

PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

AKÂRU' NEWS

www.pawneenationhousing.org



WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays to all of our residents of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority. As we move into the holiday season, we send warm wishes for a prosperous New Year.

I wanted to update our residents on some upcoming events in January. Our office is getting ready for annual recertifications. This is a requirement from the HUD office to conduct recerts on household income. Ms. Hawkins will be sending out letters with more information on this process.

It will also be time for inspections of units and homes at the first of the year. We will be sending out letters so everyone can get ready.

We are looking forward to the New Year and wish you all a safe holiday.

Linda Jestes

RURAL ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM (REPP)

The Pawnee Nation was awarded 2.6 million dollars to promote renewal energy, geothermal and to implement a sensor placement study throughout our community.

The Pawnee Nation Housing is a stakeholder or partner with the Nation along with the Pawnee Nation College, Indian Electric Cooperative, University of Oklahoma and Tribuquent.

Project goals include Community scale solar garden, geothermal project, battery storage system, electric charge stations, educational meetings and workshops, renewable energy certification, institutional partnerships, weatherization planning and cooperative business modeling.

There will be six (6) phases in this project. Currently we are on phase one. Phase one (1) will be for project management, stakeholder and resource planning. The goals will include stakeholder engagement for advisory groups and task force, resource planning to include partner commitment, DER and Sensor placement study to collect data points, and environmental review.

We will report as we progress through the phases of the project.

HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS

BOARD NEWS

At the October 10th Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board was addressed by Ms. Stephanie Townsend to talk about the VOC Rehab program through the State of Oklahoma, also hearing reports from staff on daily operations. The Board did vote on changes made to the PNHA Policies and Procedures Manual, Education Leave Policy for staff who want to further their education, to authorize four (4) hours of education leave a week.

Financial matters were voted on by the board and updates were given on the property sale and purchases.

To view or request a copy of the meeting minutes for this meeting or past meetings, you may contact the Housing Office.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
December 12th AT 11: 30 P.M.**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James Grant Hawkins, Chairman and Seat #2
Douglas Gover Miller, Seat #1
Reva Howell Garcia, Seat #3
Carol Nuttle, Seat #4
Suzy Knife Chief, Seat #5

The Housing Board of Commissioners serve three (3) year terms and are appointed by Pawnee Business Council Resolution. Advertisements for open positions are posted by the Pawnee Nation Executive Office. If interested in applying for the Housing Board or any other Pawnee Nation Commission or Board, please send a letter of interest and resume to PBC President at PO Box 470, Pawnee, OK 74058.

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

James Grant Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins is the Chairman of the Housing Board and has served as a Commissioner for four (4) years and is in the first year of his second term on the Commission. He lives in the Pawnee community with his wife, Raven of two years, daughter Delilah and son Sabian. Mr. Hawkins is a Veteran of the U.S. Navy and has been working for the Pawnee Nation TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) Department for the past two and half years. He has also worked with the Pawnee Nation CHR Program.

Some of the initiatives Mr. Hawkins has brought to the table include the implementation and creation of a weapon free policy for Housing to align with HUD guidelines. The Commissioners voted to add this policy as a part of the PNHA Drug Free, Smoke Free, and Weapon Free Policy.

Mr. Hawkins says, “ I have enjoyed learning about policy, compliance with HUD guidelines and working with our Pawnee Nation laws. It has been a great experience and honor to watch the other Commissioners learn and grow along with me when making decisions.” He also adds, “I do want to wish all of our tenants and Housing Staff a happy holiday season and I look forward to representing the Housing Commission for the remainder of my term.”



PNHA STAFF

Below is the contact information for our Housing Staff.

