

AMSTERDAM HOUSING
AUTHORITY
APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER
Damaris G. Carbone, Executive Director



Staff Contacts:

Main Office: 842-2894

Bob: Ext. 101

Teresa: Ext 102

Brenda: Ext 103

Tisha: Ext 104

Damaris: Ext 105

AHA Website and Email:

www.amsterdamhousingauthority.org
inquiry@amsterdamhousingauthority.org

Fraud

fraud@amsterdamhousingauthority.org

Office Address:

52 Division Street
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Maintenance Requests:

842-2895 (24 hours)

Police: 842-1100

Fire: 843-1312

In This Issue

Page #

Mark Your Calendar

April Meetings 2

Notes From The Office

OFA Food Pantry 2

No Smoking 2

Bed Bugs 3

New Bus Schedule 3

HUD REAC Inspections 4

Hi Rise Parking 4

Parking Notice 4

Emergency Alerts 5

Changes in Income 5

Maintenance Issues

Maintenance phone number 5

Hi Rise & Stratton Hallway Windows 5

Clogged Drains 5

Special Interest Information

Prize Scam Alert 5

Health & Wellness – Teen Dating 6

Violence Awareness





AHA Board Meeting

The next AHA Board Meeting will be on Wednesday April 19th at 5:30 in the AHA main office board room.

General Tenant Meeting

A General Tenant Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th at 10:00 in the Stratton Community Room. The purpose is to discuss the policies and make any recommendations to our Annual Plan to be submitted to HUD in September of 2017. Any interested tenant of the AHA can call the office to join the Resident Advisory group.



Office for the Aging – Food Pantry

The Cupboard of Kindness Food/Pet Supply Pantry is open on Wednesdays from 9-12 at the 135 Guy Park Ave. location. Please bring your own reusable bags!



Monday, April 10th at 12:00 noon
Free Movie Day – Driving Miss Daisy...Stratton Community Room...see attached flyer for more info.

Friday, April 14th – Office Closed for Good Friday



Notes from the Office



Smoking

We continue to receive complaints that there are tenants smoking in their apartments. Please remember that smoking on AHA property is a violation of your lease. There will be no smoking allowed in any of our buildings, apartments, or in common spaces. Smoking out of an open apartment window or in the stair well is not allowed. Please be sure that your visitors comply with our no smoking policy.

If you are trying to quit smoking and need assistance, the NYS Smokers Quit Line offers many resources and can be accessed anytime at www.nysmokefree.com or by calling 1-866-697-8487.



Wash clothing and inspect luggage immediately after returning from a trip.

Inspect used furniture for bed bugs before bringing it into your home.

Never bring discarded bed frames, mattresses, box springs, or upholstered furniture into your home.

What do I do if I think that I have bed bugs

1. Find out where bed bugs are hiding in your home. Use a bright flashlight to look for bed bugs or their dark droppings in bedroom furniture.
 - Behind your headboard
 - In the seams and tufts of your mattress and inside the box spring
 - Along bedroom baseboard cracks.
 - In and around nightstands.
 - Other bedroom items, including window and door casings, nearby furniture, and clutter.

*** If you think you have bed bugs, **PLEASE notify the office immediately** so that we can have the exterminator check your apartment. If the exterminator finds evidence of bed bugs you will be given an instruction sheet and will need to comply with the instructions so that we can help you to eliminate the problem as quickly as possible and to prevent the problem from spreading to other units.



Effective 4/7/17 the Amsterdam Housing Authority will be a bus stop!

See Attached for New Bus Schedule

STOP BED BUGS SAFELY

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood. They are usually active at night when people are sleeping. Adult bed bugs have flat rusty-red-colored oval bodies. Adult bed bugs are about the size of an apple seed, they are big enough to be easily seen, but often hide in cracks in furniture, floors, or walls.

What does a bed bug bite feel like?

Most bed bug bites are initially painless, but later turn into large, itchy skin welts. These welts do not have a red spot in the center as do the bites from fleas. Although bed bugs and their biters are a nuisance, they are not known to spread diseases.

How does a home become infested with bed bugs?

In most cases, people carry bed bugs into their homes unknowingly, in infested luggage, furniture, bedding, or clothing. Bed bugs may also travel between apartments through small crevices and cracks in walls and floors.

How do I know if my home is infested with bed bugs?

You may notice itchy skin welts. You may also see the bed bugs themselves, small bloodstains from crushed insects, or dark spots from their droppings. It is often hard to find them because they hide in or near beds, other furniture, and in cracks.

How can I keep bed bugs out of my home?

IMPORTANT

HUD REAC Apartment Inspections

Every year, HUD conducts physical inspections of random apartments at all of our sites. This year, HUD will be conducting them at the Hi Rise & Stratton buildings on April 10th and at the Garden Apartments on April 11th.

