

# Massena Housing Authority Newsletter

February 2026

## MHA LOBBY HOURS:

Mondays, Tuesdays,  
& Thursdays:  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Wednesdays &  
Fridays: CLOSED

(Our office staff is  
available by phone only)

**THE FIVE RENT  
COLLECTION  
DAYS ARE  
FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**

Executive Director  
Mary S. Elman

Chair  
Rosemary Bronchetti

Vice Chair  
Eileen M. Boots

Commissioners  
Elaine Dunne  
Tim LaRose  
Larry Howard  
Patti Dabiew  
Carolyn McGrath

Counsel  
Daniel C Ramsey Esq

*From the Desk of the Executive Director*

Winter has most definitely arrived, and this is much more like the old-fashioned winters of my youth! Please be careful! If possible, stay inside during storms, especially times of high winds, ice, freezing rain and snow. Our staff works to clean and clear the parking lots and walkways, but especially in the middle of the actual storm, it is challenging to stay on top of it. When we have ice storms and freezing rain, our staff cannot effectively clear walkways, etc., until the storm has subsided. Please be aware of your surroundings and stay home and stay safe when winter storms are raging!

The February Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Office. The public is welcome to attend.

You will note that the term of our current Tenant Commissioners is due to expire April 31, 2026. For Victory and Meadow View, your tenant commissioner is Larry Howard. For Laurel Terrace and Grasmere Terrace, your tenant commissioner is Carolyn McGrath.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the role of our commissioners, please call me at 315-764-1706, ext. 113, and I will be happy to share information and answer any questions you may have. A tenant commissioner is a full voting member of the Board. Online training, as well as written guidance, is available to board members.

On behalf of all of the employees of the MHA, I wish you all a warm and cozy February and a happy Valentine's Day. As the weather turns colder, let's keep the warmth of friendship and community alive in our hearts!

*Mary Elman, Executive Director*



## Tractor Supply Pet Vet Clinic

- Feb 7, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- Feb 21, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- March 7, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- March 21, 2026, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

This pet clinic at Tractor Supply requires no appointments. Pets will be able to receive vaccinations, checkups, and more.

For more information, please go to <https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/petvet>

This is not a free service, but it does provide low-cost care for your four-legged family members

### **Let's Talk About Snow and Ice!**

**Snow:** Walking in the snow is difficult, and in times of heavy snowfall, our staff can struggle to keep up with clearing the snow. As quickly as it is cleared, more falls to take its place. Therefore, tenants need to be aware of weather conditions and take precautions. When possible, wait until the staff can clear the snow before venturing outside. Otherwise, stay on cleared pathways as much as possible. Be aware of hidden patches of ice or slippery, packed snow. Thanks!

**Ice and Freezing Rain:** This presents an extra challenge to our staff and a safety concern for our residents. When we get over 1/8" of rain and temperatures are at or below freezing, salt alone will not melt the ice. It needs the sun to accelerate that process and melt the ice. If staff spreads dirt or salt while it is raining, all it does is wash it away, so staff need to wait until it stops raining to spread salt and dirt. PLEASE ... understand that in times of freezing rain, we cannot eliminate the formation of ice. Stay inside where you are safe, unless you must go outside. Then, use extra caution.

Just because you cannot see staff directly at your building, it does not mean they are not working. We have several properties to maintain. Our maintenance staff is carefully monitoring the weather conditions and working to keep **all** our properties clear and safe. Please, do your part; stay inside if you can when weather conditions are treacherous!! Let's all do our part to stay safe this winter!

# FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES



**AARP Tax Aide Services** will once again be preparing taxes free of charge. This is an in-person service – no registration is necessary.

**WHEN:** Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm, beginning February 2<sup>nd</sup> and continuing through April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**WHERE:** Community Center, 61 Beach Street, Massena.

**WHO:** Low- to Moderate-Income Individuals and Families. You do not have to be elderly to take advantage of this service.

Bring photo-identification (preferably NYS ID Card or Drivers' License), a copy of last year's tax return, and all documents showing income for 2025.

The Community Center is conveniently located on the bus route for those without a car!

Questions can be answered at (315) 769-2693

Tax return time is a good opportunity to get caught up on past due rent and even pay ahead. If you are behind on your rent, contact Lori Buckshot at ext. 117, as soon as possible. The MHA would like to work with you on getting your rent paid rather than evict you!

## \*\*\*\*\* REMINDER \*\*\*\*\*

Regular office hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. **Our main phone number is 315-764-1706.** That is the only phone number you should call us on. Our maintenance staff is available for **maintenance emergencies** after regular business hours and can be reached at 315-842-8485.

## Tenant Elections will be held in March

Petitions for Tenant Commissioners to serve on the MHA's Board of Commissioners are due in the office by Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 4 pm, and the election (if necessary) will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, from 10:00 am until 11:00 am.

Voting for Meadow View and Victory, including 55 Victory, will be in the Board room of the Administration building.

Laurel Terrace and Grasmere Terrace will hold voting in their respective community rooms.

Petitions are available for pick up at the Administration Building at 20 Robinson Rd and must be returned with at least 15 signatures of eligible voters from the project(s) for which the person is nominated. **Eligible voters are tenants who have lived in the authority for 30 days before an election and who are 18 years of age or older.**



Massena Housing Authority does not allow soliciting of any kind. **You may post announcements on the boards** on each floor but please DO NOT put flyers or anything of any kind on or under tenants' doors. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Renter's Insurance

Please be aware that as your landlord, we cannot insure your personal belongings under our insurance policy. Therefore, we recommend you purchase a renter's insurance policy to protect against the loss of your personal belongings (furniture, electronics, personal memorabilia, clothing, etc.) from fire, flood, theft, etc. A renter's insurance policy will also provide coverage if someone is injured while visiting you at your dwelling unit.

### Meadowview and Victory Families

Tenants in family housing are reminded to keep both their front and back walkways and entrances clear of snow and ice. All exits must be clear and unobstructed.

Residents can pick up buckets of rock salt at the maintenance garage area. You will need to bring your own containers.



### **Need a ride??**

St. Lawrence County Public Transit has new routes. Come learn about the program and routes. An information session will be held on Tuesday, Feb 17, at 1:30 PM for Laurel and at 3 PM for Grasmere and Thursday, Feb 19 at 1:30 PM at Victory Elderly. The sessions will be held in the building's community room. If you attend, you might receive a free bus token...

### Community Rooms

**Rosary** at 1:30 PM & **Mass** at 2:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.  
02/10/2026 – Grasmere Terrace  
03/10/2026 - Laurel Terrace

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### Bingo

**BINGO** every **Wednesday** at 6:00 p.m. and **Sunday** at 2:00 p.m. in the Grasmere Terrace Community Room

The Massena Housing Authority will be

**CLOSED**

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day!