

## PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

## AKÂRU' NEWS

[www.pawneenationhousing.org](http://www.pawneenationhousing.org)



## WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We had a lot of fun at the PNHA Tenant Valentine's BINGO in February. There were snacks and prizes with lots of laughter. We are looking forward to future events like this with our tenants.

The Housing Staff have been working hard to get our units/homes ready for new renters to move in and we have moved several families in at the Littlesun Addition (Eagle Chief Drive). In this edition of the newsletter, we also provide the steps that are used while processing applications and selection of a new tenant. We hope this helps in understanding how this process works when you submit an application. We are continuing with renovations and upgrades of our units/homes in the Littlesun Addition and have some photos to share show the progress of our work.

We are looking forward to Spring and want to mention we will also be starting with lawn mowing. Please help us in keep your yards picked up so we are not running over toys.

~ Linda Jestes, PNHA Executive Director

## RURAL ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM (REPP)

The Pawnee Nation Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) is underway and currently in phase two of the program. Our Energy Coordinator, Alex McSheridan has been working on Community engagement and is looking for volunteers for the sensor deployment. He has set up numerous meetings within the community to talk to leaders, businesses and residents about how this program could benefit the community.

What this partnership with the Pawnee Nation brings to Pawnee and the surround areas are new technologies to help transition us into a stable, sustainable, and greener future.

The REPP Program will be organizing workshops and ways to educate the community on everything the program is doing and how it can positively impact all of us.

We would love to see everyone participate in these meetings or workshops. More information will be posted soon. We are working on a webpage and social media content to be able to share all this wonderful information.

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# COMMISSIONER NEWS

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## BOARD NEWS

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At the January 2024 Board meeting of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority Commissioners, the Board approved several items for the participation with the Pawnee Nation's Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP). Also approving the contract and budget for the Housing Authorities Energy Coordinator who will work directly on the REPP Grant.

At the February 2024 Board meeting of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority Commissioners, the Board was introduced to Mr. Alex McSheridan who was selected for the Energy Coordinator position. Mr. Brian Kirk attended the meeting to do a presentation on a possible collaboration on Housing with the Pawnee Nation and a company who manufactures houses. The Board also discussed updating processes for programs such as the Property Proposal Process, Homeownership process, Application and Waiting List processes.

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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



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## COMMUNITY MEETING

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The Commissioners are continuing to work on ideas and programs for the 2025 Indian Housing Plan. The Commission will host a Community Meeting scheduled for **March 19th** at **5:30 PM** at the **Pawnee Nation Community Center** (551 Harrison Street). Everyone from the Community is invited. We will be serving a light meal. Topics of discussion will include Community Needs, Housing in the Pawnee Community and the Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP).

All are welcome.  
Please join the discussion.

# HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS

## COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

The Commissioner Spotlight this edition is Mrs. Reva Howell-Garcia.

Mrs. Howell-Garcia has been a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority for 2 terms and sits in Seat #3 and is the current chairperson of the Board. She has brought forward many suggestions to strengthen policies and initiatives for sustainable housing opportunities.

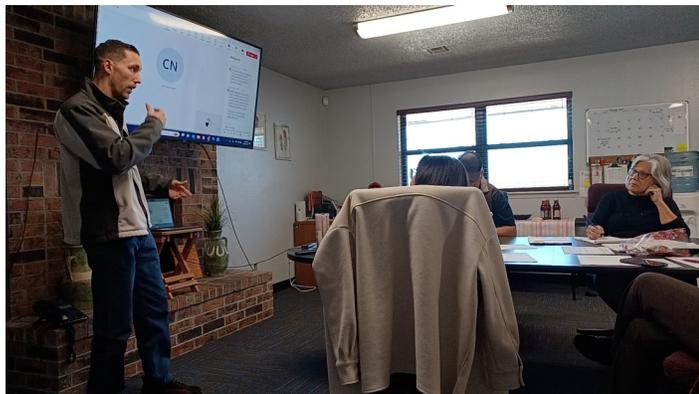
She has been married to Rogelio Garcia for 3 years and has raised her 4 girls in the Pawnee community.

Mrs. Howell-Garcia will soon be a graduate of Oklahoma State University and is currently working for the Otoe-Missouria Housing Authority.

With her knowledge and experience she has contributed to the growth of Pawnee Housing. "I have enjoyed working with the other Commissioners on projects and helping to strengthen our policies. I look forward to the next few years as the Chairperson of the Commission as we

continue to develop plans to meet the needs of the Pawnee Community by offering affordable Housing opportunities." says Mrs. Howell-Garcia

Thank you for your service to this Community as a member of the Board.



