



NEIGHBORLY NEWS

April 2021

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

We would like to announce that we have apartments available in Bushnell and in Macomb. We offer apartments that are modern and spacious and perfect for singles, married couples, and families of all kinds. If you, or anyone you know is looking for a place to call home, or would like more information about the apartments we have available, please call us at one of the following numbers:

Prairieview Townhomes: (309)575-3057

Eisenhower Tower: (309)837-2363

Fitch Manor & Greenbriar Apartments: (309)575-3044

HAMC WEBSITE

We would like to announce that our website has been updated and is now easier than ever to use. You will now be able to see information regarding events, office updates, online bill pay, virtual tours of all of our properties, as well as forms that you can now download and print at your convenience. Please visit our website at: mcdonoughcountyhousing.org



CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The Housing Authority of McDonough County is looking for experienced artists to volunteer, design, and paint a mural on the side of one of our Prairieview Townhomes buildings, located at 425 N Prairie Ave, Macomb IL. HAMC will be providing the paint for this project.

We hope to embrace culture, diversity, and inclusion through this fun project!

If you, or anyone you know are interested, please contact Caroline Milsk by April 30th at: carolinemilsk@macomb.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Good Friday (ALL HAMC OFFICES ARE CLOSED) – Friday April 2nd

Easter– Sunday, April 4th

Prairieview Townhomes &
Section 8 Rental Assistance
425 N. Prairie Ave. Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 575-3057

WWW.MCDONOUGHCOUNTYHOUSING.ORG

Eisenhower Tower
322 W. Piper St. Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 837-2363

After-Hours Emergency Maintenance
(309) 313-1116

Fitch Manor &
Greenbriar Apartments
770 W. Hurst St. Bushnell, IL 61422
(309) 575-3044

 Follow us @HAMCDONOUGHCOUNTY



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

WOW! Where does the time go!! It is unbelievable to us that we're already into Spring! YAY for Spring! April showers bring May flowers. It's so wonderful to see the grass becoming a little bit more green every day.

At the end of this month, we will have to say goodbye to our WIU social work intern Lizzy Gonzalez. It seems she just got here! Lizzy has been a huge help to the Housing Authority as she's helped us get organized and our website is looking better than ever thanks to her hard work. Thanks, Lizzy for all you've done for us, and we wish you the very best in your social work career.

We will also say "see ya later" to our Peace Corps Fellow Samm Rymus, the editor of this tremendous newsletter! We are only saying "see ya later" to Samm because she will return to us in August as an Intern. We are happy that we will have her 40 hours a week next year. Samm will focus her time on building communities, engaging Resident Councils and area partnerships.

The Rent Moratorium that allowed renters to pay rent or not pay rent at all without any adverse consequences will be extended through Wednesday June 30th, 2021. Rent is due by on the 1st day of July, 2021 and will be considered late after the 7th day of the month. Any unpaid balance on the 8th day of the month is charged a late fee, and a termination notice for non-payment may be issued. If you have trouble paying your rent, speak with your property manager. If you have an outstanding balance due to reduced income from the pandemic, we will work with you by providing you a fair and affordable Repayment Agreement. If you would like to know more about relief information provided by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau please visit: consumerfinance.gov/housing.

It was another sad day in America when discrimination raised its ugly head against Asian Americans and 8 innocent lives were taken on March 16, 2021. The Housing Authority stands against racism and discrimination. Please contact me personally if you feel you have been discriminated against for any reason; I want to know and I want to help. My direct # is 309-575-3035.

EXCITING NEWS FOR FITCH MANOR RESIDENTS! The contract for new decks and ramps has been signed. Michael Knapp Construction won the award, and work is scheduled to begin this spring. Finally. Thanks everyone for your patience. They are going to be worth the wait!

Many other capital projects are scheduled for 2021 to continue to modernize our communities. A public hearing will be scheduled soon to share what the 2021 plans are! Happy Spring! Be Well.

Annette Carper, Executive Director

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

We believe that every child has a right to a safe childhood free of violence. April, Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, is an important time to start the conversation in our communities about how we can keep our children safe.

The first federal piece of legislation to protect children from abuse and neglect, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), was passed in 1974. In 1982, Congress took further steps toward identifying and preventing child abuse and recognized the first Child Abuse Prevention Week. Shortly after, the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month was designated in April. Since those early days, the focus on recognition and prevention has widened to include promoting healthy parenting and strong families through education and community support.

