

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Calendar
- Mother's Day ideas
- Tips for Allergy Sufferers
- Yard Responsibilities
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The River Bend

Gallatin, Carthage, and South Carthage Housing Authorities

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Affordable Housing -- An Urgent National Topic

There is national growing support to increase the number of low-income affordable housing for the elderly, disable, homeless, veterans and low-income families. This national support comes at a time when federal funds to create and build more affordable housing; however, continues to decline. One only has to watch the national news to understand that more federal cuts in education and housing are expected in the Federal 2016 Budget. Public Housing Authorities isn't the only group which strongly advocates the need to not only reserve our existing public housing units, but also the need to build more energy-efficient and high-quality affordable units.

National Housing Coalition Groups around the country are everyday writing letters, meeting with local elected officials; traveling to Washington D.C. as an advocacy voice in support of more appropriation dollars to develop; and, maintain our public housing inventory within this country. These advocacy groups work very hard to educate your elected Representatives, Senators, and Capitol Hill staff to enact legislation in Congress that

would Federally-fund: Educational Programs, Job Training, Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Capital Fund Program and the Housing Choice Voucher Program.



Affordable housing is a hot topic in Washington.

There is real support from Housing Advocate Groups in America to help combat the negative consequences for housing agencies and low-income residents if its elected leaders don't seriously address the cause and effect of under-funded low-income housing. Because there continues to be a growing need for affordable housing more Public Housing Agencies are utilizing alternative sources to convert or renovate their existing housing stock. Three alternative funding sources would include: Four percent (4%) and (9) nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)

and the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program (RAD).

LIHTC is a highly effective result oriented program. States' Finance Agency administers the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program. It has helped generate hundreds of millions in private investors' dollars to redevelop or construct new high-quality affordable housing units. The RAD program, however, allows Housing Authorities to convert a public housing unit to a Tenant Based Section 8 Voucher unit. The nation's existing-built stock of assisted housing is decreasing as federal and state funding for affordable housing has also decreased. Private landlords and developers are not renovating because they find it too costly to keep units affordable. As Politicians on Capitol Hill battles over budget cuts, let's remember that there are groups and individuals who really care and support affordable housing; therefore, the fight is never over.

By Michael Bates, Executive Director

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rent Due	2
3	4	5 Bug Day Gallatin 1, 2, 4, 5b	6	7	8 10% late fee	9
10 Mother's day	11	12 Bug Day Gallatin 3, 5a, 14	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Bug Day Gallatin 11	20	21	22 Last day to pay	23
24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 Bug Day Carthage & S. Carthage	27	28	29	30
31						



This Month...

- 05/01 — Rent due
- 05/05 — Exterminator to visit Gallatin developments 1, 2, 4, & 5B
- 05/08 — 10% late fee added to all unpaid rents
- 05/10 — Mother's Day
- 05/12 — Exterminator to visit Gallatin developments 3, 5A, & 14
- 05/19 — Exterminator to visit Gallatin development 11
- 05/22 — Last day to pay rent before legal action
- 05/25 — OFFICE
- 05/26 — Exterminator to visit Carthage and South Carthage
- CLOSED for Memorial Day

Mother's Day This Month



Mother's Day is on the 10th of this month. While it is important to acknowledge all our moms do for us, it can be difficult to find affordable options that mom will like. First, moms do a lot of hard work

Show mom you appreciate her!

from day to day and one of the best gifts for mom is always a helping hand. Breakfast in bed, a thorough house-cleaning, or a coupon book redeemable for extra chores are great mother's day gift ideas. Moms also love sentimental or handmade items from their kids. Think about unique art and craft projects the kids can do for mom this year, or purchase low cost items that you can personalize.

Decorate a pair of flip flops for mom, create a story book with kids drawings, or paint a special picture frame to commemorate this mother's day. You might also take your digital pictures to CVS and make an inexpensive photo book to help mom remember what a great year it has been. If mom loves flowers, consider growing her some this year instead of buying cut flowers. Potted plants are inexpensive and the kids can decorate the pots to make them special. Be creative! Show mom how much she means to you!

