

# The SMHA Community **SPOTLIGHT**

## SUMMER 2021

### Not Paying Rent During Pandemic?

**This Issue!**

- \* COVID-19 and RENT
- \* Marijuana and Your Home
- \* A Tribute to Our Staff
- \* Yate Village Redevelopment Update
- \* New Security Cameras
- \* Important Lease Reminders
- \* Pandemic Internet Assistance

**Need Help Paying Rent, Read THIS:**

- If you have experienced a change or loss in income: Report it to your Occupancy Specialist IMMEDIATELY. The SMHA team may be able to substantially reduce your rent.
- Many local agencies are providing rental assistance to those who qualify. Schenectady County Department of Social Services and the Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) are a couple.
- \* Contact SCAP today at (518) 374-9181 or stop in their offices at 913 Albany Street.

There is a temporary halt in resident evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many SMHA residents have not paid their rent during this time, which is a violation of the SMHA Lease Agreement. Once Evictions resume, SMHA will begin the eviction process against all families that owe rent.

If you owe back rent to SMHA, please do everything you can to catch up as soon as possible. We do not want to evict any of our families, but we must uphold the Lease Agreement and demand that rent is paid in full.

**PAYMENT REQUIRED**

## How to Pay Rent:

- SMHA Offices remain closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are three convenient ways to pay your rent:
- Mail a check or money order to: SMHA (Rent Office), 375 Broadway, Schenectady, NY 12305
  - Use the drop-box at the 375 Broadway Office Entrance. No need to enter the building. The slot is outside the building to the left of the entrance door. Monitored by Camera, the drop-box is accessible 24 hours a day for your convenience.
  - \* You can pay your rent online easily by visiting: [www.SMHA1.org](http://www.SMHA1.org). Under the Public Housing tab, click on the "Pay My Rent" link and register to create an account.

  
**PAY YOUR RENT ONLINE**

# Marijuana is Still Illegal on Public Housing Property!

Even though New York State has recently legalized marijuana for both recreational and medical use, the Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority (SMHA) is not able to allow the use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of marijuana or marijuana products on SMHA property.

SMHA is operated under grants and agreements with the Federal Government which require that SMHA's lease contain provisions terminating a household's lease agreement for drug-related criminal activity. Marijuana remains an illegal substance under the Federal Controlled Substance Act, meaning possession of any amount of marijuana is a crime punishable by federal drug laws by up to one year in prison and a minimum fine of One Thousand (\$1,000) Dollars.

Regardless of marijuana's legal status, **as of July 30th , 2018, smoking of any kind is forbidden on SMHA properties.** All SMHA tenant moving in after this time have signed a lease containing this restriction, and all other have signed an addendum certifying an understanding of this regulation. Smoking of any substance on SMHA property will lead to termination of your Lease Agreement and eventual eviction from your home.



# Thank you to our Residents and Staff:

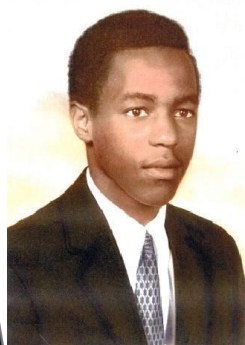
While SMHA and our staff continue to follow New York State and applicable Centers for Disease Control guidelines and recommendations to assure both theirs and our tenant's health and safety, SMHA would like to thank our tenants for their patience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, SMHA recognizes its Administrative and Maintenance staff who worked tirelessly through this pandemic to ensure that vital housing resources never were interrupted for the public.

SMHA staff work is vital in order to provide safe, healthy, affordable housing to so many individuals here in Schenectady. While some work has been transitioned out of the office during this time, our maintenance teams continued to report to SMHA property, and our dedicated office and administration staff continued to provide incredible service in a new environment.

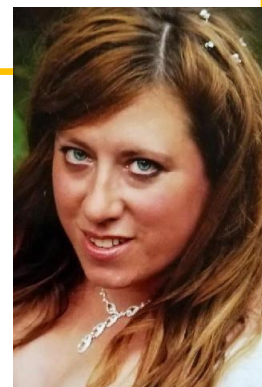
When individual action may have changed and evolved, it proved one important fact, that we must all work together to succeed in the face of adversity.

## Remembering Wallace Lloyd and Paula Matarazzo



With great sadness, we regret to inform the public housing community of the passing of two SMHA employees: Wallace Lloyd, Steinmetz Homes Maintenance Department, and Paula Matarazzo, Yates Village Project Manager.

