

GCHA, SAFE institute smoke free living

After extensive research and data analysis on the benefits of Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development released its final ruling on Feb. 3, 2017. New rules requires each agency that administering public housing to implement a smoke-free policy. Within 18 months of the effective date of the rule, each public housing authority, or PHA, must prohibit the use of tobacco products in all public housing living units, indoor common areas in public housing and in PHA administrative office buildings. The smoke-free policy must also extend to all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from public housing and administrative office buildings. This rule improves indoor air quality in the housing; benefits the health of public housing residents, visitors, and PHA staff; reduces the risk of catastrophic fires; and lowers maintenance costs.

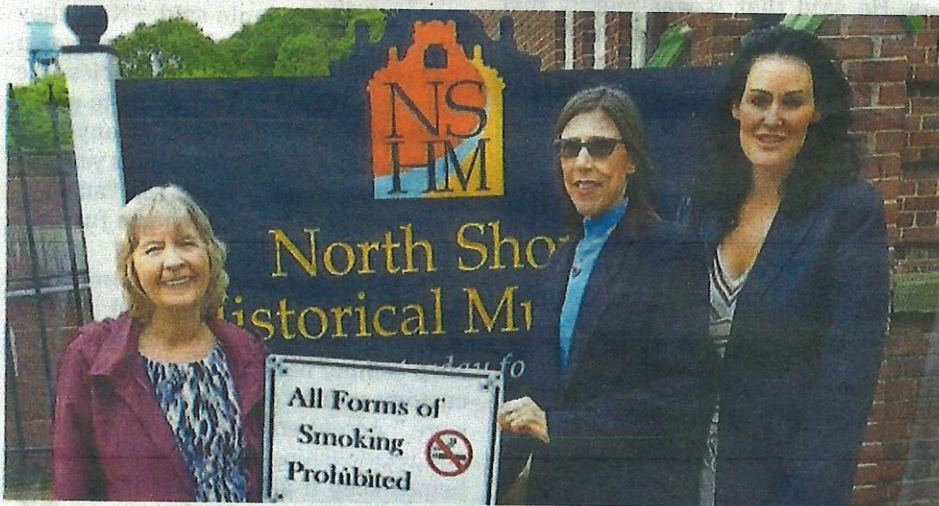
Executive Director Eric Wingate's formalized his policy two months ahead of the target date, just in time for World No Tobacco Day. Each year the World Health Organization brings attention to the impact of tobacco on the public's health on a global nature and focuses on themes to motivate activism. With the support of his community partners a Smoke-Free Pilot was created several years ago for

Butler Houses. Wingate worked with Dr. Sharon Harris, the executive director of SAFE, Inc. and Carol Meschcow, the manager for the Tobacco Action Coalition of LI in preparing for the roll-out. TAC provided free signage which was immediately posted and supplied signage for Butler Houses and the Housing Authority's prior policy on Tobacco Free Grounds at all of its youth recreational facilities on the property.

According to Wingate, besides the obvious health benefits and tenant's requests for Smoke Free Housing, there are many business reasons that are a catalyst for the change. Smoke Free Housing lowers maintenance costs and improves value retention, reduces risk of fires, significantly lessens tenants conflicts due to drifting and second-hand smoke, reduces potential legal liability from second-hand smoke, and when following HUD guidelines helps to earn LEED Certification.

To learn more about Smoke Free Living, please visit: www.smokefreehousing-ny.org. For Quit Help please contact the NYS Quit Line at 1866 NYS Quits.

For more information about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition visit SAFE at: www.safeglencove.org or Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencove-coalition>.



Courtesy SAFE Glen Cove

GEORGIE CONNETT, PRESIDENT of the North Shore Historical Museum, left, Carol Meschcow, program manager for the Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island, and SAFE Executive Director Sharon Harris implemented new anti-smoking rules at the museum.