Being informed and prepared can reduce your suffering this allergy season.

Spring Means Allergies

Spring can be a particularly hard time for asthma and allergy sufferers. Following your doctor's instructions regarding medications can help, but having a game plan for avoiding and minimizing allergens in your environment can alleviate symptoms also. The most obvious plan for reducing symptoms might be to simply avoid contact — stay inside. It might not be feasible to stay inside, however. So when you must go out, check your calendar first. Pollen seasons are predictable and pollen levels are usually included in local weather reports. According to experts, the time of day you go out can make a difference. Pollen levels reach peak highs around noon or the early afternoon. Most plants emit pollen early in the morning and the level of pollen in the air continues to rise until early afternoon. Be aware that the pollen count is never zero, so this strategy can only provide limited relief. Also keep in mind that pollutants like car exhaust can at-

tach to allergens, making them even more potent and harmful. Watch ozone and pollution reports as well as allergy levels to stay informed of dangers. During pollen season, your clothing and hair can become covered in pollen. If you suffer from asthma or allergies, consider changing clothes when you come inside the house and rinsing off in the shower every time you return home. If you've been outside for awhile, the pollen may have already affected your nasal membranes, but this practice will help prevent it from being deposited on your furniture or spreading to your family members.

One of the easiest ways to avoid allergens is to stay indoors, but even your house can hide irritants like dust and mildew. A thorough spring cleaning will help, and so will running the air conditioner. With the air conditioning on and the windows closed, you can cut your pollen exposure down by 90%. This rule applies to home, work,

and car. Neti pots or saline sprays might also provide temporary relief as they rinse the nasal cavity and flush out irritants. Portable air purifiers with high efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA) may help trap any particles that make it inside your house. When spring cleaning, pay special attention to curtains, upholstered furniture, and ceiling fans as they all tend to trap dust. Also be sure to move furniture and clean thoroughly underneath to avoid dust buildup that may affect your breathing. Always wear a mask when cleaning and clean from top to bottom, making sure that any stirred up dust and debris settles on the floor before you finish cleaning. Also be careful to avoid harsh chemicals when your airways are already irritated as they may worsen your symptoms.



Allergies can make Spring a miserable time of year.

End of School Year



Sumner County Public Schools will conclude their 2014-2015 school year on May 21st. That means that more kids will be out and about in your neighborhoods starting the end of this month. Let's be respectful and courteous to our neighbors. Always watch your children if they are outside. Trusting an older sibling to watch the younger kids is not always the best idea. Please be reminded that your neighbors have a right to peaceful enjoyment of their accommodations

as well. Teach your children to be respectful of other people's property, time, and resources. Failing to properly supervise your children is grounds for Notice to Vacate.

The picnic shelters are for everyone, so please keep them clean and nice. If you use the picnic shelter for a barbecue or if your children play in the picnic shelter, please be sure to throw away all trash created in appropriate receptacles. Do not allow children to write

on the picnic shelter floors or tables. Do not permit your children to throw items onto the picnic shelter roof. Families determined to have allowed these types of activities will be billed for the cleaning and repair of the picnic shelter and may face eviction for destruction of housing authority property.

Summer is coming. Let's cooperate with our neighbors and housing authority employees to make it an enjoyable one for all!

You are responsible for your yard and porch area. No matter how the trash got there, you are accountable. Keep it clean and picked up!

Yard Responsibilities

As the weather gets warmer and we head to the end of the school year, please be reminded of GHA's rules regarding your yard areas:

- You are responsible for picking up all trash in your yard.
- The mowing season has started, do not obstruct the mowers with items in your yard.
- Sanitation will not pick up large items on trash day. If you have furniture or mattresses to throw away, you MUST call 452-2147 for a large item pick up. If GHA staff picks it up, you will be charged.
- You may plant flowers, etc, but all planting must be at least 3 feet AWAY from the building. No climbing vines are permitted.
- The porch must be clear except for outside chairs, and a maximum of ONE potted plant; no hanging plants are permitted
- Bicycles, grills, etc, should be stored neatly BEHIND the house, close to the building where they will not obstruct mowing.

