of the Summer Meals Program at the Bennett Community Center

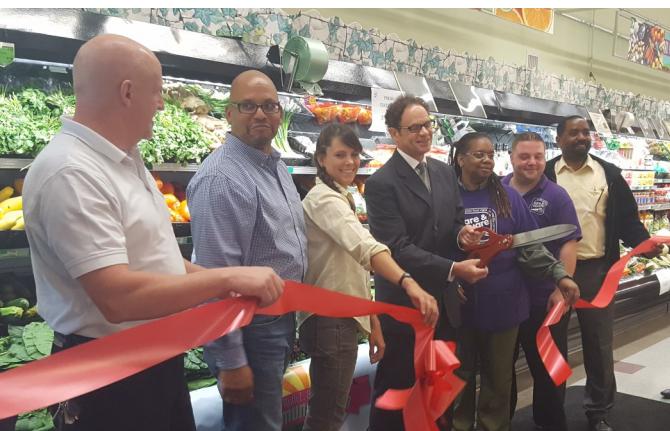
This Newsletter was written by CHA summer interns, Daya Shrestha and Adil Belgaumi from Swarthmore College



Building BLOCK

Chester Housing Authority - Summer 2017

Fresh Faces & Fresh Food at the Ruth L. Bennett Farm!



Opening the Bennett Farm Section at Fare & Square

This year saw a change in management at the Ruth L. Bennett Community farm. The new manager, Natania Schaumburg, is a New Jersey native, went to Temple University and has been living in Philadelphia for the past eight years. After completing an apprenticeship program in Ecological Horticulture, Natania took over at the Ruth Bennett farm.

In early June the Bennett Farm began a collaboration with Fare & Square grocery store to sell its produce to the Chester Community and with the Swarthmore Co-op for the sale of flowers and small floral arrangements.

This summer, the farm has hosted children as part of the Farm to Summer Meals program; activities have included planting, harvesting and preparing fresh food from the farm, and bouquet-making

workshops. Natania hopes to continue programming into the fall through a Farm to After-School program.

The Farm's Mobile Market also started circulating again on August 1st, delivering fresh produce to the Chester Community every Tuesday &

Thursday.

"Stay tuned for upcoming events and activities at the farm, and please stop by and introduce yourself!"



Natania teaching children about the farm's produce

From Executive Director Steve Fischer:



Thanks to all parts of our community for coming together for another productive summer. The Bennett Farm has exceeded expectations. Under new management, the farm not only grows and teaches, it is now the supplier of produce and flowers to Chester's Fare & Square grocery store and the Swarthmore Co-op.

Once the summer ends, the Housing Authority will be turning its attention to new concepts not seen in public housing before. By 2018, smoke-free living will be here. We have talked about it for years and now it will be required by our federal funders. Housing managers will publish specific guidelines on it by the beginning of the year and leases will be amended.

Another item for the future is the exploration of time limits in public housing. The CHA Board and executive staff have begun discussions on how to responsibly incorporate this concept into our programs. More on this will be put out as it develops.



Deborah Montgomery - Community Gem

Deborah Montgomery (known to friends as Debbie) turned her life around following her recovery from a life-threatening illness. In 2011, lying in a hospital bed, Debbie received a flyer from Chester Housing Authority's WEHL Program. It was then that she found a new way to blossom. Her new calling led to her starting out a new exercise program for the community that included dancing, Yoga, and Zumba.

"I focus on dance and encourage people to dance because it lets me use my imagination," she says.

A resident of the William Penn Homes, Debbie has served over 500 members of the Chester community. "It is really great, working with seniors and reaching out to them". She is especially proud of the fact that the participating members look forward to it.

"When we were younger, we used to play around and have fun, and being able to do that so many years later makes me nostalgic. The lessons have received very positive reactions, and all the women look forward to these ladies' nights."

Debbie is also a significant part of the mobile market. She drives the delicious, healthy food from the Bennett Farm to people who wouldn't otherwise have access to it. "My main reason for doing this is because I want people to eat

healthy. After all, health is wealth, and I want people to know that."

