# Peoria Housing Authority

# Moving Families Forward

AROUND THE HE ME FRONT Spring 2022 Newsletter



#### Pages 1-4

Providence Pointe Groundbreaking • CEO Letters • PHA Announcements and Reminders



#### Pages 5-9

Resident Safety • National Poetry, Bike & Homeownership Month • Bike Raffle! • Partner Spotlights: Tri-County Urban League and Illinois Central College



#### Pages 10-13

Community Happenings • Play It Safe • 2-1-1 Resource Line • Spring Weather Safety: Tornado and Flood Season



#### Pages 14-16

Kids Corner: Color Sheet • Word Scramble • Word Search • Butterfly Maze • PHA Holiday Observances

# OUR MISSION...

The Peoria Housing Authority is committed to providing affordable housing opportunities for all citizens living in Central Illinois. Through the development of strong partnerships with current residents and community agencies, PHA seeks to develop new housing, along with social and educational programs that enhance the quality of life for our residents.



Pictured, L to R: Director Jackie L. Newman, Teresa Jones, & Deputy Director Melissa Huffstedtler



### PROVIDENCE POINTE GROUNDBREAKING

Originally constructed in 1952 to serve as temporary housing for veterans of the Korean War, the Taft Homes has served as an affordable housing option and as a community hub for many families in Peoria. For over twelve years PHA has pursued redevelopment discussions of Taft Homes, and we are very excited to announce that construction for the newly named Providence Pointe is now underway! The \$43 million redevelopment project features modern, quality, affordable housing for area families, with 142 brand new rental units, two community centers, a playground area, and green space.

Although some families relocated to alternate locations during the redevelopment, many families remain on site. Once construction is complete, on-site families will transition into the new homes. The first phase of homes are expected to be ready by January 2023!





## **SPRING: A TIME FOR RENEWAL**

Spring is known to be a season of renewal, hope and transition. From the return of fresh blooms, to the spark of liveliness felt as we transition from winter's season of rest—it is a natural invitation to make room for new beginnings. As I consider my time with PHA, I'm reminded of the wonderful opportunities I've had to share in new seasons of growth and renewal with PHA families, staff, and the Peoria community. Upon the request of the PHA Board of Commissioners and encouragement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in April 2018, my team and I came from Springfield Housing Authority to assist PHA to stabilize operations, move the agency from HUD's "Troubled Status" list and get Taft redeveloped. Over our four years we worked diligently to accomplish that, and have partnered with PHA employees, the City of Peoria and the PHA Board to continue Moving Families Forward in so many ways. One of our greatest accomplishments is successfully securing funding for the demolition of Taft Homes and the new construction of the future Providence Pointe.

We have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve the community of Peoria, add value, and make a difference not only in agency operations but in the lives of families. Just as mother nature has transitioned us from Winter to Spring, it is also time for my team and I to transition out as we make room for new beginnings!

I am very delighted to share with you that the PHA Board of Commissioners has completed their CEO search and that Ms. Armeca N. Crawford has been named Chief Executive Officer for the Peoria Housing Authority! Ms. Crawford joins us from Detroit, MI where she most recently served as Chief Operating Officer of Real Estate Management for the Detroit Housing Commission. She brings with her a wealth of experience in executive-level real estate operations, property and asset management, community engagement, financial operations and program compliance. She is eager to meet with residents and will be making her rounds of introduction as she settles into the position.

On behalf of myself and my team from the Springfield Housing Authority, thank you Peoria for having us! My team and I will continue to provide management services to PHA through the end of June, in support of the training and CEO transition process. We will always be a call and highway stretch away! A piece of Peoria will forever be in our hearts.

Regards,

#### Dr. Jackie L. Newman

Chief Executive Officer, Springfield Housing Authority

## WELCOME DIRECTOR ARMECA N. CRAWFORD





Thank you for extending the opportunity to serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Peoria Housing Authority (PHA). As I take time to transition into PHA as your new CEO, I would like to first acknowledge Dr. Jackie Newman for her hard work and dedication over the last several years. Serving as director for two of Illinois' largest housing authorities is no simple task, yet Dr. Newman has reignited a synergy at PHA that allows us to continue moving forward. On behalf of all of us here, we send tremendous gratitude to Dr. Newman and her team!

As your CEO, my goal is to positively impact the Peoria community through strong partnerships and implementation of thoughtful programs that will enrich the lives of our residents and the community that we serve. I look forward to working with the Board of Commissioners, and forming a collaborative effort to advocate for access to suitable affordable housing options.

