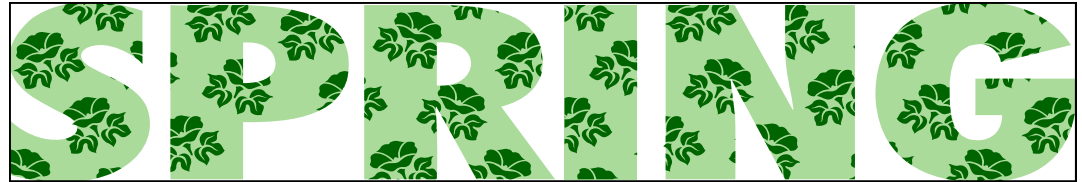


Around the House

Volume 5, Issue 2

March/April 2008



**Housing and
Community
Services
Department
Mission**

... to provide housing and related services to benefit the citizens and neighborhoods of Wichita



Inside this issue:

<i>From the Director</i>	2
<i>Public Housing Pride</i>	2
<i>Behind the Scenes</i>	2
<i>Section 8 News</i>	3
<i>HAP Payment Schedule</i>	3
<i>Family Self-Sufficiency</i>	4

Are you ready to start **Spring Cleaning**? Public Housing tenants and Section 8 Voucher holders are reminded that they are expected to maintain good housekeeping standards. Following are some 15 minute clean up tips to follow on a daily basis, and spring cleaning guidelines for two of the most important rooms in any household: the kitchen and bathroom.

Kitchen-Daily. Gather together all cleaning supplies. Run a sink of hot, soapy water. Scrape off all the dishes and put scrapings in the trash or disposal. Place dishes that need to soak into the water. While the dishes are soaking, throw away trash from around the room. Then gather up all the items that do not belong in the kitchen and put them in a basket. Put away all of the items that belong in the kitchen that are out of place. Load the dishwasher or wash the dishes by hand. Wipe off the countertops, appliances, and sink. Sweep and mop, or vacuum. Take out the trash.

Kitchen-Spring Cleaning. Perform the daily routine; save floors to last. Then dust all wall decorations,

ceiling fan and light fixtures. Take down curtains and blinds and wash (or clean) them. Apply oven cleaner to the oven. Clean out the refrigerator and freezer; throw out food items that are old or expired. Clean the stove top following the manufacturer's instructions. Wipe off/clean the toaster, blender, and other small appliances. Clean out kitchen cabinets. Run the dishwasher empty with vinegar or baking soda. Wipe off/countertops and cabinet doors; clean out drawers. Wash out the sink. Sweep and mop or vacuum.

Bathroom-Daily. Gather together all cleaning supplies. Put dirty clothing in a hamper; put trash in the trash can. Wipe out the sink and tub with a good bathroom cleaner. Scrub the inside of the toilet with a toilet brush and cleaner. Wipe the outside of the toilet with a disinfectant. Clean the mirror with glass cleaner or vinegar. Pick up all items that belong in another room and put them in a basket to be put away later. Put away all of the items that belong in the bathroom that are out of place. Sweep or mop.

Bathroom-Spring Cleaning. Perform the daily routine; save floors to last. Then dust the vents and fans. Take down curtains and blinds and wash (or clean) them. Scrub the shower and tub. Scrub the toilet (inside and out). Wash the inside and outside of medicine cabinets, linen cabinets, etc. Clean the sink and fixtures. Shake out bathroom rugs. Empty and wash out the trash can. Sweep and mop the floor.

Note: Always have a window open for ventilation when using household cleaners.

Happy Cleaning!

Results That Matter

Managers of the Public Housing and Section 8 programs recently submitted their program self-assessments to HUD. HUD uses these to determine a Housing Authority's overall performance. Both programs report high ratings on HUD's criteria, which means that staff are following procedures to ensure safe, affordable housing for all participants.





From the Director's Chair Mary K. Vaughn

On March 9, 2008 we will "spring forward" by moving our clocks ahead one hour. When we do so we gain an additional hour of daylight in the evening. Most of us welcome that change because it also signals the coming of warmer weather.

