

OCTOBER 2021

THE COMMUNITY

Monthly Newsletter of The Housing Authority of McDonough County



Fire Safety Week

October 4th to October 8th is fire safety week. There are hundreds of stories nationwide of how those who were taught fire safety were able to save themselves during fire emergencies. Informed children and adults are better able to "keep their cool" when fire strikes because they know what to expect and what action to take. Equally important is educating our residents about how they can help to prevent fires and what to do if they arise. A great way to begin is to make a plan with your family of where you'll meet in case of a fire- in the parking lot? across the street? Discuss what works best for everyone. Also, HAMC provides all units with working smoke detectors. If your smoke detector is beeping or for some reason you suspect it is not working, please contact your property manager as soon as possible. We kindly ask that you do not take the batteries out of them for your safety and the safety of others. Fire safety is a team effort. Lets work together to stay safe!

Important Dates:

October 5th: Fire Safety day at Prairieview Townhomes 4pm-5pm
October 11th: All offices will be closed in observance of Columbus Day
October 28th: Trunk or Treat at Greenbriar Apartments 3:00- 4:30PM
October 29th: Trunk or Treat at Prairieview Townhomes 3:00- 4:30PM

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Staff Spotlight: Samantha (Samm) Rymus



We would like to welcome back Samm Rymus, our AmeriCorps Intern!

Samm will be helping to facilitate in the effort to build community among HAMC residents by establishing a strong resident council at Prairieview Townhomes and coordinating activities to serve and engage residents there, with secondary responsibilities to also serve residents at Greenbriar Apartments in Bushnell, and other HAMC properties, as needed. In addition, Samm will also be assisting in the effort to re-establish/strengthen relationships with partners in Macomb and Bushnell.

We encourage our residents to use Samm as a resource. She will be at Prairieview Townhomes Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8am-4pm and Greenbriar Apartments Wednesdays 10am-4pm. If you have any ideas, special skills/ strengths, or ways in which you think our community can be stronger please contact Samm at the Prairieview Office by phone at (309)575- or by visiting in person.

Fall Recipe: Sweet Potato and Black Bean Chili

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium-large sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 4 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground chipotle chile
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 ½ cups water
- 2 15-ounce cans black beans, rinsed
- 1 14-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 4 teaspoons lime juice
- ½ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Directions

- Heat oil in a crockpot over medium-high heat. Add sweet potato and onion and cook, stirring often, until the onion is beginning to soften, about 4 minutes. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin, chipotle and salt and cook, stirring constantly, for 30 seconds. Add water and bring to a simmer. Cover, reduce heat to maintain a gentle simmer and cook until the sweet potato is tender, 10 to 12 minutes.
- Add beans, tomatoes and lime juice; increase heat to high and return to a simmer, stirring often. Reduce heat and simmer until slightly reduced, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cilantro.





Trick or Treat Safety



From the candy to the costumes, Halloween is a fun-filled time for kids and parents. To help make it a trick-free treat, follow these simple safety tips.

- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Plan a trick-or-treating route in familiar neighborhoods with well-lit streets.
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. WALK and don't run from house to house.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- Be careful when you cross a street. Make sure to look in both directions and make sure that there are no cars coming. If the street has a stop light, wait until the cross walk light tells you that it is okay to cross, but still check before you cross, looking both ways.
- Choose bright costumes, and have children carry flashlights or glow sticks so they are easily visible. (Try adding reflective tape to costumes and candy bags!)
- Never, ever go into a strangers house or even ring their door for treats unless your parents are with you and say that it's okay.
- Always walk younger children to the door to receive treats.
- Be sure children do not approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless you are with them.
- Never accept rides from strangers.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them.
- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- Make sure children know your cellphone number, their home telephone number, and address in case you are separated.
- Consider giving them a cellphone so they can reach you easily.
- Teach children how to call 911 in an emergency.
- Teach children to say "NO!" in a loud voice if someone tries to get them to go somewhere, accept anything other than a treat, or leave with them.

Maintenance Notice: Greenbriar and Fitch Manor

The maintenance team will be replacing furnace filters and smoke detector batteries at both Greenbriar Apartments and Fitch Manor. on October 14th and 15th.

Lease Highlights

1. Children- Resident Obligations (Section X, (a) of your lease): 1. Not to leave any person under age 18 unsupervised for a period more than 10 hours. 2. Not to leave any person under age 12 unsupervised for any period of time.

2. Vandalism- Resident Obligations (Section X, (n) of your lease): To refrain from acts of destruction, defacement or removal of any part of the premises, and to cause guests to refrain from such acts. Repeated or excessive damages to the unit beyond normal wear and tear will be considered a serious or repeated violation of the lease.

3. Pest Control- Resident Obligations (Section X, (p) of your lease): To cooperate with PHA staff and/or PHA's Licensed Professional Pest Control Representatives, with the extermination process of any insect infestation inside the dwelling unit. **Please note that pest control is COMPLETELY free and is of no cost to the tenant. **

4. Garbage- (Section X, (t) of your lease): To dispose of all garbage, rubbish, and other waste from the dwelling unit in a sanitary and safe manner. To refrain from, and prevent household members and guests from, littering or leaving trash and debris in common areas. Trash removal by HA staff will result in resides being fined \$25.00 for each piece of trash removed from their residency designated area.

Trunk or Treat!

Fall has arrived and you know what that means, HALLOWEEN! HAMC will be hosting Trunk or Treat at Prairieview Townhomes and Greenbriar Apartments October 28th and 29th from 3:00 PM to 4:30PM. We will be passing out candy, have spooky trunks for display, and some fun games for the kiddos! We look forward to seeing all of your great costumes, see you there!

****As a reminder, we will be practicing social distancing and we ask that you please wear a mask if you would like to participate.****

Updated Barred List

- Ernest Clark
- Charles Daugherty
- Autumn Ponder
- Jakayla Stevenson
- Danielle Starks

HAMC's Instagram!

HAMC now has an instagram! For the latest updates about HAMC happenings and information, please follow us at:
@hamcwelcomehome or follow this link:
<https://www.instagram.com/hamcwelcomehome/>

What has HAMC been up to?

Food Pantry at Prairieview Townhomes, Eisenhower Tower Gazebo,



Kevan Robins and Steve Rapata flashing us their big smiles in front of the Eisenhower Tower Gazebo. Thanks for all your help this summer with the gardens!



Thanks WIU for volunteering at the Food Pantry



Mobile Food Truck at Prairieview Townhomes.