I want to hear from you!

As your CEO, I'm interested in establishing PHA as a place where residents feel free to give their feedback and suggestions.

So, as I tour communities to familiarize myself with residents and sites, which I will do so routinely—please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and to share any concerns, feedback or input you may have. You may also communicate with my office directly, at 309-676-8736, ext. 17306, or email <a href="mailto:execadmin@pha.peoria.il.us">execadmin@pha.peoria.il.us</a>.

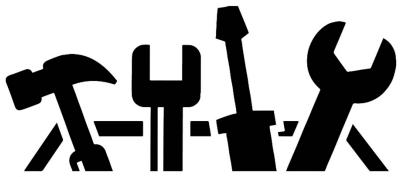
I greatly look forward to serving you, building positive partnerships within the PHA community and the city of Peoria, in our dedicated mission of moving families forward!

Most Sincerely,

**Armeca N. Crawford**Chief Executive Officer, Peoria Housing Authority







For All Maintenance Work Orders 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week

**Work Order Call Center** 

(309) 213-2418

# FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

**PROGRAM** 

### Achieve Success With FSS

For more info, call us at: 309-676-8736

# Some of the Services Offered Through the Family Self-Sufficiency Program:

- Set Goals Toward a Better Future
- Education Assistance
- · Employment Training
- Connecting you to Employment Services
- Activate an Escrow Account
- Credit Counseling
- Become a Homeowner
- Become Independent of Public Assistance

## What is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)?

The FSS Program is designed to assist families in making the transition from public assistance to gainful employment and economic self-sufficiency. This program is a 5-year commitment that will connect you to resources and provide support as you move toward personal goal accomplishments. The resources available can assist FSS Participants in obtaining opportunities for education, job training, counseling and other forms of social assistance that leads to gaining and maintaining economic self-sufficiency.

PHA is currently accepting applications for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program and the Mainstream Voucher Program. The Mainstream Program provides vouchers to families that have a disabled family member, age

For more info, visit www.peoriahousing.org/hcv.aspx

18-62, who is not the head of household.

### RESIDENT SAFETY



## A Message from PHA...

As we all prepare for upcoming holiday celebrations, PHA asks all residents for your partnership in ensuring safety for yourselves, your family, and invited guests! Please note that in support of safety procedures, PHA and local law enforcement will be more visible and will offer more security patrols during holiday festivities.

There will be a "zero tolerance" policy for activity that violates any lease agreements, including but not limited to participating in illegal fireworks and the open consumption of alcohol and drugs on PHA premises.

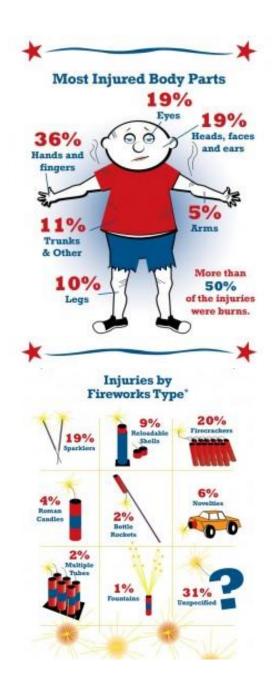
Let's look out for one another and help keep our families and neighborhoods safe! Be on the lookout for more safety information from PHA as holiday dates approach.

On average, approximately 230 people go to the emergency room every day between June 21 - July 21 with fireworks-related injuries. In 2020, reports showed a 56% increase in injuries, reflecting the highest estimate in more than 15 years.

Residents are urged to follow the below safety tips and are reminded to maintain a working smoke alarm, along with a home safety plan in case of fire or other emergency.

- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never allow children to handle or light any fireworks.
- Though viewed by many as a safer alternative, sparklers can heat up anywhere from 1,800 to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit-hot enough to melt some metals.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.
- To prevent a trash fire, douse used fireworks in water before throwing away.
- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. Never relight a "dud" firework or stand over it to investigate. Soak in water and throw it away.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- If you have to light the wick of a firework and it either explodes or shoots in the air, it's probably illegal to use in the City of Peoria (this includes sky rockets, bottle rockets, buzz bombs, sky lanterns and Roman candles).
- The fine for using illegal fireworks in the City of Peoria is \$250.