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

NEXT BOARD MEETING IS  
SCHEDULED FOR  
April 9th AT 11: 30 P.M.



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## PNHA STAFF



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Linda Jestes, Executive Director

Phone: 918-762-3454

Email: [linda.jestes@pawneenationhousing.org](mailto:linda.jestes@pawneenationhousing.org)  
[pawneenationha@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pawneenationha@sbcglobal.net)

Mary Hawkins, Administrative Technician

Phone: 918-285-9371

Email: [maryhawkins@pawneenationhousing.org](mailto:maryhawkins@pawneenationhousing.org)

George Gardipe, Project Coordinator

Phone: 918-223-1587

Email: [pawneepower@gmail.com](mailto:pawneepower@gmail.com)

Cynthia Butler, Compliance Specialist

Email: [cbutler@pawneenationhousing.org](mailto:cbutler@pawneenationhousing.org)

George Pratt, Maintenance Coordinator

Phone: 918-223-1697

Alex McSheridan, Energy Coordinator

Email: [alex.mcsheridan@pawneenationhousing.org](mailto:alex.mcsheridan@pawneenationhousing.org)

Deni Clark, Accountant

Louie Pratt, Maintenance

Austin Clark, General Laborer (WEX)

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our employee spotlight for this edition is Mr. George Gardipe Jr.

Mr. Gardipe has worked for the Housing Authority for eight (8) years and is our Project Coordinator.

He has lived in the Pawnee Community since he was a child and later moved back to the area where he has been very active with his children and sports. He has been married for 15 years to Lisa (Beard) Gardipe and has six children.

He is a 1994 graduate of Taft School, a prep school in Watertown, Connecticut. After graduation, Mr. Gardipe attended Dartmouth College.

He is currently serving a term on the Pawnee Business Council as Secretary, owns Pawnee Power (local business in Pawnee), and is a current Director of the Pawnee Community Chamber of Commerce.

We are blessed to have Mr. George Gardipe as a part of the Housing Team.



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## APPLICATION & WAIT LIST PROCESS

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What happens after you turn in an application? Here are the steps the Housing Office uses to process applications.

1. A written application by a responsible member of the family will be obtained from each family seeking admission with all supporting documentation and identification attached.
2. Processing: Verified information will be analyzed and a determination made with respect for the following:
  - a. Verification of applicant as a family - Background checks, Landlord check
  - b. Eligibility of applicant with respect to income limits for admission - Income verification with employer
  - c. Size of unit required for the family
  - d. Preference and/or Priority of applicant family - Priority #1 - Pawnee Tribal Members, Priority #2 - Pawnee Descendancy, Priority #3 - Other federally recognized tribes. Preference - Veterans, Elders and disabled
  - e. Determination of eligibility with respect to standard of admission of Housing programs.
4. After all verification is cleared, the application is forwarded to the waiting list based on preference, priority, family size and income.
5. Applicants should update their application annually to remain on the waiting list.
6. Once a unit becomes available the next applicant on the waiting list will be contacted.

A deposit of \$300 and first months rent is due before the applicant moves in.

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## HOUSING RECERTIFICATIONS

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We have a majority of the recert applications completed. Please be sure to look for your letter, most of the new rent rates start on April 1st. If you have any questions or concerns about the recertification process, please call our office.

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## SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

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Housing will be going to each our units in the next month or two to inspect and install smoke detectors. We have partnered with the Pawnee Nation to help in keeping our residents safe and educate them on fire safety. For more information on this program go to our Housing website.

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## YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

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The Housing Authority has several programs for the youth who play participate in sports or participate in extracurricular activities. This program offers assistance to parents in the amount of \$200.00 to help pay for participation fees, sports gear, sports shoes, etc. This program is income and Pawnee jurisdiction based.

Applications can be picked up at the Housing office or downloaded from the website.

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# HOUSING MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

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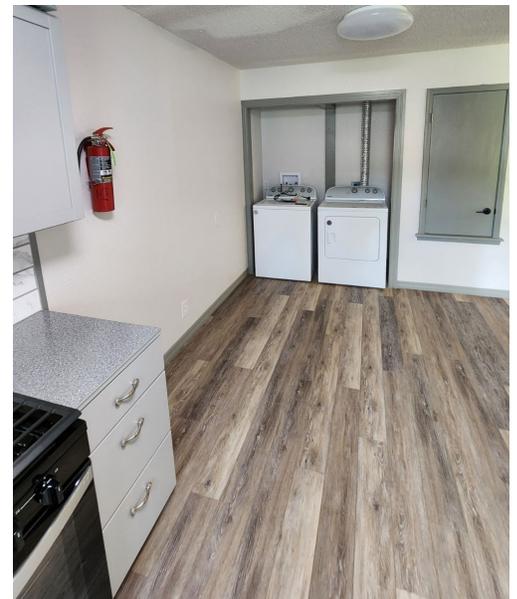
Our maintenance crew has been working hard to ensure that our housing units are maintained with updated appliances for our current and future tenants.

