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## Top Stories

### PHFA board and local leaders tour housing sites in Erie prior to June meeting

PHFA's board of directors traveled to Erie in June for its regular monthly meeting. From time-to-time, the agency conducts its meetings in different regions of the state as a way to hear directly from local officials and residents and see housing developments firsthand.

On June 13, the first day of the Erie trip, board members took time for a bus tour of the downtown area to see some of the developments that have been funded by the agency. Developers associated with those properties and local government officials narrated the bus tour and highlighted the progress underway in Erie. A dinner that evening provided time for informal discussions about housing issues in Erie and northwestern Pennsylvania.

The next day, the board of directors held its monthly meeting at the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. The meeting was well attended by local government leaders and some of PHFA's business partners in the region. Vice Chairman Tom Hagen, who resides in Erie, was recognized for 21 years of service on the board. Officers with Liberty Mortgage Corporation, Erie, who excelled in their production of home loans last year using PHFA mortgage products were also honored.

***Please see pages 2 – 4 for photos from the bus tour and board meeting in Erie.***

### Funding available for programs to end homelessness

FHLBank Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency are partnering to fund programs across the state that help people in danger of losing their housing with the goal of ending homelessness in the state. FHLBank Pittsburgh is providing \$3 million toward the effort called "Home4Good" and PHFA is providing \$1.5 million for a total contribution of \$4.5 million to launch this initiative.



The funding will be distributed as grants to organizations with programs that help people retain or find housing, as well as those that provide supportive services. Groups seeking funding are advised to apply through one of 16 Continuum of Care organizations in the state. PHFA is currently soliciting these Continuum of Care organizations to enlist their participation. Their deadline to join this effort is July 13. If a local Continuum of Care chooses not to participate, or if one doesn't serve a particular area, groups may apply directly to PHFA for this financial assistance.

Practically any organization may apply for funding, including local governments, non-profits, housing authorities and others. The key factors are that they offer programs that prevent or reduce homelessness, they are collaborating with others to address established goals, and they have a track record of success. The deadline for groups to apply for funding under the Home4Good initiative is Sept. 14. More information and registration for a related webinar are available on the PHFA website at: [www.phfa.org/mhp/serviceprovider/](http://www.phfa.org/mhp/serviceprovider/). People can also contact Bryce Maretzki at PHFA at (717) 780-1867 or by email at [bmaretzki@phfa.org](mailto:bmaretzki@phfa.org).

# PHFA visits Erie in June



PHFA guests and staff load the bus outside the Sheraton hotel on a pleasant summer day.



Secretary of Banking and Securities Robin Wiessmann, PHFA board chair, welcomes everyone on the bus tour. Behind her is PHFA Executive Director and CEO Brian Hudson, who also welcomed tour guests.

**HOUSING BUS TOUR:** Upon arrival in Erie, the first planned event was an hour-long narrated bus tour of significant affordable housing developments near downtown. The bus departed from the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel and highlighted five properties, all funded by PHFA.



Erie Mayor Joseph Schember shares information about Erie's economic growth and future outlook.



Construction is underway at affordable housing development Parade Street Commons East, destination C on the bus tour map.



A nice surprise for PHFA staff was this billboard erected by Donald Crenshaw, developer with PSC East, in Erie, which built Parade Street Commons and is currently building Parade Street Commons East.



Tour guests are kept busy with ever-changing sights out both sides of the bus and anecdotes provided by local government officials and developers.



Matthew Good, chief executive officer with H.A.N.D.S., narrates part of the bus tour, including details about Villa Maria, destination E on the bus tour map. H.A.N.D.S. manages the property. H.A.N.D.S. stands for Housing and Neighborhood Development Service and is based in Erie.



The bus passes Villa Maria, a former convent and school converted into affordable housing in a beautiful setting.



Erie's ABC and FOX station, WJET-TV, interviews PHFA Executive Director Brian Hudson following the bus tour.

# PHFA Board Meeting in Erie



A highlight of the Erie board meeting on June 14 was recognition for Vice Chairman Thomas B. Hagen, center, for 21 years of service on the board. Hagen is shown with Secretary of Banking and Securities Robin Wiessmann, board chair, and Executive Director and CEO Brian Hudson.



During the board meeting, officers with Liberty Mortgage Corporation, based in Erie, were recognized for their outstanding performance making home loans using PHFA mortgage products. The officers who were honored for being among the top-producing originators in 2017 are (left and counter-clockwise): Debbie Gilmour-Bertges, Mary Ann Platz and Keith Caughey. Liberty Mortgage Corporation was recognized for closing the most PHFA PENNVEST loans (for sewer connections and repairs) in 2017.



## PHFA Around the State

Work continues on affordable multifamily housing developments around the state funded by PHFA.



A groundbreaking ceremony was held June 15 for Cherry Street Commons in Frackville, Schuylkill County. Shown to the left speaking during the event is Patricia O'Connor, chief operating officer of Par-King Inc., the developer of the project. When completed, the development will consist of 17 units: a one-bedroom unit, 11 two-bedroom units and five three-bedroom units. One one-bedroom and one two-bedroom units will be wheelchair and hearing/vision impaired accessible. All of the units will be handicapped adaptable. Once completed, it will be managed by the Housing Authority of Northumberland County. The new development is being funded in part with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and PennHOMES funding from PHFA. Photo credit: Republican Herald newspaper in Pottsville.

A grand opening was celebrated by Crest Manor in Willow Grove, Montgomery County, on June 25. Originally built in 1963, all of the homes were rehabilitated and a community center and open space were added. Crest Manor now includes 46 affordable homes, ranging from one- to five-bedroom twins and apartments. Some units were adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities. PHFA board member Mark Schwartz attended the ribbon-cutting (center, wearing sunglasses). Work on the development was funded in part by PHFA. Photo credit: Pennrose.



Project HOME held the grand opening of its newest multifamily building on April 24; it is the Ruth Williams House at the Gene and Marlene Epstein Building on North Broad Street in Philadelphia. The building will provide 88 units of affordable housing for people on low incomes, or for people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. PHFA's Director of the Eastern Region Nancy Twyman attended. Other officials in attendance included Pa. Representative W. Curtis Thomas; Kelvin Jeremiah, president and CEO, Philadelphia Housing Authority; and Joseph J. DeFelice, HUD regional administrator for the Philadelphia Regional Office. The new building was funded in part with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from PHFA. Photo credit: Jay Gorodetzer Photography.



The first phase of redevelopment is now underway at Allegheny Dwellings in Pittsburgh, following a groundbreaking on April 25. The property is one of the oldest remaining public housing complexes in the city, opened in 1942. The initial phase of work will replace older housing with 65 market-rate and affordable units. The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh will lease the land to a partnership, including TREK Development Group, that will own the development. The work is being funded in part with Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from PHFA. Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto is shown on the right in the picture, and Pa. Representative Jake Wheatley Jr. is on the left. Photo credit: Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.



## Professional Development

### June Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference is well attended

PHFA's Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference held June 27-29 attracted nearly 600 attendees, the second highest attendance ever for this event. The annual conference provides a variety of seminars and keynote speakers to help housing professionals stay up-to-date on changes in the affordable housing field. Plenty of networking opportunities also let attendees reconnect with their peers from around the state. This year's event was held at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Pocono Manor.



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**Tom Wolf, Governor • Brian Hudson Sr., Executive Director & CEO**

To receive an email notice when a new issue of PHFA Developments is posted, or for comments and questions, please write Renae Garofolo at [rgarofolo@phfa.org](mailto:rgarofolo@phfa.org).

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