The best way to protect your family is to not use any fireworks at home. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals. For information on local fireworks events and activities, visit: www.peoriaparks.org/event/3rd-of-july and www.redwhiteandboom.us



### FEATURED MONTHLY OBSERVANCES: APRL – JUNE 2022





April is National Poetry Month—an opportunity to collectively celebrate the joy, expressiveness and melody of poetry! There are multiple forms of poetry, but the beauty of expressing your emotions through this artform is that it is yours to create and appreciate, whenever and however your spirit moves!

In honor of national poetry month, we're featuring the work of Angela Jackson, appointed State of Illinois Poet Laureate.

#### "The Trick Is Not to Think: On the Art of Ballooning (for Dfaye)"

The trick is not to think.

It is in the body (some light you let go --

then ride).

The trick is not to think.

Could it be the heart can breathe and drag you on its breath

as far as love can go?

Could it be the heart can breathe?

Don't think.

Could it be you could hold the heart's breath?

Don't think.

Could it be you could let the heart's breath go --

then follow? Oh, grabbing, grabbing hold. Whatever is

traveling,

surging away!

Could it be you could cast off in blue sky

over blue water

and come upon a ship far at sea

you are at sea

but you be anyway?

Could it be you arrive far afield. Gleefully.

In a cradle.

In your own backyard.

Could it be life took you for a ride?

Could it be you let your conscience be

your guide?

Or not. (Just the heart.)

And wind up where you are.

The trick is not to think up scenes you've left behind.

Not to hold what stays

down.

Just leap out on a dream, an air of savoir faire

that leaps from inside you

and carries you, wondrous, buoyant,

to the place you are you anew, oh! traveler,

traveling magic show

let go all old sorrow

away, away we go!



Movement is essential to the soul! Whether it be biking, walking, dancing or even stretching, movement provides many benefits—from good circulation, proper digestion, and strengthened muscles, to improved concentration, better sleep, and overall mental well-being, plus more!

For National Bike Month, why not challenge your family to get on the move by biking? It's a fun family activity that provides good exercise, allows you to enjoy 'outside,' and can help reduce your gas costs while still getting you from point-A to point-B!

Be sure to check out the Illinois Bicycle Rules of the Road guide for help in keeping you safe: www.bit.ly/ILBRR.

If you'd like to go someplace safe for kids to practice and learn rules of the road, Peoria Park District's Bicycle Safety Town is free and open to the public daily, from dawn to dusk. For more details, visit: www.bit.ly/ppdbst.

BONUS! Courtesy of Peoria Walmart Supercenter-Allen Road, PHA will be raffling a bike + helmet in celebration of National Bike Month. Enter the raffle for your chance to win: www.bit.ly/3v3lb92

The raffle is open to all PHA residents!

### PHA'S HCV HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM



National
Homeownership
Month

If owning your own home is a dream for you and your family, we encourage you to sign-up for PHA's HCV Homeownership Program! Available to anyone with a Section 8 voucher, this program helps to prepare you for the journey to homeownership through a 6-week planning course, including guidance around credit repair, choosing a lender, budgeting, and the home purchase process. Upon course completion, you are able to pick and purchase your own home anywhere in Peoria County and can receive assistance in paying off your home for up to 15 years!

#### **Eligibility Requirements Include:**

- Must be in good account standing with Peoria Housing Authority
- Must be a first-time home buyer or haven't owned a home in the past 3yrs
- Minimum annual gross income of \$15,000 or income from SSI or SS (no minimum income required for persons with disability or for age 62+)
- Attend each of the six (6) Road to Homeownership classes
- Meet a minimum credit score of 640 before meeting with the bank/lender

To sign-up, or for questions about the program, contact us at 309-676-8736, ext. 14104, or email: <a href="mailto:vblack@pha.peoria.il.us">vblack@pha.peoria.il.us</a>



#### PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TRI-COUNTY PEORIA URBAN LEAGUE

#### **Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.**

Established in 1965, the mission of Tri-County Urban League, Inc. is to advance the regional economy and quality of life in Central Illinois by promoting education and improving the employability skills, self-sufficiency, and social well-being of African-Americans and people in need.