By rallying our neighbors, business, schools, friends and families, we can make a difference in the lives of children across the country. By promoting safety, awareness and dialogue, we can prevent abuse from happening in the first place and help keep our children safe.

Children rely on others to be their voice. Here are some ways we can all help to be safe adults:

- Believe children when they have told you something personal.
- Knowing hotlines and other resource information
- Letting children know that HAMC is a safe environment and they are always welcome to contact a member of HAMC staff directly to report abuse or concerns.



Resources and Hotlines:

Advocacy Network for Children: (217)617-5347

WIRC Victim Services Hotline: (309) 837-5555

WIRC: (309)837-2997

Child Abuse Hotline: (800)252-2873

National Run-A-Way Hotline: (800) 231-6946

School Violence Tip Hotline: (800)477-0024

WHAT HAS THE HAMC BEEN UP TO?

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

We had a great time serving our community and partnering with River Bend Food Bank to have our mobile food pantry at Prairieview Townhomes.

Please join us at our next mobile food pantry which will be held on July, 23rd at 10:00 A.M. at:

Greenbriar Apartments
770 W. Hurst St.
Bushnell, IL 61422



PROPERTY BULLETIN BOARDS

Each property is updating their property bulleting boards with helpful information about resources , upcoming events, and property information frequently. Keep a lookout for new flyers and information!

From the left we have **Davora Buchanan** and **Tysen Evison**(Western Illinois University Volunteers), **Prairieview Property Manager Caroline Milsk**, **Administrative Assistant Vicki Walters** , **Section 8 Director Amber Clark**, **So- cial Work Intern Lizzy Gonzalo**, **Peace Corps Fellow Samm Rymus**, and **Volunteer Jesus Quiroga**.

RESIDENT COUNCIL

The Department of Housing and Urban Development urges each Housing Authority to have a Resident Council at each community. Being a part of a Resident Council is a great way to be a part of your community and to let your voice be heard! Volunteers are needed!

The Eisenhower Tower Resident Council recently hosted a movie night, an adult coloring night will be scheduled soon, and it will time to plant gardens later this month! There will be more opportunities to learn about resident council at Prairieview this month. Be sure to check this out! We will share about resident councils in Bushnell in May.

If you are looking for a way to have your voice heard, make sure you head out to Prairieview Townhomes for an informational about resident council. The informational will be hosted outside of the Prairieview office on the following dates/ times: **Tuesday, March 30th at 10:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.**, **Thursday, April 1st at 10:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.** **Tuesday, April 6th at 10:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.** , **Thursday, April 8th at 10:30:A.M. and 2:00 P.M.**

Come be a part of your community!

HELPFUL REMINDERS AND TIPS

LEASE REMINDERS

- 1. Pet Policy (Resident Handbook Section C. 4) :** If you are a resident known for feeding stray animals (dogs, cats, etc.), you need to comply with the pet policy guidelines which include a **\$200 pet deposit**. If you are not housing an animal but still feeding it, it can cause various pests on the property and can further cause health and safety issues to our residents. Thank you for your understanding.
- 2. Child Supervision (Section X, x):** Parents and guardians are responsible for the actions of their children. If your child damages Housing Authority property or another resident property, the parent or guardian is held responsible. If your child is experiencing behavior problems due to extenuating circumstances, speak to your property manager or guidance counselor at his/her school for help for your child and parenting tips for you. **CHILDREN UNDER 12 MAY NOT BE LEFT ALONE AT HOME FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME, AND ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED WHEN OUTSIDE.** Please limit the number of toys kept outside your apartment. Throw away ones that are no longer used or broken in trash can.
- 3. Grills and Firepits (Section XVII d.13 and Resident Handbook):** Barbeque grills shall be placed away from building while in use. Coals and ashes shall be cold and disposed of properly. Never dump ashes upon the grounds. Firepits are **NOT** permitted on any property whatsoever.
- 4. Outdoor Furniture (Section X, s):** Only use furniture specifically designed for outdoor use may be used in yards and other outdoor areas
- 5. Smoking:** Smoking of any kind is prohibited in any HAMC property building. If you would like to smoke cigarettes, you need to be 25 feet away from the property as well as dispose of any related items (i.e. cigarette butts) once you are done.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

