

Happy Spring!

April 2008



Winchester Housing Community News

Chestnut Grove • Greenwoods Garden • Laurel Commons

From the Desk of the Executive Director

By the time you read this you may have been “FOOLED” by a friend, or maybe you have “FOOLED” someone else. After all it’s not many days ago that it was April 1st.....Well, at the risk of sounding like I’m setting you up for a grand foolin’, please let me announce that the Winchester Housing Authority is about to receive \$640,000.00 for much needed repairs, and a grand addition to its Greenwoods Garden Community Room.

While attending a recent social gathering at Greenwoods, I announced, sort of on the Q.T., that we were about to receive this welcomed funding. Many of you know, especially residents of the Greenwoods Community, that for more than four years and nearly as many Town

Managers, we have been writing letters, making trips to the Town Hall, banging on doors and just about going to the Governor for this financial help. A recent flurry of activities that have taken place over the past few weeks will be explained below.



Since the Governor’s office announced that several Towns would be receiving various amounts of funding I have attended no less than twelve meetings, and written nearly as many letters. As I write this news piece for our newsletter I await a call from the local newspapers that will want to know more details. In the meantime I’m going to offer all the residents of our three Communities a bit of background. You surely deserve to know as heaven knows you’ve waited long enough.

How To Reach Us

Phone: (860) 379-4573

Fred NewmanExt. 5
Executive Director

Lynn Hayes.....Ext. 4
Office Manager

Jayne Martigneni....Ext. 3
Section 8 Coordinator

Donna Veneziano ...Ext. 3
Assistant Section 8 Coordinator

MaintenanceExt. 2

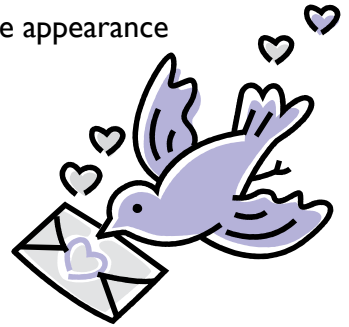
Carol Franz379-6525
Chestnut Grove After Hours Super

Fay Wainman379-7619
*Greenwoods Garden
After Hours Super*

John Navin.....379-3716
Laurel Commons After Hours Super

From the Desk of the Executive Director (Continued from Page 1)

The grant that we are about to receive started out at HUD in Washington. HUD awards grants to States so that they might distribute these monies to Towns. Hence the title "Small Cities Grants". Our application to the State was no less than 300 pages long. It took nearly a year of waiting to find out if we were to be successful. It involved three consultants, two architects, environmental studies and the appearance before our Board of Selectman. By the way, the next time you see a Selectman, you ought to say "Thank You". It was our Board of Selectmen who voted to allow the Housing Authority to receive these funds.



While we're saying our "Thank Yous", you should know that seven Greenwoods residents took the time to write letters expressing the very real need we had for enlarging apartments and expanding our Community Room for those who are wheelchair-bound. I publicly thank them here... Gino Saccomani, Normand Beaulieu, Mary and Joseph Butkevicius, Richard Yurchick, Robert Clough and Faith Wainman. These letters accompanied the 300 page application and were read at the State agency that awards the funds. Feel free to bake them some cookies, or drop by their apartments and say thanks.



Scope of work:

- Four apartments at Greenwoods will be modified so that wheelchair bound residents can move about comfortably.
- Increasing the size of Greenwood's Community Room from 480 sq.ft. to 890 sq.ft.
- Enlarging and resurfacing Greenwoods parking lot.
- Repairing and resurfacing of the upper parking lot and drives at Chestnut Grove.
- Repairing the sidewalk at Chestnut Grove.
- Installing two, possibly three, decorative street lamps at the entrance to Chestnut Grove.
- Upgrade four baths (first floor), to be fully compliant for disabled residents.

It is required that work start within four months and that all work be completed by the end of 2009. The Housing Authority will hire a consultant to ensure we move as quickly as we can, and that all Government regulations are met. There will be regular meetings for the benefit of the Town, as they must be sure we are in compliance. They received the grant and gave it to us, but they are responsible that it is being spent properly. We will communicate with the residents of Greenwoods and Chestnut when activities will start and how they may be inconvenienced from time to time. I'm sure most all residents will welcome the inconvenience though!!

- Continued on Page 3 -

From the Desk of the Executive Director (Continued from Page 2)

Another Great News Announcement

Winchester Housing Authority has been given another grant!!! This one is funding for the hiring of a Resident Services Coordinator for Greenwoods Garden residents. By the time you read this newsletter you may have already met this person.

A Resident Service Coordinator is responsible for meeting with residents who might wish to know more about services available for their benefit, i.e. daily health care, financial services, routine home care, etc. We will be sending out notices to the Greenwoods residents with more details.