Linda Jestes, Executive Director

Phone: 918-762-3454

Email: linda.jestes@pawneenationhousing.org
pawneenationha@sbcglobal.net

Mary Hawkins, Administrative Technician

Phone: 918-223-7988

Email: maryhawkins@pawneenationhousing.org

George Gardipe, Project Coordinator

Phone: 918-223-1587

Email: pawneepower@gmail.com

Cynthia Butler, Compliance Specialist

Email: cbutler@pawneenationhousing.org

George Pratt, Maintenance Coordinator

Phone: 918-223-1697

Louie Pratt, Maintenance

Sam Nuttle, Maintenance (PNWEX)

Tammy Tubbs, Office Assistant (PNWEX)



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

The Employee Spotlight is our Executive Director, Mrs. Linda Jestes.

Mrs. Jestes is from the Chapman family and grew up in Pawnee and has lived in the community most of her life. She remembers stories of living on the farm with her brothers and running around the campus. She also was one of the youngest Pawnee children to live at the Pawnee Boarding School before it closed its doors to students.



Linda lives in Pawnee with her husband, Ronnie Jestes and it is where they have raised their family. She enjoys spending time with her grandkids and great-grand children by watching them play sports and do other activities.

Mrs. Jestes has worked for the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority in many capacities for over 40 years starting back in 1978. She worked as a clerk answering phones and doing basic administrative work for three years. When she wasn't employed with the Housing Authority she served as a Commissioner on the Housing Board. In 2003 to current, she has served as the Executive Director, In addition, she served a term on the Pawnee Business Council as Secretary.

"I have been with Housing for years and I love doing the work. I enjoy helping people and I have been able to do that working here over the years," says Mrs. Jestes.

Although Mrs. Jestes has enjoyed her time at Housing, she did mention she looks forward to retirement in the future. Her work in Housing has been recognized Nationally and our tribe is lucky to have had her serve our people in this capacity. Thank you for your service to the Pawnee people Mrs. Linda Jestes.

HOUSING FACILITIES

The PNHA has several housing options for the Pawnee tribal community. In total, we have 54 homes in the Pawnee area for families. We have housing based on income that align with HUD income guidelines, our elders complexes and lease to own homes for residents who want to become homeowners. All of our Housing homes are Drug Free, Smoke Free and Weapon Free. To fill out an application to become a PN Housing Authority resident, you may visit our website to download an application or come by the Housing office.

NAHASDA HOMES

Our NAHASDA (Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act) homes are based on income in compliance with HUD guidelines. The Housing Authority has thirty-two homes, including the Elders duplexes. Some units range from one (1) to three (3) bedroom homes. Other qualification are required, including a background check for all tenants over 18 years of age in the home. Pawnee tribal members get priority, including disabled and veterans. Those who put in applications are put on a waitlist for the next available unit. Applicants are asked to update their application yearly to remain on the waitlist. Once a unit is available the next person on the list will be contacted. Applicants who are placed in a unit are required to pay a deposit before moving in.

ELDERS COMPLEXES

Our elder homes are handicap accessible, they feature built in safe rooms, energy efficient appliances, and are equipped with backup generators for power outages. Pawnee tribal members are priority, then other tribes, Veterans, and disabled.

COMMERCIAL LEASE

The Housing Authority has leased the Pawnee Community Center to the Pawnee Nation TERO Department and is located in downtown Pawnee at 551 Harrison Street. TERO is using the building for office space and training. The building is available for rental with the TERO Department and the application for rental is on the Housings website.

Non-NAHASDA HOMES

The non-NAHASDA homes are scattered throughout the Pawnee community. These homes are based on HUD income guidelines for families who do not meet the eligibility for NAHASDA units. At this time, the PNHA has a total of 16 non-NAHASDA homes that are occupied. They range from two (2) to three (3) bedroom homes. Eligibility is required, including a background check for all tenants in the home over the age of 18 and meet other eligibility requirements. Applicants are asked to update their application yearly to remain on the waitlist for the next available unit/home. The application, along with all of our applications, are posted on the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority website. Applicants may also pick up an application at the Housing office.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

The Housing does have lease own properties or homeownership properties. Currently there are three (3) properties that are currently occupied for this program. Lease to own is based on the income guidelines through HUD and available when applicants are determined to be eligible and a home is available.

