Much has happened since our Winter Newsletter! As we play ‘catch up’ in this Spring/Summer 2019 issue we want to share with you some very important information. Here are a few things we want to make sure that you are aware of as we near the close of the summer months!

**Safety/Security**

Your safety is important to the Peoria Housing Authority. As such, we would like to welcome to the PHA team Daniel Duncan our new Security Administrator. Undoubtedly you will see Officer Duncan around PHA properties along with private security service, please say hi and welcome him. Here are a few additional safety measures that you will begin to see at some of our properties as we move towards closing out 2019 and look towards 2020:

- Increased lighting
- Installation of high-resolution camera systems
- Improved traffic patterns within developments
- Improved security fencing

In our effort to better serve you, please feel free to contact Officer Duncan with your Security concerns, his cell phone number is provided later in this issue.

**Community Collaborations**

On August 5, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. we will host a ribbon cutting and open house at our Resource Center -- 2715 W. Montana, Unit #72 located within Harrison Homes. We look forward to developing new community partnerships and renewing partnerships with social services and other community resources that will benefit you and your family. Please stop by and say hello and talk with some of our partners.

**Taft Redevelopment**

The Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved Bear Development a Wisconsin based development firm, to partner with the PHA as it begins the journey of redevelopment. There are many partnership meetings ahead with our families, community members, City Officials, HUD Officials, Investors, etc. that will take place. As we turn our attention to redevelopment, we will do our very best to ensure we are communicating through various mechanisms inclusive of our quarterly newsletter. Please stay tuned, we are very excited about the possibilities.

**Agency Operations**

We are diligently working to improve who we are and working hard for you our families. Although we are accomplishing a lot, there is so much more yet to be done. Someone once said to me, how do you eat an elephant? I said how? Their response. . . . .one bite at a time!! Please be patient with us as we strive to transform the PHA from the inside/out and the outside/in!!
Stay Cool:

Summer’s warm weather can be deadly. Some people are more at risk of developing a heat-related illness, including adults age 65 and older, those with chronic medical conditions, people who work outside, infants and children and athletes.

You will likely hear weather forecasters use these terms when a heat wave is predicted in your community:
- **Excessive Heat Watch** - Conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event to meet or exceed local Excessive Heat Warning criteria in the next 24 to 72 hours.
- **Heat Advisory** - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days (daytime highs= 100-105°F Fahrenheit).
- **Excessive Heat Warning** - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for at least 2 days (daytime highs= 105-110°F Fahrenheit).

**TEN HEAT SAFETY TIPS:**
1. **Hot cars can be deadly. Never leave children or pets in your vehicle.** The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach 120 degrees.
2. **Stay hydrated** by drinking plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.
3. **Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning,** who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.
4. If someone doesn’t have air conditioning, they should **seek relief from the heat** during the warmest part of the day in places like schools, libraries, theaters, malls, etc.
5. **Avoid extreme temperature changes.**
6. **Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing.** Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.
7. Slow down, stay indoors and **avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.**
8. **Postpone outdoor games and activities.**
9. **Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat.** Take frequent breaks if working outdoors.
10. **Check on animals frequently** to ensure that they are not suffering from the heat. Make sure they have plenty of cool water.

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**How to prevent bed bugs:**
- Check secondhand furniture, for any signs of bed bug infestation before bringing them home.
- Use a protective cover that encases mattresses and box springs.
- Reduce clutter in your home and Vacuum frequently.
- Be vigilant when using shared laundry facilities. Transport items to be washed in plastic bags. Remove from dryer directly into bag and fold at home. (A dryer on high heat can kill bed bugs.)
- If you live in a multi-family home, try to isolate your unit by:
  - Installing door sweeps on the bottom of doors to discourage movement into hallways.
  - Cover your power outlets with plugs.

**Signs of an infestation:**
Shed skins, fecal matter, blood, eggs, nymphs and live adult insects. Bed bug bites resemble the picture below. **REPORT IT ASAP TO YOUR ASSET MANAGER.** (All reports are kept confidential)

**PHA Locations:**

**MAIN OFFICE**
100 S. Richard Pryor Pl.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 676-8736

**Harrison Homes**
2610 W. Krause
Peoria, IL 61605
**Asset Manager:** Molly Chapman Aiken
676-8736 X 14106
**Assistant Asset Manager:** Meghan Berrard
676-8736 X 14076

**Tauf Homes**
245 Green St.
Peoria, IL 61603
**Asset Manager:** Jimmy Garry
676-8736 X 17330
**Assistant Asset Manager:** Vacant
676-8736 X 14076

**Sterling Towers & Scattered Sites**
2601 W. Reservoir Blvd.
Peoria, IL 61615
**Asset Manager:** Tracy Kammerer
676-8736 X 17335
**Assistant Asset Manager:** Echoe Villarreal
676-8736 X 14092

**F.Y.I:**
Bedbugs can be picked up at most any public place that has cloth seating such as movie theaters, doctors’ offices etc. It can also spread by close proximity such as a crowded elevator, a bus etc. Some at home remedies: Windex, Rubbing Alcohol, Hairspray will kill bedbugs. If you purchase something new for your home be sure to spray it prior to bringing it inside. After guests have left your home be sure to spray the places your guests may have been sitting.
FSS - Family Self-Sufficiency

Serving Families in HCV and Public Housing:

Our FSS Coordinators are located at the PHA main building. The FSS program is a five-year program in which residents enter into a contract of participation which outlines their responsibilities towards completion of training and employment objectives.

