

# Auburn Housing Authority

## FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

Dear Residents,

Before we know it, snow will be with us. For everyone's benefit, I am offering a few reminders:

- Please fill out the One-Call automobile registration form. Property Management will be distributing these soon, and return the completed form to the office. We use this information, particularly an up-to-date phone number, to text you when your automobile needs to be moved for snow plowing.
- If your car is: **uninspected, unregistered, or inoperable**, please rectify these issue(s) quickly. I have instructed staff to send notices to the owners of vehicles not in compliance. There will be a deadline to remedy your situation. Your automobile will be towed off-premises, at your expense, and a lease violation issued if you do not comply. Some residents have already been issued these notices.
- Make every effort to winterize your automobile by re-filling windshield washer fluid, keeping an extra blanket in the car, starting the engine if you are not a frequent driver (especially in cold spells).
- Snow removal at our developments is an arduous task and having you have the ability to move your automobile, when it's time to plow, is very important to doing the job quickly and thoroughly. *The snow removal staff appreciates your good efforts.* Keeping the parking lots cleared definitely increases our ability to keep walkways cleared too.

Winter in Maine is sometimes unforgiving, but please be considerate of the workers who are cleaning up your property and understand that your cooperation is needed in order for them to do a great job!

Sincerely,

Martin F. Szydlowski

Executive Director

## Property Manager's Corner

By: Bruce Merrill, Leah Landry & Richard Henry

### IMPORTANT HEATING SEASON

**REMINDERS:** As we enter another Maine heating season there are a few things we should all keep in mind. Please be aware that any windows that are left open during heating season (October 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup>) will be closed by Maintenance and you will be billed \$24. An open window on a cold day constitutes an emergency, and someone **WILL** be in to close it for you. Windows that have been left open in the past have caused cracked pipes and have consequently flooded apartments. If the heat is too hot and you can't seem to turn it down, contact Maintenance at 777-6081 so they can fix the problem.



**BLOCKING YOUR HEAT SOURCE:** Another common problem during heating season is having long drapes, furniture or any other items blocking your baseboard heat. Your apartment cannot properly heat up if there are items in the way. Please rearrange furniture if it is covering your baseboard.

**SNOW REMOVAL:** Snow storms present a unique challenge for all of us. At Barker Mill and the Esplanade, the lobby camera will show everyone our requests regarding moving cars. Please **DO NOT** move your car until requested so that we may clear walkways and the main part of the driveways. At the rest of our properties, residents are requested to move their cars to plowed area as soon as possible. This

**STEPS AND WALKWAYS:** At Family Development and Broadview Acres, residents are responsible for shoveling snow from **BOTH** entrances to the apartment. A path should be shoveled to the common walkway. Anyone not complying with this policy in a timely fashion (24 hours) will have the snow shoveled for them and they will be billed.

**PARKING:** Please do not park your car so that it overhangs the sidewalk. This makes it difficult for Maintenance to remove snow on the sidewalk.

**CHRISTMAS TREES:** Live Christmas trees are not allowed in our Elderly apartments because of the size and nature of the buildings. Live Christmas trees are allowed at our Family housing, but not before December 18<sup>th</sup> and

must be removed by December 27<sup>th</sup>. This policy was established by the Commissioners in 1986.



may mean getting up a little earlier than usual. Cars that are not moved will be towed.

**UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER:** It is VERY important to update us if you change your number. We don't call tenants very often but when we do it is usually for an important reason. If you have changed your cell phone or land line number, please call the office at 784-7351 to be sure we have the correct number.



### **Bus Passes**

We have been asked where to purchase bus passes locally. Go to Auburn City Hall and to the Tax Department. They sell them there. Hannaford's and Shaw's sell them too. Also note you can use the LAP bus service to get to Portland

**FLU/COVID SEASON IS HERE !!!  
REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR  
HANDS OFTEN!!!!**



### **ANTI-BULLYING**

AHA does not condone any child or adult bullying of any kind. Please notify your Property Manager or RSC if you are having this type of issue. Thank-you. Please display common courtesies and respect to one another. Life is way too short to be unhappy.

Please remember you are responsible for your guest on AHA property. They cannot visit for more than 7 consecutive days in a 6 month time frame. They are held to the same rules and expectations as our tenants. You will be lease violated if they are not following the lease or House rules of AHA.



