



East New York Community Newsletter



Honoring Indigenous Peoples Day

By Ashley Govan

In our traditional school system, most of us learned the history of Christopher Columbus and have been celebrating his national holiday on the second Monday in October each year. But for many Indigenous peoples, Columbus Day is considered a controversial holiday. In fact, his arrival was the beginning of the large-scale death and loss of Indigenous customs and lifestyle. As a result of the controversy, Indigenous Peoples Day has been adopted to replace Columbus Day in an increasing number of states in the U.S since 1990.

South Dakota was the first state to officially recognize Indigenous Peoples Day as Native American Day. Now, over a dozen states have adopted the holiday to celebrate Indigenous cultures and histories that have been eradicated by the continuous observance of Christopher Columbus' arrival.

It should not be forgotten the role of Indigenous peoples in the founding of the United States. In essence, President Joe Biden became the first commander in chief to formally recognize Indigenous People's Day by issuing a proclamation that states: "On Indigenous Peoples' Day, we honor America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today."

Tenant Support Directory

Boulevard Together

- Belmont Sutter

Tenant Leader - Christine Anderson

P: (917)586-0122

E: christinea4520@gmail.com

- Boulevard Houses

Tenant Leader - Clara Woods

P: (347)876-4035

E: clarawoods2814@gmail.com

- 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

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HIGHLIGHTING OUR TENANT LEADERS: CYNTHIA WHITAKER - UNITY PLAZA

By David Amon

How long have you been living in your development?

"My family and I moved into Unity Plaza in July of 1976 where I worked two jobs to raise my children, as well as support many other children in my community. I gained experience at the New York Stock Exchange and Depository Trust before retiring to travel with my family. After two years in retirement, I decided to return to the workforce as a matron with Pupil Transportation. Due to my husband's passing in 2009, I went back into retirement as to stay close to my 26 grandchildren and great grandchildren."

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

"Because of my active involvement with my community, I was asked to consider running for the position of tenant leader by a fellow tenant. I was elected into the position in 2000 and continue to be the tenant leader for Unity Plaza. I consider myself highly active with the board, residents, and elected officials to make sure my community has its needs met to enhance the lives of its residents."

What makes you most proud of your development?

"I love the care and unity the residents display towards each other. Gaining the nicknames that I've gotten over time, like "Mom Whitaker", shows me just how important we all are to each other."

What's your first memory of something good that happened to your community? Something it very much needed.

"Recently we were able to have our Community Center remodeled. The Amphitheater, was reconstructed and security cameras were installed; giving our residents the opportunity to enjoy movie nights in the park. Children can enjoy their community center and feel a safe with the addition of the security cameras."

What would you like to see improved in your community?

"My biggest concern is with the homeless population. I want to find opportunities in the community to help them."



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