JANUARY 2025

Keene Housing NEWS

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY NEWS AND UPDATES

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 The Executive Director's Corner

2 Property News

3 Agency News

4 Resident Services News

5 Community Connections

6 Community Gardens

7 Keene Housing Kids Collaborative

WORK ORDERS

Did you know you can submit a non-emergency work order through our website? If you need something fixed in your apartment or see something broken on property, please visit **www.keenehousing.org** and click "Submit a Work Order" and follow the prompts.

CONTACT INFO

603-352-6161

reception@keenehousing.org

www.keenehousing.org

KH Staff at Stone Senior Arch Holiday Party

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As we step into the new year and embrace the beauty of winter, I'd like to take a moment to wish all of you a Happy New Year. I hope this season brings joy and warmth to you and your families. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for your cooperation during snow removal. By moving your vehicles when the plows arrive, you make it easier for us to keep the properties safe and accessible for everyone. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Looking ahead, I'm excited to share some updates about our property improvement plans for 2025, which were officially approved by the Board of Commissioners at their December meeting. The centerpiece of these plans is the installation of solar arrays at several of our properties, including Stone Arch Village Senior and Family, Ash Brook Apartments, Evergreen Knoll, and our Central Office. These solar projects are made

continued on page 8

CONTACT INFORMATION

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT STAFF

- Leslie Horne, Director of Housing
  lhorne@keenehousing.org
- Cheryl Bemis, Property Manager
  cbemis@keenehousing.org
- Robin Buffum, Property Manager
  rbuffum@keenehousing.org
- Heather Howe, Assistant Property Manager
  hhowe@keenehousing.org
- Rhoda Jurkowski, Property Manager
  rjurkowski@keenehousing.org
- Dawn Smith, Property Manager
  dsmith@keenehousing.org
- Max Tardiff, Occupancy Specialist
  mtardiff@keenehousing.org

WORK ORDERS

Report all necessary repairs to Keene Housing Main Office

603-352-6161

reception@keenehousing.org

Submit a work order request by visiting your property's page at

www.keenehousing.org

Routine repairs will generally be addressed within 7 days.

From the Property Management Team

We hope you had a wonderful and joyful holiday season! It was heartwarming to see the beautiful holiday decorations many of you put up, and they certainly added a festive touch to our communities. As a friendly reminder, holiday decorations can be displayed for up to two weeks before the holiday and should be removed within two weeks after. Thank you for helping to keep everything so cheerful!

As we welcome the new year, we'd like to share some important safety and comfort tips for all our households.

Oven Usage: Please remember that the oven should never be used as a heating device. If you are experiencing any heating issues, kindly submit a work order, and we will be happy to assist you.

Thermostat Troubles: If you are having trouble with your thermostat, don't hesitate to reach out! We are here to help and to ensure your comfort.

Smoke Detectors: It's important not to disconnect smoke detectors. If yours is beeping, please contact us immediately. This is an emergency, and we will either install new batteries or replace the unit if needed.

Vehicle Idling: When warming up your vehicle, please avoid idling for more than 5 minutes, and refrain from revving the engine.

Keep Windows Closed When Temperatures Drop: When outdoor temperatures fall below 40°F, please keep your windows closed. Warm air rises, and cold air sinks. Opening windows in freezing temperatures can allow cold air to enter your home and increase the risk of frozen pipes. Frozen pipes can cause significant damage, so please ensure your windows are securely closed when it is cold outside.

Keep an Eye Out for Suspicious Activity: The safety of our communities is a shared responsibility. If you notice any suspicious activity on the property, please contact the police department and notify your property manager.

We want to thank all of you who continue to support each other and lend a helping hand. Let's keep this spirit alive throughout the winter season. Stay safe, warm, and healthy!

2025 Deduction Update

Keene Housing received authorization from HUD to provide a Broadband Utility deduction to eligible households. If your household pays for internet services in your apartment, you may qualify to receive an annual deduction of $480.

Your assigned Tenant Assistance Specialist will provide information and instructions in your annual recertification packet. You will need to provide either a copy of your internet bill or sign a self-certification form indicating that you pay for internet service in your apartment. The deduction will reduce the monthly rent amount you are required to pay. Keene Housing is very aware of increasing internet costs and hopes this added deduction will assist households in managing their household budget.