- 1. IMPORTANT:** Do not flush wipes down the toilet! **THEY ARE NOT FLUSHABLE!** They clog the drain which will cause a nasty overflow in your bathroom. And will cost you \$22/hour to clean out the drain. Our drains simply cannot handle the wipes.
- 2. REMINDER:** All trash **MUST** be thrown inside of the dumpster. This includes couches, mattresses, all trash, lamps, etc. In addition, **please make sure that your trash is not left in shopping carts and the shopping carts are put back by the dumpster once they are no longer in use.**
- 3. REMINDER:** Bikes need to be put on bike racks. **They cannot be left on sidewalks or outside of apartments.**
- 4. IMPORTANT:** Please make sure to register your bike and receive a bike tag. Registering and receiving a bike tag is free and can be done at the beginning of April at all properties by **Friday, April 23rd. If you do not claim your bike by May, 1st they will be removed.**

NEWS YOU CAN USE

BBBS PLANT SALE

For 31 years the Big Brothers Big Sisters Annual Plant Sale in early May has become an important tradition for individuals, organizations and businesses to purchase flowers and invest in youth mentoring. By pre-ordering, you can secure the variety, color, and quantity you need. All orders placed qualify for FREE delivery within 20 miles of Macomb to one designated location by May 6th. **Pre-Order Deadline: APRIL 19, 2021.** For more information and to see what plant varieties are offered, please visit their website at: bbbsmv.org or call: (563)323-8006

SECTION 8

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program will be accepting applications. Applications must be picked up at Prairieview Townhomes office and **dropped off in person with a photo ID at the Section 8 office located within the Prairieview Townhomes leasing office at 425 N. Prairie Avenue. We will be accepting applications beginning April 1st until April 30th.**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Amber Clark

Section 8 Coordinator

(309)575-3029

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

We use our Facebook page to share community news with our residents and agencies that provide assistance and JOBS! We have posted great jobs on our page recently and urge you to go check them out! We also use our Facebook page to alert residents to our special events and lease reminders. Like us and share some good news on Facebook at: Housing Authority of McDonough County.

COMCAST INTERNET

Comcast is now bringing you affordable, high-speed home internet, helping you to be connected and ready for anything. Apply today to see if you qualify for programs like the National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and others. Comcast is also offering 2 months of **FREE** Internet Essentials services for new customers. Please **Apply by 6/30/21** by visiting their website at: InternetEssentials.com or calling: (855)846-8376

TAX PREPARATION

Tax season is among us and we have some good news! Liberty tax service has announced that they will be providing 50% off of tax prep for restaurant workers! If you have any questions, please call them directly at (309)833-3330. Along with Liberty Tax, the IRS would like to remind you that if you are part of the military or a veteran, they offer resources that could benefit you. For more information visit irs.gov. Last but not least, if you are looking for a fast, easy, and free resource to do your taxes, Turbo Tax is great! Just download the Turbo Tax app right onto your phone or go to the website turbotax.com and you can do it right from the comfort of your own home. ****Tax Tip: People should be on the lookout for identity theft involving unemployment benefits.**

****Tax day for individuals has been extended this year to May, 17th and are due to be sent in by midnight May, 17th.****

MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE

WINTER WANDERINGS

Just because its cold outside doesn't mean we cant have a little fun. The Regional Office of Education is partnering with multiple local organizations to offer virtual field trips as an opportunity designed to engage local students in a zoom-based exploratory presentation that will offset those quarantine blues. They have programs available for elementary students, middle school students, as well as high school students. The session begins February 19th and will continue through May 21st. To sign up online please visit <https://www.roe26.net/winter-wanderings>. Once you have signed up, you will receive a confirmation email with the session zoom link.

WIRC: TEENS AND TEA

WIRC- CAA Victim Services is hosting a "Teens and Tea Thursdays" on Zoom every Thursday from 4 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. "Teens and Tea" is geared towards empowering youth through education and a calming environment. For registration and inquiries please call: (309)837-5555. or email Deborah@wirpc.org.

