



DECEMBER 2007
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SPOTLIGHT

Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority
375 Broadway, Schenectady, New York 12305
518-386-7000
Website: www.smha1.org

Richard E. Homenick, Executive Director
Board of Commissioners: Chairperson, Marion Porterfield
Board Members: Alberta Madonna,
Jay Sherman, Alfred Goldberger,
Edward J. Kosiur, Denise Clark, Joan Johnson

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Unreported Income is Fraud

We reported last month that the SMHA Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution to criminally prosecute tenant fraud in all cases that resulted in excess subsidies being paid on behalf of the tenant. Excess subsidy payment occurs when a tenant fails to report all household income. The Housing Authority will no longer allow payment agreements to pay back money owed for failure to report income, and please note that income fraud can result in a **FELONY** conviction. We are now able to verify if tenants are working through an electronic wage reporting system provided by HUD. Please comply with the law and report all income.

OTHER PROGRAM NEWS:

The Yates Village Boys and Girls Club has named **Asante Caldwell** of Yates Village, its **October 2007 Youth of the Month**. Asante is a 7th grader at Oneida Middle School. He has been a member of the club since the spring of 2007. In naming Asante its youth of the month, club staff are recognizing his willingness to cooperate with staff and other members and his efforts in making sure club activities run smoothly. He says his favorite club activity is the Lego robotics program. This program allows members to explore the relationship between computers and working robotics. Congratulations to Asante and thank you for helping us keep the club, "a safe place for kids".

Teens Helping Teens - sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Schenectady allows club teens to responsibly and intelligently discuss issues related to sexual abstinence with other teens, planned parenthood and Club Staff. Program attendees are provided an open forum where questions related to the subject can be explored. This far, twenty teens have joined the monthly sessions which are held the first Thursday of each month. Teens and parents are invited. The Yates Village Boys & Girls Club is very proud to bring this cooperative program to its teen membership in its ever growing attempts to provide the very best possible information available. Come learn and share with us.

Teen Night—offers club teens an opportunity to stay late at the club and interact with teens from the Steinmetz Homes Boys & Girls Club. Held the last Friday of each month, thus far teens have shared a meal at a Colonie Chinese Buffet and played games in the Yates Clubhouse. Both sessions have been very well attended and enjoyed by everyone... the evenings start with swimming fun at the Rotterdam pool.

Adult Residents of Yates Village—are reminded that our computer center is now open for your use. Many people have started using the center's computers for research, resumes, job hunts and more. Call the club for more information.

EARN TO LEARN -The Yates Village and Steinmetz Homes Boys & Girls Clubs of Schenectady and Alternative Unlimited will be partnering to bring an exciting free tutoring opportunity to qualified children attending Oneida, Mont Pleasant and Central Park Middle Schools.

If your child is a Schenectady Middle School Student who attends one of these schools and receives free or reduced lunch, he/she qualifies to receive FREE tutoring services. Tutoring will take place at the Yates Village and Steinmetz Homes Boys & Girls Club unless otherwise arranged.

Students will receive \$25.00 at the completion of the program. Please contact Ralph at the Yates Village Club, 372-3583, or Naomi at the Steinmetz Club, 372-3620, for further information.

Steinmetz Homes Neighborhood Network Center - The Steinmetz Homes Neighborhood Network Center is open to all MacGathan and Steinmetz Homes residents. The center provides free access to computers and the internet. Assistance is available for all Microsoft programming. Internet access, job search & college assistance, creating resumes and much more. How can we help you?

Please contact Naomi at 372-3620 for further information. Hours are Monday—Thursday 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Steinmetz Homes Boys & Girls Club Computer Center. Other hours are available upon request.

