



# The Highrise Lowdown

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## Voice of the Five Thousand

### MHRC board discusses security, bedbugs, digital TV and other resident issues at its January meeting



MHRC Board Member Delores Johnson, 828 Spring St. N.E. (standing, left) discusses resident concerns with MPHA Managing Director of Low Income Public Housing Mary Boler (standing, right) at the January 22 board meeting at 314 Hennepin Ave.

MHRC Lead Organizer John Stumme (left) and Security Advisory Committee Chair Tom Rajtar discuss resident security initiatives with the MHRC Board.

The MHRC board meeting in January gave board members (two residents elected from each high-rise) the chance to speak up and learn about a wide variety of topics of importance to residents.

MPHA Managing Director of Low Income Public Housing Mary Boler responded to resident questions and concerns about MPHA strategies for combating bedbugs, a world wide problem also impacting several MPHA highrises. Boler said that bedbugs are difficult to get rid of and stressed the importance of residents reporting infestations to management immediately who will work with the resident to develop the most effective treatment strategy. If an apartment is heavily infested, Boler said, it may be necessary for MPHA to bag up and remove mattresses, box springs and possibly other furniture, in addition to several chemical sprayings of the apartment. She said residents will not be charged for this service and should not remove infested items on their own as this could spread the infestation. The bedbug bottom line: talk to your

manager right away if you believe your apartment has bedbugs and to work out the best treatment plan.

Boler also reported on MPHA efforts to prepare the **MHRC Board meeting to next**



**Watching history in the making** (see page 4).

## Board meeting *continued*

highrises for digital television. She said in addition to replacing roof antennae and receivers, MPHA is replacing the wall taps (where the cable from your TV plugs into the wall) in every apartment and testing and adjusting the signal strength at each tap. (See related article on page 4 for information on obtaining a converter box for your TV.)

Also, at the MHRC Board meeting, MHRC Security Advisory Committee Chair Tom Rajtar, 314 Hennepin Ave., reported on the role of the committee in working with MPHA, Securitas, and the MPHA police team to respond to individual high-rise and city-wide security issues. The committee recently participated in the security guard selection process resulting in a new two-year contract with Securitas for guard service.

## La Dagaalanka Kutaanta

Haweeneyda ka ah Agaasimaha Guud ee (MPHA) Hay'ada Guryaha Dadweynaha ee layiraahdo Mary Boler ayaa ka jawaabaysa su'aalo ku saabsan sidii loola dagaali lama, loon criteria lama katakana alma dhiqlaha ku jira guryaha ay hay'adu bixisay. Kutaanta oo noqotay 2 dii sanaddood oo lasoo dhaafay mid iyadu si xad dhaaf ah usoo weerartay guud ahaan wadankaan Maraykanka, gaar ahaana guryaha jaban ee ay hay'adu siiso dadka. Waxay kaloo Boler sheegtay in ay adag tahay in kutaanta laga dhameeyo guryaha hadii aan dadku soo sheegin inay ku jirto gurigooda sida ugu dhakhsaha badan. Waxay kaloo tiri waxaa muhiim u ah MPHA da in ay ku caawiyaan dadweynaha inay la raraan alaabta kutaantu gashay iyagoo keenaya bacaha lagu daboolo joodariga, kuraasta ama dhamaan waxii la doonayo in la tuuro, si' aanay ugu harin guryaha kale ama barsada lafariisto. Wax lacag ahna lagusoo dalici mayo dadka. Waxay kusoo gabagabaysay in sida keliya oo looga adkaan karo kutaanta kujirta guryaha ay tahay in dadku ay usoo sheegaan maamulaha guriga si degdeg ah. Waxaa kaloo Agaasimuhu ka hadashay isbadalka soo socda oo kusaabsan TVga oo noqonaya dijitaal oo hada kadib aanu arki Karin qofkii aan heysan mid dijitaal ah ama aan lahayn kaybal. Waxay sheegtay in ay badalayaan, casriyeen doonaana anteenoyinka and risiifarada saaran goryaha korkooda, iyo godadka kaybalka ee kuyaal qolalka. Iyagoo islamar ahaantaas tijaabinaya inta ay le'egtahay xooga signalka soo galeysa qolalka. Si loo helo masawiro faseex ah.