The zoom link to enter the meeting on Thursday is:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87973708043?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87973708043?pwd=WUhpPWno5enhMRnZqWGptVVdROURaUT09)
[pwd=WUhpPWno5enhMRnZqWGptVVdROURaUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87973708043?pwd=WUhpPWno5enhMRnZqWGptVVdROURaUT09)

NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

HAMC has partnered with the Peace Corps Fellows program for many years and they have chosen HAMC to be the recipient of a bench through the Macomb Beautiful Association and Green Tree Plastics. This bench has been made from 200lbs of recycled plastics! HAMC will be hosting an unveiling ceremony April 6th at Prairieview Townhomes, 425 N. Prairie Ave. The exact time will be announced soon.

REMINDER: ONLINE BILL PAY

The Housing Authority is NOW offering a new payment option for our residents. The link to pay online is www.mcdonoughhousing.org. This will direct you to GovCard online portal. Through this payment portal, residents will be able to pay rent and other charges with a debit card, credit card or with an e-check. **GovCard does charge the payer a fee to use their online portal.** Residents do not have to use the online portal. We will still accept your payment in person or through the mail. Payments in person may also be made with a debit card or credit card, and the GovCard fee would still apply.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

HAMC could like to give warm wishes to all of our residents who's Birthdays are in April! We hope you have a great Birthday!



HOW TO FILL OUT A MONEY ORDER

The HAMC understands that filling out money orders can sometimes be a little confusing and because of this we have decided to provide our residents with a helpful guide to make it easier.

1. Who you're paying: the recipient's (payee's) name

2. Address: usually *your* address (see notes)

3. Detailed info: Memo, account number, or address

4. Signature: Sign your name here when finished

Money Order

Issuer Info

\$ 100 . 00
ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS

U.S. Treasury *Account 12345*

123 Main St. Anywhere US 10111 *Jane Doe*

⑆123456789⑆ ⑆001001234⑆

- 1. Who you're paying:** Like filling out a check, you have to designate a specific recipient on each money order. Write the name of the person or organization to whom you're sending money on the line that says some variation of "Pay to" or "Pay to the order of." (example: If you are paying your rent, on this line you would write: HAMC.)
- 2. Address:** After writing the name of the recipient, add your residential address on the designated space. Some money order forms ask you to list the recipient's address as well.
- 3. Detailed Info:** Like checks, personal money orders have a line to write a note to the beneficiary. If you're sending a birthday check to your sister, write a memo like, "Happy 25th birthday." **If it's a rent check to your landlord, write your apartment number.** If you're paying a bill, include your account number so the company can credit your account accordingly.
- 4. Signature:** Once you've filled out the money order, sign it and hand it to the cashier. **Please make sure that your signature is a legible as possible so that the recipient can properly read it and apply your payment.**
- 5. Keep your receipt:** A receipt is proof that you sent the money order, which is handy if you're paying rent or other bills. You can also use the receipt to cancel a money order, like if you find out you've been scammed. If a money order is lost, the receipt will help you recoup the money and purchase a new money order.

LET'S FIGHT COVID19 TOGETHER

As Illinois continues in the 4th stage of recovery during the coronavirus pandemic, we want to remind our residents to continue to be vigilant about the health and safety of ourselves and others.

Please remember to wash your hands with soap and water often. As stated by the Center of Disease Control, 20 seconds is the proper amount of time to you should spend handwashing to properly rid of bacteria.

QUICK TIP: If you sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice while washing your hands, its equal to 20 seconds. So, get your singing voice ready!

Aside from handwashing, we continue to ask our residents to wear their masks and respect social distancing guidelines by staying 6ft. apart when possible and to only go out when absolutely necessary. Also, if you are not feeling well, we kindly ask that you stay home.

We understand that is a very different time for everyone, but we appreciate your flexibility and continued understanding.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PREVENTION



COVID VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccines are now available at Walgreens, HyVee, CVS, and MCHD. Please call these locations directly to make an appointment or download their mobile app and enter your information. Health insurance is required. The number and addresses for these locations are as follows:

- **Walgreens**– 300 E. Jackson St, Macomb (309) 837-2436
- **HyVee**- 1600 E Jackson St, Macomb (309) 837-9917
- **CVS**- 1401 E Jackson St , Macomb (309) 833-1750
- **McDonough County Health Department**- 505 E Jackson St , Macomb (309) 837– 9951