Another way to "spring forward" is to clear out winter's dust and give your house a fresh start on the new season. This newsletter gives you some tips on how to do that.

However, one of the most important things you can do to move yourself for-

ward, is to take advantage of opportunities for self-improvement. For instance, the weather is warming up so why not take a walk—esp. if you have children. Statistics show that young people are so busy with computer games, that they don't get enough exercise. Parents can set a good example by going out and being active with their children.

And for those of you who don't have children living with you, how about 'springing' out of your home and taking a walk outside to get to know your neighbors? This is often recommended to enhance your physical and mental

health, but it can also serve to help you identify the people who belong—and those who don't belong in the neighborhood. That knowledge could come in handy if your neighborhood is hit by crime or vandalism.

Whatever you decide to do to usher in spring, make sure you include safety in the plans—both in your home and outside. You'll be amazed at the new spring in your step once you get up and get moving!



Public Housing Pride

The City of Wichita Housing Authority continues to place emphasis on how Public Housing tenants residing in City owned properties maintain the exterior of their homes. Public Housing staff strictly enforce lease agreements to ensure that Public Housing tenants set a good example for other residents in the neighborhood. By following a few simple rules, the appearance of Public Housing developments can greatly enhance the appeal of **your neighborhood**. Neighborhoods which show "pride of ownership", are typically perceived as being more desirable and safer neighborhoods in which to live.

Public Housing staff conduct regular inspections to ensure your compliance with the maintenance of your yard. You are required to observe the following:

1. Trash dumpsters must only sit at the curb **one-day**. After the trash has been picked up, the dumpsters must be returned to the side or rear of your house. Furniture and other bulk pick up items should not be placed at the curb until you have contacted the Public Housing Office at 462-3789 to arrange a free bulk pick up. Public Housing staff will give residents a date to put items at the curb for pick up.
2. Your lawns should be mowed **at least** once every ten days. In any event, the height of the grass should never exceed 3 inches. Grass should not be allowed to grow over the curb or sidewalks. It is Public Housing resident's responsibility to remove tree saplings, weeds, and vines from fences.
3. Parking on unapproved surfaces is prohibited at all times. **Do not park in the yards.**
4. Barbecues, swing sets, bicycles, lawn furniture (except on the porch), and other fixtures should **not** be kept in the front yard or in front of the house.
5. Automobile parts, oil and tires should **not** be stored on the property. They should immediately be properly disposed of. Driveways should not show oil spills and spots.

Your yard should be free of debris and its appearance is your responsibility.

Please notify Public Housing promptly, if there are exterior repairs needed on your home, such as broken windows, torn screens or damaged down spouts.

Behind the Scenes ...

We've received many compliments on the department calendar which was sent to each of you. We're glad you like it and hope you will continue to refer to it for useful information. Some of the people who worked behind the scenes to make the calendar possible are **Michelle Rucker** who coordinated the project, **Tony Hardrick** who



We're proud of our people!

made sure the bills got paid, and **Greg Clay**, an intern in the City Manager's Office, who took the group photo featured on the December calendar page. We do have a few extra copies so if you need one, please call Pat Harder or Mary Williams-Bey to request one. We'd prefer that you pick up your extra copy to help us save postage!

WELCOME

In this issue we welcome **Nattalee Vickers** as the new Homeownership Coordinator in the Family Self-Sufficiency program. And we congratulate **Pearl Harmon** who was promoted to Administrative Aide II in the Neighborhood Improvement Services program.

Section 8 News

SECTION 8 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2008

The Housing and Community Services Department, Section 8 Office is closing the application period for non-preference Section 8 Housing application on **Monday, March 31, 2008**. Applications will continue to be accepted from persons who meet local preferences and have a referral from approved community based organizations.

Applications will be available **until March 31, 2008**, at the Section 8 office website: www.wichita.gov/cityoffices/housing/section8; **Housing and Community Services Department, Section 8 Office at 332 N. Riverview**, 67203 and at City of Wichita Neighborhood City Hall locations: Atwater, 2755 E. 19th St.; Colvin, 2820 S. Roosevelt; Stanley/Aley, 1749 S. Martinson; Evergreen, 2700 N. Woodland.

