



# Watervliet Housing Authority



## January 2014

Charles V. Patricelli, Executive Director

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK



## Santa Claus Visits Watervliet Housing

For the 32nd straight year the Watervliet Housing Authority has visited the children of the apartments. Co-workers, dressed as elves, visited almost 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 9-13 of this newsletter for more pictures of our special night!



Thank you for making our 32nd 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, Erick Bernard, Tina Shufelt, Bob Beston, James Verhagen, Tabitha Shevy, Kelly Vehsia, Patrick Ethier, and Scott Kilcullen for volunteering their time to deliver gifts, and we can't forget Santa & Mrs. Claus (shhh... it was Mark & Karen Gleason).

Watervliet Housing Authority 273-4717  
ext. 201 Mary  
ext. 203 Matt  
ext. 204 Daria  
ext. 205 Mary Clinton  
ext. 201 Charles

or  
office@watervliethousing.org

Emergency Number  
273-6085 (after hours)

Watervliet Police Dept.  
call 911

Watervliet Fire Dept.  
call 911



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

### For Your Information:

The WHA Office will be open half day  
Tues Dec 31  
and  
be closed  
January 1st

### Special Thanks...

...to St. Pius, Watervliet High and Elementary School staff and teachers, City Hall employees and families, Social Security Office of Albany, NYS Retirement, 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 so many more for a financial gift to purchase presents for our children. Thank you to the Toys for Tots program as well. Thanks to all those that again made this a huge success. The faces on the children makes it all worthwhile.

# Around the WHA...



January

2014

## Washing Machine Hookups at Day

At Michael J. Day we have recently marked all the hot and cold water feeds to the washing machine hookups. It is critical that washers are attached properly so that the hot and cold water feed systems operate properly. During the course of marking the lines, we found several washers that were improperly hooked up. We have corrected these hookups. If in the future you are replacing a washer at Day please make sure that hot is connected to hot and cold to cold. Having an improper hookup not only impacts you, but your neighbor as well.

Tenants are asked to call in a work order if their hot and cold hookups are backwards. Hot should be on the left cold is on the right for a proper hookup. Because of the different cartridges that the maintenance staff uses sometimes, one is put in incorrectly and the result is that cold is on the left and hot is on the right. We ask that if you have this situation please let the office know so that it can be corrected.

### 2014 Watervliet Calendars

You should have received your new 2014 calendar from the Watervliet Housing Authority. This calendar is filled with information about the Authority and many important dates you need to know. We are very proud of our calendar and hope you find it useful. If you didn't receive one and want a calendar, please stop by the office or call us. You can also request one by e-mail to [CPatricelli@WatervlietHousing.org](mailto:CPatricelli@WatervlietHousing.org).

## 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, 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 there is a charge. A dripping faucet, a light out, a blown circuit breaker are NOT emergencies. 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 201.

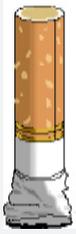
## FRAUD = STEALING

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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM  
THE WHA!!!

# 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.

## Safety Tips for Joslin and Hanratta 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.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

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## 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. DO NOT PARK IN THE PIONEER PARKING LOT.**

## Do you have a plunger?

This is a \$5 item at most stores and could save you over \$50 in maintenance costs. We had a call during our last snow storm that they had a plugged toilet.

The tenant had to wait 5 hours before someone could be freed up to go to the apartment. If they only had a plunger they could have corrected the prob-



lem themselves. Also, a overtime call for a plugged toilet is a charagable cost to the tenant. So please, make the investment and put it on your shopping list.



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



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# For your information...



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## Candle Blamed for Apartments Fire

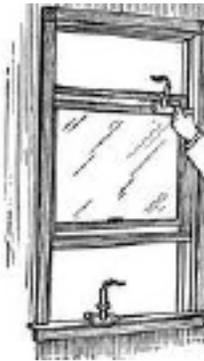
A lit candle in a bedroom of an apartment in the Hampshire House in Schenectady is being blamed for the fire that destroyed 35 of 57 units. The candle was being used during a power outage. Authorities are unsure whether something brushed against the flame or if the candle fell over.

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!



## Are your windows closed?

If you're feeling a draft most likely your windows look closed but they are not locked. These new windows have a felt on both sides of the windows and when you pull them down they drag the top window down with the lower window. Thus, it may look closed but the top window has a gap causing a draft. To check properly the two windows where they meet at the window locks should be perfectly smooth. If not it will mean that they are out of level and the window is NOT closed. If you need help, we'll stop buy to help you. Just give us a call.



## 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.

If you have toilet bowl stains, we have a chemical that can help. Call the office for assistance.  
We will take care of the issue.

# 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, Hilton, and Hanratta for heat. 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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# Bed Bugs are here!

One of our neighboring apartment complexes, NOT HERE IN WATERVLIET HOUSING, had their first case of bed bugs and they were taken care of quickly, but not quickly enough. Apparently the tenant didn't want to tell us because they were embarrassed. Why? They are everywhere and it has nothing to do with your income or how nice your apartment is. The longer you wait to inform us the harder and more expensive the task to get rid of them. Please don't be embarrassed. Tell us as soon as you think you have a problem. You can call and talk to us confidently in the office and we'll keep the problem as low key as we can. If you fail to tell us, the cost for the extermination can be placed on your account. Questions? Call us



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## 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 losing your 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.

