



Watervliet Housing Authority



January 2010

Charles V. Patricelli, Executive Director



Watervliet Housing Authority 273-4717
ext... 10 Mary
ext... 11 Matt
ext... 18 Daria
ext... 13 Mary Clinton
or
office@watervliethousing.org

Emergency Number
273-6085 (after hours)

Watervliet
Police Dept.
270-3833

Watervliet Fire Dept.
273-6622 or
270-3826 or 9-1-1

Tenant
Assistance Program
356-1012

In Home Channel
273-4717 ext 21



We have a Web site...
WatervlietHousing.org
Check us out.



Santa Claus Visits Watervliet Housing

For the 28th straight year the Watervliet Housing Authority has visited the children of the apartments. Co-workers, dressed as elves, visited 200 children a few days before Christmas to get last minute requests. Office elves arranged the hundreds of gifts in proper order to help Santa organize his deliveries. Check out pages 9-11 of this newsletter for more pictures of our special night!

Thank you for making our 28th annual Christmas visit a huge success! It's a lot of fun for the children and for us as well. Special thanks go to Charles Patricelli, Matt Ethier, Mary Jo Hughes, Char Collins, James Verhagen, Julie Record, David Wheatly and Scott Kilcullen for volunteering their time to deliver gifts, and we can't forget Santa & Mrs. Claus (shhh... it was Mark & Karen Gleason). **Thank You!**



Special Thanks...

...to VFW Ladies Auxiliary, St. Pius Church, Watervliet High and Elementary School staff and teachers, City Hall employees and families, Social Security Office of Albany, Office of Mental Health, and so many more that took tags from the Housing Office and purchased gifts for the children. Also to the Watervliet Charitable Foundation and Jermain Church for a financial gift to purchase presents for our children. Thanks to all those that again made this a huge success. The faces on the children makes it all worthwhile.

Around the WHA...



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EIV Income Verification

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined that there is a significant amount of fraudulent income reporting in the Section 8 program. It has therefore created a new electronic way for agencies to uncover fraud – The Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system. **The system works.** With the help of this system a former voucher holder in Albany was criminally charged for concealing her employment income for several years resulting in her receiving \$12,800 in Section 8 rental assistance that she wasn't entitled to. A former landlord was also arrested for cashing \$4179 in funds for a tenant who moved out of state.

TAX REFUND? Don't pay for an instant refund when you can get it for FREE!



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through Albany Community Action Partnership is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and offers free help with income tax return preparation to people of low-income (under \$35,000 annually).

Our VITA volunteer staff receives IRS training so they may help you prepare your income tax returns according to the current taxation laws. The VITA program also offers free electronic filing of your completed tax return. All services are provided with the strictest confidentiality and accuracy of information.

The VITA program is open to the public and starts on February 1st and runs through April 15th. Services are **by appointment only**. These ACAP locations below are providing VITA program services:

Cohoes Community Outreach
30 White Street
Cohoes, NY 12047
Tel.: 518-237-9201
Call for an Appointment

Does your apartment need to be painted?

Every 5 years we will re paint your apartment. We have hired a company to paint the apartments. Mary has sent out notification letters, so now is the time for inside work. If you didn't get a letter and



think you should have your apartment painted, call and let us know.

What is an emergency?

When you call the emergency number, please remember it is only for emergencies. What is an emergency? A gas leak, an electrical problem not related to a circuit breaker or a National Grid power outage



are emergencies. A toilet not working, or a water leak that can't be stopped or a sewer back up are emergencies. A lock out is also something that you can call for, but is a charge. A dripping faucet, a light out, a blown circuit breaker are **NOT** emergencies. Also a broken refrigerator, or range are also not emergencies. All must be called in the next business day or you can leave a message on the office phone extension 10.

FRAUD = STEALING

Fraud is working and not reporting your income. Fraud is having someone live with you and not reporting it to the office. Does this fit someone you know? If so report it to the office. All calls are handled confidentially.

Around the WHA...



Painting Policy for all WHA tenants

Any tenant requiring their apartment to be repainted and require more than one coat of paint the tenant will be charged for the additional expense. This may be caused primarily due to smoking in the apartment. This policy is for those currently residing. For those that vacate it will be charged against your security deposit.

Snow

Shoveling the snow from your sidewalk is essential and it is part of your lease, with the exception of seniors.