Noise Violations

It's human nature to want to spend more time outdoors as the weather continues to warm and the days get longer. Please be courteous to your neighbors if you do choose to sit outside or have friends over

to the apartment. Be considerate of families with small children who may have early bedtimes, and families with elderly members who might not tolerate loud noises. If you live in a duplex, be mindful of how your noise and your company effects the person on the other side, and treat that

person as you would like them to treat you. Please be reminded that city ordinance prohibits talking, singing, or loud noise in the streets from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and any loud noise determined to disturb the surrounding residents is in violation of that ordinance.

Be considerate of your neighbors when having friends to the apartment.



Pet Policy Reminders



Please be reminded that dogs and cats are permitted only if you have signed a pet lease in the office and paid the requisite deposits. The pet deposit includes a \$200 refundable deposit and a \$100 non-refundable

Pets must be leashed & accompanied outside.

pet processing fee. Only ONE animal is permitted per household, and all animals must be less than 32 lbs full grown. Pets must be spayed or neutered and be up to date on shots. All veterinary records must be kept up to date in the office. The office must also have a picture of your pet to attach to your electronic file so that anyone potentially entering your apartment is aware of an ani-

mal presence.

Please also be reminded that visiting pets are NOT PERMITTED. You may pet sit an animal for a maximum of two weeks only with permission from your housing manager.

Please also be reminded that pets cannot be outside unaccompanied or without a lease. You may not tie your dog to the clothesline poll and leave him outside! You are also responsible for cleaning up after your pet.

Shalom Zone and Sumner County Teen Center offer fun programs to keep your kids busy and out of trouble this summer.

Summer Activities

Shalom Zone will start accepting applications for their summer AIM All Star Day Camp on May 1, 2015. This camp provides enrichment through physical fitness, literacy, conflict management, team building, arts and crafts, sports and games, alcohol and drug prevention, and a water day. Camp will be held Tuesday—Friday during the month of June from 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for

children in 1st through 5th grades. Register at the Shalom Zone located at 600 Small Street. For more information, call 615-442-7575.

Sumner County Teen Center is located at 976 Grassland Place and offers free fun for middle and high schoolers from Tuesday—Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. They are currently planning a

Summer Break Bash which will include a concert and bubble ball to take place May 23, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, register on their website at www.sumnerteencenter.org or call them at 615-530-8248 or 615-527-7931.

Keep your kids busy and out of trouble this summer with fun local programs!

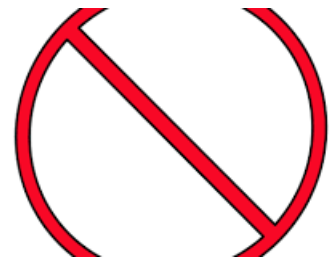
Barred List

Please be reminded that residents are responsible for reviewing the list of individuals that are barred from Gallatin Housing Authority property. This list is posted in the main office. Allowing any person who appears on this barred list onto your property is a violation of your lease and can result in EVICTION. Individuals who appear on the barred list have behaved in a

manner that has previously proven hazardous to the residents of public housing. Keeping these individuals off housing property is essential to maintaining a decent and safe environment for all of us.

Please also be reminded that sex offenders are barred for life from housing authority property. Allowing a registered sex offender onto

your property is a violation of your lease, a potential danger to your neighbors, and grounds for lease termination. The sex offender registry is available online at www.tbi.tn.gov



Don't risk your housing by inviting barred individuals onto GHA property.

WHAT I LOVE MOST
ABOUT MY MOM IS _____

MY FAVORITE
MEMORY
WITH MY MOM IS

MY MOM MAKES
ME FEEL
LOVED WHEN _____

IF I COULD GIVE MY MOM
ANY PRESENT
IN THE WORLD,
I WOULD GIVE HER _____

I MAKE MY MOM HAPPY WHEN

MY MOM IS
THE BEST AT

MY MOM MAKES
ME LAUGH WHEN

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