The Urban League delivers a variety of programs and services to area residents, including specialized educational services, counseling programs, employment assistance, advocacy, and community support services. Over 5,000 people receive support annually, in areas of:

#### **Programs For Youth**

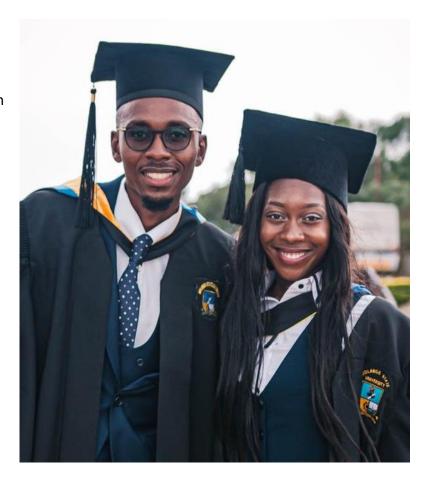
- Mentoring, In School & After School
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Programming
- Youth Empowerment Program
- Career Exploration
- College Application and Essay Support

#### Job Readiness:

- Resume and Application Assistance
- Interview Training
- Local Union Collaboration
- Entrepreneurship Workshops
- Apprenticeships

#### **Programs for Adults:**

- Financial Literacy, Budgeting and Credit Repair
- Re-Entry Resources
- Women's Empowerment Program
- Men's Empowerment Program



#### **Education:**

- Daycare, 6 weeks 5 years old
- Tutoring, Grades K-12
- Adult Tutoring
- Literacy Program for All
- GED Tutoring & Classes

#### **Additional Services:**

- Foodbank
- Transportation Support
- COVID Relief
- Women's Closet & Men's Closet



**Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.** 

## Sign Up for Services: www.tcpul.com/intake

Tri-County Urban League
317 S. MacArthur Highway, Peoria, IL 61605
Email: uleague1@tcpul.com | Phone: 309-673-7474

Web: www.tcpul.com

# Summer & Fall 2022

Looking to jumpstart or make a change in careers? Illinois Central College Workforce Development has grant-funded programs available that will cover the cost of your tuition and books, as well as provide retention stipend and certification for you to excel in our local workforce! Certificate programs with available grant-funding include:



# Certified Nurses Aid (CNA) Program

Nursing assistants help registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) with providing patient care. As a nurse assistant, you may work in a hospital, long-term care facility, or other care agency. Grant funding will pay the total student program costs (tuition, books, fees, uniforms, exams, and supplies). Visit: icc.edu/cna-career-pathways-grant-program

# Highway Construction Careers Training Program

The goal of the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) is to increase the number of minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals working in the construction trades. The program offers Math for the Trades, Job Readiness Training and Technical Skills Training. For more info, visit: icc.edu/highway-careers

# Workforce Equity Initiative Programs

This initiative addresses high-demand careers and focuses on developing our areas's workforce by providing participants with a credential and a living wage. Grant programs include: CNC Machine Operator, EMT, HVAC Residential Installer, LAN Technician, and Production Welder.

Visit: icc.edu/wei

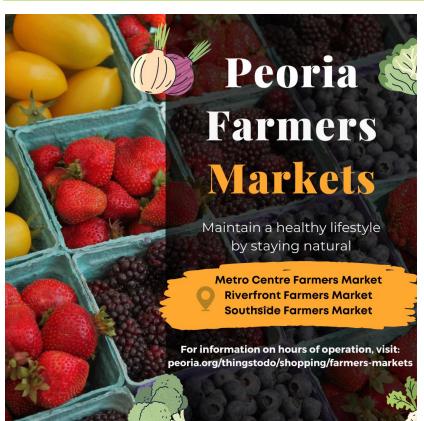
# Readiness/Bridge Classes

In addition to ICC's certificate programs, the Workforce Equity Initiative is offering select Readiness/Bridge classes starting in June 2022 to help you prepare for classroom studies! Students will be paid a \$1,200 retention stipend for successful participation in Readiness classes. Visit: icc.edu/wei

# **ICC Career Services**

Interested to go back to school but not sure about a program? Reach out to ICC's Career Services to explore the possibilities! Visit: icc.edu/around-campus/career-services

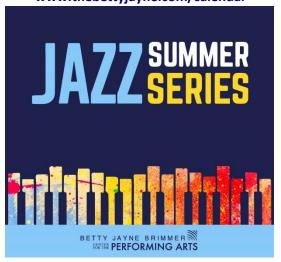
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM @ ICC phone: 309-690-7600 | email: wei@icc.edu | web: icc.edu/wei













# SUNSET

June 10th | 5:30 - 8:00 PM





SUMMER OF STAR ON THE GIANT SCREEN!