# MOLD

Mold can be a serious problem and cause harm to you and your family, and you may not even know you have it. Sometimes mold can be hard to detect. A musty or earthy smell is one sign of mold. Mold can be any color and is often staining and fuzzy. Wet spots, dampness, or water leaks may lead to infestations of mold.

It is important to get rid of mold in your home as quick as possible. Small areas or patches of mold can grow bigger and bigger and become more severe if ignored. Small areas can be cleaned by wiping it down with detergent solution or bleach. Make sure to wear a mask, safety goggles, and rubber gloves when doing this. Be sure to dry the area after wiping it down. If the mold grows back or is very large, call a professional for help.

Mold can be hard to get rid of but easy to prevent. Here are some tips to help you protect your home from mold:

- Keep your home dry and the humidity low.
- Find and fix any water leaks
- Get rid of clutter and excess stored materials.
- Clean your house regularly



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



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Merry 105th Christmas to Mrs. Waterman!



### 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.



### 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.**

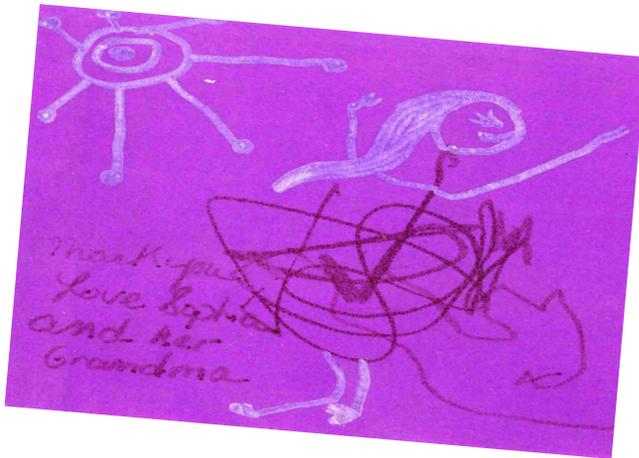
# Santa Visits Our Kids

## 2013



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

Every year we have amazing people who are generous and give wonderful gifts to the families of Watervliet Housing. We appreciate their help, and we hope you do as well. To show your appreciation, we're asking that you make a thank you card for their generous actions. You can bring them into the WHA office and they will make sure the cards are delivered properly.



2013



# Hanratta Christmas Party

# 2013





# 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.



## 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. Be safe and not sorry.



### 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.

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## Section 8 Family Buys Their First Home with Section 8 Assistance *Watervliet - December 4, 2012*

Cindy Luce wanted to own a home since she was a little girl. She dreamed of rooms painted bright vibrant colors and a yard of her own. Even though Cindy knew that home ownership meant a lot of sacrifice, hard work and responsibility, she was determined that one day, she would have a home of her own. In September of this year, Cindy realized her dream: she and her daughter moved into their own home that Cindy was able to purchase with help from the Watervliet Housing Authority and her Section 8 assistance Housing Choice Voucher program.

Cindy enrolled in the Family Self Sufficiency Program when it was first offered by the Housing Authority. While active in that program, she got connected to local not for profits that helped her with home buyer education and a matched savings program where she earned 4 dollars for every dollar she saved. This fall, Cindy qualified for a mortgage and that, combined with her savings and a grant from the Housing Authority, allowed her to purchase a two-bedroom home in Port Schuyler. Cindy says, "This took me longer than I would have liked, but I was determined to make it happen. I wanted to do this for my daughter and for myself. I am so thankful for all of the people who helped me along the way, and I thank God for making my dream come true."

The Watervliet Housing Authority offers the Family Self Sufficiency Program and the Section 8 Home Ownership Program to Section 8 families who are interested in increasing their financial independence. For more information on either of these programs, call Kristie Sweet at 372-8846 ext. 127.



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# Energy Savings Bulbs Handling and Disposal Policy



Energy Saving Bulbs likely contain Mercury. Mercury is dangerous and should be handled carefully. Extreme caution shall be followed when a bulb is broken. Tenants should follow the following procedure.

If a bulb is broken adhere to the following procedure:

1. Assume bulb has mercury present.
  2. Leave room for at least 15 minutes.
  3. Do not clean with a vacuum cleaner.
  4. Put on rubber gloves and mask.
  5. Use a normal broom or brush and place in a sealed bag.
  6. Do not dispose of with normal trash. Add to battery bin or with similar hazardous material.
- If you are unsure or unable to follow these instructions please call the main office and request assistance.

## City of Watervliet Emergency notification system is now in place



We are encouraging everyone to register for the emergency notification system in place with the City of Watervliet. You can go on the City of Watervliet website [www.watervliet.com](http://www.watervliet.com) and click emergency notification center, the link to sign up is there. You can also call City Hall at 270-3815 someone can register you over the phone. This is very important if we ever have a flood, water line break, snow or any other emergency.

The system can also send texts. It is FREE and can be very helpful.



January 2014

Charles V. Patricelli, Director

Watervliet  
Housing  
Authority

2400 Second Avenue, Watervliet, NY 12189