

# 425 PLEASANT ST. NEWSLETTER

July, 2018

## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

By: Alex Corrales  
Executive Director

As we enter the mid-year of 2018, I'd like to take a moment to briefly update residents on WHA events and happenings. This provides you an opportunity to be informed on what is going on at the WHA.

Senior Center Driver – I am thrilled to announce that we have been renewed for another year, under the CDBG grant, to continue our transportation services for residents to the senior center. Last year, we exceeded the goal of the number of residents using this service. This next year we are aiming to transport more residents, so please take advantage of this free service.

Air Conditioner Installation – There have been a number of residents that have installed their own ACs. As a result, we have had a couple of ACs that have fallen out of the windows and this becomes a safety concern. Please contact Maintenance Dept. at 508-635-3200 to schedule your AC installation. Residents that fail to do so are subject to lease enforcement for having an unauthorized AC. Please help us, help you.

New Member to WHA Team – I am happy to welcome Peter Proulx as our new Assistant Executive Director. Peter is currently the Executive Director of the Leominster HA and was previously with the WHA as the Director of Modernization. He has a tremendous amount of experience working at different authorities and will be a great asset to the WHA team when he starts in mid-August.

Night Management – Don't be surprised if you see WHA staff walking and patrolling the properties well into the evenings. My staff and I will visit all the sites throughout the summer to speak with residents and see how we can continue to make our properties even better than they are now. Please make sure to say hello if you see us in your building.

Apprenticeship Program – Last month the WHA finalized a partnership with Worcester Technical High School to begin an apprenticeship program. The partnership will allow us to have a pool of high school students seeking a career in a trade such as electrical, carpentry, or plumbing. We were able to hire our first apprentice plumber on June 25<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to bringing on more.

Energy Savings Upgrades – The WHA will be entering into a multi-million dollar agreement to upgrade windows, doors, lights, and other items as part of our mission to increase our energy efficiency. We have completed several of these projects already and they have been a huge success. Please keep an eye out for more detailed information on this fabulous endeavor to understand what upgrades are happening in your building.

Stove Burners – Many residents in our towers have already received their new stove burners. Recently the WHA began installing these devices at Lakeside Apartments and we will continue to strive in installing them in all of our apartments. Although it may take a little time to adjust to the new burners and how they work, they will prevent stove fires, which is our ultimate goal. Over the past few years, we have seen too many kitchen fires that put residents at risk.

Saying Goodbye – Last, but not least, it is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to one of our very best WHA employees, Nayda Sanchez, who has decided to relocate to the warmer sun of North Carolina. Nayda joined the WHA in 1996 as a Management Aide and soon after was promoted to Assistant Housing Manager at GBV. She then quickly was promoted again as Housing Manager, where she excelled in keeping our properties safe, clean and built a great rapport with our residents.

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Recently, Nayda was promoted again as our Director of Admissions, where she is our gatekeeper in making sure we are leasing our apartments to the very best residents possible. I have worked closely with Nayda for the last 22 years and her departure will be felt both on a professional and personal level. She has done an outstanding job and has always shown compassion for those she works with and the residents she served. We wish her the best in her new chapter. North Carolina will be lucky to have her!

In closing, please remember that if you have access to the internet, please follow us and “like” us on Facebook, as we post a lot of information on what is happening at the WHA. You can also visit our website at [www.worcesterha.org](http://www.worcesterha.org) for updates on news and events concerning the WHA. I wish you all a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!

Thank you!