The Housing Authority will back charge to clear any walks or porches that are not cleared within 24 hours of a snowstorm. **Also, be sure your car is moved by 9 am the day after it snows so we can plow. Cars will be towed so we can be sure the area is clean. This is for your and others safety to make the parking areas safe.**

Safety Tips for Joslin, Hanratta, and VanRensselaer Village Tenants



If the air/exhaust vent is covered by snow or damaged by falling icicles, the exhaust may be blocked and cause malfunctioning of the unit. Keep the area around the air/exhaust vent free of snow and icicles.

Do not use this appliance for anything other than heating your apartment.

Do not allow anyone to sit on or lean against the appliance.



Do not place articles containing liquids on the top of the heater. Liquids spilt on the controls may cause extensive damage.

Young children should be supervised at all times.

Hand or body contact with the levers should be avoided.

Day Bathrooms continues!

Work is progressing on the Day bathrooms. We hope you like the improvements. We posted in your bathroom a list of cleaning products that the manufacturer suggested that will not harm the finish of the tub enclosure. Also, we are NOT installing any window curtain rods due to the glass having the tinted glass.

If there are any problems that we should know about, contact us immediately.



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WVLT channel 17 on Time Warner Cable
Check WVLT for any school closings!

For your information...



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Tenant Commissioner Elections

Every two years tenants of the Watervliet Housing Authority vote for two of the seven Board members. The City Council of Watervliet appoints the other five.



Elections for Tenant Commissioners will be held on June 11th. A list of eligible tenants will be posted on the bulletin board at the office. Errors appearing on the list must be made known to the office not less than 60 days prior to the election. Nominating petitions for tenant members will be accepted at the office no earlier than March 3rd and must be received by April 8th, 2010. Nominating petition forms can only be obtained at the office.

Roberta Gilson of the Day apartments and Regina Warner of the Quinn apartments are the current tenant commissioners. Any questions, please contact Matt or Mary Clinton for more information.



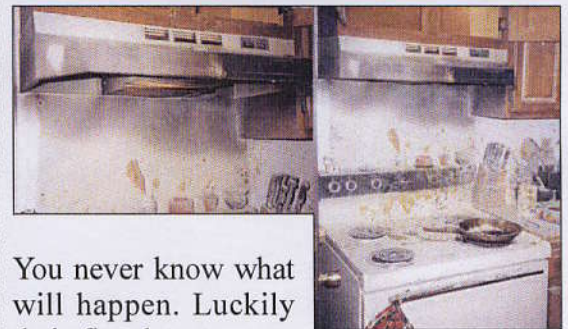
Computer for Kids Program



If your son or daughter is attending high school or college and doesn't have a home computer, give the office a call. We have donations of older but usable

computer parts and then reassemble them into computers for children in the housing authority that need them. It will be on a first come first serve basis with the older children receiving priority. Don't wait call us now.

Grease Fire! This can happen to you!



You never know what will happen. Luckily their fire detector was working and they used the fire extinguisher we supplied to put out the fire. Are you risking everything? Clean up splattered grease immediately, never leave your stove unattended, and check your exhaust fan to be sure it is clean. The fire can flash up to the shield very quickly.

Check your smoke detector now, never disconnect them. You could have been the neighbor and was your detector working? Call in if the fire extinguisher is empty and check both monthly. Sheetrock, range hood and the stove can be replaced, a life cannot.

Are you Ready for the next storm or emergency!

In light of the recent snow/ice storms and the power outages that followed the Watervliet Housing Authority has comprised a list of items to have in the event of an emergency and several guides on what do. It is important that those items are in a single location for quick and easy access.

Food and non-perishables:

Ready to eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, dry cereal or granola, peanut butter or nuts, crackers, canned or jarred baby food and formula, pet food, high energy food, jelly, specialty food for elderly or those on special diets, and pet food if needed.

Medical, health, and emergency supplies:

Prescribed medical supplies, soap, alcohol-based hand wash, medicines for fever, thermometer, vitamins, fluids with electrolytes, cleansing agent, flashlight, batteries, portable radio, manual can opener, garbage bags, tissues, toilet paper, disposable diapers, and a First aid kit.

Important documents:

A list of family physicians, important medical information, and the style and serial number of medical devices, identification, insurance information, will, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds, passports, social security cards, immunization records, bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies, inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers, and family records.