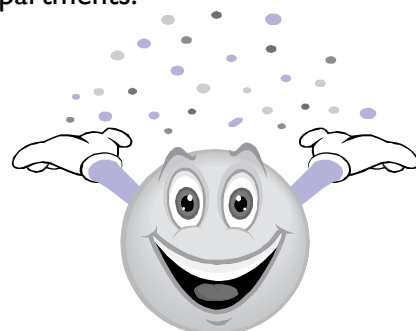


Putting the Record Straight

Many residents may have read in the paper that the Housing Authority might be interested in acquiring the Colt's block. Our Board of Commissioners instructed me to write a letter to the Mayor expressing to him that we are not interested. It is not the Housing Authority who might be interested. It is their affiliate, The Housing Authority Development Corporation that could have an interest sometime in the future. In any case, it is not in our plans to acquire Main Street property. I'll let you know if we change our plans.

Carriage Maker Place...

is steadily moving forward. Slow, but steady. Meetings are taking place with three financial institutions and the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA provides funding for small Town housing. Many of our residents have heard me say that there are plans for 30 to 40 single bedroom apartments for seniors at the upper end of Gay Street. As you can pretty much understand, if it took four years, and 300 pages of applications for \$640,000.⁰⁰, it will take even more for the \$3 to \$4,000,000.⁰⁰ to construct these apartments.



A Repeat Reminder.....

All residents of all Housing Authority communities should have the phone number handy for their respective "Off Hours Superintendent".

If you should have a problem during the evening or on a weekend that cannot wait until the next day your "Off Hours Super" is:

- **For Chestnut Grove**
Carol Franz - Apartment 4X379-6525
- **For Laurel Commons**
John Navin - Apartment 2-5379-3716
- **For Greenwoods Garden**
Faith Wainman - Apartment 15.....379-7619

If your problem is not at the level of needing an immediate response there is always the Housing Office answering machine.

- Dial 379-4573
- You will hear Lynn's voice
- Simply select number 2 at the recording, which is for leaving messages concerning maintenance

We don't want anyone getting frustrated. Just follow the above directions and you'll receive results.

Of course, if you have a true emergency, you must dial **911** to reach the Winsted Police.



Fun Notes

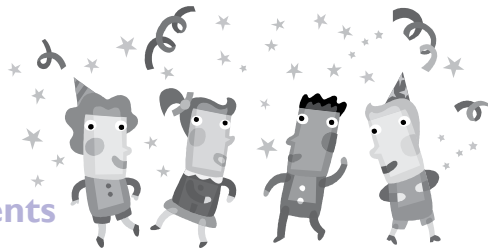
Did You Know...

To be Eighty years young is more cheerful and hopeful than forty years old!

Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference!

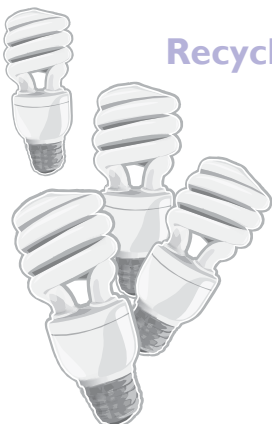
Air Conditioners

Can you believe it is almost that time again! We are planning to install the air conditioners mid to late April. This will be subject to the weather conditions. If it is really cold, we will wait until May. I will be sending around notices to each of you for completion. Please return by the deadline to ensure that you will be cool this summer when it is hot outside! This year the fee of \$60 will be payable in three month installments of \$20; for the months of June, July and August. Our Auditor has insisted that this be changed for bookkeeping reasons. Please prepare for these three payments.



New Residents

There are several new residents in all three communities. Please welcome them to your respective community.



Recycle Circular Bulbs

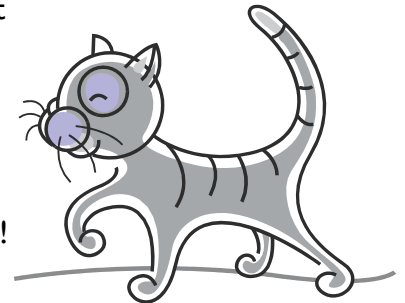
Soon you will see a brightly colored container near the snack machines to recycle those new energy saving bulbs that contain mercury. Please dispose of properly in this container.

DO NOT BREAK THEM!



PETS, PETS, PETS

Anyone obtaining a pet must report it to the office immediately. Also all pets living in this building must provide current documentation of inoculations and all pets must be housebroken. All dogs must be licensed by the Town of Winchester and all dogs and cats must be inoculated against rabies and spayed or neutered. Owners are responsible for picking up and properly disposing of animal waste. Please do not walk your dogs in our garden areas. Our staff and some of the residents will soon be planting flowers in them and we wouldn't want any surprises! They should be walked at the end of the long parking lot, behind the garage. Thanks for the understanding!



Flowers

Check out the beginnings of our gardens - the daffodils, crocuses, tulips and hyacinths are making their presence known. Springtime can be one of the best times of the year!!!

Feeding The Birds

We noticed recently that someone is putting seed out in the back near where we park our cars. Please do not put seed, bread, or any type of food out for the birds or squirrels in that area or any area other than the South lawn where bird feeders exist. Everyone enjoys feeding the birds but we must keep it under control. Thanks for your cooperation.