One of our five year goals within the Indian Housing Plan (IHP) has been to complete renovations to our NAHASDA homes. We have almost completed with this goal and have just a few more homes to renovate.

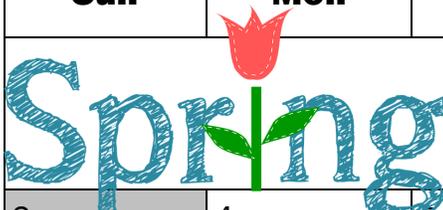
Here are some pictures of the work our staff has completed.



# HOUSING MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES



# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Employee Appreciation	2
					3	4
10	11	12 1130 a PNHA Meeting 7 p PPS Board	13 Pest control Spray	14	15	16 Spring Dance
17 	18	19 530 p PBC Mtg 530 p Comm Mtg	20	21 Filter Changes 1130 a Chamber Roundtable	22	23
~~~~ Spring Break for Pawnee Public Schools ~~~~						
24	25	26	27	28	29 PN Empl. Club Easter Egg Hunt	30 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt
31 Easter Day						



**CITY OF PAWNEE**  
**SPRING CLEAN-UP**

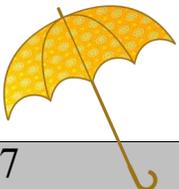
FREE use of dumpsters at Lincoln Park for Pawnee utility customers from March 17th to 23rd!  
 Curbside limb pick-up from Pawnee Street Department March 18th-22nd!  
 Limbs must be no longer than 4ft and have a diameter of 6 inches or less and be stacked neatly.  
 No brush piles please!  
*Stayed tuned for more clean-up projects headed our way!*

## SPRING CLEAN-UP

If you are a tenant of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority and need help to haul trash or large items, the Housing Authority will help in hauling items to the dump site. We do not have the manpower to load and/or unload, please have help available to do the lifting. We will be doing a schedule for the week, please call the office at 762-3454.

# April 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	1	2 530 p PBC Meeting	3 1130 a Pawnee Chamber Mtg	4	5	6
7	8	9 1130 a PNHA Meeting 7 p PPS Board	10	11	12	13
14	15 Tax Day	16 530 p PBC Meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Filter Changes	24 Admin Professionals Day	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## PNHA TENANT VANLENTINE'S DAY BINGO

Thank you to all who attended the PNHA Valentine's Bingo in February. It was a lot of fun and we look forward to more events like this throughout the year.



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR REPP GRANT OBJECTIVES

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With rising energy costs, we need to be creative and find solutions that reduce energy consumption in order to save money. We have sensors and thermostats available for free that are able to determine what is causing energy consumption and help shrink it. This gives us insight into how to reduce your electric bill. For example, we can save 82% on energy just by switching 100W bulbs to 18W LED bulbs. The thermostat can be programmed to specific temperatures at different times throughout the day; you can turn the AC down while at work and set the AC to turn up when you're on your way home. This can greatly reduce heating and cooling costs!

We are looking for volunteers that want these smart sensors and thermostats installed in their homes and/or businesses in order to help us identify what aspect of electrical consumption needs improvement. Using this information we can determine the most cost-effective way to reduce our energy consumption. There is no cost to anyone who participates in this study and installation will be done by a licensed electrician! You simply need Wi-Fi and the willingness to help the community.

We are also looking for feedback from the community as to where electric vehicle chargers should be placed. We are aiming for them to be in high use places so we get the most out of them.

If you want to become certified for solar installation and potentially run your own business, we are certifying 8 hard working members of the community. They will complete an online course and then travel to Washington State to become certified.