Household supplies and equipment:

Battery-powered radio or TV, plastic bags-zip sealing, fire extinguisher (ABC type), food thermometer, work gloves, duct tape, electrical tape, clean-up supplies, dust masks, and disinfecting spray.

First Aid Kit:

20-adhesive bandages-various sizes, 1-5"x9" sterile dressing, 1-conforming roller gauze bandage, 2-triangular bandages, 2-3x3 and 4x4 sterile gauze pads, 1-3" roll cohesive bandage, 2-germicidal hand wipes or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer, 6-antiseptic wipes, 2-pair large medical grade non-latex gloves, adhesive tape-2" width, antibacterial ointment, cold pack, scissors, tweezers, and a CPR breathing barrier.

Entertainment:

Games (card, board), books, and a portable music device.

Storage:

You should store all water in a thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass, or enamel-lined metal container. DO NOT use a container that has held toxic substances. Seal the water containers tightly, label them and store in a cool, dark place. Change the water every six months.

When storing, keep food in a dry cool spot, preferably dark. Keep food covered at all times. Inspect all food for signs of spoilage before use.

Family Plan:

Another step to be prepared for an emergency is to set up a family emergency plan. There are two main steps you can take to create a family emergency plan. First, find out what types of emergency can happen to you. You can do this by contacting the local chapter of the Red Cross. Ask them about what type of emergencies can occur, how can you prepare for them, animal care after an emergency, how to help elderly or disabled persons. Find out about emergency plans at your workplace, your child's school, or other places your family spends time. Second, create an emergency plan. Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for an emergency.

We have emergency generators at Day/Quinn and Hanratta for heat, we are currently looking into an emergency generator for Hilton. If you are TOO cold or TOO hot we have both the Quinn and Hanratta Community as temporary shelters.

WATCH WVLT IF POSSIBLE, FOR ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS!



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Heating bills keeps going UP!



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Energy Projects to begin at Quinn

We are proud to inform our residents that in continuing our mission to reduce energy consumption and ultimately your power bills we will be working with Albany County Weatherization on numerous energy related projects at all complexes over the next few months. Starting in January at Quinn projects such as adding insulation in the attic and crawl spaces will commence. Other projects include installation of weather-stripping at Day, new refrigerators throughout the five complexes as well as lighting upgrades. We will be using the newsletter and Channel 17 to provide updates on the overall project. If you have any questions regarding these activities please call Nicholas Ostapkovich at 273-4717.



Money Saving Tips!

Going hand and hand with an effective household budget is saving money on those things that you truly need. To start saving, take an inventory of your needs to see where you can shave the dollars. Begin with the biggest items first, where the most potential for savings is, and move down the scale to the less expensive items. A moderate savings on one of the **big items** (houses and cars) combined with savings on the smaller items (food, clothes, etc.) can reap a large reward in your total budget. The following are some thought starters:

General Tips

Distinguish between Wants and Needs: You will save a ton of money if you don't mistake *wants* for *needs*. Needs are pretty simple to identify—those items that are necessary to sustain: Shelter, food, clothing, transportation. Wants are those things that enhance or possibly improve our family life. A car is a need. Unless necessary for your business. Avoid the silly purchases of things you rarely or never use. Before you buy something, especially items with big price tags, borrow one, rent one or try one out before you plunk down the cash.

Specific Tips

RENT: In all probability, your rent will be the largest single expense in your budget. This has to be one of your major concerns, you don't want to risk loosing you home!

Cars. For most families, the next biggest expense is their car(s). Mistakes made here can often be as costly (on a monthly basis) as mortgage miscues. Take a look at the vehicle(s) you presently own. Do you own too much vehicle for your needs? Could you downsize and save money, not only in monthly payments but also in maintenance, insurance and operating expenses?

And the Smaller Ones that Add Up

Insurance. Most of us pay our automobile and homeowners insurance premiums by habit, rarely if ever making comparisons. With many families insurance costs totaling over \$2000 a year, even a 15% savings equates to \$300 annually. Some hints from the Insurance Information Institute on saving money on your **homeowners insurance** include:

- **Be sure to shop around.** It may take a little time, but it could save you money.
- **Raise your deductible.** Deductibles on homeowners policies typically start at \$250. By increasing your deductible to \$500, you could save up to 12%.
- **Beef up your home security.** You can usually get discounts of at least 5% for a smoke detector, burglar alarm or dead-bolt locks.

