

THE COMMUNITY

Quarterly Newsletter of The Housing Authority of McDonough County



Juneteenth: A Celebration of Freedom

Juneteenth is celebrated every year on June 19th and marks an important moment in American history. It honors the day in 1865 when the last enslaved African Americans in Texas were finally informed they were free—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth is often celebrated with parades, music, food, and community gatherings. Families and communities come together to reflect, learn, and celebrate resilience, culture, and progress. Unlike Independence Day on July 4th, which celebrates the nation's founding and freedom from British rule, Juneteenth specifically recognizes the end of slavery in the United States and the long-delayed arrival of freedom for enslaved African Americans. It highlights that freedom was not experienced equally at the same time for everyone in the country.

More than just a holiday, Juneteenth is a reminder of how far the country has come—and how important it is to keep learning, growing, and working toward equality for all. It invites us to honor the past while celebrating hope for the future.

Important Dates:

Dates in black = Office Closed

June 19th- Juneteenth

June 21st- Father's Day

July 3rd- Office Closed

July 4th- Independence Day

September 7th- Labor Day

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A Message from the Executive Director.

You have the right to Reasonable Accommodation. A reasonable accommodation is a change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service that may be necessary for a person with a disability to have equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, including public and common use spaces.

How does it work? If you have a disability and you need accommodation in policy or practice, you may apply for reasonable accommodation with your property manager. With anything we do, there is paperwork! You must have an interview with the manager. Your disability and the need for accommodation must be verified by a medical professional who has a history with you and knows what accommodation you need to be able to use and enjoy your home.

LEASE HIGHLIGHTS:

Section 5 of your Dwelling Lease lists your responsibilities as a resident. As summer approaches, I must lead you to item (j) which reads in part "You must supervise children at all times". Kids will be kids and we want them to have fun, but they must be supervised. Children under the age of 12 may not be left alone. Allowing a child under age 7 to run around outside without adult supervision is not safe for the child. You are responsible for your children's behavior. If your child damages property or bullies another child, you will be held responsible.

Bullying is not okay at any age. Continuing through Section 5 of your Dwelling Lease, please be aware of items (s), (t), (u) and (v). These items all say the same thing. Respect your neighbors and do not fight on property, on the bus, or in the street. Every summer we issue lease termination notices for fighting. The Housing Authority of McDonough County has zero tolerance for fighting. Be the bigger person. Don't engage, walk away and report any harassment or threats to your manager.

Please remember that PETS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED before moving them into your home. This is a huge problem that we encounter. There are size and weight limits, pet deposit, vaccination and spay/neuter requirements. Even if it's a service dog or support animal; you must follow the pet policy. "Dangerous dog breeds" are only permitted on a case-by-case basis so be sure to apply for the dog and be in good standing with the veterinarian requirements before you bring it in. Your dog must always be leashed when outside your home, you must let the dog out to bathroom, and you must pick up the dog waste. If you do not pick up the waste, the Housing Authority will, at a cost of \$25.00/hour. Cat owners must refresh the litter box regularly.

Please follow the lease guidelines – supervise your children, do not fight and get permission before you bring a pet into your home. We are going to have a great summer!

Best,
Annette



Summer Reminders

- It is warm outside and more people will be out taking advantage of the beautiful weather, but please be mindful of your neighbors and the "Quiet Hours."
- Children MUST be supervised.
- Fireworks are not allowed on property.
- Fire pits are not permitted on property and are a lease violation.
- Small Pools are allowed but they must be no deeper than 1 foot and have to be emptied daily- before night fall.
- Pets must be leashed and supervised at all times while outside.
- HAMC has zero tolerance for fighting, bullying, and discrimination.

Keep Things Cool This Summer

As the weather gets warmer, we often see an increase in arguments, social media conflicts, and physical altercations. We want to remind all residents that the Housing Authority maintains a zero-tolerance policy for fighting, threats, harassment, and disruptive behavior. Fighting, encouraging fights, or posting conflicts on social media can result in lease violations and may lead to termination of housing assistance.

We encourage residents to help keep our properties safe and respectful for everyone by practicing de-escalation when tensions rise:

- Walk away before an argument becomes physical
- Avoid posting conflicts or threats on social media
- Take a moment to cool down before responding
- Speak respectfully, even when upset
- Contact management or local authorities if a situation feels unsafe

A disagreement should never turn into violence. Let's work together to create a community where everyone feels safe, respected, and comfortable at home.

Maintenance Work Orders

Recently, all Housing Authority properties underwent inspections, and many apartments required repairs that had never been reported to management or maintenance staff. While we understand some issues may seem minor, unreported maintenance problems can quickly become larger, more costly damages that affect both your apartment and neighboring units.

Per your Dwelling Lease Agreement, residents are required to promptly report needed repairs, unsafe conditions, pests, smoke detector issues, plumbing leaks, appliance problems, and any other maintenance concerns. Failure to report damages or hazardous conditions may be considered a lease violation and can result in charges for damages, repeated lease violations, or even lease termination.

Reporting maintenance concerns early helps us:

- Keep your home safe and comfortable
 - Prevent costly damage to apartments and buildings
 - Ensure units pass HUD inspections
 - Protect residents from health and safety hazards
- Please remember: if something is broken, leaking, not working properly, or creating unsafe conditions, submit a work order as soon as possible. Our maintenance team is here to help, but we can only fix problems we know about.

Thank you for helping keep our communities safe, clean, and in good condition for everyone.

Don't let the resting grump face fool you — this guy would fix the moon if you put in a work order for it.



Juneteenth at Mt. Calvary



June 13th, 2026
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
1500 E. Pierce St.
Macomb, IL 61455

Come celebrate Juneteenth with games, food, raffles, a foam party, entertainment, and community!

Free childrens haircuts are by appointment 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Macomb Bomb Dogs



Youth Tackle Football

Pee Wee: Ages 7 & 8

Batam: Ages 9 & 10

Age cut off date: July 1st, 2026

May 25th- Parent Meeting and Registration Opens

June 21st- Official workouts/training

August 1st- Official 1st day of practice

Contact for details:

(309)255-4532

(309)997-8018

(309)333-7439

Food Assistance

Salvation Army- (309) 837-4824

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10a - 1p

Loaves and Fishes

Tuesdays- 10a -12p and 2p - 4p

The Crossing Food Pantry- (309) 836-7870

Thursdays- 5p - 6p (Drive up only)

Good Food Pantry- (309) 313-2049

Tuesdays and Thursday- 1p - 5p

Health and Hope Food Pantry- (309) 883-3018

1st and 3rd Tuesdays (6p - 7p) and Saturdays (9a - 10a)



Summer Lunch Program

Prairieview Townhomes

Community Room

(Tuesdays will be served at Mt. Calvary)

June 1st - August 7th

Monday - Friday

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM



Heritage Days

Chandler Park

June 25th - June 28th

Carnival Hours:

Thursday- 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Friday- 5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Saturday- 12:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Parade-

Saturday 10:00 AM



Mobile Food Pantry

Registration- 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Distribution- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

July 24th- Praireview Townhomes

August 28th- Greenbriar Apartments



Pet Waste

Pet waste **MUST** be picked up immediatly and disposed of in a safe and sanitary way.

If maintenance is left to pick up pet waste you may face charges.



Macomb School Summer Lunch

Free Breakfast and Lunch!

(Ages 18 and under.)

June 1st - June 26th

Edison Elementary

Macomb Middle School

Lincoln School

Breakfast- 7:30am - 8:30am

Lunch- 10:30am - 12:30pm