If you are interested in volunteering for this sensor program, or have input on where electric car chargers should be placed through the community, or would like to get Solar Certified please email [alex.mcsheridan@pawneenationhousing.org](mailto:alex.mcsheridan@pawneenationhousing.org) to get the application process started.

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## SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2024

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Senior Day is an opportunity for those interested in matters affecting aging Oklahomans to meet their lawmakers and share their views on important legislation. State agencies and nonprofit organizations will be there to provide information on their programs and services for older Oklahomans.

**WHEN:** Monday, March 11, 2024

**AGENDA:**

8:30 AM Registration and Vendors open on the 2nd Floor Rotunda  
10:00 AM Senior Day Session begins in the House Chamber 4th Floor west side  
12:00 PM Continue visiting legislators' offices and vendors

**WHERE:** Oklahoma State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**COST:** Attendance is free.

If you are an individual planning to attend, or a vendor seeking to set up a table or to sponsor, please register.

**TO REGISTER:**

You can complete a short registration online at **[www.okallianceonaging.org](http://www.okallianceonaging.org)** under the events tab.

If you need help with the form or prefer to register by phone, please call **405-943-1895** or email **[info@okallianceonaging.org](mailto:info@okallianceonaging.org)**.



PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

# Community Meeting

for the PNHA Tenants and Pawnee Community

2024 March 19th, Tuesday

5:30–7:00 PM

TOPICS: COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS AND  
PN REPP GRANT

PN Community Center  
551 Harrison Street, Pawnee, OK 74058

A small meal will be provided  
For more information please call 918-762-3454

## Cooking Demonstration

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 12:00 pm  
Roam Chief Event Center  
810 Beck Drive, Pawnee, OK

For more information contact:  
Mee-Kai Clark SpottedHorsechief  
918-762-9760



### Join us!

We'll make a recipe  
for you to taste and  
lead some basic  
physical activities.

diabetes is  
not our  
destiny

Find us on 



Diabetes is Not Our Destiny

The Pawnee Nation  
Diabetes Program

Planned in partnership with The Pawnee Nation Food Distribution Program.



Skidi  
PUMPKIN VINE CLAN  
FEAST  
SATURDAY  
MARCH 30TH  
12 PM  
PAWNEE ROUND HOUSE

Akiraru please remember our traditions and bring  
your own chair and dishes



Pawnee Seed Preservation Society

## HANDS-ON SEED PAPER CLASS

Middle & high school students

Join us for a hands-on seed paper making class utilizing sunflower seeds and various flower seeds.  
Contact:  
Monie Horsechief- 405.880.0653  
or  
Mee-Kai Clark- 918.399.3360

Door Prizes & Refreshments provided

Sunday March 10, 2024  
1-3 p.m.  
Building One  
490 Agency Road Pawnee, OK  
74058



Seventh Generation Fund  
for Indigenous Peoples, Inc.

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## MASONIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

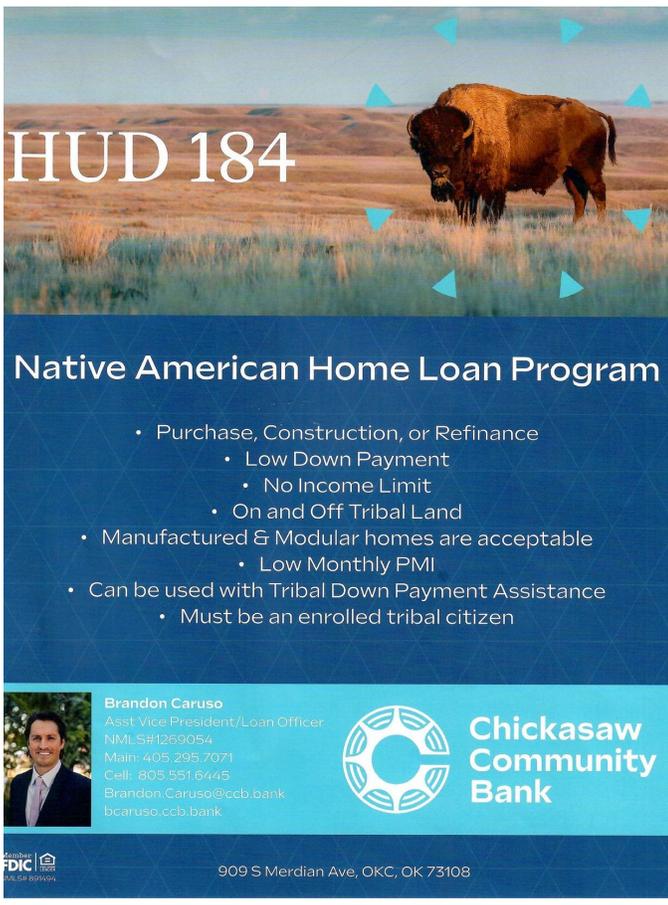
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(ARTICLE FROM AGELESS TIMES)

The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma has awarded funding to Oklahoma Association of Area agencies on Aging (O4A) for the 17th consecutive year. Representatives from the Masonic Charity Foundation and the (11) eleven Area Agencies on Aging gathered in November for the presentation of 2024 funding in the amount of \$655,362.50. These funds will be distributed throughout the 11 Area Agencies on Aging.