Computer Classes coming!

Are you looking for a job? Are you able to get computer skills that will help you get a job? Almost every job now requires everyone to have some type of computer skills. You need to know how to use the internet, protect yourself from scams on the internet, you need to know Outlook, Excel or some many other programs.

Last year we applied for a grant to help create a training site. Classes will be limited to 5 or 6 students and will be trained in our conference room. We have not heard from the agency but don't want our residents waiting forever when we can get something started in the meantime. Next month we will have a series of classes to help begin the training. Keep an eye out on our website or in next months newsletter for more information.



Move it...

...Avoid towing charges after a snow storm

Be sure the correct information for all vehicles registered to your apartment is on file at the WHA Office. Please return this information to the WHA Office to avoid any confusion while crews are out plowing. Do not risk having to pay the fees if your vehicle is towed! We will try our best to notify you in advance but we make no promises that this will happen, you are required to move the vehicle by 9 am the day following the storm, check up to date details on our website, and Channel 17. Also, with the new technology available, we are trying to make a COURTESY call to you're registered phone number you have on file. Again, this is a COURTESY call, if you don't get the call or hear the siren or whatever the policy stands, you **MUST REMOVE THE CAR BY 9AM THE DAY FOLLOWING A STORM!**

Name: _____

Apt. Complex and #: _____

Telephone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Vehicle 1: Make _____ Model _____

Color _____ License Plate _____

Vehicle 2: Make _____ Model _____

Color _____ License Plate _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



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Video Club!

Watervliet Housing recently received a grant from the National Elks Foundation and Verizon to help create a video club for our housing children. This is a unique opportunity to help train and educate our children in this technology. Watervliet is leap years ahead of other communities by having Channel 17 and the ability to use it to help all our city residents in so many ways. The two grants help by teaching computer technology and at the same time promoting veterans that served our country and also to help stop domestic violence. If you have a child that is interested in joining this club, please contact the office. The student must be at least in the 5th grade.

Emergency Evacuation

Are you wheelchair bound? Do you use oxygen? In the event of a fire can you leave your apartment? Many times we don't know who can't leave their apartments in the event of an emergency. If at night, the Fire Department certainly doesn't know. Call now and let her know so we can put this in our file and then send it to the Police and Fire Departments. If you are a neighbor of someone that you think would need assistance in the event of a disaster, call and let us know and we'll check it out.



Have you had enough of drugs?

Then do something about it.

Use this coupon and report suspicious signs of drugs. We don't need drugs in our city and it's up to us to help stop it. Don't assume "we know." It's up to us to do something about it for our children. This year we had 3 evictions based on drugs!

ENOUGH

I've had enough of drugs in my neighborhood!

I've reason to believe that _____

_____ is using/dealing drugs.

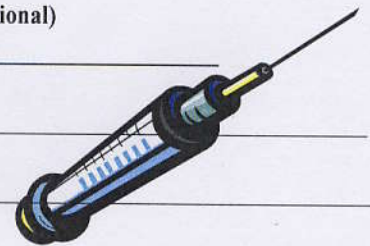
I'm suspicious of activities at _____

I've noticed the following license plates on cars in the vicinity of suspected drug activity _____

My name: (optional) _____

My address: _____

My phone #: _____



Mail To: **Enough!**
Watervliet Police Department
Watervliet, NY 12189

**YOUR CONFIDENTIALITY
WILL BE GUARDED.**

Santa Visits Our Kids

2009



If a photo was taken at your apartment they are at the office for you to pick up!





2009



2009





2009

Hanratta Seniors enjoy their Christmas party, with the help of Cub Pack 78 and the Varsity Cheerleaders of the Watervliet High School





2009

Quinn Seniors have their Christmas Party. Special thanks to Regina Warner for helping to organize the party.





Addictive Behavior

By Bob Christiansen

Binge Drinking

One of my high school students related the fact he does not have a problem with his drinking because he only gets drunk on occasion, and usually after heavy bouts of drinking. His description reinforces what a lot of people think. Adolescents especially tend to equate alcohol abuse or alcoholism with what they drink, when they drink, and how they drink, often selecting the definition that does not contain their particular drinking habits.



