

*Freedom House from page 1*

This beautiful act of kindness began weeks earlier when Sacred Heart member Marilyn Lafferty put an announcement on the bulletin board at church. She received an enthusiastic response from many fellow members. Each participant was then given the name of someone to buy gifts for. The Friday before Christmas, church members carefully wrapped gifts

and placed the names of Freedom House residents on the packages. The next day the gifts were delivered to the Freedom House lobby.

Mrs. Lafferty remarked that there are many people at Sacred Heart church who delight in making sure that others have a happy Christmas. Freedom House residents are sincerely grateful that this year they were blessed by those whose hearts

were filled with the true spirit of Christmas. The residents appreciate the kindness shown by Pastor DiMaria and the members of Sacred Heart.



**BEV'S BLURB**

My name is Beverly and I am the Service Coordinator for Phoenixville Homes. I am currently serving residents at The Flag House and Bard Complex three days a week. If you have concerns or questions about your Social Security, Medical Assistance, health insurance or need to find transportation alternatives, feel free to give me a call. If you're looking for opportunities in the community, or if you have concerns about your future and your health, feel free to contact me. If I don't have an answer, I will help find one or an agency that can provide it. My services are private, confidential and free. I adhere to the same HIPPA laws as your Physician. I can also help you understand those confusing form letters that come in the mail, or the advertisements that look like something important. If it says "apply online," give me a call and we can do the application together on the computer. If you are not sure if I can help, feel free to call and ask. Since I have started with

Phoenixville Homes, I am pleased that I have been able to help some residents reinstate lost Medical Assistance Benefits, make informed health insurance choices, resolve some personal concerns and assist with a group appeal for LIHEAP benefits. I am also very happy to be a part of Steve's series of "Chat & Chew." These gatherings will give residents a forum to voice concerns and ideas. I also plan to make myself available (as requested) to support and encourage each building's association to grow and operate as efficiently as possible.

With the help of Sarah Greis, I am developing a series of presentations for 2012 that I hope will prove to be informative and beneficial for all. If you have any suggestions for these topics please feel free to let me know.

At the present time you will find me at the Bard Complex office Monday mornings, and Wednesday afternoons. I now have an office at the Flag House on the third floor



**Beverly Sarduy,  
Service Coordinator**

next to the Beauty Salon. I will be in that office Monday afternoon, all day Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Considering my part time status and the nature of my position I highly suggest that you call with any questions you may have, or to arrange a meeting.

I look forward to meeting each of you and providing the resources that make living at Flag House and Bard Complex a pleasure. I can be reached at 484.933.4955, [Beverly.Sarduy@phoenixvillehomes.org](mailto:Beverly.Sarduy@phoenixvillehomes.org) or feel free to stop by either of my offices!

**Special Thanks!**

The Flag House Resident Association would like to thank Evelyn Wright for donating six new round tables for the Flag House Community Room. Thank you Evelyn for the generous donation!

**New Residents at Flag and Freedom!**

We would like to welcome Paula Rhoads (Flag) and Cathy Daniels (Freedom) to our community! We are excited to have you here!

# Resident Newsletter

January 2012

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**HOW I DISCOVERED ART**

For most of Peter Roman's life, he had no idea of the talent and love he had for art.

At the age of 66, Peter discovered his love for art when attending a Senior Center. Peter recalls, "While attending a Senior Center, I became curious about art and began drawing with charcoal. Then I began to experiment with colored pencils. From there I began to paint. The teacher at the Senior Center, Mrs. Gerhart, was able to help the class in all areas of art."

While attending the art class, Peter's curiosity of art grew and he wanted to learn more about art.

Peter found a class at Montgomery County Community College on art history. He decided to sign up for the class.

Peter enjoyed the art class and decided he wanted to attend more classes. Peter applied for a small grant, so he could continue to learn more about art.

For the past two years he has attended classes.



*Peter Roman finishing up a painting.*

Through this education his knowledge and ability of art has grown. He now has a small collection of framed oils.

*(To view pictures of Peter's art work go to page 5, How I Discovered Art)*

**CHURCH GIFTS TO FREEDOM HOUSE**

BY: KEN KEIM

Freedom House residents awoke to a wonderful surprise on Saturday morning, December 17th.

The early risers were greeted with a scene that, to a child, might have looked like Santa's well-stocked sleigh had been emptied in their front lobby.

A group from the

Royersford Sacred Heart Catholic Church had nearly filled the lobby with many beautifully wrapped gifts intended for each of the residents.