YWCA Children's Center at Yates Village: Seasons Greetings to all! As we change from fall to winter the children are enjoying the experience of changing seasons as well as celebrating the numerous holidays that occur this month. We currently have spots available in our Preschool and PreK room (ages 3-4), as well as our before and after school program (ages 5-12). Our Universal PreK Program is run through the Schenectady City School District from (9:00-11:30 am). The program follows the SCSD curriculum and automatically registers your child in school for Kindergarten. If your child will turn 4 by December 1, they are eligible for this FREE program. Wrap around care is available. Please call 372-4895 or 372-5794 for more information and to set up a tour.

YWCA Children's Center at Steinmetz Homes: During the fall, children collected leaves and made beautiful leaf collages. In addition, children had a blast walking to the fire station and meeting Fireman Jim. He gave the children a tour of the firehouse and they were able to try on helmets and sit in the fire trucks! We also went to Proctor's Theater to see "Frog and Toad" and went to the pet store to pick out a class pet. Children visited "The Pumpkin Patch" and enjoyed a hayride, picking pumpkins and seeing barnyard animals. If you are in need of care from 11:30 am-5:30pm we do have spots available. We are located in Room 122A in the Family Investment Center of Steinmetz Homes. Please call our center at 372-3288 and ask for Kristen or Sara if you need additional information.

BNI—Did you know that by law, each of the big three credit bureaus, Equifax, TransUnion and Experian have to give you a free credit report once a year if you ask for it? It is a good idea to take advantage of this so that you will know what is on your credit report. With identity theft being a major issue these days, it's important to protect your credit by monitoring it yearly. To obtain a free credit report you can go on line at www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. When you come to our free counseling sessions, we can pull your credit report from all three bureaus. To learn more about credit, credit scores and how to improve your credit, come to our home buyer workshops. The schedule for the next series follows. Please call 518-372-6469 to register. Workshop #1-ARE YOU READY?-November 28, 2007; #2-FINDING THE RIGHT HOME-December 5, 2007; #3-LIFE AS A HOMEOWNER-December 19, 2007.

FOOD STAMPS—Don't know if you qualify? Call the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program of Catholic Charities at 374-2427 for more information.

This is an equal opportunity provider. Prepared by a program of the Nutrition Consortium of NYS,USDA/FNS,NYDOH and NYSOTDA.

SMHA NEWS

RESIDENTS OF TEN EYCK, SCHONOWEE VILLAGE AND LINCOLN HEIGHTS:

- ⇒ When you hear an alarm ring, please call 911. The alarms are not connected to the police or fire department.
- ⇒ Schenectady County Health Department will conduct a Flu Shot Clinic on December 7 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in the Golub Community Room. If you are in need of a flu shot please Marge at 386-7027 or see Melissa in the Meal Site..

ALL RESIDENTS:

Yew York City—10 Manhattan Residents Arrested for Housing Fraud (From the New York Sun 11/16/07) - The New York City Department of Investigation announced the arrest of ten Manhattan residents for allegedly concealing over \$1 million in household income to illegally obtain more than \$190,000 in rent subsidies from the New York City Housing Authority. Since January 2007, 62 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$1.7 million in government housing benefits. This week, DOI arrested CYCHA residents Sabrina Caban, Yuen Yin Kwan, Denise Lopez, Carmen Lorenzi, Juan and Fermijon Marrero, Nicolas Santiago and Patricia Steward and Section 8 recipients Wendy Montas and Isabel Tamarez. Among those arrested were individuals who either concealed their employment or underreported their income. One of the individuals arrested is accused of concealing employment in which he earned more than \$80,000 one year.

CONSTRUCTION NEWS:

Ten Eyck Apartments: Recently the Ten Eyck property had the retaining wall replaced, which is on the left side of the Maintenance Garage, due to the existing pressure treated wood wall that was failing. We upgraded the wall with solid concrete blocks that mimic a cobble stone wall. The wall is now firmly in place holding the soil from the property between Schonowee Village at Ten Eyck.

During the period of November 13 through November 20, Siemens conducted an energy audit in 10% of our units with the hope of putting together an energy performance contract that will save the Housing Authority money, upgrade the equipment, and most importantly provide a comfortable environment inside the apartment.

