



The SMHA Community

SPOTLIGHT

A Message From SMHA's Director of Operations



If there is anything that is certain in life, it is certainly the idea of change. As we transition into Fall, the cool breeze of change will not only see new colors on the trees, but a splash added to this newsletter as well.

For those of you that I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Mike Jackson, and on April 1st of this year I joined the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority team as Director of Development Operations. Over the past eight years, I have committed myself to Public Housing in several facets of the business, assisting in the development of new opportunities not only for those living and working here; but the improvement and betterment of the communities that make up properties like those here at SMHA. This isn't just a job for me, I spent much of my childhood living in public housing, this is a

passion.

Coming to the Electric City has not only been exciting for me, but has been a fantastic breath of fresh air. I have witnessed committed maintenance teams, enthusiastic and professional office staff, an executive team committed to serving our wonderful tenants, and most importantly- a community made up of tenants who want nothing but the best for their neighborhoods, communities, and the City of Schenectady as a whole.

While you may notice subtle changes in the way our teams respond to your requests, please understand that the Development Operations Department at SMHA is committed to providing a superior work product, increased oversight of our properties, safe and secure housing for our tenants, and providing a home to many families and people just like you. One of these subtle changes will be the information covered and the distribution of the Community Spotlight News Letter.

This newsletter will now be produced only six times per year and will focus on the ENTIRE SMHA community, not only your specific property. In addition to bi-monthly distribution, the Community Spotlight will be specifically available at new designated locations instead of distribution door to door. The Community Spotlight will be available at your site's management office, mail rooms, community rooms, and central lobbies where available. You will also be able to access the information by visiting www.SMHA1.org. Our goal is to bring the properties together, and provide consistent, real, and important information to the most important people in our communities... YOU!

I cannot express how excited I am to be a part of such a wonderful team, and how lucky I have been to meet and work with many of you already! If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or simply want to say 'hello,' please feel free to contact me at mjackson@SMHA1.org or call my office at (518)386-7051.

Mike A. Jackson

Enjoy the remainder of our warm weather- I'll see you all soon!

This Issue:

- A New Addition to SMHA
- Summer Youth Employee's Impact

Inside:

- Back 2 School
- Bed Bug Essentials
- Food Pantry Set To Open at Yates Village
- Air Conditioning Reminder
- 2016 Election Information and Dates

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016



Summer Youth Employees Make A Noticeable Impact... Again!



On August 12, The SMHA family bid our 2016 Summer Youth Employment staff farewell after another successful year spending time in a controlled working environment, learning several valuable skills and received professional development from SMHA staff. In the beginning of July, the young men and women attending work each day were assigned tasks hand-in-hand with experienced SMHA maintenance staff, learning the responsibilities of maintaining over a 1000 homes and their adjacent properties here in Schenectady. Working up to 20 hours per week, students are able to earn an honest wage, while giving back to their surrounding community. SMHA has been a proud participant in the Summer Youth Employment Program sponsored by the Schenectady County Job Training Agency for many years.

Everyone at SMHA thanks the Summer Youth Employment staff for their hard work and contributions, as well as recognizes the efforts of SMHA staff who lead and mentor the groups each summer. The efforts not only make a difference on the properties, but positively influence the lives of young people who will contribute to these communities for years to come!

Downtown Project Manager Dina Puente presents a newly landscaped SMHA Entrance with Staff Members Barb and Jake, as well as her dedicated Summer Youth staff



The beginning of September marks the beginning of a new school year for so many of our young SMHA residents! While we all wish them the best, we want our residents to support and encourage our youth to reach for greatness this school year!

Remember to respect the busses in our neighborhoods and watch your children. Encourage your children to refrain from running in the road and to respect bus stops and our homes.

Never forget, "It takes a village," our young residents are the future of these very communities!

BED BUGS: What You Need To Know

DID YOU KNOW?

No one is immune to getting bed bugs these days. With a international resurgence in bed bug infestations anyone and any home is susceptible to bed bugs. It is important to be proactive and take steps to avoid them!

