



**Needham Housing Authority**  
**28 Captain Robert Cook Drive**  
**Needham, Ma 02494**  
**Tel (781) 444-3011**

## SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Residents:

As the summer ends and the fall season begins, there is usually a shift from the hazy, lazy days to the hustle and bustle of back to work after vacation and the beginning of the new school year. For the most part this pattern will continue, however since life as we know it due to COVID-19, this may not be true for everyone. Those fortunate enough to still be employed will more than likely continue to work from home and our children will need to adjust to the “hybrid” model of education, which includes onsite & remote learning. Here in Needham, the official school year begins on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. According to information from the School Department some of the children will be placed in Group A/Gold Team and others in Group B/Blue Team. During the first week of school Group A will attend on Monday & Tuesday, and Group B will attend on Thursday & Friday. (There is no school on Wednesdays under this current model). Beginning on 9/21 Group A will be in school, while Group B is remote. The two teams will alternate weeks until further notice. There is also a Group C for children with special circumstances that allows for weekly in school learning and Group D will be comprised of students who will only do remote learning. Any changes or updates will be included in the newsletters sent by the Superintendent and your child’s school.

As I think back to my days in school, I can remember that we always went back after Labor Day and that the first assignment usually involved writing an essay on “How I Spent My Summer Vacation.” Tales of going to the beach or camp, playing sports, or hanging out with friends were the major themes. Wearing face masks, using hand sanitizer and social distancing were unheard of. My hope is that this time next year the current circumstances of this pandemic will not only be a distant memory but will serve to be a reminder of how precious every day can be!

Sincerely,

Debra Tambeau

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**Captain Robert Cook After School Program**- due to the continued concerns regarding COVID 19 & social distancing we will not be running the after school/tutorial program at this time. Please be advised that we will assess the situation monthly and are committed to reopening when it is safe to do so.

**Communities United Inc outreach**-. provides top quality licensed educational programs and childcare at low cost for children 4 months to 5 years of age. They are still accepting applications for the 2020-21 school year. Any interested families can fill out an online application @ [www.communitiesunited.org//applynow](http://www.communitiesunited.org//applynow).

**Kate Girardi**

Enrollment and Health Specialist  
(617) 744-0036 ext. 223

**Family Access Community Connections**- offers free programs for parents & children (birth to 8 years old) at the Needham Public Library, which includes **Raising A Reader, Learn & Play Groups & a Literacy Group**. Check out their weekly calendar of events at: [www.familyaccesscommunityconnections.com](http://www.familyaccesscommunityconnections.com) or contact Jodi Levin at (617) 969-5906 Ext. 114.

**Smoking Cessation Program**: Call the **Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW** for free support and advice to help you quit.

**Needham Community Council Back to School Program**- If you have a student returning to school/college this fall the NCC can provide school supplies. Please complete the surveys previously sent out by the NCC or call for a survey form.

## **NUTRITIONAL SERVICES**

**Needham Community Council** @ 570 Hillside Ave, Needham MA. In order to access any of the services you must sign up in advance by going to their website: [www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org) or by calling **781-444-2415**.

- **Food Pantry**- Is open **by appointment only** on **Mondays from 10:30am-1:00pm** and on **Wednesdays from 10:00am -1:00pm & 5:00pm-6:30pm** for curbside pickup.
- **Outside tent Thrift Shop** is open on **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00am -1:00pm until 9/22/20** with tentative plans to return inside at the end of September. (Donations to the thrift shop are by appointment only.)

**Needham Public Schools Meals Program**- Effective **September 1, 2020** lunches will no longer be delivered to NHA families. All children will receive meals at school during the weeks they are on site. During the weeks of remote learning, meals will be available for pick up at your child's school. Any changes will be addressed via the Superintendent's & Schools' Newsletters.

(Needham Public Schools Fresh Fruit & Produce distribution ended on August 28<sup>th</sup>).