As she reflects back on over six years of continued involvement, Debbie says that she was glad the WEHL Program gave her this opportunity. "Wow, it's been so long huh. Time flies! It got me out of the house. My cousin had become sick around the time I did, but she isolated herself and hasn't gotten better. I'm very glad I am involved with the wonderful members of the community."

Moreover, she never imagined having such a wide outreach in the community of Chester, referring to the high attendance of her Zumba and line dance sessions.

Debbie hopes to bring children into the fold and offer dancing sessions alongside their mothers because "they are our future, and I've just had so much fun working with the ladies. The Community Center is currently unused and it would be good to maybe teach children African dances and art while their mothers are in their sessions" She encourages all the women out there to come out and enjoy themselves.

"Eat healthy because health is wealth"

Come Join ANUME @ the Booker T. Washington Center

Zumba

Monday & Thursday, 6:30-7:30 pm

Hip Hop Aerobics

Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 pm

Stepping Into Shape

Wednesday, 6:00-7:00 pm

Mobile Market

Tuesday:

10:00am - 12:00pm - Matopos Hills Senior Apartments

12:30pm - 2:30pm - Chester Senior Center

Thursday:

10:00am - 12:00pm - Edgemont, Madison & Gateway Apartments Parking Lot

12:30pm-2:30pm Pentecostal Square

Fathers Are Talking Visits Washington D.C.

On June 16th, residents of the Chester community and the staff of the Chester Housing Authority took a field trip to the nation's capital to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture in celebration of Father's Day. The museum is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history and culture.

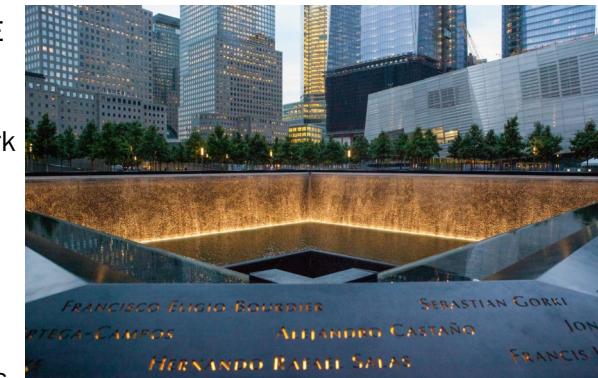


National Museum of African American History and Culture pictured next to the Washington Monument

and had the desired effect, as well as being an excellent learning opportunity. Executive Assistant at the CHA, Quineice Harris reflected, "I didn't realize the importance of the museum until I was there, in the basement, learning things that were never taught in school." Fathers Are Talking, explained. The trip garnered many positive reactions,

Upcoming ANUME Trip to New York

On October 13th, ANUME will be hosting a bus trip to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City.



The trip will depart from the CHA's main office at 7:30 am and go straight to the 9/11 Museum in the heart of Manhattan's business district and will aim to return around 7:00 pm that evening.

The 9/11 Memorial and Museum in downtown Manhattan

during their normal business hours. The trip is open to the public and costs just \$70 per person and you can reserve your seat with just a \$30 deposit. Reservations can be made at the CHA's main office

Being A Good Tenant

To help Chester Housing Authority residents live safely and according to regulations, here's a couple things to keep in mind when inspections are coming up and what to do after lease-up.

Checklist for Inspections

- Make sure there is an adult present at the unit. No-calls and no-shows result in a charge of \$75
- Ensure cleanliness of every room in the unit, especially kitchens and bathrooms
- Make sure all rooms in the unit are accessible to the inspector
- Restrain pets during inspections
- All tenant-paid utilities (e.g. gas, water, electricity) are to be legally obtained and current throughout the term of the lease

Tenant Responsibilities after Lease-up

- Pay your share of the rent in full and on time each month
 - Attend all scheduled appointments with your Occupancy Specialist
 - Provide valid documentation for all household members
 - Report in writing all changes to your Occupancy Specialist (e.g. changes of income and household composition)
 - Report maintenance requests to owners in a timely manner
 - Communicate (email) questions and concerns to your Occupancy Specialist
 - Be a kind and considerate neighbor
- *Failure to comply with the Chester Housing Authority's procedures for reporting unit maintenance will result in you losing your housing assistance.