

AMSTERDAM HOUSING
AUTHORITY

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Damaris G. Carbone, Executive Director



Staff Contacts:

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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

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The staff of the Amsterdam Housing Authority wishes you & your family a happy and healthy 2017!



AHA Board Meeting

The next AHA Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18th at 5:30 in the AHA main office board room.

Tenant Meeting

The next Tenant Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th at 10:30 in the Stratton Community Room...All tenants are encouraged to attend!

January 2nd – office closed for New Year’s holiday

January 16th – Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Notes from the Office

Office Hours

The AHA office closes at 4:00 pm for the day. You can still call the office at 842-2894 for any emergency work orders.

Rent Window

The rent window at the office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 – 12:00 and from 12:30 – 2:30. If you are unable to come to the office during these hours, you can use the drop box located outside the main entry doors at 52 Division St., or the drop box located in the lobby of the Stratton building (by Bob’s office). If you put your rent payment in the drop box, please be sure to write your name and

apartment number on it. If you want a receipt sent to you, please write a note on the envelope. Reminder...the office does not accept cash payments, all payments must be paid by check, money order or bank check.

Public Housing Applications

Effective December 1, 2016, applications for Family & Senior Housing will be accepted online only. Our online application can be found on our website www.amsterdamhousingauthority.org any individual or family that is income and/or age eligible will be placed on the waiting list according to the date and time the application is received online. The Office for the Aging can help any senior who may need assistance completing the online application.



Hi Rise Tenants

We have a waiting list for assigned parking spaces in the Hi Rise. If you have an assigned parking space and are parking on the street instead of using your space, we will have to reassign your space. Those who are on the waiting list are having difficulty finding a parking space on the street because some tenants with assigned spaces are not using them. If you no longer need your assigned parking space or if you no longer have a car, please notify the office as soon as possible so we can reassign your space.





Changes to City Bus Schedules

****See the attached flyer with the new city bus schedules published by the City of Amsterdam Department of Transportation.**



Quiet Hours

Getting along with your neighbors may be one of your most important responsibilities as a tenant. Please be consideration of your neighbors. "Quiet Hours" are between 10 pm and 10 am. Televisions and stereos should be turned down between these hours. Tenants in the High Rise and Stratton Apartments are asked to refrain from using the garbage chutes after 10:00 pm. Remember, this is your neighborhood so make it a pleasant place to live.



HUD requires that all family members over age 18 who are not exempt, perform 8 hours of community service per month. You can choose where you would like to volunteer in your community. Community service opportunities exist at various agencies such as:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Churches | Schools |
| Food Pantries | Nursing Homes |
| Hospitals | Museums |
| Libraries | Youth & Support Groups |
| Centro Civico | Catholic Charities |
| RCIL | |

If you would like to do your community service with the AHA Maintenance Dept., please contact the office and we will let you know when you can come in. If you commit to doing your community service with the AHA Maintenance Dept. but don't show up for your scheduled time without notifying us, you will not be rescheduled to do your hours here.

Time sheets for community service are available at the office. Time sheets must be completed and signed by the Agency Supervisor and should be turned into the office on a monthly basis.

Please refer to your lease for the list of exemptions form community service. If you feel that you are exempt from community service you must contact the office, and you may be required to provide proper documentation.

Remember...If you are required to perform community service and you don't do it, it is a violation of your lease.



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

Work Orders

All work orders must be called into the office. When you call in a work order, please be sure to tell us if you have multiple items that need to be repaired. Please do not ask the maintenance staff to repair items that are not on the work order. We must have a record of all items repaired and the supplies used to complete your work order.

Tenant Parking along Cedar Street

Please don't pull your cars up so that your tires hit the curb, or the plow is not able to get through to plow the sidewalk.



Reminder... Salt is available for High Rise and Garden tenants at the rear entrance of the Hi Rise and for Stratton tenants by the Stratton Lobby. Residents are encouraged to spread some rock salt on sidewalks and entrance ways when the weather creates slippery conditions.



Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying or harassment that happens online. It can happen in an email, a text message, a game, or on a social networking site. It might involve spreading rumors or images posted on someone's profile or passed around for others to see, or creating a group or page to make a person feel left out.

Talk to your kids about bullying.

Tell your kids that they can't hide behind the words they type and the images they post. Bullying is a lose-lose situation. Hurtful messages not only make the target feel bad, but also make the sender look bad. Often they can bring scorn from peers and punishment from authorities.

Ask your kids to let you know if an online message or image makes them feel threatened or hurt. If you fear for your child's safety, contact the police.

Read the comments, Cyberbullying often involves mean-spirited comments. Check out your kid's page from time to time to see what you find.

Recognize the signs of a cyberbully.

Could your kid be the bully? Look for signs of bullying behavior, such as creating mean images of

another kid. Keep in mind that you are a model for your children. Kids learn from adults' gossip and other behavior.

Help stop cyberbullying.

Most kids don't bully, and there's no reason for anyone to put up with it. If your child sees cyberbullying happening to someone else, encourage him or her to try to stop it by telling the bully to stop and by not engaging or forwarding anything. Researchers say that bullying usually stops pretty quickly when peers intervene on behalf of the victim. One way to help stop bullying online is to report it to the site or network where you see it.

What to do about a cyberbully.

Don't react to the bully. If your child is targeted by a cyberbully, keep a cool head. Remind your child that most people realize bullying is wrong. Tell your child not to respond in kind. Instead, encourage him or her to work with you to save the evidence and talk to you about it. If the bullying persists, share the record with school officials or local law enforcement.

Protect your child's profile.

If your child finds a profile that was created or altered without his or her permission, contact the site to have it taken down.

Block or delete the bully.

If the bullying involves instant messaging or another online service that requires a "friend" or "buddy" list, delete the bully from the lists or block their user name or email address.



It's Flu Season...

10 Symptoms of the Common Flu

1. Fever
2. Muscle Pain
3. Fatigue
4. Cough
5. Breathing Difficulty
6. Sneezing
7. Loss of Appetite
8. Headache
9. Nasal Congestion
10. Ear Pain

The flu usually spreads person to person when someone with the flu coughs or sneezes. Sometimes people get the flu because they touch an object or surface with flu virus on it -- and then touch their mouth or nose. It's important to wash your hands frequently during flu season!

Early treatment (within 48 hours of your first symptoms) with antiviral medicines may reduce the severity of influenza and may prevent serious flu-related complications. Babies, older adults, and people who have chronic health problems are more likely to have complications from the flu, and they may need to see a doctor for care beyond home treatment.



