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# The River Bend

Gallatin, Carthage, & South Carthage Housing Authorities

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015

## New Year: New Hope

by Michael Bates, Executive Director

The beginning of New Years is a special time. It's like no other holiday during the year.

While Christmas Day, is observed around the world as the Holiday; where wishes and, dreams can come true. New Year's Day – on-the-other-hand is the only time of the year by which there is opportunity to start over and re-shape your life. Setting new goals, overcoming life-unforeseen challenges; removing non-productive obstacles; correcting bad behavior and poor decision making; and leaving behind anyone or anything which tries to hold you back from reaching your life-potential. New Years is a time for renewed hope.

As GHA/SCHA Executive

Director some of my goals for 2015 include: (1) To increase customer satisfaction amongst all GHA/SCHA staff members; (2) Maintain every public housing unit as a decent, safe, affordable and, environmentally healthy community; (3) Improve communication and work diligently with tenants to help reduce evictions; (4) Improve resident services by partnering with experienced service providers; (5) Established a Resident Council; and, (6) Explore new affordable housing venues to improve the existing housing portfolio or construct new public housing units by way of the RAD program, 4% Bond and 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), Federal

Home Loan Bank (FHLB), and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. To accomplish all of the above I must first plan my work – and then work my plan.

There is an excitement building up to New Year's Day. If you're reading this newsletter, I hope you will give "Hope" a chance. Set realistic, measurable and achievable goals for 2015. I encourage and challenge you to believe in "Hope". And what is "Hope" without work? Whatever, your goals maybe for 2015 remember each new day brings with it opportunities.

Have a Safe and Blessed New Year!

## Happy New Year!

Gallatin Housing Authority has some exciting things planned for 2015. Our Ridgeview low income housing tax credit project is due to get under construction this year with full lease up scheduled for December 2015. Contact Elmgton Property Management for more information about getting on the waiting list for that

property.

GHA is also starting a Resident Council this year. Read more about that on page 3 and contact Ms. Kelly Hennessy-Pierce if you are interested in participating.

Please be reminded that we have changed the property managers as of January 1, 2015. Sarah

Franklin will be managing 29-1,3,5 A&B, and 14 and Kelly Hennessy-Pierce will be taking over 29-2,4, & 11. Of course, we will still both be happy to help you in any way we can, but your primary property manager may have changed.

Happy New Year!

# January 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Rent Due	3
4	5	6 Bug Day 1, 2, 4, 5B	7	8	9 10% late fee	10
11	12	13 Bug Day 3, 5A, & 14	14	15	16	17
18	19 OF- FICE CLOSED	20 Bug Day 11	21	22	23	24
25	26 Last day to pay	27 Bug Day Car- thage & S. Carthage	28	29	30	31

## This Month....

# JANUARY



- 01/01 — OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day
- 01/02 — Rent due
- 01/06 — Exterminator to visit Gallatin developments 1, 2, 4, & 5B
- 01/09 — 10% late fee added to all unpaid rent
- 01/13 — Exterminator to visit Gallatin developments 3, 5A, & 14
- 01/19 — OFFICE CLOSED for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 01/20 — Exterminator to visit Gallatin development 11
- 01/26 — Last day to pay before legal action
- 01/27 — Exterminator to visit Carthage and S. Carthage

# Housing America Poster Contest



It's that time of year again! The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations (NAHRO) is hosting its annual "What Home Means to Me" poster contest. Kids in grades K-12 should create posters artistically expressing what having a safe, quali-

ty, and affordable home means to them. Applications and short explanations must be included with the poster submissions.

Applications, rules, and all other forms can be picked up at the office, and must be submitted with your poster no later than May 1, 2015. Our winners in each age group will go on to compete at the state and regional levels. Regional winners will be entered into the national NAHRO competition in August of 2015. One grand prize winner and 12 national

winners will be chosen in September and featured in the 2016 What Home Means to Me calendar. The grand prize winner will be awarded an ipad, honored at NAHRO's annual Conference in Washington, D.C. and given a tour of the capital and a framed copy of their original artwork. The 12 national winners will each be awarded \$100 Visa gift cards.