If you have questions about this new deduction, please contact your Tenant Assistance Specialist.

Myleen Bowker	283-5431
Amanda Burdick	283-5433
Megan Hillock	283-5449

STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENT

Trish Rowell joined the Resident Services team in December as a **Community Support Specialist**. She spent the past few years working as a Family Support Specialist with Waypoint where she specialized in support for keeping families together and growing as a unit. Trish is looking forward to bringing her experience to Keene Housing and joining the THRIVE Program to help strengthen and empower individuals and families on their path to greater economic independence. When she is not at work Trish enjoys spending time with her two daughters, traveling or cuddling up with a good book.

Trish Rowell

A Season of Togetherness at Keene Housing

Holiday gatherings at Keene Housing sparkled with festive cheer, bringing residents and staff together to celebrate the season.

Stone Arch Village Senior

Stone Arch Village Senior

Central Square Terrace

RESIDENT SERVICES NEWS

Resident Self-Reliance (RSR) Program News

We hope you had a great holiday season and are enjoying a happy New Year.

Keene Housing's Resident Self-Reliance (RSR) program is evolving in 2025. We are rebranding the program and it will now be known as THRIVE, a name that more accurately reflects our mission. Our goal is not only to support people on their path toward economic independence but also to foster a broader range of positive lifestyle characteristics.

What THRIVE Stands For:

- Transition: Assisting people in moving toward stable, self-reliant situations.
- Holistic: Taking a comprehensive approach that addresses housing, health, and personal development.
- Resilience: Building the strength to overcome challenges and thrive in the face of adversity.
- Independence: Fostering self-reliance and autonomy.
- Vitality: Promoting overall well-being and encouraging a healthy, fulfilling lifestyle.
- Empowerment: Supporting individuals in taking control of their lives and making positive, informed choices.

We're also excited to introduce our new Community Support Specialist, Trish Rowell, who recently joined Kelly and Melody on the THRIVE team. Some of you will meet Trish during the next quarter.

RSR/THRIVE participants, look for a letter with additional information coming in January.

If you have any questions about THRIVE or would like to speak with a member of the THRIVE team, please call 603-352-6161. Kelly can be reached at extension 329 or email kgriffin@keenehousing.org. Melody can be reached at extension 315 or email mblanchette@keenehousing.org. Trish can be reached at extension 305 or email trowell@keenehousing.org.

We look forward to working with you in the new year!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PHOTO GALLERY

Central Square Terrace

Harper Acres

A Note from Karen Graveline

As we age, taking care of our brain health becomes more important than ever. To help residents stay sharp and healthy, we are excited to offer a Brain Health Series led by Christine Parshall from UNH Cooperative Extension. This series, based on an evidence-based program developed by the Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging, is designed to provide you with practical tools and strategies to enhance your brain health and memory.

This program is perfect for anyone who wants to maintain a healthy brain as they age. Whether you are looking to improve memory, stay organized, reduce stress, or simply learn new habits to support overall cognitive health, this series provides valuable information and practical tools you can use right away. By the end of the course, you will be equipped with strategies to enhance your brain's ability to function at its best.

WHEN:

- Thursdays: January 16th, 23rd, & 30th
- Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Location: Stone Arch Senior

Do not miss this fantastic opportunity to invest in your brain health. Join us for all four sessions and take the first step towards a healthier, more vibrant you!

This series is offered for residents at Stone Arch Village Senior. We hope to bring the program to other properties soon.

For more information or to register, please contact Karen Graveline at 603-352-6161.

Stone Arch Village Senior

Bennett Block

CALENDAR

HARPER ACRES (MILL BUILDING)
GROUP ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING & CRAFT GROUP
February 10th at 1:30 PM

CENTRAL SQUARE TERRACE (CST)
CRAFT GROUP
February 4th at 10:00 AM
GROUP ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING
February 11th at 10:00 AM

STONE ARCH VILLAGE SENIOR (SAVS)
GROUP ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING & CRAFT GROUP
February 5th at 1:30 PM

BENNETT BLOCK
GROUP ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING
February 20th at 2:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS

Need help connecting to resources or help applying for or recertifying benefits? Stop by and see Karen in the Community Connections office.