These inspections are very important to us and we take them very seriously. Please be sure to call the office to report any and all items that need repair in your apartment. The following are just a few items that will be inspected for compliance:

1. Air Conditioning Units are not allowed in any bedroom with only one window.
2. Beds cannot be blocking windows.
3. All doors (entrance, closet, bedroom, furnace room) must be able to open and close all of the way. Do not block any doors with any type of household items.
4. Circuit Breaker boxes must be fully accessible. Do not block or cover with furniture or wall decorations.
5. Stove knobs must be fully operational and in working order.
6. All smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors must be in working order.
7. All ground fault electrical outlets in the Kitchen and Bathroom(s) must be in working order.
8. All toilets must be fully fastened and not wiggle or rock.

The above items are just a few items to watch out for. Please report any and all work orders to the office immediately.

Please consider this your 48 hour notice that we will be entering your apartment on April 10th and 11th to conduct these inspections.



Hi Rise Parking

If you have a reserved parking space in the Hi Rise parking lot, but you are parking on the street we will have to reassign your parking space. We have people who have been waiting on the list for a parking space.

Reminder...all parking spaces are assigned by the office according to our waiting list. Tenants cannot give or authorize another tenant to use their space.

IMPORTANT...Parking for all Tenants

If your car is parked on our property you **MUST** have a parking sticker. If you do not have a sticker on your car you need to come to the office to get one. Effective May 1, 2017, if your car does not have a sticker, a valid registration (including plates that match your registration), or a valid inspection sticker, it will be towed at your expense and the cost to retrieve your car from the towing company is \$150.00. Also, Garden tenants should not be parking in parking spaces reserved for Hi Rise tenants.

Effective immediately, there is no parking allowed in the AHA employee parking lot located on Wall St., in any fire lane or road area. If a tenant or visitor has their car parked in any of these areas at any time it will be towed at the owners' expense.





As always, if you are calling in a work order after hours it must be an emergency.

HI Rise & Stratton Tenants

Please **do not** open the windows in the hallways, they should remain closed at all times.

Clogged Drains

If your sink drain or tub is clogged **please do not** pour anything down the drain to try to unclog it (Drano, Liquid Plumber, etc.) Pouring this in the drains can result in damage to the pipes and if maintenance is not aware that you poured something in the drain and they pour their own liquid in there it can cause even more damage not only to the pipes but could result in toxic fumes. If something is clogged, please call the office and we will put in a work order for you.

Local Emergency Alerts

You can sign up to receive local emergency alert information regarding severe weather, criminal activity, severe traffic alerts, missing persons & local events...

Sign up as a resident at <http://www.nixle.com/>

Or

Text your zip code to 888777 to opt in

Changes in Income

It is the tenants' responsibility to report all changes in income to the office. Please **do not** wait until you come in to sign your recertification papers to report these changes. These changes must be reported as they occur.



Prize Scams: Don't Pay to Play

You get a phone call from an excited caller saying you've won a trip, a car, or a lot of money. Next, they ask you to send money before you get the prize. That is a sure sign of a scam.

Recently there has been a spike in prize scam calls. Although there are some legitimate contests, remember: there are a lot of scams. Here are a few ways to spot a prize scam:

- Scammers ask you to pay before you can claim your prize. Legitimate sweepstakes don't make you pay a fee or buy something to enter or improve your chances of



Reminder... The new phone number strictly dedicated for work orders is (518) 842-2895. When you call for a work order after hours you no longer have to listen for the prompts. The call will automatically go to whomever is on call that day.

winning. Scammers try to sound official and say it's for "taxes," "shipping and handling charges," or "processing fees." Don't pay to claim a prize and never give your checking or credit card number for a sweepstakes promotion.

- Scammers ask you to wire money to "insure" delivery of your prize. Don't do it. Legitimate sweepstakes don't ask you to wire money. The same goes for sending a check or money order by overnight delivery or putting money on a prepaid debit card.
- Scammers send you a check and ask you to send some of the money back. But the check is fake, and you're responsible for repaying the bank.
- Scammers use the names of well-known companies for prize scams. Con artists often pretend to call from well-known companies to make themselves appear legitimate and gain your trust. If you don't remember entering, you probably didn't. If you think it may be legit, use a search engine to find the company's real phone number. Call to confirm that you entered a contest before responding to any claims that you won.



Teen Dating Violence Awareness

Did you know that roughly 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the US admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with?

Below are some more facts about teen dating violence...

- Teens who suffer dating abuse are subject to long-term consequences like alcoholism, eating disorders, promiscuity, thoughts of suicide, and violent behavior.
- 1 in 3 young people will be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship.
- 33% of adolescents in America are victim to sexual, physical, verbal, or emotional dating abuse.
- Nearly 20% of teen girls who have been in a relationship said that their boyfriend had threatened violence or self-harm in the event of a break-up.