Please return our grocery carts to the lobby or assigned spaces ASAP so your neighbors can use them too! They shouldn't be left in the elevators or in the hallways. These are Fire Code regulations. Thank you in advance.

### **DO-IT-YOURSELF PEST CONTROL: WHAT REALLY WORKS?**

What do you do when you see a bed bug, a cockroach, a mouse, a bat? Hopefully, you'll ask us for help right away. Do not use bug sprays or "bug bombs!" Save your money and leave it to the professionals. Too often, store-bought sprays or do-it-yourself fixes may only kill the pests that you see. The ones that are hiding are happily starting families. Worse yet, you could be exposing your family and yourself to dangerous chemicals. Report any pests to the maintenance department at 777-6081. Either trained staff or our pest control contractor will help you get the bugs or rodents out for good. As a preventative measure, try these non-toxic, DIY suggestions to keep bugs and rodents out of your home.

1. Get rid of clutter-clutter doesn't cause pest infestations, but it does give them a place to hide once they arrive, making them hard to find and kill.
2. Vacuum-vacuuming does a good job of sucking up bugs. It also gets rid of crumbs that some pests eat. Throw away the vacuum bag or the contents of the canister (put in a tied off bag) in an outside dumpster.

3. Lock 'em out-Seal up all the openings where pests get in; look under sinks, around the pipes and windows, and under doors. Call in a work order to the maintenance department to seal these openings; or to possibly install door sweeps at the bottom of the doors and to fix broken window screens.

4. Don't feed 'em-Pests need food and water to survive. We don't want to make life easy for them. Pests go where they find food and water. They will happily eat food we leave out-including pet food. Things that you can do: Clean up dishes at night  
Store food in the fridge or in sealed containers

Only eat in the kitchen or dining area

Use a garbage can with a tight-fitting lid and empty it regularly

5. INSPECT everything that comes into your home-Stowaways come in packages, luggage, backpacks, furniture and food.

6. Use a clothes dryer-High heat can kill pests including fleas and bed bugs. Keep clothing or bedding bagged on the way to the laundry room to prevent spreading bed bugs. Wash and dry clothing and bedding on the hottest setting for a full cycle and bring your laundry home in a different bag (throw away the first bag in an outside dumpster). Or you can skip the wash cycle and place the items in the dryer on the hottest cycle for 30 minutes. This dryer-only method saves time and money and you can use it with dry-clean-only items.

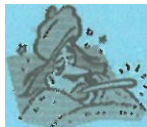
\*\*Using a clothes dryer for bed bug control does not take the place of a pest management professional. Report suspected bed bugs immediately to the maintenance department or to your property managers-ASAP! No, these efforts will not take the place of a professional but they can make a huge difference. The best time for do-it-yourself

pest control is BEFORE you see any pests! Make all of these tips a part of your weekly cleaning routine. Call us for more information or assistance anytime. Thanks.



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**Thank You Veterans for your service. We appreciate you very much. Let us all remember and give thanks to those who serve.**



#### **Flu/COVID Prevention Tips**

- Get a flu shot
- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap.
  - Use alcohol based hand sanitizers.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or use the crook of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home from school, work and public functions if you do become ill.
- Contact your physician if sick or have health questions.
- Clean surfaces of tables, desks, door knobs, keyboards, and phones with a disinfectant.

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Get adequate rest and eat well to help your body fight off infection.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth as much as possible - Germs spread this way.

**“AHA Maintenance News” by Gerry Bernatchez- AHA Maintenance Director**

This is a reminder to our tenants about after hours maintenance calls. Emergency calls are considered to be lockouts, escaping gas or smell of gas, broken locks and windows, plumbing leaks, stove and refrigerator not working. Dial our answering service @ 777-6081, and speak to an operator, give your name, phone number and building name including apt. number, and describe your maintenance emergency. The on-call maintenance person will return your call, hopefully within 15 minutes, then come to your apartment to resolve the emergency. Please realize that some of our on-call Maintenance staff do not "live around the corner." It may take up to 30 minutes for them to be on the scene. In the event of a fire or other extreme emergency call 911. This may be a helpful hint: Program in your phones this number- 777-6081 to call when you have a maintenance issue.

