

AMSTERDAM HOUSING AUTHORITY APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

Damaris G. Carbone, Executive Director



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www.amsterdamhousingauthority.org

inquiry@amsterdamhousingauthority.org

Fraud

fraud@amsterdamhousingauthority.org

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52 Division Street
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Maintenance Requests:

518-842-2895 (24 hours)

Police: 842-1100

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April Meetings

AHA Board Meeting

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

General Tenant Meeting

A General Tenant Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 17th at 10:00 AM** in the Stratton Community Room. **Legal Aid will be here to discuss the services that they provide.**

Sunday, April 1st – Easter Sunday



Notes from the Office



The Amsterdam Housing Authority is now on Facebook & our website i

Important message from the Executive Director

This communication is being delivered to every household in the Amsterdam Housing Authority in an effort to educate our residents regarding a potentially serious problem that currently exists.

Many of you probably have no idea how serious the issue is or the fact that serious legal consequences can result from these actions. Although the infractions I'm going to address are only being perpetrated by a small percentage of the overall population of our residents, the occurrences are still significant in number and everyone needs to be aware of what's happening. The issue is *housing fraud*.

What exactly is housing fraud?

Housing Fraud occurs when someone who is receiving federal housing subsidy fails to disclose to the housing authority someone who is residing in the household, and/or fails to disclose income being received by someone residing in the household. The consequences for such actions can be severe.

Section 11 of your lease states the following: *"The Housing Authority and the Tenant agree that good cause shall exist for immediate termination of this Lease at any time during the initial term or any renewal term, if the Housing Authority discovers that any member of the household has made a material misrepresentation or omission in connection with an application for housing assistance or any certification or recertification made in connection with the household's housing assistance, including any statement, certification or recertification relating to income, family composition, the background or criminal history of any member of the household, or any other matter affecting the household's eligibility for housing assistance. A misrepresentation or omission shall be considered material, and therefore an appropriate ground for termination of the household's tenancy, if the Housing Authority determines that full and accurate disclosure of the matter would, under applicable law or the policies and procedures of the Housing Authority, have resulted in a determination of ineligibility of the household or any of its members for housing assistance."*

So how does this relate to my housing you might ask?

Unfortunately, very often residents submit paperwork to AHA without realizing that they are in fact ***offering an instrument for filing*** for the receipt of a public benefit (housing subsidy). The criminal charge would be the same for a resident who fails to disclose that someone is residing in their household that is not on the lease.

This is why it is extremely important that whenever you complete paperwork for the AHA that you are completely honest and accurate in doing so because if you fail to list everyone residing in your apartment, it can result in criminal charges. The two most important parts of your paperwork are household information (who lives or “is staying” in the apartment and income information (money from any source, no matter how small or infrequent).

What are the most common cases of misreporting of information?

One of the most common cases of misreporting of information in the public housing nationwide is the failure to report who is actually living in the apartment. We have seen an increase in these situations at the AHA as well. This is one of the reasons for this communication.

What’s the difference between someone visiting versus residing in my apartment?

If someone is staying in your apartment that does not have their own permanent residence, and they remain with you past the two week visitation period provided in your lease, then they can no longer be considered visiting and are now “residing” in your apartment. If there was a situation that required more than a two week stay, special permission would need to be granted by the housing authority upon written request.

Section 12 of your lease states: *“The Tenant may not have overnight guests in the leased premises for more than 14 days each year unless prior written request is made by the Tenant to Management and permission is granted to Tenant by Management.*

So what is the Housing Authority going to do about these situations?

Everyone is in agreement that we can’t simply ignore this situation. I am sending this reminder to all residents to insure that anyone who is involved in this type of situation, is aware that the situations described constitutes criminal activity and that the AHA is going to pursue these situations to the fullest extent of the law. I hope that anyone involved in a situation like this, will immediately rectify it by having anyone not on the lease leave the residence immediately. There is an application process to follow if you wish to add someone to your household and applications are available at the office.

If you know someone who is committing housing fraud, please notify the office at **842-2894** or report it to **fraud@amsterdamhousingauthority.org**.

Your cooperation is needed in order to make our community a nicer and safer place to live. Everyone needs to pay their fair share of rent by reporting all household members and all household income. There are people in desperate need of housing on our waiting list and to ignore these situations would be unfair to them as well as to the overwhelming majority of residents who abide by the rules.



Towing

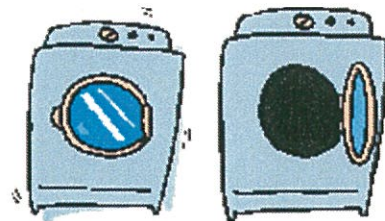
We are now strictly enforcing our parking rules. Please make sure that your car has an AHA parking sticker on it, and please inform your visitors and medical professionals of our parking rules. The employee parking lot located on Wall St. across from the Hi Rise is for employees only. Tenants and visitors are not allowed to park in this lot at any time.