The Housing Authority will be receiving bids in January 2008 for the Ten Eyck Help System Upgrade on Floors 3 through 7. This project, when completed, will sound the horns in the hallway when a nurse call station is activated in the apartment, in addition to lighting the light over the door in the hallway and activating the alarm panel in the main lobby.

Schonowee Village: SMHA expects to receive bids near the end of November for a small project that will provide emergency domestic hot water in Building 5 should the hot water heater fail. This will limit the down time, should the hot water heater fail.

All Developments: Energy conservation is a very important part of living these days. With the cost of utilities rising and the HUD funding limited, Housing Authorities cannot afford to spend extra money on the utilities. As I accompanied the engineers conducting the energy audits in November, I was surprised to see so many people with their thermostats turned all the way up, which could be as high as 85 degrees, and windows open or in one case the air conditioner running. This is a tremendous waste of our Country's resources and the Housing Authority's money. Please do your part by setting your thermostat down to 68 degrees when you are at home and 62 degrees when you are not at home. If your thermostat is not working correctly and as a result you have too much heat, please call the Hotline at 372-5896, and report this major issue. **DO NOT OPEN A WINDOW AND LET THIS ISSUE CONTINUE.** The same could be said for lighting and appliances that are left on when the apartment is not occupied. Please turn off the lights, televisions, radios, etc, when you're not at home. Electricity is very expensive and it can add up quickly over the course of a year.

Leaky toilets and faucets are also an issue. Call the Hotline and report these issues when they occur. SMHA has to pay for the water being used each month. These leaks can account for a substantial amount of money that would need to be paid for water when in fact it may be money that could be used to enhance something else in the apartment or on the site. If you have an air conditioner in the window, please take it out for the winter. Remember that SMHA only charges the resident for two months of usage, July and August. If these units are still in the window, we don't know if they are being used during the other months, not to mention the tremendous air leakage that occurs around the window and through the AC unit during the cold months. This equates to heat leaving the apartment, thus costing SMHA more money for utilities.

So please, do your part to help us save money on utilities so that we can redirect this money to other areas of the Housing Authority.

**RESIDENT ASSOCIATION
MEETINGS**

Steinmetz Homes-December 10, 2007, 7:00 pm.
in the Community Room, FIC Center.

Yates Village - December 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m. in
the Community Room at Yates Village

**Ten Eyck, Schonowee Village, Lincoln
Heights** - Due to the Holidays the meeting
will be held: December 17, 2007, 7:00 pm in the
Golub Community Room in the Ten Eyck.

**Senior Independence
Program**



Improving Quality of Life
While Maintaining Independence
Assistance with Daily Living Activities
Case Management, Housekeeping/Laundry
Transportation, Errands and Weekend Meals

\$70.00 Month Fee

Available to Residents of Ten Eyck,
Schonowee Village and Lincoln Heights

Kelly Horton, Program Coordinator

Phone 386-7026

SECURITY NEWS

- ◆ MacGathan Residents: Watch for a flyer with more information regarding the RESIDENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS. The nominations will be held at the Community Room on December 14, 2007, at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Two cars were towed for NYS Motor Vehicle violations.
- ◆ Two residents were evicted for non compliance for violating the HUD drug policy.
- ◆ Two residents were evicted for non compliance for cleanliness.
- ◆ One resident was evicted for fraud.
- ◆ Any resident who is arrested will be subject to review by the Investigation Department at SMHA. An arrest could lead to eviction or termination of your lease..
- ◆ If you see a crime being committed, call 911. Call Steve, Tenant Investigator, to report graffiti, 386-7015.