Harper Acres (Mill Building)
Mondays 2:00–4:30 PM

Central Square Terrace (CST)
Tuesdays 1:00–4:30 PM

Stone Arch Village Senior (SAVS)
Wednesdays 1:30–3:30 PM

Bennett Block
Thursdays 2:00–4:00 PM

Cultivating Community

Winter days are great for watching the snow fall while drinking hot cocoa but being cooped up inside for so long can start to feel gloomy. Being in nature can increase mood and mental wellbeing, so here are some ways to bring the outdoors to you in your home!

House plants - House plants are an obvious way to bring greenery into your apartment. There are some houseplants that require a lot of care, such as ferns, and there are others that basically thrive on neglect, such as succulents. Some houseplants are also toxic to pets, so make sure you do your research to find the best fit for your home.

Water - Some plants don't even need soil to thrive! You can keep scallions and green onions sitting in a glass of water in your windowsill to use for cooking, or lucky bamboo grows well in just water as well.

Microgreens - Microgreens are plants that are meant to be harvested and eaten while they are still just sprouts, and they are very easy to grow! Not only do they make a fun winter project, but microgreens are a delicious way to add fiber and other nutrients to salads, sandwiches, and other meals. The community garden coordinator's personal favorite way to use microgreens is putting on them on toast with peanut butter.

Spring will be here before you know it, and now is the time to sign up for gardening! If you are interested in learning more about gardening at Keene Housing, you can contact Lea at 603-283-5440 or lkablik@keenehousing.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Garden Workshops

Join Lea for workshops to brush up on gardening skills and do some indoor growing. Dates are to be determined, so keep an eye out for flyers and notices.

Garden Meetings

Garden meetings to start planning for the growing season will start at the end of February, keep an eye out for the flyers!

Gardening Sign Up is March 21st.

Garden spaces are available first come first serve, so please contact Lea at lkablik@keenehousing.org or 603-283-5440 if you are interested in gardening this year.

Garden Activity Kit: Microgreen Fairy Garden

Bring a little magic home by growing microgreens in your own fairy garden! If you are interested in a microgreen fairy garden kit (be advised that this kit contains small pieces) contact Lea at 603-283-5440 or email lkablik@keenehousing.org. There are a limited number of kits available, so first come first serve!

FREE Winter Youth Programs for Keene Housing & SCS Families 18 months - 18 years

As a resident of Keene Housing, a Housing Choice voucher holder, or living in select SCS properties, your child can join community activities for free. Contact us to get started.

8 Week Programs

- Cheshire County Youth Soccer Club
- Grand Monadnock Youth Choirs
- Granite Gorge Mountain Park
- Keene Family YMCA
- Keene Ice
- Keene Parks & Recreation
- MoCo Arts
- Music Together for Monadnock Families
- Northern Lights Athletics
- Wakadoodles Afterschool Art
- Woodson's Acorns Reading Groups

Year-round Programming

- American School of Gymnastics
- Boy Scouts of America
- Civil Air Patrol
- Girl Scouts
- Keene Family YMCA: Teen Memberships Ages 13 - 18
- Monadnock Brazilian Jiujitsu
- Monadnock Violin Studio
- NHDI: Year-long program
- Steve DeMasco's Shaolin Studios
- Tad Dreis - Guitar Lessons
- The Music Kit Piano Lessons

Community Programs

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Cheshire Children's Museum: Free Day Passes
- Imagination Library

Need a Ride?

Transportation is available!
Let us know when registering for classes.

CONTACT US

info@khkc.org (603)-352-0109 KHKC.org

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER *continued from page 1*

possible through a combination of Keene Housing funds, federal tax credits and a generous grant from the New Hampshire Department of Energy.

Since launching our energy and water conservation efforts in 2014, Keene Housing has saved millions of dollars in water and energy costs. These savings have allowed us to fund critical property improvements and develop new affordable housing like the Roosevelt School on Washington Street. The first phase of the Roosevelt School project, Roosevelt School East is progressing well and on track for completion in early 2026. We look forward to welcoming new residents to Roosevelt School East in the near future.

Thank you for your help making Keene Housing a wonderful place to live. Together, we're creating stronger, more sustainable communities. Stay safe this winter, and here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Keene Housing

831 Court Street, Keene, NH 03431

Phone (603) 352-6161 TRS 711
Website www.keenehousing.org