

Schwartz-Robeson Times

Volume I

March 24, 2003

Issue 2

*Welcome back to the second
issue of Schwartz-Robeson
Times*

The first quarterly newsletter was a success thanks to the residents and all that participated and inspired it. We hope you enjoyed it and continue to enjoy this edition.

Remember...this newsletter is for you! If there is any information that you would like to see, or any questions about Housing Authority operations that you think might be helpful to include, please let us know, and we will try to put them into the next newsletter!

To submit a question or suggest an article, please call Meredith Masin at 732-745-9110

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Schwartz-Robeson Community Meeting

Are you tired of drugs, gambling and noise outside your door? Come to the Schwartz-Robeson Community Meeting and learn how to make a difference in your neighborhood!

Contact Donald Bowling at 732-745-5027 for location and date of next meeting.

Schwartz-Robeson

Tenant Association Meeting

Join the Tenant Association for their monthly breakfast meeting. Call Yvonne Weeks at 732-745-5281 for location and date of next breakfast.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Residents of Schwartz-Robeson,

Welcome to our second edition of the Schwartz-Robeson Times. We hope that you are enjoying these newsletters and are finding them informative. We appreciate any input that you might have in creating the next newsletters.

The Housing Authority continues to change for the better and make improvements within our community. You can see the changes with the new state-of-the-art playground that will be finished and ready for use by this spring. Keep your eyes open for other programs and improvements that the Housing Authority will be working on over this spring and summer.

We will begin hiring youngsters this summer to work on beautifying the Schwartz-Robeson community. We are looking for dedicated residents between the ages of 14-17 to work over the summer with the Housing Authority staff on various outdoor projects. Please call Meredith Masin at 732-745-9110 if you are interested in applying.

I would also like to remind you of the importance of your participation within the community and more specifically, the Schwartz-Robeson Tenant Association. The Tenant Association continues to work with the Housing Authority on making improvements to your neighborhood. Attending their meetings and programs will give you a chance to become a more active member of your neighborhood and make a positive difference. You can also contact Tenant Association President Yvonne Weeks at 732-745-5281 to inform her of any concerns, questions or comments that you may have.

Working together, we can make a difference in the Schwartz-Robeson community. We appreciate your participation in bettering your neighborhood and we are working hard to create a better living environment for you and all of our residents.

Sincerely,
John Clarke, Executive Director

Community and Supportive Services Office at 149 Wright Place-Now Open

The CSS office is now open to residents of Schwartz-Robeson, so stop by if you would like to talk with one of our caseworkers. They can give you assistance if you wish to seek it. Following is a list of the case managers, who they serve, when they will be in the office and what they can do for you.

<u>Case Worker</u>	<u>Residents served</u>	<u>Days and Times</u>	<u>Services</u>
Danika Ali	Seniors and other Residents	Tue, Thur 12:00-5:00	Paperwork, Meals-on-Wheels, Doctor appointments, Home health aides
HOPE VI Case managers	Only former residents of New Brunswick Homes	Mon 1:00-3:00	Rehabilitation, Childcare, Education, Job training, etc.

*If you do not fall into one of these categories or cannot make it to the office during these times and would like to see a case manager call the case management office at:

732-246-1047

Info Line...Helping people when they need it most.
1-888-908-INFO or 1-888-908-4636

What is Info Line?

Info Line is an information and referral service that helps people in need, find the services that can best alleviate or eliminate that need. This is a **TOLL-FREE** and more importantly **CONFIDENTIAL** phone call that can help people find services in Middlesex County.

Info Line caseworkers are skilled in listening to people's problems and helping them find the services that can solve those problems. Staff is trained to navigate the "Help System" in Middlesex County – which we all know can be hard!! Here are some instances when you should call Info Line:

- “I have a job interview, and I need a suit...where do I go?”
- “I'm pregnant and need baby furniture and clothes...what can I do?”
- “I lost my job...what do I do?”
- “I think my friend is being abused ...where do I go?”
- “I want to learn how to read...who do I talk to?”

Info Line can help you answer all these questions and more. Give them a call, tell a friend...they can help! **1-888-908-INFO or 1-888-908-4636**

HOTLINES

If you need to reach out for help, but don't know who to talk to, call one of these anonymous, toll free help lines.

CHILDREN/TEENS

Girls and Boys Town

Se habla español
1-800-448-3000

Youth Crisis Hotline

17 & younger
1-800-448-4663

PARENTS

Child Care Aware

Toll-Free Parent Information Line
Parents who need child care.
Se habla español
1-800-424-2246

OTHER

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Se habla español
1-800-799-7233

Hope Line: National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependency
1-800-622-2255

RAINN

(Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network)
Se habla español
1-800-656-HOPE
(1-800-656-4673)

Planned Parenthood

Se habla español
1-800-230-7526

Gay and Lesbian Hotline

M-F: 4pm-12am / Sat: 12pm- 5pm
1-888-843-4564

News from the Robeson-Schwartz Tenant Association

- Please remember that the Community Room will no longer be available after the end of March. It will be closed for construction until the end of the year.
- The Property Management office will be temporarily relocated to the CSS office, located at 149 Wright Place, during construction.
- The computer lab will remain open until the Community Room closes at the end of March.

COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

New Brunswick Youth Services System

What: Homework assistance and recreation

Where: Mckinley School

When: M,W,F 3:15-6:00PM, T,Th 3:15-8:30

How: Call 732-745-5300 ext. 5488 to enroll

Cost: Free

GED & ESL Classes Need Professional Clothing?

Adult Learning Center
732-745-5300 x4100

Higher Attire
732-745-5300 x4501

Scholarship Opportunity!

Contact Cynthia Maiden at 732-745-5157 or pick up an application at 149 Wright Place to apply for a scholarship up to \$2500!

What's New at NBHA?

As you may already know, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is reducing the amount of money that they are providing to operate their low-income public housing complexes. The New Brunswick Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners and staff are working hard to cut expenses to avoid reducing services, programs or staff which could have serious effect on residents. Residents can also help by trying to conserve utilities such as electricity, water and gas. As the cost for utilities increases, the Housing Authority is forced to pay more which has a serious impact on our budget and requires us to take money from other needed areas. We need your help in order to reduce our utility costs by trying to conserve by doing the following:

- Turn off lights when leaving rooms.
- Turn off appliances when not being used.
- Report all water leaks and drips to property management office.
- Do not leave water running when it is not being used.
- Report all thermostats not working properly.
- Try to turn your heat down a few degrees if possible.

Your cooperation and understanding in conserving utilities is greatly appreciated!

Last but not Least-Closing Points

- Attached to the end of this newsletter is a quality of life survey for Schwartz-Robeson residents. We would like to find out from you what we can do to make your community and home better. Let us know what you would like to see done differently and how the Housing Authority can help. Please drop off completed surveys to Property Management office at 149 Wright Place.
- Keep your eyes open for an additional survey that will be sent to you at a later date. It will be a questionnaire for you to fill out that will ask you about your needs and the needs of our community. Based on your responses-NBHA will begin to create programs to meet those needs.