Check out the contest rules at: <http://www.housingamericacampaign.org/what-home-means-to-me.html>

**DO NOT send money to companies claiming you are responsible for your water lines or plumbing service lines!**

## Beware of Scams

Management has been notified of some mail scams targeting our residents. The mailing we've seen suggests that our residents are responsible for their water and service lines and would be held financially responsible for any failure in those lines. The letter asks you to pay for insurance which will cover you in case of water or service line failure. **DO NOT SEND**

**ANY MONEY TO THIS COMPANY.** You are not responsible for any water lines or service lines on your property. Part of the line is owned and maintained by Gallatin Housing Authority and the other is the responsibility of the City of Gallatin. You will not be held financially responsible for failure in those lines unless your behavior has directly caused that failure!

Please always be careful with any letters or phone solicitations for money. Research the company that is making the request. Ask trusted friends and family to review the paperwork. Check the websites for the local news outlets to see lists of recent scams identified in your area, and BE CAREFUL!

## Resident Council to start at GHA

Our new housing manager, Kelly Hennessy-Pierce is attempting to start a Resident Council here at GHA. This council would meet quarterly and would have an opportunity to offer their input into housing authority policy. The Resident Council would also oversee community activities and work to increase community involvement in housing authority sponsored fun.

Remember, you cannot complain that the housing authority does not provide activities or take your opinions into account if you are unwilling to put in the time and effort to make a positive change. Get some of your friends together and come see Kelly about the Resident Council! Plan some events, have some fun, and make a positive difference in your neighborhood.

If interested, stop by the office and talk to Kelly or give her a call at 615-452-1661 ext. 0



**Caption describing picture or graphic.**

# Winter Safety



While we don't get a lot of snow in Middle Tennessee, it's important to know how to handle it when we do. The Farmer's Almanac says Tennessee may experience a colder than normal winter this year, but that precipitation levels should be average to below average.

Remember in colder temperatures, bridges and overpasses freeze before other roads. Drive with caution, and use your brakes carefully during

wet weather. Abrupt stopping can cause your brakes to lock up.

Also remember that your home **MUST** maintain a minimum temperature of 68°! Anything colder than this can cause your pipes to burst. **DO NOT TURN OFF THE HEAT FOR ANY REASON.**

Also please run a small trickle of water from your kitchen sink if the temperature drops below freezing — that running water will help prevent your

pipes from freezing and bursting.

Please also consider that while extreme temperatures pose a potential threat to all of us, the risks are far greater for young children and the elderly members of our communities. Make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather to help insure their health throughout the winter. Check on elderly neighbors and friends to make sure they are adequately cared for this time of year.

*We rely on our cars and frigid temperatures can jeopardize our transportation. Take a minute to insure your safety and your car's maintenance this winter.*

## Cold Weather and Your Car

Freezing temperatures are hard on your car as well as your family. Cars may take longer to start or not start at all if they get too cold. Be sure to run your car for 10 minutes or more before driving to allow the engine to warm up. Do not let your gas gage fall below 1/4 tank in the winter. You don't want your fuel lines to lock up with frozen vapors. If you have tire sensors in your

vehicle, you may notice that your car thinks the tires are losing air when the weather turns cold. In fact, the temperature change causes the weight of the air in your tires to change, making the sensor think you are getting a flat tire. Check the tire pressure to avoid increase tire wear, poor handling, and lower mileage.

Carry an emergency kit in your car just in case you become

stranded. Your emergency kit should consist of the following: jumper cables, flares, emergency reflectors, a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food items, blankets, hand-warmers, flashlight, batteries, cell phone chargers, window scrapers, etc.

Remember also that car batteries have lower output in cold weather and are more likely to fail this time of year.

## Dress Appropriately

Layers are the best option for winter weather. You can wear more when you are outside and take off a layer or two when you come into a heated building. Young children typically require at least one MORE layer than an adult would wear. Children also need hats

and mittens when an adult might be able to do without. Be careful using blankets, quilts, or pillows near infants as they are associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). If you use blankets in your infants bed, be sure to tuck them under the mattress and do not allow the blanket

to travel past the mid-chest of the child. Blanket sleepers can keep infants warm in bed without the use of blankets or quilts.