To get more information on homeownership, please visit the Housing Office.



HALLOWEEN CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our Halloween House decorating contest winners.

- First place: Ankney Family
- Second place: Hand Family
- Third place: Baker Family
- Fourth place: Ferris Family.

Thank you to those who participated.



Housing Gives Back

Our Pawnee Nation Housing Staff participated in the Halloween events around the Pawnee Community in October. From decorating a trunk for the Community Trunk or Treat, and they set up a booth to play handgame with the children at the Pawnee Nation Childcare Halloween Carnival. They had fun passing out candy and seeing all the costumes.

(Pictured: Tammy Tubbs, Cynthia Butler and George Gardipe)



SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR PROGRAM

The Pawnee Nation has announced a new program by the Pawnee Nation Fire and Rescue Department that will provide free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for home safety. This program will provide fire safety awareness to households and assist with creating a fire and safety checklist and plan.

There is a simple application process and an inspection of the home that will be conducted to qualify for installation. If your household would like to participate in this program, please visit the Housing Authority or Pawnee Nation websites to download the application or contact Jon James, Emergency Services Coordinator at jj0588@pawneenation.org. You can also stop by the office at 301 Agency Road.



Pawnee Nation has partnered with the Johns Hopkins Smoke Alarm Project to provide interested community members with:

- Free smoke detectors, and combination smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors
- Installation guidance for alarms
- Home fire safety education



If you are interested in participating, you can pick up and file an application at:

301 Agency Rd.

Pawnee, OK 74058

Contact Pawnee Nation Fire Department For Information: (918)762-3655 ext. 156
The application can also be found under the Fire & Rescue Department page on the Pawnee Nation website: pawneenation.org

Home Fire Safety Checklist



- Cooking Safety**
 - "Keep an eye on what you fry." Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or using an open flame.
- Fireplaces, Space Heaters, Baseboards, etc.**
 - "3 feet from the heat." Furniture, curtains, dish towels and anything that could catch fire are at least 3 feet from any type of heat source.
- Smoking Safety**
 - Never smoke in bed.
- Electrical and Appliance Safety**
 - Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Children Playing**
 - Matches and lighters are locked away.
- Smoke Alarms**
 - Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Different types of smoke alarms, ionization and photoelectric, detect fire in different ways. Experts recommend having both types in your home.
 - Change smoke alarm batteries every year unless it has a long-life battery.
 - Replace smoke alarms every ten years.
 - A combination of working smoke alarms and fire sprinklers decreases the risk of dying in a home fire.

Home Fire Escape Plan

At least twice a year, use your home fire escape plan to practice your 2-minute drill with all your family members. Practice makes perfect! After each fire drill, mark down your escape time.

Practice your 2-minute drill.

Make sure everyone can escape in 2 minutes or less.

Drill 1

Drill 2



Source: Vision 2020, NFPA, USDA

Types of Fires

Class A (plastic, paper, wood, and fabric) extinguish with water

Class B (alcohol, oils, solvents, kerosene) extinguish by cutting power, use fire extinguisher

Class C (electrical components) extinguish by cutting power, use fire extinguisher

Class K (cooking fires) extinguish by covering with lid, throwing baking soda or salt on it, smother with wet towel, use fire extinguisher

Tips for creating your home fire escape plan and practicing your 2-minute drill:

- Everyone in your household should know *two* ways to escape from each room in your home.
- Smoke is dangerous. Get low and go!
- Decide where to meet once you get outside:

- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets or things.
- If a fire starts, you may have less than **two minutes** to get to safety. So time your fire drills and find out: what's your escape time?

Community Christmas Party!





Everyone is Welcome!