This month we will focus on the topic of binge drinking. Binge drinking involves drinking to the point of intoxication and staying drunk for several days at a time. Binge drinking may end in vomiting and passing out, and the drinker may frequently suffer from memory blackouts of events that occurred while drinking.

Some of the signs of binge drinking are as follows:

- Uncontrollable urge to continue drinking
- Drinking heavily for no special reason
- Memory blackouts
- Morning-after shakes
- Seeing or hearing bizarre things that aren't there after a drinking bout

- Eating very little or irregularly while drinking
- Avoiding family or friends while drinking
- Financial and work problems related to drinking
- Inability to stop or control drinking
- Delirium tremors and other withdrawal symptoms when deprived of alcohol



Keep in mind that there are various degrees of binge drinking, with various signs and symptoms. The bottom line is that if you think you have a problem, you probably do and you should seek a professional evaluation. Self-treatment for severe problems is generally not effective. The binge drinker must first acknowledge that he or she has a health problem. Binge drinkers have little or no control over their alcohol dependence and are likely to injure themselves or others. Unless treated, it is chronic, progressive, and eventually fatal.

A special caution: Withdrawal or detoxification from habitual binge drinking requires medical supervision. Abrupt withdrawal can result in delirium, convulsions, and other serious symptoms. Seek professional help.

GET HELP TO PAY YOUR HEATING BILL!!!

HEAP

Home Energy Assistance Program

From November 2, 2009 to early Spring, Albany Community Action Partnership will provide Home Energy Assistance Program applications

Income-Eligibility:

Family Size	Gross Income Limit
1	\$.00 - \$2,030.00
2	\$.00 - \$2,657.00
3	\$.00 - \$3,279.00
4	\$.00 - \$3,903.00
5	\$.00 - \$4,528.00
6	\$.00 - \$5,152.00
7	\$.00 - \$5,269.00

You will need:

- **Proof of Income**—all income for last 4 weeks (Pay stubs must be consecutive , DSS Budget sheet, Unemployment stubs, etc.)
- **Identification**— ORIGINAL ID for all members of household (Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Driver License, etc.) Must have social security numbers FOR ALL MEMEBERS.
- **Utility Bill**—Most recent (within 30 days) vendor statement or utility bill, or rental lease/statement from landlord that heat is included.

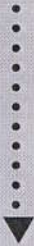
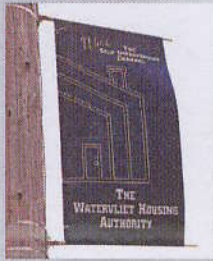
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HEAP PROGRAM & OTHER REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE ACAP OUTREACH OFFICES BELOW:

Community Outreach Office
20 White Street. Cohoes,
NY



Community Outreach Office
333 Sheridan Ave. Albany, NY
Call: 518-463-3175



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Thank You Mary Jo for all you do to make WVLT 17 the best!

Attention all Seniors with lobbies: ICE MELT



There is a bucket in the front entrance of every senior hallway, please help us out, spread a little on the walkway when you are leaving your apt if you see that it is icy. If you see the pail going empty, please let us know. Please be safe and not sorry.

Do you need a job?

The Watervliet Housing Authority has many contracts that go on from time to time. We also will be starting the work at the Van Rensselaer Village site soon and there maybe also jobs that may come available. We suggest you make an application to our office and we'll pass it onto any of the contractors so you may have a inside track to these positions. It would also be helpful if you prepared a resume and attached it to your application. You can check out WVLT or our website for more information as it becomes available.

Candles can be dangerous!

Yes, they look nice and smell nice but they can be extremely dangerous. Candles are the leading cause of house fires.



Candle blamed for Apartments fire

A lit candle in a bedroom of an apartment in the Hampshire House in Schenectady is being blamed for the fire that destroyed 35 of 57 units. The candle was being used during a power outage. Authorities are unsure whether something brushed against the flame or if the candle fell over.

PLEASE BE SURE LIT CANDLES ARE PUT IN A SAFE PLACE AND ARE IN EYE VIEW AT ALL TIMES. DO NOT LEAVE CANDLES BURNING UNATTENDED!

January 2010

Charles V. Patricelli, Director

**Watervliet
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Authority**

2400 Second Avenue, Watervliet, NY 12189