

Community News

East New York Community Newsletter



LABOR DAY: HONORING THE AMERICAN WORKER

By Ashley Govan

The end of the hot summer season is near – and what’s a better way to step into the fall months than with a 3-day holiday weekend? In fact, an act signed into law in 1968 changed several holidays to be observed on a Monday to ensure federal employees could have more 3-day weekends, including Labor Day, falling on the first Monday in September. But what is Labor Day and why do we celebrate it?

In the late 1800s, during the peak of the Industrial Revolution, the average American worked 12 hours a day and 7 days a week to make a basic living. Individuals and families considered to be very poor or recent immigrants faced particularly horrible working conditions: limited access to fresh air, few resting breaks, and poor sanitary conditions. In some cases, children as young as 5 years old also worked in factories and mills. As a result, labor unions grew more prominent and began organizing strikes and protests (many turning violent) to vocalize needs for better working conditions, hours and compensation.

After years of battling between legislators and labor workers, several states began recognizing “workingmen’s holiday” celebrated on the first Monday in September. In 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed Labor Day into law making it a federal holiday to pay tribute to the great achievements and contributions of American workers. It has since been celebrated with street parades, barbecues, and many other outdoor events. Labor Day weekend celebrations also symbolizes the end of summer and back-to-school season.

Tenant Support Directory

Boulevard Together

- Belmont Sutter Area
- Boulevard Houses
- Fiorentino Houses

Property Manager - Barbara Clark

P: (646)276-2196

E: bclark@boulevardtogether.com

Stanley Avenue Preservation

- Linden Houses
- Penn Wortman Houses

Property Manager - Asti Rosario

P: (347)707-0461

E: arosario@clintonmanagement.com

East New York City Line

Tenant Leader - Dwayne Faison

P: (718)791-1402

E: dwaynefaison@aol.com

Tenant Leader - Wandy Delarosa

P: (347)322-2682

E: wdelarosa90@hotmail.com

Long Island Baptist

Tenant Leader - Arthur Warren

P: (917)749-6988

E: beepabarber@yahoo.com

Cypress Houses

Tenant Leader - Dwayne Faison

P: (718)791-1402

E: dwaynefaison@aol.com

Pink Houses

Tenant Leader - Karen Caldwell

P: (917)575-4285

E: kcaldwell929@gmail.com

Unity Plaza Houses

Tenant Leader - Cynthia Whitaker

P: (718)485-0578

E: c.whitaker580@gmail.com



HIGHLIGHTING OUR TENANT LEADERS: LYNN LANCLOS - PENN WORTMAN

By David Amon

How long have you been living in your development?

"My husband and I have been living in Penn Wortman Development since 2018. Previously we lived in the Upper West Side of Manhattan."

Tell me how you first got involved with the Tenant Association.

"After I moved into Penn Wortman and gotten to know some of the residents, I learned that there had not been a Tenant Board meeting for nine years. In fact, there wasn't a Tenant Board that was active at all. NYCHA informed us as residents that we needed to form a Board before the new private company that was scheduled to take over the repairs and overall building management arrived on the premises. Only nine residents attended the meeting which was called to get the Board organized. The outcome was that five individuals volunteered to serve on the Board, and I was made Tenant Leader."

What makes you most proud of your development?

"I am most proud of the residents themselves and the close relationships they have with each other. There is a culture of care and concern for everyone in the complex. While living on the Upper West Side, my husband and I never experienced anything like the caring that is evident at Penn Wortman."

What is your first memory of something good that happened in your community - something it very much needed?

"Consistent with what I mentioned earlier, it is the memory of the caring and compassion that greeted my husband and me when we moved to Penn Wortman. The people embraced us. They were warm and genuine. Thanks to the other residents, I have a wonderful living memory of my introduction to the community. "

What would you like to see improved in your community?

"There is a wonderful quality to life, a wonderful culture of caring and compassion, at Penn Wortman. I want to see that culture grow even stronger."



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