

# SPOTLIGHT

SMHA offices will remain closed while Schenectady County remains under a high level of community transmission of COVID-19 (new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days is greater than or equal to 100). Our staff remain available by telephone and email.

## Not Paying Rent During Pandemic?

As of October 31, 2021, SMHA's Public Housing tenants owe unpaid rent to SMHA in the amount of \$760,754.30. This includes 358 families in arrears, averaging \$2,125 per family.

If you are an SMHA resident who has not paid all or some of your rent during the pandemic, then you are violating your Lease Agreement with SMHA. There is an eviction moratorium which allows you to sign a Hardship Declaration to stop the SMHA eviction process for nonpayment of rent. This eviction moratorium is expected to expire on January 15, 2022, at which time the Hardship Declaration will no longer protect residents who have not paid rent.

If you owe back rent to SMHA, please do everything you can to catch up as soon as possible. SMHA will begin the eviction process against all 358 families owing rent after January 15.

See the other side of this Newsletter for ways to quickly make your rental payments!

## 2022 Tenant Commissioner Election

Our next Tenant Commissioner Election will be held on **Tuesday, March 29, 2022.**

SMHA residents elect two Tenant Commissioner Representatives every two years to represent residents of Public Housing and Section 8 Tenant Based Housing Choice Voucher Programs

The SMHA Board of Commissioners oversees and helps to establish policies and procedures at the Authority. As a Tenant Commissioner, you must attend the monthly meetings that are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 5pm.

Packets with information about how to become a candidate for the Tenant Commissioner representative will be available on December 29, 2021.

Contact Katie Gregory at 518-386-7053, or [kgregory@smha1.org](mailto:kgregory@smha1.org) for more information.

# How to Pay Rent:

SMHA Offices remain closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are three convenient ways to pay your rent:

- Mail a check or money order to: SMHA (Rent Office), 375 Broadway, Schenectady, NY 12305
- Use the drop-box at the 375 Broadway Office Entrance. No need to enter the building. The slot is outside the building to the left of the entrance door. Monitored by Camera, the drop-box is accessible 24 hours a day for your convenience.
- \* You can pay your rent online easily by visiting: [www.SMHA1.org](http://www.SMHA1.org). Under the **Public Housing tab, click on the “Pay My Rent” link** and register to create an account.



## **IMPORTANT SMHA PHONE NUMBERS:**

**Main Office:** 518-386-7000

**Maintenance HOTLINE:** 518-372-5896

**Rent Office:** 518-386-7036

## **To Contact Your Project Manager/Occupancy Specialist:**

**EASTSIDE (Steinmetz, MacGathan, Maryvale):**

518-386-7004/ 386-7035

**DOWNTOWN (Ten Eyck, Schonowee, Lincoln):**

518-386-7003/ 518-386-7008

**YATES Village:**

518-386-7007/ 518-386-7024

**Senior Citizens Referrals/Assistance:**

518-386-7027

**Tenant Investigator**

518-386-7015

Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority  
375 Broadway  
Schenectady, NY 12305



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