

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Decatur Housing Authority
1808 E. Locust Street
217-423-7711
www.decaturhousing.com

Emergency Number:
217-423-3400 (After hours)

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 1 – Rent Due*



****Please note due to COVID-19 rent will not be collected in the high-rise buildings. PLEASE DO NOT SLIDE YOUR RENT PAYMENT UNDER OFFICE DOOR AT THE HIGHRISES.**

You can pay rent by mail, drop box at main office (1808 E Locust St.) or pay at Busey Bank. Just a reminder, if paying at Busey Bank, you must pay full amount and have your statement with you.

NOTE FROM MAINTENANCE – LAWN CARE

Tenants living in DHA scattered homes, lawn care is **your** responsibility, per your lease agreement. Decatur Housing takes pride in the appearance of our units and we would like to think that our tenants will do the same.

Part of maintaining your lawn is ridding your yard of debris, weeds and keeping shrubs and bushes trimmed. Your lawn can be tagged for the presence of weeds and unruly landscaping, as well as grass in excess of 5-inches tall. If the maintenance crew comes under the directive of DHA Management to remove debris or rid your yard of weeds or to trim landscaping, you will be charged accordingly.

Additionally, if you live in a site that DHA mows as part of their regular lawn maintenance schedule it is **required** that you keep your lawn free of toys, garbage, rubbish, decorations etc. that interfere with mowing or could cause damage to our mowers. You will be charged if the maintenance crew must stop to rid your yard of items prior to mowing.

REWARD!

Terri Goodman, Executive Director

WINDOW PROJECT AT LEXINGTON

Lexington Project is nearing completion. The first round of final inspections will be on August 5th starting with units in the south wing. I will put a notice in your mailbox. We will continue to protect the health and safety of our residents and the contractors by continuing to require everyone to wear a mask while the contractors and architect are in the building, especially while they are inspecting your apartment. The plaster work on the exterior is not quite finished but will be soon. This is a 4-step process, so it takes some time to get all the steps completed. I appreciate everyone's cooperation, understanding, and patience.

If you have any questions, contact me at 423-7745 Ext. 3038. Thank you. Diane

CONFIDENTIALITY AMONG TENANTS

DHA has a strong confidentiality policy for our employees. It is up to the tenants what you share with each other but please keep in mind that almost everyone on the program is income based. Discussing your monthly rent with each other can cause confusion and a bit of unpleasantness. If at any time you have any questions regarding your case, please contact the property manager or the leasing specialist.

On the evening of June 29, 2020 or the early morning hours of June 30, 2020 vandalism occurred at the Concord. Wiring was cut causing severe damage to the new security cameras. These cameras are being installed to ensure the safety of our residents.

Decatur Housing Authority is offering a reward for information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of those involved in this criminal activity

Please call DHA with any information.
(217) 423-7711

August 4th is **National Chocolate Cookie Day**. To celebrate below is a simple recipe for chocolate bars:

6 Tablespoon of softened butter	1 large egg	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup brown sugar (packed)	1 teaspoon vanilla extract	1 cup of semisweet chocolate chips
1/4 cup granulated sugar	1 cup all-purpose flour	

- ❖ Preheat the oven to 325 F
- ❖ Adjust the oven rack to middle position
- ❖ Whisk the melted butter and sugars in a large bowl until combined
- ❖ Add the egg and vanilla and mix well
- ❖ Using a rubber spatula, fold the flour, salt, and baking soda into the butter mixture until just combined; do not overmix
- ❖ Fold in the chocolate chips
- ❖ Pour the batter into the prepared pan, smoothing the top with the spatula
- ❖ Bake until the top of the bars is light golden brown, slightly firm to the touch, and edges start pulling away from sides of pan, about 15-25 minutes
- ❖ Cool on a wire rack to room temperature

SERVICE COORDINATOR'S CORNER

High-Rises & Macon St.
Apartments

Melissa Aldridge
217-423-7745 Ext. 3026



Scattered Sites &
Garden Apartments

Kellie Marlow
217-423-7745 Ext. 3019

FROM THE DESK OF THE SERVICE COORDINATORS

REMINDER: CLOTH FACE COVERINGS ARE A REQUIREMENT IN ALL DHA BUILDINGS WHILE IN THE COMMON AREAS!

- ❖ CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- ❖ Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.
- ❖ Cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.

Cloth face coverings should **NOT** be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

EVIDENCE FOR EFFECTIVENESS OF CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

Cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This is called source control. This recommendation is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows cloth face coverings reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of cloth face coverings is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

PreK – 12 students in Decatur Public Schools will do 100% virtual learning for the first quarter of the 2020 – 2021 school year. The first day of student instruction will be pushed back to Monday, August 17, 2020. Full details may be found at www.dps61.org/returntolearn.

ASSISTANCE WITH RENT AND UTILITIES

Tenants in need of assistance with past due rent or utilities can contact their Service Coordinator for information on how to apply. You may also call the agencies directly for information on how to apply:

- ❖ **Salvation Army**- 429-8050
- ❖ **DMCOC**- 428-0155
- ❖ **Dove Financial Assistance** 433-7435

**Please Note rent is to be paid accordingly and evictions will proceed if not paid unless you have signed a repayment agreement. Contact accounting for information on repayment agreements.*

CANTRELL & POOLE TENANTS - FOOD PANTRY

We are in the process of getting information for the mobile food pantry from Northeast Community Fund for August. If you live in the Poole or Cantrell Communities and have a difficult time getting to the food pantry, please contact me so I can get you on their list. This is a great community offer for those in need.

Any questions feel free to call Kellie Marlow 330-4953 or 423-7711 Ex. 3019

www.dps61.org/returntolearn



GENERAL GUIDELINES

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost importance as we prepare to return to school. When the 2020-2021 school year begins, school will look much different than previous years, due to the new health and safety measures in response to COVID-19.

PreK-12 students in Decatur Public Schools will do 100% virtual learning for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of student instruction will be pushed back to Monday, August 17, 2020.

GOOD NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE

Do you have neighbors that you appreciate? Have your neighbors gone above and beyond to be kind? DHA wants to hear about it! Perhaps your neighbor checked on you when they did not see you for a few days. Maybe they went to the store for you. Perhaps they shared a meal or simply made you smile with a thoughtful word. Practicing kindness is always important but now more than ever!

DHA would like to recognize the kindness of our tenants so it is up to you to nominate them! Simply fill out a nomination form available on the information board in each high-rise building and slide it under the Service Coordinator's office door. If you live in a Scattered Site nomination forms are available outside our main office door located at 1808 E. Locust St. Completed nomination forms may be placed in the drop box.

You may also call your Service Coordinator (she would love to hear from you) and tell her your story! Nominations for the Good Neighbor Initiative will be accepted through Friday August 21, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2020 winners of the lawn beautification contest:

1st place: Nichol Wilson -1660 N. 27th

2nd place: Edna Gaddy 1524 Poole St.

3rd Place: Rhoda Perry- 1462 Poole St.

4th Place: Sheri Estes- 504 E. Olive St.

Thanks to all who participated and helped make our community a brighter & better place. Our winners showed creativity and took pride in their lawns. Every participant received gloves and a thank you note from DHA.