July 4th | Peoria & East Peoria Riverfront redwhiteandboom.us



Thursday July 14

Sing 2 @ Cassidy Park

**Thursday July 28** 

Angels in the Outfield @ Stadium Park

Tuesday August 2 Clifford @Proctor Ctr

Friday August 19 Jumanji @Franciscan Pk

For more info:

Peoriaparks.org/movie-in-the-park



Don't risk losing your health insurance. To keep your insurance, Illinois Medicaid needs to be able to send you paperwork. Give them an address where mail can always reach you.





# Yoga in the Park Namaste Fit all Summer!

FREE • Saturday mornings, May-Sept peoriaparks.org/event/yoga-in-the-park



### WHETHER A COLD OR COVID - LET'S PLAY IT SAFE!



Is it cold, flu, allergies, or Corona?? By now, most of us have either wondered this for ourselves, a family member, or someone sneezing or coughing a little too close to us at the checkout line! With so many similarities between these illnesses, it can be difficult to know exactly which one is the culprit at the onset of symptoms. It's important that as we continue to push through this panoramic pandemic together, that we take proper precautions to keep ourselves and others healthy by playing it safe! At the onset of any symptoms:

- Rule out COVID-19 by taking an at-home COVID test (order free tests @ www.covid.gov/tests to have on-hand when illness strikes), or visit a local testing center (www.pcchd.org)
- Stay home to get as much rest as you can; isolate yourself from household members, where possible
- Wear a mask if you have to go out—this will protect your immune system from further exposures and help protect others
- Cover coughs and sneezes; wash your hands often; and clean high-touch surfaces everyday
- Don't chance it with "it's probably just (such and such)"—especially at the onset of symptoms. Keep distance from others and mask up to play it safe.

| SYMPTOMS               | COVID-19                                  | COLD                | FLU                                      | ALLERGIES |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|--|-----------|
| Fever                  | Common<br>(measured at<br>100F or Higher) | Rare                | High<br>(100-102F),<br>can last 3-4 days | No        |
| Headache               | Sometimes                                 | Rare                | Intense                                  | Sometimes |
| Extreme Exhaustion     | Sometimes<br>(progresses slowly)          | No                  | Common<br>(starts early)                 | No        |
| General<br>Aches/Pains | Sometimes                                 | Slight              | Common often severe                      | No        |
| Fatigue,<br>Weakness   | Sometimes                                 | Slight              | Common often severe                      | Sometimes |
| Stuffy nose            | Rare                                      | Common              | Sometimes                                | Common    |
| Sneezing               | Rare                                      | Common              | Sometimes                                | Common    |
| Sore Throat            | Rare                                      | Common              | Common                                   | No        |
| Cough                  | Common                                    | Mild to<br>Moderate | Common can become severe                 | Sometimes |
| Shortness of Breath    | In more<br>serious infections             | Rare                | Rare                                     | Common    |
| Runny Nose             | Rare                                      | Common              | Sometimes                                | Common    |
| Diarrhea               | Sometimes                                 | No                  | Sometimes                                | No        |

Chart Source: www.ololrmc.com

Are you in need of assistance with food, utilities, transportation, education, healthcare, or other local resources?



2-1-1's trained community specialists are available to help you access local resources and services to address any need. Call 2-1-1 or 309-999-4029, or visit online www.211hoi.org.



# TORNADO SAFETY

TORNADOES COME FROM THE ENERGY
RELEASED IN A THUNDERSTORM, AND ARE
DEFINED AS A VIOLENTLY ROTATING
COLUMN OF AIR EXTENDING FROM
THE BASE OF A THUNDERSTORM
DOWN TO THE GROUND



In Illinois, nearly 80% of all tornadoes occur from April 1 - June 30, with half occurring between 3pm and 7pm. In a typical year, Illinois averages approximately 50 tornadoes.

## **DURATION**



Tornadoes can last from a few seconds to more than an hour. Most tornadoes last less than 10 minutes.

## **SPEED**

The damage from tornadoes comes from the strong winds they contain and the flying debris they create. Movement can range from almost stationary to up to 300 mph in the most violent tornadoes. A typical tornado travels at around 10-20 mph.



## ----

vs.