We will no longer provide warnings, if someone is parked in our lots illegally, **they will be towed at the car owners expense.**



FOB's

Your FOB is assigned to **you**. Tenants should **not** be letting anyone else use their FOB to enter the building. If you need another FOB for a family member or health care provider you must complete a Tenant Key / Building FOB Access Request Form. Please do not let people into the building unless they are there to visit you personally. Visitors and health care providers need to use the intercom system to gain access to the building. The tenant that they are here to visit must let them in. The security of the building depends on the cooperation of our tenants.

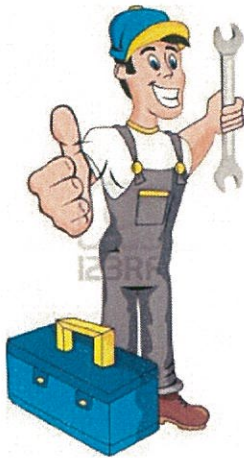


Hi Rise & Stratton Laundry Rooms

The washing machines in the laundry rooms are high efficiency and use less water, please **do not** add extra water to the machines. The machines do not drain properly when extra water is added.



Notes from maintenance....



Apartment Doors

If your apartment door slams shut, please call the office to place a work order to have it fixed.

No Wipes Down the Pipes!

Even if a product says it is "flushable"...Unless it is toilet paper, it should not be flushed!

Flushing the following items down toilets may plug sewers and cause damage. These items should be placed in a trash can.

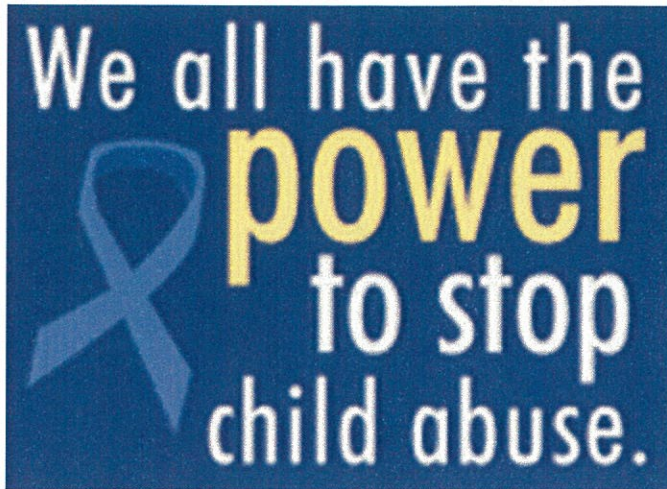
Please do not flush...

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Paper towels or any type of rag
- Feminine hygiene products
- Facial tissues



Places that are now hiring...

- ✓ Sticker Mule
- ✓ Beech Nut
- ✓ Hill & Marks – Customer Service Rep.
- ✓ Lowes
- ✓ Browns Bus
- ✓ Alpin Haus
- ✓ NTI Global
- ✓ River Ridge Living Center
- ✓ Spectrum
- ✓ Dollar General Warehouse
- ✓ Kapstone Paper & Packaging
- ✓ Hannaford
- ✓ Walgreens
- ✓ Amsterdam Printing & Litho



April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month

Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect. It's a widespread war against our children that we have the power to stop, and understanding the issue is the first step.

Abuse – the term abuse encompasses the most serious harms committed against children. An “abused child” is a child whose parent or other person legally responsible for his/her care inflicts upon the child serious physical injury, a substantial risk of serious injury, or commits an act of sex abuse against the child.

Maltreatment refers to the quality of care the child is receiving from those responsible for him/her. Maltreatment is when a parent or other person legally responsible for the care of a child harms a child, or places a child in

the danger of harm by failing to exercise the minimum degree of care in providing the child with any of the following: food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care when financially able to do so. Maltreatment can also result from not providing adequate supervision for the child. Further, a child may be abused if a parent engages in excessive use of drugs or alcohol such that it interferes with their ability to adequately supervise the child.

Some signs to look for...

- Injuries such as bruises, cuts, bites, grab marks or burns.
- Aggressive or disruptive behavior
- Withdrawn or emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or fear of parent(s)
- Any signs of sexual abuse
- Obvious malnourishment, listlessness or fatigue
- Stealing or begging for food
- Lack of personal hygiene, torn or dirty clothes
- Untreated need for glasses, dental care or other medical attention
- Frequent tardiness or absence from school

- Child inappropriately left unattended or without supervision

If You Suspect Abuse or Maltreatment?
Report it Now!

Call our Statewide Toll Free Telephone Number:
1-800-342-3720

If you believe that a child is in **immediate danger**, call **911** or your local police department.