## MHRC Board Meeting Wrap-up

The MHRC Board meeting was held January 22 at 314 Hennepin Ave. Board actions included:

- ◆ Review of MHRC programs and activities which address the MHRC Priority #2, improving security and #3, advocating for resident issues. Discussions were held about MPHA bedbug treatment strategies, the conversion to digital TV and planned MPHA energy savings initiatives (ESCO);
- ◆ Consideration of a report from VOAMN about assistance available for obtaining and connecting converter boxes;
- ◆ Election of two representatives to the MPHA Resident Advisory Board (RAB);
- ◆ Consideration of some technical amendments to MPHA's Moving to Work Plan (MTW); and
- ◆ Approval of the 2009 MHRC Budget.



## Share your heritage at the multicultural celebrations!

This is your last chance to participate in this month's multicultural celebrations! Last year, hundreds of residents were able to learn about their neighbors through ethnic dance, storytelling, music, poetry, cultural displays, and delicious snacks at these annual events held as part of the February Area meetings. The success of these events depends on resident participation, so don't be shy, give it a try!

The celebrations will be held at 1:30 p.m. on February 11 at 1815 Central Ave. N.E. (for north & northeast residents) and February 12 at 115 W. 31st St. (for southeast & southwest residents)

If you or a resident you know has some talent in the areas of music, singing, dance, storytelling, poetry or art, which would showcase cultural or ethnic heritage, we definitely want to hear from you. We would also like to hear from you or someone you know who has items that could be part of an interesting cultural display. Time is running out so please contact John Stumme at the MHRC right away. Call John at (612) 342-1331 or send him an email: [jstumme@mplshighrise.org](mailto:jstumme@mplshighrise.org). Thank you!



# A Project Lookout

## Closer Look:

### **Stairwell Security**

Highrise stairwells are not places to smoke, drink, hangout, party, etc. The MHRC Security Advisory Committee continues to discuss this problem and what to do about it with MPHA. Many residents are advocating that MPHA install security cameras in the stairwells. Even though the weather is gradually warming up, homeless people may still be looking for a warm place to sleep at night. Whatever peoples' reason for being there, there is agreement between residents and MPHA that folks using the stairwells for unintended purposes pose a security risk to residents and others.

Unfortunately, it may also be true that many residents do not understand that MPHA holds them responsible for the behavior of their guests as long as the guest is in the building or on the grounds, even if the tenant is no longer with the guest.

Residents are reminded to:

- ◆ Be responsible for your guests at all times;
- ◆ Call 911, your building manager, or if your building has guard service, you may call (612) 803-6766 (between 4:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.) immediately to report problem behavior in the stairwells;
- ◆ Learn about joining Project Lookout by calling (612) 342-1331; and
- ◆ Call 211 if you know someone who needs to get into a shelter.

## Nabadgalyada Jaranjarada

Dadwaynoow waxaa si adag la'idiku baaqayaa Inaad xusuusnaataan, dadka martida idiin ahne aad ku adkaysaan, inaan jaranjarta gurigu aanay ahayn meel lagu cabo sigaarka, khamrada ama lagukulmo. Guddiga nabadgalyada dadka degan guryaha(SAC) ayaa kawada hadlay dhibaataadaan marar kala duwan iyo sidii wax looga qaban lahaa. Waxaa kaloo wadahaalkaas kaqayb galay madaxda hayada huryaha (MPHA) iyo shirkada guryaha waardiyaysa. Waxaa kaloo laysku raacay in waqtiga qaboobaha ay dadka guryo la'aanta ahi Ay isku aruuriyaan jaranjarta. Taasoo ah khatar wayn xagga nabad galyada.

Waxaa kaloo nasiib daro ah in dad badan aanay fahamsanayn in looga saari karo guriga ay dagan yihiin khaladka martidooda daraadeed. Waayo sharciga ay lasaxiixdeen hayada guryaha MPHA

Ayaa sidaas dhigaya. Hadaba waxaa laxasuusi-nayaa dadwaynaha qodobadaan hoos kuxusan:

- ◆ Adigaa wakiil ka'ah martidaada markasta.
- ◆ Wac 911(call 911), maamullaha gurigaaga, ama waardiyaha guriga ama 612 803 6766 I inta udhaxeeysa(4pm –3am) sida ugu dhakh saha badan markaad aragtid falxumo kasocota jaranjarada gurigaaga.
- ◆ Raadi si'aad ugu qayb qaadatid mashruuca PLO ee xoogwaqafka ah ee gurigaaga.
- ◆ Wac 211 hadaad ogtahay qof ubaahan meel uuseexo (shelter).