STEVE PROKRYM AND ART ZAMPELLA WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**SCHENECTADY HOUSING AUTHORITY
375 Broadway
Schenectady, New York 12305**

TO:

Here comes the Veggie Mobile!
If you aren't familiar with the Veggie Mobile, now's your chance to get acquainted. Starting **December 7th**, the Veggie Mobile will be adding a new stop in Schenectady at **Ten Eyck Apartments** on Broadway. It will stop every Friday afternoon from 2:30-3:30 to serve the residents of Ten Eyck Apts. **Shonowee Village** and **Lincoln Heights**.



The Veggie Mobile, a project of Capital District Community Gardens, comes right to your neighborhood with fresh fruits and veggies. And in the case of **Ten Eyck Apartments**, it comes right to your front door.

On Board the Veggie Mobile, you'll find low cost fruits and vegetable; from Apples and Oranges to Tomatoes, Collards, Peppers, and Lettuce.

On November 16th and 17th
Tomatoes sold for \$1.29/pound.
Collard Greens for 59¢/pound
Pomegranates for 89¢/pound
Oranges were 5 for \$1
And Sweet Potatoes were 55¢/pound

The new stop at **Ten Eyck Apartments** is in addition to the regular Veggie Mobile stops. Since April 2007 the Veggie Mobile has stopped at **Hamilton Hill Arts Center** on Schenectady Street Saturday Mornings from 10-11am. And For residents of **Yates Village** the Veggie Mobile stops on Van Vranken Ave. beside Rite Aid every Friday Afternoon from 3:30-4:30pm.

The Veggie Mobile will be open for business during the winter (weather permitting), spring, summer, and fall.



We are dedicated to selling the freshest fruits and vegetables at the lowest price. We'll take requests from customers on the fruits and vegetables you want us to carry.

So come buy fruits and vegetables at bargain prices on the Veggie Mobile. We hope to see you at one of our three locations:

Ten Eyck Apartments
Friday 2:30-3:30

Van Vranken Avenue Rite Aid
Friday 3:30-4:30

Hamilton Hill Art Center
Saturday 10-11am

Contact Capital District Community Gardens at 274-8685 for more info.

December 2007 Rent Office Hours and Important Dates						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			28	29	30 Rent Office Closed Dec Rent Run NO BUSINESS TRANSACTION!	1
2	3	4 Rent Windows Open 8:00 AM – 11:45 AM 1:00 PM – 3:00 pm	5 Rent Windows Open 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	6 Federal 14 Day Notices	7 Nov Non- Payment Court 9:00 AM City Hall	8
9	10	11	12 Rent Windows Open 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	13	14 NYS 3 – Day Notices	15
16	17	18	19 Rent Windows Open 1:00-3:00PM	20 P&Ps Prepared 8:00 AM P & Ps Indexing 2:00 PM	21	22
23	24 P & Ps to Process Server Late Charge Assessed AGENCY CLOSSES AT 12:00 NOON	25 HOLIDAY!! AGENCY CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	26 HOLIDAY!! AGENCY CLOSED	27	28	29
30	31 Rent Office Closed Jan Rent Run NO BUSINESS TRANSACTION	1 HOLIDAY! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	2 Rent Windows Open 8:00 AM – 11:45 AM 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	3	4 Rent Windows Open 8:00 AM – 11:45 AM 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Dec Non- Payment Court 9:00 AM City Hall	

***PLEASE NOTE: Non-Payment Court at City Hall begins at 9:00AM**
Persons who have been summoned to court MUST appear, SMHA will not accept payments at the window on the court date from persons who are scheduled for non-payment court.

SMHA is pleased to welcome MaryAnn Ruscitto and Maureen Adamek as our new Tenant Account Clerks. MaryAnn 386-7036 or Maureen 386-7009. Reminder: there is a drop box in the lobby of the SMHA Admin building – you may drop off your rent payment - PLEASE: "money order or check" only, clearly marked with your name and apt number.



Rent is due on the 1st of each month for the current month. You must save during the current month to have the next month's rent money on the 1st of the month. Once you fall behind it is difficult to catch up, you and your family need a place to live. You must make your rent payment a PRIORITY item in your budget.