Resident after resident was pleasantly surprised and greatly delighted as they opened their gifts. Not just one gift, but more than a half dozen carefully chosen gifts were in each

resident's bag. Every resident knew that their gifts had been purchased with sensitivity to the needs of those living at Freedom House. The gifts included such things as high-quality scarves, knit caps, ladies mittens, men's gloves, socks, wash cloths, towels, toiletries, candies, and cookies.

*(See Freedom House Page 6)*



# KAMBIC'S KORNER

BY: STEVE KAMBIC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Goals for 2012

I am tired of making New Year's Resolutions. I make too many resolutions, pick resolutions too difficult to achieve and then just frustrate myself in the process. Instead of New Year's Resolutions, I think I will share a few goals for the year 2012. A goal is something to strive for although not necessarily achievable. Having goals allows us to have direction on where we are headed. Some goals for 2012 are therefore as follows:



1. Create closer communication with residents by sitting down and listening to all residents.

To accomplish this goal, we are scheduling "Chat & Chew" sessions with all residents of Flag House, Freedom House and the Bard Complex. Originally referred to as Listening Posts, these discussions will be with myself and Beverly Sarduy, our Service Coordinator to discuss whatever residents would like to talk about.

2. Resolve any issues that may exist with laundry rooms.

To address this goal, we are investigating dryer vents, the use of new quarters in old coin slot machines, the use of new technology High Energy (HE) soap and the reporting of equipment problems. John Piechota is leading this research project.

3. Obtain high REAC inspection scores.

Our entire maintenance staff has been very diligent doing everything possible to improve our Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) scores. I am asking that all residents support our staff by reporting any maintenance issue by calling in a work order. If a REAC inspection occurs in 2012, we will receive 2-4 weeks' notice prior to the inspection.

4. Create a Resident Resource Center

With funding support already available from the Bard Foundation, and the addition of several staff in 2011, we should now have the capacity to create a Resident Resource Center in the basement of the Bard Complex in 2012. Persons interested in participating in the planning and development of this project to benefit the residents of Flag House, Freedom House and Bard should contact Mary Chenco.

5. Initiate New Development Projects

New projects would include solving the lack of parking at the Flag House, addressing the energy efficiency issues at the Flag House, and applying for funds to build new affordable housing developments in Chester and Montgomery County.

6. Acts of Kindness and Encouragement

I realize that none of the above is possible without the boards of directors, staff, and residents working together. Looking back on 2011, I think I could have been more of an encouragement to others. It would greatly encourage me if we strove for common goals in 2012 such as the above. I am suggesting that all of us, including myself, make an effort to think of specific acts of kindness and encouragement that we could show to someone else in 2012 without looking for recognition. Here's to a great year to look forward to working with you.

## Freedom House Event

On January 27th, Steve and Pat Kambic will be hosting Bingo at Freedom House. The event will start at 7pm in the community room. Hope to see you there!



## FREEDOM HOUSE CHRISTMAS DINNER

BY: KEN KEIM

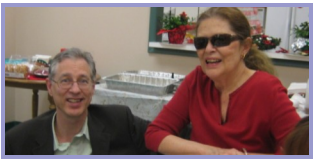
On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the residents of Freedom House gathered in the community room to enjoy their annual Christmas dinner.

The meal, provided by a local caterer, consisted of roast beef, turkey, filling, vegetables, and rolls. Beverages and many delicious desserts were provided by the residents.

Following the meal there was a gift exchange for those who had chosen to participate.



Sara Yorgey



Steve Kambic & Sandy Fry



Margaret Dougherty & Steve Kambic



Deniez Carter



David Bauer



Pat Kambic & Ken Keim



Sharon Fouracre

## PATCH

"A PLACE TO FIND YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE"

What is PATCH?

PATCH is a website that "has community specific news and information platform dedicated for local coverage for individual communities."

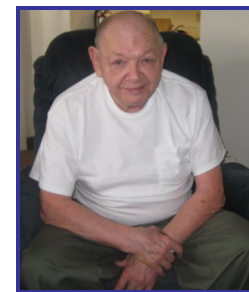
What can I find on PATCH?

On PATCH you can find news and upcoming events in your community. You can also view photos and videos from around town. On PATCH you can learn about local businesses and also participate in discussions with others. You can even submit your own announcements, photos, and reviews.

How do I get to PATCH?

Go on the internet and type in [phoenixville.patch.com](http://phoenixville.patch.com) (for Phoenixville news) or [limerick.patch.com](http://limerick.patch.com) (for Limerick, Royersford, and Spring City news). Then push enter. This will bring you to the website. Then browse and enjoy all the great information that PATCH offers for you.

### How I Discovered Art, From Page 1



Peter Roman, Resident of Flag House and pictures of his art work