1. Avoid used furniture and mattresses, especially discarded furniture and mattresses.
2. Educate yourself on how to identify bed bugs & the signs of infestation.
3. Share information about bed bugs with neighbors, family, friends and co-workers.
4. Inspect in and around sleeping and resting areas.
5. Always check for bed bugs when traveling away from home.
6. In cases where a piece of furniture or other household or personal item must be thrown out during an infestation, shrink wrap or thick plastic bags can be used to securely wrap and seal the item for disposal. This will prevent the bug from spreading until the trash can be safely removed.

If contact with an active bed bug infestation is suspected at any place away from home, isolate in sealed plastic bags any exposed luggage, clothing and personal effects until inspection and decontamination can be completed.

If you think you may have been exposed, or have witnessed Bed Bugs in your home— It is your duty to inform SMHA immediately!

Call the Hotline to Report Bed Bug problems: 372-5896.

If You Want To Add Someone To Your Lease...

We get many questions about adding new people to existing leases— If the person you would like to add to your lease is eighteen or older they/you will be required to:

The Person to be added must complete an "Application for Public Housing" with only their information.

Attach to that application a letter signed and dated from the head of household who would like to add to their lease stating that they would like to add (person's name) to the lease.

Submit the application **along** with the letter to the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority's main office at 375 Broadway, Schenectady, New York, 12305, for processing.



Visit Us ON-LINE!
JOB OPENINGS-RESOURCES-INFORMATION & NEWS



FOOD PANTRY COMING TO YATES VILLAGE

In late August, Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority received word that our Community Partner Bethesda House was awarded approval by the Schenectady County Strategic Alliance for Health Coalition to open a satellite food pantry at Yates Village. The 12308 zip code is considered what many refer to as a 'food-desert' due to the lack of healthy available food options in the area. Bethesda

House is preparing to open the doors of our new pantry on October 6th. The pantry will be open every Thursday from 9:00am-1:00pm and will be located in the Yates Village Community Center.

More information will be sent out to our residents in Yates Village soon, we are excited to welcome Bethesda House to Yates Village and look forward to a much needed resource in the community!

AS FALL APPROACHES...

Please remove your Air Conditioners!

September marks the end of the cooling season and our lease requires all residents to remove their air conditioners no later than September 30, 2016.

If you have a medical condition that requires you to use your air conditioner make sure your paperwork is on file with your property's management office!



ELECTION 2016

It's Election Time! Make Your Vote Count!

Schenectady County Board of Elections will hold a Local Voter Registration program at the Yates Village Community Room on Thursday October 13, 4PM-8PM and again on Saturday, October 15, 2016 2PM-9PM.

Local Primary Voting takes place on Tuesday, September 13. 12 Noon-9PM

General Election Voting takes place on Tuesday, November 8, 2016



SMHA RESIDENT POLLING PLACES:

Yates Community Room-Golub Community Room @ Ten Eyck Apartments-Steinmetz Community Room

Rent Acceptance Hours:

For September 2016

Sept- 1 & 2 : 8:15 AM - 11:45 AM & 1 PM - 3 PM

Offices Closed Sept. 5th for Labor day

Sept - 6, 13, 20 & 27: 1PM - 3PM

Sept- 8, 15, 22 & 29: 8:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Sept 9, 2016: Court Date- Non-Payment for August's Rent

For October 2016

Oct - 3, 4 & 6: 8:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Offices Closed Oct. 10th for Columbus Day

Oct - 11, 18, & 25: 1 PM - 3 PM

Oct - 13, 20, and 27: 8:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Oct 7, 2016: Court Date- Non- Payment for September's Rent

Please Note: Non-Payment Court at City Hall
Begins at 9:00am

IMPORTANT SMHA PHONE NUMBERS:

Main Office: 518-386-7000

Maintenance HOTLINE: 372-5896

Rent Office: 386-7036

To Contact Your Project Manager/Occupancy Specialist:

EASTSIDE (Stienmetz, MacGathans, Maryvale):

386- 7004/ 386-7035

DOWNTOWN (Ten Eyck, Schonowee, Lincoln):

386-7003/ 386-7008

YATES Village:

386-7007/ 386-7024

Senior Citizens Referrals/Assistance:

386-7027

Tenant Investigator

386-7015

Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority
375 Broadway
Schenectady, NY 12305



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

The SMHA Community
SPOTLIGHT



<https://www.facebook.com/SchenectadyHousing>