Paper applications can be mailed to the Housing and Community Services Department with a postmark no later than **March 31, 2008** or hand delivered to the Housing and Community Services Department by that date. Applications cannot be turned in at any other City office. The website application will be available through **March 31, 2008** and electronic submissions accepted up to 12:00 midnight. Persons requiring special accommodations to complete the application should contact the Wichita Housing Authority at 462-3700.

SECTION 8 LANDLORDS

In the last newsletter we indicated that several informational meetings would be held throughout the year, to provide you an opportunity to ask questions or obtain additional information. Two meetings were listed, however a third is also planned, and it is coming up soon!

The first meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 12, at 2:30 p.m.**, at the Housing and Community Services office, 332 N. Riverview. Please RSVP to Teresa Beacham at 462-3786 or tbeacham@wichita.gov. The meeting format will be round table discussions, so please bring your questions and concerns. Also, mark your calendars for the next two meetings, **June 11** and **September 10**.

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**New Rules for Swimming Pools!** Effective May 1, 2008, when an RFTA is submitted to the Section 8 office for a property which includes an above or below ground swimming pool, the property owner must submit clearance documentation from the City Environmental Services Department or a swimming pool vendor, that the pool is safe and meets the required swimming pool standards. The property will not pass inspection without this documentation. Licensed apartment complexes are exempt from this requirement since they are regularly inspected by the Environmental Services Department. Questions? Call Jim Jemmerson, Section 8 Inspection Supervisor, 462-3772.

## !!SECTION 8 CLIENTS!!

Please note the following, which includes changes to the Annual Meeting Schedules

### 2008 FSS Workshops 6:00 pm

March 12  
April 17  
May 8  
July 10  
October 9

### 2008 CreditSmart Workshops 10:00 am

May 10: Managing Your Money/Goal Setting  
June 7: Banking Services/Establishing, Maintaining Good Credit  
July 19: Understanding Credit Scoring/ Thinking Like A Lender  
August 23: Avoiding Credit Traps  
September 13: Restoring Your Credit/ Planning for Your Future  
October 18: Becoming A Homeowner

### 2008 Homeowners Alumni Meetings 5:30 pm

For current Section 8 homeowners!

March 10  
May 12  
July 14  
September 15

## Current HAP Payment Schedule

| <i>Month</i> | <i>Mail Date</i> |
|--------------|------------------|
| APRIL, 2008  | MARCH 28, 2008   |
| MAY, 2008    | APRIL 29, 2008   |

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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*We're On The Web!*  
[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing)

## Family Self-Sufficiency

### Attention Section 8 Voucher Holders!



Reach for your goals ...

We save **cash** for your future ...

Start **now**, not later ...

Sign up for the next  
Family Self-Sufficiency  
Orientation Meeting

Call **462-3703** for more information.

One of the department's new staff members, is Nattalee Vickers. (See Welcome on page 2). Nattalee cordially invites anyone who is interested in setting and reaching goals to achieve self-sufficiency, to contact the office right away, so that you can be added to the waiting list for the next orientation meeting for new participants.

Benefits of participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency program include :

- ◆ Savings the program makes on your behalf, which is available when you graduate from the program
- ◆ Assistance in accessing department resources to help achieve homeownership goals
- ◆ Networks with community resources who can assist you in reaching other goals such as employment and education

If this will help you, call now to reserve your spot in the next session!

The Government may  
**owe YOU up to \$4,716!!**

**Did you earn** less than \$39,783 in  
2007?

You may be eligible for  
**Earned Income Tax Credit**

Visit a VITA site for **FREE**  
tax preparation!

**FREE VITA Tax sites** are open but  
many are booked.

**Call 2-1-1** for more information.



**There's Still Time To File!!!**  
And remember, to receive the  
newly passed tax stimulus check,  
you have to file a 2007 tax return.