

PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

AKÂRU' NEWS

www.pawneenationhousing.org



WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are excited to send out our first Housing Newsletter to our tenants of the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority. Thank you to each of you and your families for allowing us to be your choice of low income housing here in the Pawnee community. Our staff has been working diligently to continue to provide sustainable housing for our Native American community. Our maintenance staff has been making upgrades to our older housing units and keeping up with yard maintenance of our NAHASDA units. Our Board has been busy updating policy and working on other projects that are reported within the newsletter. We look forward to seeing what this next fiscal year has in store for Housing.

In the future, we plan on sending out bi-monthly news from Housing. We will be highlighting our staff, Board and sending out other announcements so you are aware of upcoming events and projects.

Linda Jestes, PNHA Executive Director

PAWNEE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY: A BRIEF HISTORY

For our inaugural newsletter, we felt it to be pertinent to include a history of our beloved Pawnee Nation Housing Authority currently headquartered at 126 Eaglechief Drive in Pawnee, Oklahoma. The Housing Authority saw its beginnings occur on November 8th, 1965, at 1:15 pm when the first members of the Housing Authority of the Pawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma (our official first name) met in the conference room of the Pawnee Agency in the City of Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Those members that gathered to establish our, later to be named Pawnee Nation Housing Authority, were as follows: Earl Chapman, Samuel Osborne, Arthur Field, Sr., Lester L. Pratt and Albin LeadingFox, Sr. Present during this historic meeting were Lonnie Keisler and Lorene F. Skidgel of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. From that initial gathering, we are coming upon our 58th year of establishment, and we are so thankful to our ancestors for creating an avenue that we have today to continue to provide affordable housing to all tribal members.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS



BOARD NEWS

At the September 12th Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board voted unanimously to approve revisions to the PNHA Drug Free, Smoke Free and Weapon Free Housing Policy. This new and revised policy addresses the new concerns with medical marijuana cards. The Housing Authority remains a smoke free facility and the board will designate smoking areas for the editions and elders complexes.

For a full copy of the policy, please visit the Housing Office.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR November 14th
AT 11: 30 P.M.**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Current list 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.

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.

LAND PURCHASE

The PNHA Board of Commissioners approved for the purchase of land South of the City of Pawnee along County Line Road. The purchase will be paid for using non-NAHASDA funding for fourteen (14) acres of land that will be designated for future housing development of at least twenty (20) homes. The Housing Commissioners will be making future decisions on infrastructure funding to get the land shovel ready for development. Currently we are seeking funding opportunities from various sources and through other grant opportunities. We agree that the Pawnee community is in desperate need of housing options, and the Board will continue to push the housing initiative to bring affordable and efficient living conditions in the community. More information will be reported for project as the Board moves forward with planning.

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
cbutler@pawneenationhousing.org

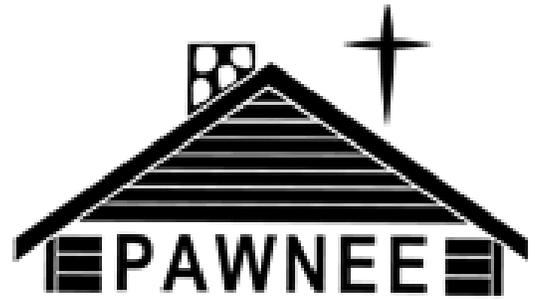
George Pratt, Maintenance Coordinator
Phone: 918-223-1697

Louie Pratt, Maintenance
Chris Pratt, Maintenance (PNWEX)
Tammy Tubbs, Office Assistant (PNWEX)

UPDATED PET POLICY

Earlier this year, the Commissioners approved for an updated Pet Policy for Service and Comfort pets for PNHA Tenants. All pets must be registered with the Housing Authority and an application form must be on file. If you have not reported your pet, please come by the office or download the application at the Housing website.

- Maximum number of pets allowed – 1 dog or 1 cat
- Permitted pets are – comfort dog or cat
- Maximum adult weight of dog 30 lbs or cat 8 lbs
- Proof of inoculations – rabies and distemper
- All animals must be registered and tagged.
- All animals must be spayed or neutered with documentation placed in tenant file.
- Sanitary standards – owner will be responsible for disposal of all animal waste.
- Standards of care – no breeding for profit, control noise and odor.
- All comfort dogs must be chained or leashed according to city leash law.
- There will be a \$200.00 pet deposit (non-refundable).
- The tenant must identify an alternate pet custodian in the event of illness or other absence from unit.