Participating families are expected to become independent from welfare assistance for at least one year prior to the end of their contract. During the period of participation, residents may earn an escrow credit, based on increased earned income, which they may use in a variety of ways upon successful graduation from the program.

Main Focus:
- Increase earned income
- Resident empowerment activities,
- Assistance in becoming economically self-sufficient
- Access to employment providers, schools, day care programs, and community resources.

Income Change Requests
Accepted the first 10 business days of each month. If you miss that 10-day deadline your change will need to be submitted during the following month’s submission period. Should you have additional questions please contact your assigned Leasing Specialist.

SMOKE DETECTORS
Please remember to keep your Smoke/CO2 detectors installed! HUD requires these detectors be installed; it is part of the City Code and could save your life!
How to Properly Fill out a Money Order

Follow these 5 steps

It’s easy to learn how to write a money order, but it’s essential that you do it right. By following these five steps, you can complete a money order correctly and make sure your funds are delivered to the right person or business.

1. Fill in the recipient’s name
Write the name of the person or business that will receive the money order on the line that starts with “Pay to the Order Of.” The recipient will be the only person or company authorized to deposit or cash the money order. It’s a good idea to fill out this section as soon as possible to make sure it doesn’t fall into the wrong hands.

2. Write your address in the purchaser section
You’re the purchaser, so your information goes in this section. You’ll want the recipient to know how to contact you if there are questions or issues with the payment.

3. Include your account number if you’re paying a bill
Some money orders have a “payment for/account number” field. Filling it out helps make sure your account is credited for the payment.

4. Sign the bottom where it says ‘purchaser’s signature’
Your signature is important here, because it makes the money order official. Don’t sign the back. That area is for the person who receives it.

5. Keep your receipt
This is your proof of payment. Store your receipt in a safe place, in case there’s a problem later.

Unlike writing a check from a personal bank account or handing over cash, a money order gives you proof of payment and assures the recipient that the funds are guaranteed.

Common mistakes that people associate with when making payments:
1. Signing the back of the money order or check. This is the area for the recipient to sign to accept it.
2. Putting the wrong name in the “Pay to the order of” section. Often times, people will put their own name in this section. For payments made to the Peoria Housing Authority, you can write “PHA” or “Peoria Housing Authority.” When it comes to checks, it cannot be corrected by crossing it out and writing in a new recipient.
3. A similar mistake that is similar to the above mentioned is that tenants will write the area of where they live such as Harrison or Taft.
4. Please make sure to fill in your address and signature in the proper lines. There are many cases where these will get flip-flopped.
5. Leaving the money order blank. Be sure to fill out each line. Also, it would be best to place it in some sort of envelope. This protects it from being torn or getting wet. If the money order is damaged it may not be able to be accepted.
6. Writing legibly. If we can’t figure out who is making the payments, we can’t apply it to the correct account. This is for both the envelope and money order/check.
7. Going to extremes to secure a payment in an envelope. Basically, please don’t use excessive tape. While trying to open the envelope we may tear your payment accidently.
Accepting Applications for Housing Choice Vouchers:

The PHA Staff would like to thank all of you that have shown interest in the Housing Choice Voucher Program – Section 8(HCV). We would like to provide you with additional information regarding your application submission process. On Monday, April 29, 2019 the HCV Waitlist officially opened.

Only applicants with completed applications will be serviced. A completed application is one that has been filled out with all required information and signatures along with documentation that supports the information listed on the application.

Unfortunately, if the application is incomplete, we will not be able to service you and you will need to come on another day to submit your complete application.

We will accept completed applications Tuesday’s and Thursday’s on a first come first serve basis between the business hours of 8:30am-4:00pm until the waitlist reaches capacity.

We are elated at the opportunity to assist families in the Peoria County Community with affordable housing assistance and the resources to aid them with attaining self-sufficiency.