Homework Help

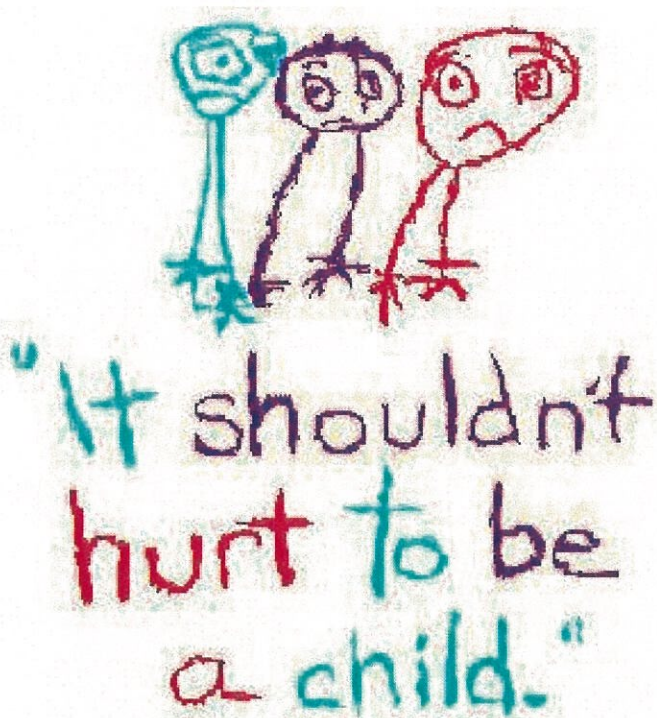
<https://www.khanacademy.org>

This is a free site that provides academic help for all grade levels in all subjects.

Another great resource for parents!

<http://www.parenttoday.org/>

The Amsterdam School District
Spring Recess
March 30 - April 8th



Activites & Events



Change in BINGO Schedule

Starting in April Dolly's BINGO at Stratton will be on Sunday and Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm.

Friday night BINGO will start up again in October.



Harry Potter Spring Break Camp

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM April 3 – April 6, 2018

We expect this camp to fill up fast; space is limited to 20 Students only!! Tuesday, April 3rd from 9:30am to 12:00 pm: Camp begins with Introductions, Rules and Sorting into Houses. Wand and House Scarf making

tasks and much more Witches & Warlocks fun! Wednesday, April 4th from 9:30am to 12:00pm: Classes begin- Potions, Herbology, Defense against Dark Arts, Transfiguration and Care of Magical Creatures. Be on time and ready for class. Thursday, April 5th from 9:30am-12:00pm: We will make Snitches, Paint our Dragon Eggs, make Mandrakes and write an Owl with invisible ink! Camp will conclude with Owl exams, Graduation & a Feast.

Location:

Walter Elwood Museum

[100 Church St, Amsterdam, NY 12010, USA](#)



First Annual Ward 2 Earth Day Event

April 22, 2018

Come join the residents of Ward 2 clean up our creek at our first ward 2 community earth day event. We will be focusing on the heavily polluted creek picking up years of garbage buildup. Anyone is welcome to attend. Contact Jim Glorioso At 518-227-7266 with any questions or if you're looking to volunteer.

FREE HEALTH CARE!

Medical Mission *at Home*



Amsterdam, NY

SATURDAY, April 21, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Healthcare

Carondelet Pavilion

380 Guy Park Avenue

Amsterdam, NY 12010

During the St. Mary's Medical Mission at Home one day event, we will provide health services, medical assessments, screenings, and interventions as well as supportive care, including pharmacy services, spiritual and behavioral health, and referrals to meet individual and community health needs.

All services are FREE and NO insurance is needed. We will provide services on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED basis until the end of the mission day.

FREE Health Services Available:

Medical Services for Adults & Children

Vision & Hearing Screenings

Behavioral Health Care

Spiritual Care

Local Community Resources

Family Friendly Activities

Bike Raffle
and Much More!

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

For more information, call Bri Giulianelli at
(518) 841-7448 or giulianellib@smha.org



ATENCIÓN MEDICA GRATUITA!

Misión Medica

- - - en casa



Amsterdam, NY

Sábado, 21 de Abril, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Healthcare

Carondelet Pavilion

380 Guy Park Avenue

Amsterdam, NY 12010

Durante el evento de la Misión Medica de St. Mary's proveeremos servicios de salud, evaluaciones médicas, proyecciones, y intervenciones así como el cuidado de apoyo, incluyendo servicios de farmacia, salud espiritual y de conductual y referencias para satisfacer las necesidades individuales de salud de la comunidad.

Todo los servicios son gratuitos y no se necesita seguro. Nosotros proveeremos los servicios por orden de llegada hasta el final del día de la misión.

Servicios de salud gratuitos disponibles:

Servicios médico para niños y adultos

Exámenes de visión y audición

Exámenes de salud mental

Ayuda Espiritual

Recursos de la comunidad local

Actividades Familiares

Rifa de bicicletas

Y Mucho Mas!

No es necesario registrarse

Para mas informacion, llame Bri Giulianelli al
(518) 841-7448 or giulianellib@smha.org



Para registrar transporte gratuito, llame (518) 866-5622. Se habla Español.