ERA PROGRAM CLOSED

The PNHA was awarded through the U.S. Treasury, funds in 2020 through the Cares Act that helped renters with rent and utility bills in the amount of \$867,269.00. The funds were awarded in response to the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. Renters were able to utilize the program funding to help pay arrearages and up to three months ahead to keep families in their homes.

We were fortunate to be able to assist Pawnee Nation tribal members anywhere and the local community within the Pawnee Nation jurisdiction and County. The program had a total of 294 applications submitted with 247 who were awarded assistance. Fourteen (14) of those applications qualified for Stability Services that assisted with evictions, homelessness, and relocation.

Thank you to the staff who worked with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Housing was able to close out the grant successfully because of their efforts and hard work.

HAF PROGRAM REOPENS

The Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) Program was awarded through the U.S. Treasury, funds to help with home repairs, mortgage and utilities assistance, and land tax assistance in 2022. The amount awarded was \$454,844.00. The program closed early in 2023 after expending all the funds.

The program had 95 applicants and 80 of those applications were awarded assistance.

We are happy to announce that the HAF Program was awarded additional funds in September 2023 in the amount of \$24,163.00. Applications are now being taken to assist with mortgage and utility payments only due to the limited amount of funds. Applications can be found on the Housing website. For more information, please contact the Housing Office.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The PNHA does provide assistance for our tenants, college students and youth. Below are three (3) assistance programs we currently have open. To fill out an application, please visit the website or come by the Housing Office. All assistance programs are determined on income eligibility according to HUD guidelines.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

It is the desire of the PNHA to provide housing, as well as providing eligible housing related services as determined by NAHASDA for low income families in the Pawnee Community. The Emergency Assistance application is for emergency aide for families who experience loss of home, utility shutoff or a natural disaster.

To qualify for services a person must be an enrolled member of the Pawnee Nation with a CDIB or any other enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe with a CDIB residing in the Pawnee Nation jurisdiction. Enrolled Pawnee tribal members shall be first priority according to the preference statement.

COLLEGE HOUSING

The College Housing Assistance Program is based on need. To be eligible, each student must be attending an accredited post-secondary institution and enrolled in a degree or certification program. All applicants must meet NAHASDA income guidelines. The College Housing Assistance Program will provide students with up to \$500.00 per semester for housing, utility or school fee costs only.

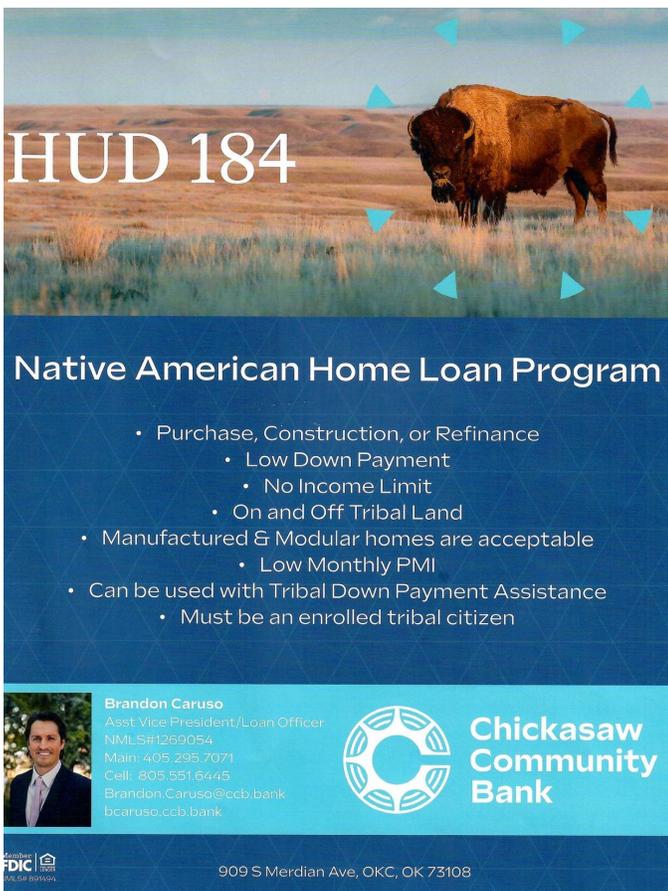
Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe. Priority will be given to Pawnee Nation tribal citizens whose primary residence within the Pawnee is within the Pawnee Nation jurisdictional area and to students who were assisted the previous semester on the College Housing Assistance Program.

YOUTH ASSISTANCE

In support of the children who participate in extracurricular activities, the Pawnee Nation Housing Authority provides assistance with a \$300.00 gift card from NAHASDA grant funding for parents or guardians to help with purchasing needed equipment and/or related costs of those activities.

The Youth Assistance Program operates during the following months of the academic school year: August to December and January to May. Each applicant may apply once per academic school year.