**Needham Farm Community:**

- **Needham Mobile Farmer's Market** will continue to provide fresh fruits and vegetables weekly during the month of September to NHA residents **on Tuesdays @ 5pm at Capt. Robert Cook Dr and @ 5:30 at Seabeds Way.** They will be at the **Linden/Chambers** area on **Fridays from 3-4 pm.**

**AGING SERVICES**

**Center at The Heights-** Program being offered by Center Staff:

- Daily Springwell Lunch Deliveries (Mon - Fri)
- Weekly Trader Joe's Goodie Bag of Groceries (\$20)
- Free Weekly Freshness Delivered (Fresh produce and vegetables)
- Free Mask Deliveries
- Phone Pal Program (A middle or high school student is set up with a senior to call on a regular basis so they can have community service hours and they benefit from making a social connection.)
- Social Services Appointments and Outreach
- SHINE appointments
- Remote Programming (To include exercise, health and wellness, education, technology - focused, finance and legal, social and entertainment, etc.)
- Surprises! (Mother's and Father's Day gifts, special desserts, toiletries and more)

**Springwell:**

**Linden & Chambers Residents:** Need additional assistance? Please contact Housing Care Coordinator **Isabella Carrasquillo @ 617-972-5630** Monday through Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm. For urgent requests after Isabella's work hours please contact Springwell's main number @ 617-926-4100.

**RECREATIONAL SERVICES/ACTIVITIES:**

**Chair Yoga-** Cathy Lunetta is offering Chair Yoga once again to all NHA residents. The classes will take place at Linden Chambers Community Room on **Wednesdays @ 4pm -5pm** starting on **September 2, 2020.** Classes will be limited to no more than 10 participants. Social distancing & the wearing of masks is still required until further notice. Hand sanitizer will be on site and the room will be disinfected before and after each class.

**Garden Club:** If you are interested in joining, please contact Jill Rutherford @ (617) 901-6535 for information.

**Coffee Hour:**

- **Linden/Chambers: Wednesday Sept. 16 from 10:00-11:00** inside the Community Room (A representative from Springwell will be in attendance).
- **Seabeds Way: Thursday Sept. 17 from 10:00-11:00** inside the Community room

Please note that **pastries** will be provided by the NHA. Please **bring a beverage** of your choice.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Furniture items-SOOZnPOPPS** a father and daughter team who recondition small pieces of furniture to families in need. If interesting in receiving or donating small furniture items, please contact Susan Stevens at [susanstevens7@att.net](mailto:susanstevens7@att.net).

**Medical Equipment**-contact the Needham Community Council for **contactless** pick up.

**Face Masks**- If anyone needs a face mask, please contact the office.

**Transportation**- for Lyft utilization/Transportation of Last Resort please contact the Needham Community Council (781 444-2415).

**NHA Office Hours** -The NHA Admin Office remains closed to the public until further notice. However, staff is still available by phone. Please note that the office is open from **8:00am-4:30pm, Monday thru Friday**. Please note that we will be **closed on Labor Day**, which is celebrated this year on Monday **9/7/20**.

**164 Linden St:** The Executive Director would like to hear from residents any ideas or suggestions as to possible usage of this vacant facility. Please either submit your ideas on paper or email at [dtambeau@needhamhousing.org](mailto:dtambeau@needhamhousing.org)

**Parking at Linden/Chambers**- during school session there is **no parking** on Linden Street from **Monday-Friday 7am-8am and 2pm-3pm**.

**Parking at Capt. Robert Cooks**- please observe the new **no parking in fire lane** signage recently installed.

**Recognition**- The NHA is thrilled to announce that Capt. Robert Cook resident Josie Dardinski received the \$6000.00 HAI Group scholarship award. Josie is attending the University of New Hampshire and is in her sophomore year. Congratulations & all the best during the upcoming school year!

**In Memoriam**- Long time Linden/Chambers resident Dimitris Tsiroyannis died in August 2020. The NHA would like to offer condolences to his family and friends.