Pick-up an application
Monday – Friday 8am-5pm
at 100 S. Richard Pryor Place, Peoria

Who’s Who in HCV:

HCV DIRECTOR:
Aldisa Jordan: ext. 17321

HCV SUPERVISOR:
Shane Parker: ext. 14050

ELIGIBILITY CLERK:
Jasmine Ivory: ext. 14053

LEASING SPECIALISTS:
Krisana Dixon (A-F): ext. 14038
Skyy Bailey (G-Mi): ext. 14051
Tonya Pollard (Mo-T): ext. 14054
Denise Vaughn (U-Z): ext. 14044
(Including Ports, VASH, NED, WOO PBV Homeownership)

HQS INSPECTORS:
Lysandra Foreman: ext. 14052
Alvin Hughes: ext. 14035

WELCOME:
NEW – Security Administrator

The Peoria Housing Authority would like to welcome its new Security Administrator Officer Daniel Duncan as the new PHA Security Administrator. Officer Duncan has over 20 years of experience working for the Peoria Police Department and has worked with the PHA’s Security Services over the years.

Officer Duncan grew up in Peoria and is a former resident of Peoria’s Southside. Officer Duncan indicates: “I look forward to working more closely with all families, as we strive to continue creating a safe and family friendly neighborhood”.

Please welcome Officer Duncan when you see him around the community and feel free to contact Officer Duncan if you have concerns. He can be reached at: 309-687-0129.
Back to School Fest 2019
New Beginnings Worship Center
1910 W. Lincoln Ave, Peoria Illinois 61605

August 3rd, 11am - 4pm

Come out for free physicals, dental exams, wellness checks, petting zoo, moon jump, mobile library, concert, school supplies, prizes, bike give away, and more!
OSF Care-A-Van will be on site. No Shots will be given on site.

District 150-Peoria Public School District
Medical & Registration HUB Days
July 25th 9:00am – 6:00pm
August 7th 9:00am – 6:00pm
August 10th 9:00am – 3:00pm
Held @ Harrison & Peoria High School

Heartland Health Services
Walk-In Hours for School Physicals & Vaccinations
July 22nd – August 30th
East Bluff – 2321 N. Wisconsin Ave., Monday – Thursday, 8:00am – 7:30pm, Friday 8:00am – 4:30 pm
Garden – 1701 W. Garden St., Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

Health Physicals & Immunizations are required for students entering Pre-K, K, 6th, 9th & 12th grade.

Watch for more Information:

National Night Out Against Crime
Tuesday, August 6, 2019.
This is the 36th annual nationwide event.

INSPECTIONS:
✓ HCV Program Participants are required to remain compliant with the Annual HQS Inspection Guidelines and Requirements.
✓ HUD mandates that our Housing Authority inspect all homes on our program at least once annually.
✓ It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure that someone (18+) is home to allow our inspectors access to the unit.
✓ Failure to comply with the inspection appointment(s) could lead to termination from the HCV Program.
✓ Should the date and time not work with your schedule please contact the Inspector listed on the letter you receive quickly to reschedule.
✓ PHA will continue to conduct Annual Inspections.
Peoria Housing Authority has a new Logo

Along with the new updates to our office and the strides we are taking to move our residents toward self-sufficiency, we have officially launched our new logo and motto:

Peoria Housing Authority
Moving Families Forward

REMINDER

Rent is due no later than the 5th of the month. Rent is accepted between 8:30am-4:30pm at the Tenant Accounts Receivable (TAR) window inside the Admin office. Payments received after the 5th of the month will only be accepted if they include the $50 late fee. If you are having trouble paying your rent speak with your Asset Manager immediately.

Rent can be paid by:
- Mail to the Admin office:
  100 S. Richard Pryor Pl. Peoria IL, 61605
- Drop Box at the Admin office
- Drop Box at your property

No partial Payments will be accepted. Acceptable methods of payment are Check or Money Order.

We can all do our part in keeping our neighborhood clean.
Litter brings rodents, bugs and diseases.

Pick up after your pets
Keep your lawn mowed and free from weeds

Remember our future leaders are watching.
Be the change you want to see in your neighborhood.

Calling 211 connects you to services including:
- Food
- Utility Assistance
- Health Services
- Job Training
- Childcare
- Afterschool Programs

www.211hoo.org
Congratulations Creshonda Davis

Creshonda Davis, a resident of Peoria Housing Authority, has been selected as an official recipient of HAI Group's 2019 Resident Scholarship. A $6,000 scholarship award has been sent to Illinois Central College, where Creshonda will be attending classes in the fall of 2019. www.housingcenter.com/scholarships

You're Invited:

Peoria Housing Authority Board Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. at Taft Resource Center
Tuesday, September 3, 2019 @ 4:30 p.m. at Sterling Towers

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Join us in Celebrating the Grand Opening of Harrison Homes Resource Center
2715 W. Montana, Unit #72, Peoria, IL 61605
Monday, August 05 @ 12:00pm

HOLIDAYS: Offices Closed - Monday, September 02, 2019 – in observation of Labor Day

Please welcome our newest PHA employees:
Antionette Riley – Accounting Clerk A
Jason Pierce – Director of Modernization & Development

We’re on the Web! Visit us at: www.peoriahousing.org

Peoria Housing Authority
100 S. Richard Pryor Place
Peoria, IL 61605