Youth participants, 1st grade through 12th grade, must have membership with a federally recognized tribe, the family unit monthly income cannot exceed 80% of the NAHASDA income guidelines and must reside in the Pawnee Nation Service area.



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

October 2023 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 5:30 PBC Mtg	4 Pawnee Language Classes Begin	5	6	7 Dick Tracy Parade
8	9 Office Closed Indigenous Peoples Day	10 11:30 PNHA Mtg	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 5:30 PBC Mtg	18	19	20	21
*Inspections begin for non-NAHASDA and Homeownership -----						
22	23	24 Filter Changes	25	26 Trunk or Treat	27 PN Childcare Halloween Carnival	28 Pawnee Bill Rolling Thun- der Events
29 Veterans Halloween Handgame	30	31 Halloween City of Pawnee Trick or Treat				

HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST

The Housing Authority will be having a Halloween decorating contest for our residents. Judging will be on October 30th for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. Winners will be announced on October 31st at 3 pm. We will notify the winners and post on our social media.



HOUSING INSPECTIONS

In the month of October, the Housing Authority will be conducting inspections for non-NAHASDA and Homeownership homes starting on the 16th. A notice will go out so tenants may prepare. We ask that if you have a service or comfort pet, please have them in a secure area. Our staff will be using a passkey if no one is home.

FILTER CHANGES

Each month our staff will do filter changes for the HVAC systems. Just a reminder to all our residents to please be sure you are cleaning the filter return grill. They can be cleaned with a duster, brush or vacuum cleaner. Doing this regularly will keep dust and debris from accumulating and clogging up the filter process. Failure to do this could cause allergens to build up in your duct system and linger there. Sometimes causing mold build up. Such build up could cause dangerous symptoms to your lungs by breathing in those allergens when they are released into the air in the home. If you need help to reach the return grill, please call the office for assistance.

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(continued from front page)

Throughout the years, many staffers and commissioners have come and gone, and many actions and resolutions have been passed to help identify and coordinate how we want to operate, and to ensure compliance with our funding agency, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Past Pawnee Nation Housing Authority projects that have been developed include the following housing additions: Pawnee Da-Too-Ka Addition (Mose Yellowhorse), Littlesun Addition (Eagle Chief Drive), Reeves Addition, Cawley Addition, Lusk Addition, Stewart Addition, Herriman Addition and the Elders Duplexes. Also included are the fifteen FEMA trailers that were allocated and used for homeownership on trust land. A few houses were built in the Cleveland, Blackburn and Glencoe areas.

The Housing Authority has built over 100 plus NAHASDA homes from the projects, which are

income based homes. Also, purchasing at least 30 Non-NAHASDA homes that are rental and lease purchased for homeownership. Over the years Housing has provided affordable and stable housing for more than 130 households in the Pawnee community.

Our homes are not trust property homes, they are considered to be fee simple property, which is a part of an agreement between Housing and the Pawnee County Commissioners. Which means that the Housing Authority has complete ownership of our properties and this makes it easier for the Authority to transfer deed property to homeowners.

Our history shows that there has always been a need for housing here in the Pawnee community. The Housing Authority sees that need and we are looking forward to new development in the near future. Our Housing Leadership is committed to the planning and development of energy efficient and affordable housing options for our tribal community.

HOUSING WAITING LIST

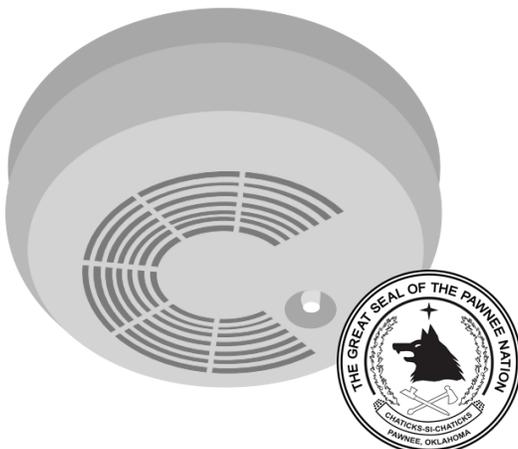
If you have filled out an application for the NAHASDA or non-NAHASDA housing, please remember to recertify your application annually to stay on the housing list. When housing becomes available, we will contact the names on the list who have updated contact information. Many times, we go to contact individuals who have changed their phone numbers or message numbers.

To fill out an application, please visit our website.

THANK YOU!

Our Maintenance Staff would like to thank all of our tenants for their assistance during this years mowing season by keeping toys and debris out of the yards. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping your yards looking nice.

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.