Be safe this winter. Stay warm, and limit time outside on particularly harsh days.



# What May Happen in the Next 100 Years



**Isaac Asimov predicted we would be living underwater by 2014**

packaged foods, and the evolution of pre-cooked dinners to be reheated at home. He states that photographs will be able to travel via telegraph from one end of the

lunches and dinners semi-prepared and frozen. Asimov also predicted cordless, battery powered appliances, and large solar power stations. He expected cars with computers that could drive themselves. We may not be quite there yet, but our vehicles do have computers; they can parallel park themselves; they have wifi, navigation systems, and on-star;

In 1900, John Elfreth Watkins, Jr. wrote an article for The Ladies Home Journal entitled "What May Happen in the Next Hundred Years". Watkins' predictions were for the year 2001, and many of them have in fact come true. Its interesting to think about what people predicted for us 100 years ago and what we might envision could happen in the next 100 years.

Mr. Watkins expected that the population would exceed 500 million. U.S. census data suggests we are at 319 million and climbing.

Mr. Watkins said Americans would be from one to two inches taller — data shows the average to be similar. 5 foot 7 inches in 1900 to 5 foot nine inches in 2014.

Watkins' article also states that we will drop certain letters from our alphabet as we will write phonetically more and more. Text alphabet perhaps?

Watkins' article also predicts pre-

world to the other in minutes — or seconds on the internet; Watkins also predicts ease and speed of travel, the ability to buy items from your home and have them delivered, the syndication and worldwide dissemination of musical and dramatic performances (TV?), wireless telephone systems worldwide, and hothouse fruits and vegetables grown out of season.

Not too shabby in his predictions.

Isaac Asimov, the science fiction writer, envisioned what a World's Fair in 2014 might look like through an article composed for the New York Times in August of 1964. As with Watkins' article, Asimov made some correct assumptions.

Asimov expected to see flat electroluminescent panels in 2014. He expected windows to be polarized to block out excessive sunlight and adjust automatically to changing light. He predicted light-forced vegetable gardens, and complete

Asimov writes about being able to see the person you are telephoning as you talk to them. Sounds like Facetime or Skype doesn't it? He also mentions 3D televisions that are projected onto a flat screen. We have those too, don't we?

Asimov was also cautious in his predictions, warning about over-population and the exhaustion of the world's resources. He recommended living underground and underwater so as to free up more room for agriculture and to make efficient use of the ocean's resources. He predicted an increase in life expectancy and a movement toward birth control. Asimov saw the future as being largely automatized, and man's position as increasingly one of overseeing the machines. He predicted boredom and an increase in the need for psychiatry, as well as the glorification of the "elite" few who could afford to do something creative with their time instead of manning the machines.

Interesting to think about isn't it?

**We may not have hover cars or live in colonies on the Moon, but some predictions made about 2014 as much as 100 year ago are pretty accurate.**

## Life in the Year 2100

We've seen what scientists 100 years ago thought our lives would be like by 2014. As we enter 2015, let's think about what life might be like at the turn of the next century.

Futurists today predict the following: 1.) micro-chip sized casings for atom-powered transistors invisible to the naked eye. Literally, computers so small, they can be placed

anywhere and so smart they can be programmed to do anything. 2.) increased space exploration and potential colonization developed by private individuals rather than governments or corporations. 3.) Neuroscience that will literally read your mind with machines 4.) mining of mass data to replace decision making in individuals 5.) Quantum electro-dynamics

6.) Anarchy and rebellion of young people in organized cyber movements 7.) nanotechnology and nanomedicine, treating illness at a cellular level. 8.) Increased cyber crime 9.) Universal translators 10) Avatars, surrogates, and robots



**Life may be more like the cartoon The Jetsons afterall!**



# Winter Sudoku



Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters S N O W F L A K E. Don't guess - use logic



	A			L			N	
		O	N	E	A	F		
		L	F		W	O		
	L	K				A	S	
S		A				E		F
	E	F				N	K	
		W	K		N	S		
		S	O	F	L	W		
	F			S			O	



[www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy