

Around the House

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Housing and Community Services Department Mission

... to provide housing and related services to benefit the citizens and neighborhoods of Wichita



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Summer is here and time to be reminded of fun things to do and safe ways to do them! If your children complain that there's nothing to do, invite them to participate in the Wichita Public Library's summer reading program. Young children will be entertained with puppet shows and preschool story time at various Wichita branch locations. Many of these activities are bilingual so all children can participate. Teens might find the Chocolate Festival or Mystery Party exciting. And there's something for parents too! Computer classes and classes on estate planning are a few of the offerings, in addition to monthly book discussion groups. Visit the library's website at www.wichita.lib.ks.us or call your local branch to find out what fun you and your family can have at the Wichita Public Library.



Of course children will want to play outside this summer, so these tips are provided for parents to help keep children safe.

- Teach children not to play on balconies, roofs, driveways, streets or parking lots.
- Always watch children when they play on a playground.
- Don't dress children in clothing that is loose or has drawstrings if they will be playing on playground equipment. When children are practicing and playing team sports, make sure they wear the right protective gear.
- Bicycle helmets should be worn when riding, to prevent head injuries in the event of a fall.
- Never run or play near a barbecue grill.
- Keep matches, charcoal and lighter fluid out of reach of children at all times.

And don't forget to use sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) if you're going to be out in the sun, and use insect repellents containing DEET if you're going to be in areas where mosquitoes may hide!

*Have a Wonderful,
Safe Summer!*

If summer barbecues are in your plans, you will want to make note of these suggestions.



- Put the grill someplace where it won't rock back and forth or tip over. It should stand on concrete or in sand so that if it falls over, it won't catch anything else on fire.
- Keep a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Don't leave smoldering coals in the grill.
- Keep flammable things (gasoline, house paint, and certain kinds of clothing) away from fire.

Results That Matter

City staff are gearing up for a big announcement of a new way of providing services to residents of northeast Wichita. The New Communities Initiative will be introduced at a public party on **Thursday, July 12, at 10:00 am.** The location will be the parking lot of the **Save-A-Lot store at 13th & Grove.** Everyone is invited to come out and learn about ways we can work together to create stronger communities and families—and produce more Results That Matter!





From the Director's Chair Mary K. Vaughn

In June, the Housing and Community Services Department began sending out surveys to our clients and tenants. Everyone will receive a survey at some point during the year, though not all at once. Our goal is to ask you to evaluate the service you receive so that we can continuously improve. However even before the surveys start coming back in, there is something you can do to help us help you better.

Recently we have noticed that more and more people are calling the office to speak with the property manager or leasing specialist. When they are not available you are immediately asking for their supervisor or for me. While any of us would be happy to help you, unfortunately, if your leasing specialist or property manager is not available—we cannot assist you.

I am therefore asking that you take the suggestion of the recep-

tionist and leave a message for the person you are trying to reach. If you will do so, I promise to reinforce with them to call you back within 24 hours. This will make it possible for you to get the answer you need and avoid involving so many people that what started out as a simple request turns into a complicated issue.

I hope I can count on your cooperation with this request. Section 8 clients can find other tips to help us help you better on page 3.

Housing Authority Board Vacancy

As of June 1, 2007, there is a vacancy on the Housing Authority Board. City Ordinance No. 189 states that the Wichita Housing Authority Board is made up of the Wichita City Council and "one additional member who is a tenant receiving public housing or Section 8 assistance from the City of Wichita". Following is a description of the minimum expectations for this position:

- Must be current in all Housing Authority obligations and in good standing.
- Must be able to attend Housing Authority meetings which are held on Tuesdays. **Note:** Meetings are not held on every Tuesday, but are scheduled when offi-

cial Board action is required.

- Must be able to be available from 9:00 am until at least noon on Housing Authority meeting days. **Note:** Meetings are held toward the end of the City Council meeting; thus the exact time of each meeting is not predictable. Meetings have been known to run as late as 2:30 pm.
- Must commit to reading meeting materials in advance, and be comfortable in reading the recommendation in the public Board meeting setting.
- Must have own transportation to and from Board meetings which are held at the Wichita City Hall. There is no compensation for Board

members, however free parking is available in the City Hall garage. If the meeting schedule extends through the noon hour and the other Board members adjourn the meeting for lunch, lunch will also be provided for the Housing Authority Board member.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity and can meet all of the listed requirements, please complete the enclosed form and return to the Housing and Community Services Department Director's Office no later than Friday, July 27, 2007. A panel will review applications and make a selection by August 1, 2007.

Behind the Scenes ...

The past few months have seen several employees move on to other cities and other jobs. Tony Heimerman recently left to move to Washington; Shaun Davis left to move to Dallas; and long-time staffer Kathy Pewewardy left to move to Emporia. As these staff members move on, Public Housing tenants and Section 8 clients are



We're proud of our people!

reminded to continue to monitor the City's Human Resources website for job openings. If you meet certain job qualifications you may be given preference for hiring consideration. This could mean a source of income for your family which could lead you to self-sufficiency!

WELCOME

This issue's welcome, is really a congratulations. Trivea Nolan was promoted to Senior Housing Specialist in the Section 8 Division! She was formerly a Leasing Specialist in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Section 8 News

WE ARE TAKING APPLICATIONS!

Last summer we opened the Section 8 application process for one week and received over 2,000 preliminary applications. We have processed those applications and due to the fact that many applicants did not qualify for a variety of reasons, we are able to open the application process again.

Preliminary applications will be taken on a continuous basis, starting July 16, and continuing until further notice. Applications will be processed based on the date and time of receipt. There will be a special application site on Monday, July 16 and Tuesday, July 17 ONLY. On these days applications can be completed on site at:

Room 102 (A & B)
Century II
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Beginning Wednesday, July 18, applications may be picked up at:

Housing and Community Services
Department
332 N. Riverview
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

If you know of someone who needs Section 8 assistance, please share this information with them.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

Often we find that Section 8 clients are dropping by the office to bring information which is needed for their files. Unfortunately while we always try to serve anyone who comes in, drop in visits tend to create the following problems:

- If the Leasing Specialist is out of the office, there is no one familiar with your file to examine your documents to be sure they are what is needed.
- If the Leasing Specialist later reviews the documents and notices something missing, they have to try to reach you by phone or letter.
- Then you have to make another trip to the office to bring additional information.

How can this be resolved??

- Call ahead of time to make an appointment. When you do, you will be told exactly what to bring and given a time when your Leasing Specialist will be available to meet with you.
- Provide us with your current and best phone contact information so that if there are questions or if additional information is needed, we can easily contact you.

Call 462-3700!

Following these guidelines will help us

help you better—and don't forget to attend the following workshop meetings!

2007 Homeowners Alumni Calendar

July 16.....Safety (Personal & Home)
Sept. 17.....Budgeting/Foreclosure Prevention
Nov. 19.....Meeting

**All meetings at 5:30 pm
Atwater City Hall
for current Section 8 homeowners!**

2007 CreditSmart Workshops

July 21.....Understanding Credit Scoring & Thinking Like a Lender
Aug. 18.....Avoiding Credit Traps
Sept. 15.....Restoring Your Credit & Planning for Your Future
Oct. 13Becoming A Homeowner

All meetings at Dellrose United Methodist Church, at 10 am.

2007 FSS Workshops

July 12.....Career Placement/Career Fair
Oct. 11.....Domestic Violence/ Substance Abuse
Nov. 8.....Understanding Your FSS Escrow

Meeting locations to be announced.

Current HAP Payment Schedule

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mail Date</i>
AUGUST, 2007	JULY 31, 2007
SEPTEMBER, 2007	AUGUST 31, 2007

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
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We're On The Web!
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing

News You Can Use

Last month this newsletter encouraged the use of energy saving light bulbs to help protect the environment and save on electric bills. Sometimes questions are asked about the proper way to dispose of such light bulbs. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends recycling such items to minimize the impact of mercury on the environment.

Recycling is a good idea for other types of household waste as well. Following is information on the Sedgwick County Household Hazardous Waste Facility. There are 4 facilities where old chemicals and household waste can be disposed of free of charge!

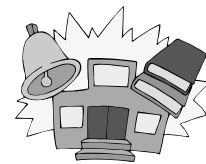
Following are the types of items that can be recycled:

paint, aerosols, batteries, used oil, gasoline, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, garden chemicals, household cleaners, prescription and non-prescription drugs, fluorescent bulbs, computers, and propane.

If you have any of these items, you can take them to one of the following locations:

- HHW Facility, 801 Stillwell, 9 to 5:30 Tuesday through Friday and 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday
- Maize Maintenance Facility, 5600 N. Maize, August 4, 8 am to noon
- Planeview Neighborhood Association, 3620 E. Sunnybrook, October 20, 8 am to noon
- Clearwater City Maintenance Yard, west end of Ross Ave., October 27, 8 am to noon

BACK TO SCHOOL



Even though this newsletter talks a lot about summer, it's not too early for parents to make plans for the next year. Following are important dates for parents who have children who will attend USD 259 schools this fall.

July 27, 30-31 – August 2.

Enrollment

August 14

**Orientation for
6th and 9th grade students**

August 15

**First day of school for
all students**