Both were well respected as kind and compassionate people who made a lasting contribution in supporting our affordable housing mission. I am sure many of you knew Wallace and Paula and will join us in grieving our friends and colleagues.





# NORTHSIDE VILLAGE

The first phase of the Yates

Village revitalization project is now completed and has been renamed Northside Village. Nearly all the new and modern apartments are occupied by individuals or families who were relocated from Yates Village buildings A and E, or those who qualified for affordable housing.

We are also excited to announce the brand new, two-story Community Building is complete. The Bethesda House food pantry has relocated to the building and is open for business. The Boys and Girls Clubs and the Schenectady Community Action Center (SCAP) will be moving in soon and will begin providing services in September.

The community room and fitness center will be open for use once we are certain we can provide a safe environment from COVID-19.

## **Yates Village Buildings B, C, D, F, G, H**

We are in the process of relocating families from buildings B and F Yates Village. After all families are relocated from B and F, we will begin demolition of these buildings. Soon after this, residents of buildings C and G Yates Village will receive at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of the date that individuals and families will be required to move from Yates Village. People residing in buildings D and H Yates Village will be the last to leave the property and will also receive at least ninety (90) days advance written notice before being required to move.

## ***Wading Pools: A Reminder***

This policy is for the protection and benefit of all Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority residents to ensure the safe and sanitary use of wading pools on Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority property.

1. Permanent swimming pools are not allowed.
2. Wading pools shall not extend beyond six (6) feet in diameter.
3. Wading pool walls shall not extend beyond a height of fifteen (15) inches.
4. Wading pools must not be used prior to June 1 or after September 15 of each year and must be stored at the end of each season. Wading pools may not be stored outside during the off-season.
5. Wading pools must be emptied after each use.
6. Wading pools must be emptied of water, removed, and securely stored at the end of each day before dark. Wading pools shall only be used during daylight hours.
7. Wading pools in use or with any water in them must be under the constant supervision and observation of the adult pool owner or their adult designee. The supervising adult must, at all times, be in a clean line of sight and sound of the wading pool and no more than six (6) feet away.
8. Resident/owner is responsible for any damage and/or injury caused by the pool. The cost of any damage to Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority property, such as damage to grass, may be charged to the resident/owner of the wading pool.
9. The Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority reserves the right to remove from its property, without immediate notice to the resident/owner, any wading pool that is not in compliance with this policy.

Great news for the residents of MacGathan Townhouses: SMHA has received grant funds to install security cameras! The security cameras installed at Steinmetz Homes in 2019 have been instrumental in solving crimes that have occurred on and off our property, and we look forward to providing this additional layer of security for our MacGathan families. This investment is part of our commitment to protect families by discouraging criminal activity on our property. We look forward to installing the cameras of the next few months.



The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal Lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Eligible Households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting [www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit), or by calling 833-511-0311.

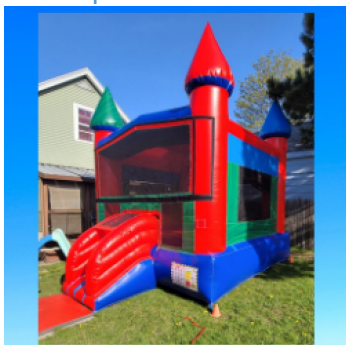


## Important Lease Reminders:

All tenant vehicles MUST be registered and permitted with SMHA. There are no exceptions to this policy, non-permitted vehicles can be towed at any time, at the owner's expense. To get a parking permit—contact your Occupancy Specialist today!



All SMHA Tenants MUST register your pets as per the SMHA Lease Agreement Pet Policy. Those who fail to adhere to the Pet Policy are subject to lease termination. In addition you should start the process PRIOR to obtaining a pet. If you have questions, call our Occupancy Specialist.



### **Bounce Houses Not Allowed**

For the protection of all residents and guests, and as advised by our liability insurance provider, Inflatable Bounce Houses/Recreation Devices and Trampolines shall not be installed, set up, or in any way utilized on any Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority property. Please note that it will be required to immediately remove any of these devices that are found on SMHA property. Thank you for your understanding.

**SMELL  
GAS?**



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FAST!**

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**Call: 1-800-892-2345**

**Call: 1-800-892-5342**



**Visit Us ON-LINE!**

**JOB OPENINGS-RESOURCES-  
INFORMATION & NEWS**

**www.SMHA1.org**

**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**

**WWW.SMHA1.ORG**



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