FREE Games Food & Music
PBMR Lakeside Event Center
34718 East 44 Road Pawnee, Ok 74058
DECEMBER 21ST 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Games start at 5:00 P.M.
Drawings for FREE BIKES start at 6:00 P.M.
FREE BOARD GAMES!
Door Prizes for Adults!
Pawnee Chamber Shop Local Drawing for Hams and Turkeys!
Pictures with Santa and the Grinch!
Face Painting!

Hosted By: Pawnee Business Council
&
Pawnee City Council

Children 8 and under will need to be accompanied by an adult









Pawnee Nation Indian Child Welfare Angel Tree

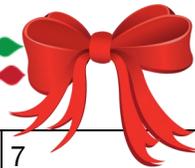
Pawnee Nation Indian Child Welfare is making an effort to provide gifts for families with Pawnee children that are in foster care and/or families that just need extra help this holiday season. If you are interested in making a difference in these children's lives this year, there are just a few things to do:

- Choose an angel from our Angel Tree
(located at the Administration Building [Bldg 64]-881 Little Dee Drive)
- Purchase an appropriate gift
- Deliver an unwrapped gift to Pawnee Nation ICW **before December 14, 2018** with the original angel.
(ICW located at 1202 Heritage Circle)



If you have any questions, feel free to contact Megan Mulder or Amanda Farren at
(918) 762-3654.

December 2023 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 PBC Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 PNHA Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Filter Changes * Kraft Pest Control Spray	20	21 Pawnee Comm Christmas Party	22 PNHA Office Closed early	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 PNHA Office Closed	27	28 Nasharo/PBC Handgame	29	30
31 New Years Eve	Dec 21-Jan 3 - Christmas Break for Pawnee Schools					

Housing Recertification Apps

It is almost time for recertification for the Housing tenants. Recert Applications will be going out in mid-December 2023 and will need to be returned no later than January 31st, 2024.

This process is done annually for all tenants to report updated income in accordance with HUD guidelines. Should you have any questions on the recertification process, please come by the office to talk with Administrative Housing Technician, Mary Hawkins.

DECORATING CONTEST

PNHA will host a Christmas Decorating Contest for the residents. If your family wants to participate, please email cbutler@pawneenationhousing.org by Dec. 20th. Judging will begin on December 23rd. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Happy Holiday!



JOB OPPORTUNITY OPEN

The Pawnee Nation Housing Authority announces a new position for Energy efforts with the Pawnee Nation. This Coordinator position will play a pivotal role in the implementation of the Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) awarded by the USDA to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. This program aims to establish a sustainable, community-focused renewable energy system, foster educational initiatives, and promote environmental and socioeconomic equity. The Energy Coordinator will collaborate with various stakeholders, tribal organizations, vendors, and community members, to ensure the successful execution of the project goals.

To apply for the Energy Coordinator position, please visit the Housing website.

HUD 184

Native American Home Loan Program

- Purchase, Construction, or Refinance
 - Low Down Payment
 - No Income Limit
- On and Off Tribal Land
- Manufactured & Modular homes are acceptable
 - Low Monthly PMI
- Can be used with Tribal Down Payment Assistance
 - Must be an enrolled tribal citizen

Brandon Caruso
Asst Vice President/Loan Officer
NMLS#1269054
Main: 405.295.7071
Cell: 805.551.6445
Brandon.Caruso@ccb.bank
bcaruso.ccb.bank

Chickasaw Community Bank

909 S Meridian Ave, OKC, OK 73108

WEBSITE, Facebook

For more information about the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority, please visit our website at www.pawneenationhousing.org or visit us on Facebook at Pawnee Nation Housing Authority for news and updates.

WELCOME TO THE PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

Pawnee Nation Housing Authority

638 likes · 681 followers

The Pawnee Nation Housing Authority provides rental units to tribal members with affordable housing

Scheduled for December 12, 2023 at 11:30 AM

Message Liked

PNHA ANNOUNCES NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Pawnee Nation Housing Authority announces a new position

Posts About Photos Mentions

Details

- Page · Property Management Company
- 126 Eaglechief Dr, Pawnee, OK, United States, Oklahoma