- Be prepared, weather conditions could lead to a tornado
- Check for weather updates
- Monitor sky conditions
- Know where to take shelter should a tornado develop

# KNOW THE SIGNS



Some tornadoes may occur without a siren warning. Take notice to these signs of an approaching tornado:

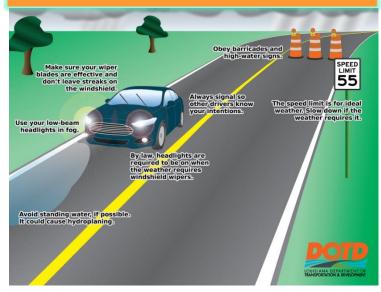
- Changes in the sky's color, especially bright, bluegreenish to white flashes
- Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base
- Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base
- Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift
- Loud, continuous roar or rumble; a loud rushing or whistling sound

## WARNING

- Take action! a tornado has been spotted or detected by radar
- · Take shelter immediately
- Go to a safe location away from windows on the lowest level of your home, office, or nearest building
- Protect your head; if possible, cover with a coat or blanket to protect from debris

Infographic: LMM | Tornado Data Source: noaa.gov

#### SAFE DRIVING TIPS FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER



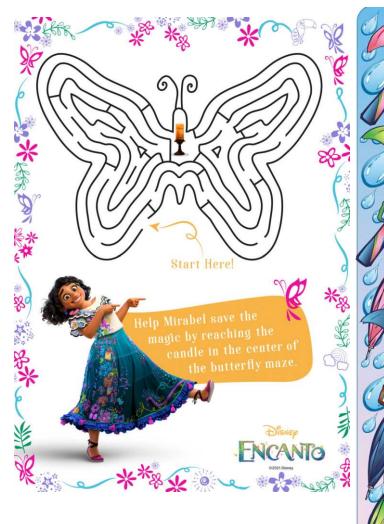
- Don't drive unless absolutely necessary.
- Always allow extra space since stopping distances increase on wet roadways.
- Give yourself extra time to reach your destination.
- Don't use cruise control. You need to be able to react quickly to traffic/road conditions.
- If you begin to hydroplane, let off the accelerator and gently steer in the direction you wish to travel. Do not brake or steer abruptly.
- Don't try driving through fast-moving water, such as at a flooded bridge approach. Your car could easily be swept away.
- Don't drive through standing water—water can be deeper than expected and have hidden dangers; your vehicle can get stuck due to not enough traction; or you could cause damage to your car's engine intake system.







Colorsheet @www.thriftymommastips.com



Spring Weather Word Scramble

NUSYN

LDCYUO

20 7

RYNIA

IWYDN

ORMDSETHRUNTS

TOH

11

11

11

11

11

12 5

EWT

REOTDASON

DRZZIEL

21 4

22 9

1 23

FGGYO 2 13 19 15 IMTSY

CLOD

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Unscramble each word.

Then use the marked letters to solve the second Puzzle.

Woojr.co



# **Spring Word Search**

N Q F I P F S D R I B L S B F Z R J V P X X O X S B G P I S R E P S T D X M R A W S N P T R R F S Q E N M Z B G T E A E O Z P E N J M O Y D B M P G A R N I X A W A J E U G S Y C T X S G I U R V O T N V V G I S N Q E T X H V U L H Q X Q C E V P F J V E K S Y U S S Z B Y L V D T L C P R E N A P R E E Q M I K D W O R Y D R U M B R E L L A W M R G W D Z B A S E B A L L L R Q R R T E Q W Q Y V T J D L A H C E M B H R M W D Q T W W Q R Q X H U M F M S E R J F N O T T A G S H E N G N I R P S X X B G A I S I V W E R H I I I L M G R E E N Y L T R Y R W D M L G Q T T I A O A F F B

SPRING MAY GREEN WARM UMBRELLA

MARCH FLOWERS GRASS SHOWERS EASTER



APRIL BASEBALL SUNSHINE RAIN BIRDS



# Peoria Housing Authority

**Peoria Housing Authority** 

100 S. Richard Pryor Place Peoria, Illinois 61605 Phone: 309-676-8736 Fax: 309-677-7301

www.peoriahousing.org

Moving Families Forward



**NOTE:** PHA will be closed in observance of the following upcoming holidays:

MEMORIAL DAY: Monday, May 30 JUNETEENTH: Monday, June 20 INDEPENDENCE DAY: Monday, July 4



#### REMINDER TO ALL AFFORDABLE HOUSING & HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PARTICIPANTS:

As a participant in PHA's subsidized housing programs, it is your obligation to report **ANY AND ALL** changes that happen in your household. This means if your income goes up or down, someone moves out, or you are requesting to add someone to your household. Failure to report income can lead to repayments or termination of your assistance. If you have questions about how or when to report, contact your Leasing Specialist at 309-676-8736.