The Masonic Assistance Program for seniors assists older adults 55 years of age and older with health and safety threats. The funding allows AAA's to provide direct assistance for needs that are outside other programs; needs that fell through the cracks before this funding was generously offered by the Masons. The program will continue to help older adults to remain in their own homes and communities. The application process is simple and applicants don't have to wait months for a decision. In most cases an individual will hear about their application status within a couple of weeks.

The Program can help with a variety of health and safety threats including but not limited to: building wheelchair ramps, handicap accessibility, minor home repairs, eyeglasses, and dental issues. If you or someone you know might benefit from the program, please contact COEDD AAA at 1-800-375-8255 Ext. 128



**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

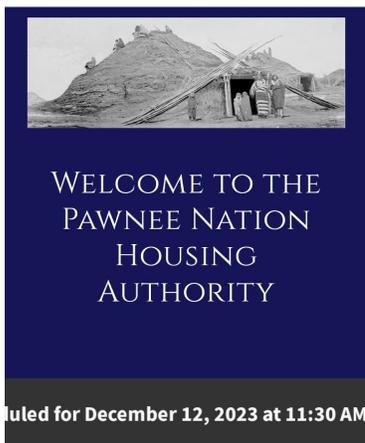
Member FDIC

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## WEBSITE, FACEBOOK

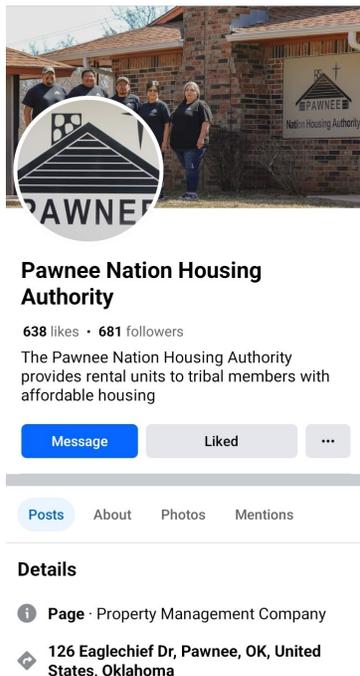
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For more information about the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority, please visit our website at [www.pawneenationhousing.org](http://www.pawneenationhousing.org) or visit us on Facebook at Pawnee Nation Housing Authority for news and updates.



**WELCOME TO THE PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**cheduled for December 12, 2023 at 11:30 AM**



**Pawnee Nation Housing Authority**

638 likes • 681 followers

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

[Message](#) [Liked](#) [...](#)

[Posts](#) [About](#) [Photos](#) [Mentions](#)

**Details**

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

### PNHA ANNOUNCES NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Pawnee Nation Housing Authority announces a new position

# PAWNEE NATION COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEDICAL COURSES

The Pawnee Nation College has announced the following opportunities below, for Medical Certification programs in partnership with Meridian Technology Center. Courses being offered include Anatomy & Physiology, Certified Nurse Aide, Phlebotomy, and Medical Coding & Billing.

If you are interested in these courses or field of study, please see contact info for Marcella Stephenson to get enrolled.



**CLASSES STARTING**  
March 5, 2024

Questions? Contact Leah VanNoy,  
Fitness Center Coordinator,  
at (918) 762-3227 x250

## TAI CHI

Moving for better balance.

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

Twelve week course

**March 5- May 28**

Classes held at the  
Rahikucu Gym

481 Agency Road | Pawnee, OK 74058



Brought to you by the  
Pawnee County Health  
Department



AND  
The Pawnee Nation

Pawnee County  
Health Department

## MEDICAL COURSES



Pawnee Nation College and  
Meridian Technology Center are  
partnering to offer:



Anatomy & Physiology  
Clinical Medical Assistant  
Certified Nurse Aide  
Certified Medication Aide  
Medical Coding & Billing  
Medical Terminology  
Phlebotomy

Learn new  
skills

### Contact

Marcella Stephenson  
mstephenson@pawneenationcollege.org  
918-285-0946

Staci Burns  
sburns@pawneenationcollege.org  
918-762-3343

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS  
ORIENTATION**

Orientation is **REQUIRED** to start a  
program

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024  
6:00PM**

Clinical Medical Assistant  
Certified Nurse Aid  
Certified Medication Aid  
Medical Coding & Billing  
Medical Terminology  
Phlebotomy

**CALL OR EMAIL IF YOU WANT TO SIGN UP OR HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS**

Marcella Stephenson  
mstephenson@pawneenationcollege.org  
(918)285-0946

Staci Burns  
sburns@pawneenationcollege.org