## Free help available with digital TV Conversion

Unless Congress changes plans, TV stations will start broadcasting in digital signals on February 17. (This will not affect cable or satellite TV customers.) Hopefully, you have already used your \$40 off coupon from the government and bought a converter box. If not, you'll want to get on the government waiting list to get the discount coupon. For assistance call the Volunteers of America (VOA) at 612-331-4063 and ask for extension 138 or the VOA DTV hotline. Leave a message on the voice mail and someone will call you back about helping you apply for a coupon and/or helping you purchase and install your converter box.

Resident councils provide a valuable opportunity for two-way communication between residents and MPHA



The resident council of 1515 Park Ave. S. discusses resident concerns about interim rent calculations and other tenant issues with MPHA staff.

## February Area Meetings

*Topics will include:*

- ◆ **Getting ready for May resident council elections** - forming nominating committees, recruiting candidates
- ◆ **Cultural celebration** - entertainment, displays & more representing cultural heritage

North/Northeast residents meet  
*Wednesday, February 11,*  
*1:30 p.m. at 1815 Central Ave. N.E.*  
Southeast/Southwest residents meet  
*Thursday, February 12,*  
*1:30 p.m. at 115 W. 31st St.*  
*(Horn Terrace)*

Want to see your highrise featured in the *Lowdown*?!

Then email us digital photos and letters describing events and activities! We do our best to include all submissions which may be edited for length. Send letters to the MHRC, Attention Lowdown, 1627 S. 6th St., Mpls., MN 55454 and digital photos to [jstumme@mplshighrise.org](mailto:jstumme@mplshighrise.org)



## February is Black History Month!

To celebrate Black History Month the Minneapolis City Council and Hennepin County Commissioners are sponsoring "*Economics in the Black Community*" Check out these great **free** events:

- ◆ **Barbara Jo Davis**, owner and president, Ken Davis Products. 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., Feb. 6, Hennepin County Board Room (A-24).
- ◆ **Jacqueline King**, assistant VP, Federal Reserve Bank, 11:30—12:30 p.m. Feb. 13, City Council Chambers, City Hall 350 S. 5th St.
- ◆ **Hussein Samatar**, executive director, African Development Center, 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Feb 20, Hennepin County Auditorium A-Level.
- ◆ **Dr. Rose M. Brewer**, professor and past chair, African American and African Studies Department, University of Minnesota, 11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., Feb. 27, Minneapolis City Hall Rotunda.

The Highrise Lowdown is a publication of the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council, 1627 S. 6th St., 55454 (612) 342-1330. The Lowdown will print reader responses as space permits; we reserve the right to edit all submissions.



## THINK SPRING!!!

It's not too early to register your highrise with the *Minnesota Green-Plant Material Dispersal Program*. For only \$50 a year community gardeners can obtain donated seeds and flower and vegetable plants from various organizations. Participants are notified when plants are available and are responsible for picking them up. Ask your resident council to vote on joining this program and to vote on covering the \$50 membership fee! Contact the MN State Horticultural Society at (651) 643-3601 or the MHRC at (612) 342-1330 to obtain a registration form.



**Watching the making of history:** MPHA staff and residents join together to watch the historic inauguration of President Barak Obama on January 20, 2009 in the community room of 2121 16th

## Have your taxes prepared for **free** by an IRS certified tax preparation volunteer!

(provided through a Hennepin County Partnership)  
To make an appointment, for a list of sites, and information on what to bring, call:

- ◆ 2-1-1 or from a cell phone (651) 297-3724 or go to:
- ◆ [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us)—search for "free tax preparation sites." Look for posting for more info.



## This Month's Events

**Thursday, February 5, 9:30 a.m.:** MHRC Executive Committee meets at 1710 Plymouth Ave. N.

**Wednesday, February 11, 1:30 p.m.:** N/NE Area meets at 1815 Central Ave. N.E.

**Thursday, February 12, 1:30 p.m.:** SE/SW Area meets at 115 W. 31st St.

**Wednesday, February 25, 1:30 p.m.:** MPHA Board meets at 1001 Washington Ave. N.

**Friday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.:** Security Advisory Committee meets at 2728 E. Franklin Ave.