**SECTION 3 JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please be reminded that Auburn Housing Authority maintains a file for our residents who are looking for work.

If you would like to be considered for employment with contractors and companies that do work for us, please stop by the main office and ask for an application. If an entity that is doing work for us has any job openings, we will consult this list to see if any of our tenants should be considered for the position that is open.

**INSPECTIONS PROCEDURES**

Inspections will be performed annually by AHA. If no one is home, we will enter the apartment to conduct the inspection and leave a slip stating we have been there. Any resident that cannot make this scheduled inspection, but wishes to be present should call Dondi Maheux- Housing Inspector @ 784-7351, so that other arrangements can be made that will be suitable. A re-scheduled inspection must be done in the same month as the original inspection date as required by HUD.



**If you have leaky pipes, faucets or a running toilet, or if you should hear water running in a nearby apartment or in or around one of our rooms in any of our buildings for a long period of time, please call our Maintenance Department @ 777-6081 with your concern. We sure would appreciate your vigilance. Utilities, including water, electricity and heating fuel are a major component of why rent increases. Your effort to help control those costs is greatly appreciated.**



Just a friendly reminder, that all dogs need to be on their leashes at all times when in the common areas of the properties. Please clean up after your dog. This is an important part of dog ownership. Don't forget those dog licenses need to be renewed yearly to keep them on the property. Thank you.



**Want help to quit smoking?** The Maine Tobacco Helpline is there to assist you. Call them at 1-800-207-1230 or speak with your Resident Services Coordinator. Barker, Roak and Towne House are starting smoking cessation support groups soon.



**++ When Paying By Check to AHA++**  
When submitting your checks to AHA, PLEASE remember to SIGN your name and add in your Apartment number. Please ensure date and correct amount is written on your check. If your not sure please call the office. Thank you.



**We would like to wish our AHA Commissioners, Tenants and Staff the happiest of upcoming holidays.**



**Resident Service Coordinators Susan, Chelsea and Donna.**

The Resident Service Coordinators are here to support you and advocate for your service needs. If you are struggling to find community resources, food, clothing, medical care, mental health care or have other resource needs we will help point you toward the right resources. Also, feel free to just stop by and say Hello. We love seeing our tenants and hearing of things going on in your lives. We also love to hear feed back on how we can help improve tenants' relations, social activities and coordinate community events.

1. Seniors Plus offers many services-FMI call them@ 777-4010 and check out the new Education Center and their exciting classes.
2. We are suggesting that you get your Flu Shot from your physician or pharmacist this year. COVID boosters and pneumonia shots
3. Renter's Insurance is a good thing. If interested see us for assistance.
4. Interested in contributing articles, suggestions, stories for the newsletter? Let us know.
5. Start planning your winter needs now, coats hats, gloves, boots, non-slip treads.
6. Check your local food pantries and churches if you may need additional help for the holidays.
7. See your RSC if you need a container for your sharps. We have the "Safe-Clip" needle clipping & storage device for anyone interested.
8. See your RSC if you need in-home assistance of any kind. We can work with you to try to obtain such services.
9. Do you need to update your File of Life? See us if so.

## **"Preparing for winter"**

Are you prepared to take care of yourself in an Emergency? Here are a few suggestions that you may want to have on hand.

Winter coats, boots, hats and gloves and warm blankets

Bottled water

Non- perishable foods

Flashlights with extra batteries

First Aid kit

Food & water for your animals

Medications

Charged cell phones

A manual can opener

A battery-operated radio with fresh batteries.

**Slips and fall season is upon us!** As the weather shifts to ice and snow, Please be careful, take your time walking, and wear the proper shoes for the weather. Please use those canes/ walkers and hold on to railings as you run your errands or walk your dogs.

Be safe, Go slow.

**Local resource available to you,**

**Tri county Mental Health-  
1-888-304-4673**

**988 Crisis Hotline**

**Maine Crisis line 1-888-568-1112**

**NAMI Maine helpline 1-800464-5767**

**Maine Warmline 1-207-772-9276**

### **Air Conditioners**

**\*\*\*\*\*In the Summer of 2026, we will be requiring all tenants to change out their window model air conditioners for floors models. Some of our buildings already require this but for those that still allow window models start preparing to purchase a floor model. Start looking for those sales...**