



community TIMES

The Highlands Residential Services Newsletter

HIGHLANDSRS.COM

APRIL 2021



The Easter Bunny will be coming to your location on Good Friday with lots of candy.

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COMMUNITY GARDEN IS BACK, ON-SITE, & WE WANT YOU TO COME! – See page 2 for details.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH, HRS RESIDENT DIANE ARMS – See her story on page 2.

HRS 20TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 2021

See the Easter Bunny with lots of Easter candy! Prize baskets! For all Highlands Residential Services children ages birth to 11 years old. Same locations as previous years/former playground areas.

- Celina 9:15 a.m.
- Gainesboro Reeves Dr. Development (All children) – 10 a.m.
- Baxter 11 a.m.
- Monterey Jackson Street Development – 12 p.m.
(Children who live on Poplar or Elm or Railroad may come to either location)
- Monterey Standing Stone Drive Development– 12:30 p.m.
- Algood 2 p.m.
- Cookeville
 - 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Street, Pine and Cypress Avenues – 2:30 p.m.
 - Buffalo Valley Road and Coffelt Avenue – 3 p.m.
 - Boatman Street & Darwin Street – 3:30 p.m.
(Children who live on Willow Valley Ct. & Newman Dr. may come to any location).

OAK TREE TOWERS

our new three-story midrise for low-income seniors age 62 and up, is nearing an estimated completion date of August 2021. Oak Tree Towers has 50 one-bedroom apartments located on Buffalo Valley Road. It has many modern amenities, including elevators and a sprinkler system.



Program funding for Oak Tree Towers is completely different from any of our other housing programs. Anyone who would like to live at Oak Tree Towers will have to go through a complete application process, including all current HRS residents. To begin the application process for Oak Tree Towers, you may come to our main office, 235 W. Jackson St., Cookeville, from May 5-12, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. (Friday the 7th is 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.) to be assigned an interview time slot and application instruction on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments for this program WILL NOT be made over the phone to ensure that applications are taken on a strictly first-come, first-served basis. All applicants must be 62 years of age or older and meet eligibility and income limit guidelines.

Melinda's MEMOS



We are excited to announce the transition from Public Housing to RAD-PBRA Housing is beginning. In May 2021, we will begin interviews with all of our Cookeville developments. This will serve as your annual recertification for 2021.

We must sign new leases and obtain recertification documentation for every household. ALL household members 18 and over MUST be present at the interview.

In April, check your mail daily for a letter notifying you of the appointment date/time set for your interview and a list of **ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION** you **MUST** bring to your appointment. If you have any questions, please call the office at (931) 526-9793.

Please be mindful that appointment dates/times are limited, and we need your full cooperation during this process.

Kathy's CORNER



Captain Ralph Walker College Scholarship

If you are a current TTU student or will begin TTU this fall and have been a resident of Highlands Residential Services for at least one year, you may be eligible for this scholarship. For more information or to apply, simply call Kathy S. in Resident Services at (931) 526-9793, ext. 212, by April 23.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

For several years now, HRS has hosted a summer lunch program at the Pine Avenue police substation, where we not only distributed school lunches, but we enlisted community volunteers to provide activities to our children. Unfortunately, due to summer staffing issues, we will not be able to have the activity portion, but AmeriCorps member LaTrece will be working with the school system to distribute lunch meals to kids in the 7th Street and Pine Avenue area. We will have more details next month.

POSITION OPENING

We are still accepting applications for a summer AmeriCorps resident programs assistant to begin around the end of May and serve for 10 weeks, 30 hours per week. The summer AmeriCorps will primarily be working with our TNT summer day camp and helping distribute summer lunch meals. AmeriCorps is a great opportunity to earn and learn, while serving and giving back to others.

AmeriCorps provides a living allowance (money deposited into your bank account to spend any way you want) and money for education, while not affecting any current benefits. Applications are available at the HRS main office, or call Kathy S. at (931) 526-9793, ext. 212.



KATHY G'S NEWS & VIEWS

COMMUNITY GARDEN

A few years ago, several of our adult residents worked at a community garden off-site, where they could grow, tend and harvest food to eat themselves. The community garden is back and is thankfully on-site! It is an expansion of the TNT garden located between our West 6th & 7th Street homes in the grassy area behind the maintenance warehouse. It's easy to spot, and all HRS residents are welcome to just show up on Saturday, April 17, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to begin planting. You may want to wear some older shoes, and all supplies are furnished.



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

HRS resident Diane Arms is in the spotlight after she showed up at our office one day in January with a bag full of homemade face masks for us to distribute. A native of Michigan, Diane has always had a love for sewing and crafting. Diane says she had an abundance of material just sitting around and wanted to find a way she could help her neighbors during the pandemic, and what better way than making masks? She has made well over 3,000 masks for those in need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and she is continuing to make them. Ms. Diane has donated these masks to Cookeville Regional Medical Center, local churches and HRS. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are very proud of Diane for her desire to give back to the community.





YOUTH NEWS WITH SHAQUAWANA

"For more information about any of our youth programs, please contact me at (931) 526-9793, ext. 213.

"What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest

was held last month. If you were unable to attend your local contest, you can still make your poster at home, as the entry deadline has been extended to noon on Friday, April 30. All posters must be made by participants in grades K-12 and must be horizontal with no raised surfaces. Just bring your poster by the main office at 235 W. Jackson St. to be entered in the county contest. If you need a poster board and markers, please call me.

Lighthouse Christian Camp will be held again this year in June and July in Smithville, Tennessee. This all-free camp is for boys and girls ages 9-11 living in Cookeville, Baxter, Monterey and Gainesboro, with transportation provided from area pickup locations. Applications and details are available at the HRS main office.

Quawana's Closet is open every Tuesday from 1:30-3 p.m. at 706 Pine Avenue for all HRS residents. We have free clothing of all sizes for children and adults, household items and seasonal items, and new items arrive all the time. If you have a need and cannot get to the closet, please call me. Also note the closet may close for scheduling conflicts or bad weather.

Modesty bags I still have a nice selection of pretty modesty bags filled with various feminine hygiene products for girls, teens and ladies. If you would like to have one, please call me at (931) 526-9793, ext. 212, or email me at swester@highlandsrs.com.

RESOURCE CENTER

It's spring, and we can hear that grass growing!

Please keep children and pets away from the mowers, and move any items in the yard out of the path of the mowers. As you drive through our homes, be watching for children playing outside, and obey the speed limits. Kiddie pools are not allowed.

Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the following confirmed drive-thru drop-off locations: both Cookeville Walgreens and Infinity Pharmacy in Cookeville, with other locations to be announced. Free goody bags and awesome prizes will be held at all locations. You can also drop off at 25 W. Broad St., where there will be a resource fair, "live" radio station and a chance to win \$106.

What is a drug take-back day? This is a secure location to bring your unused, expired medications to be safely disposed of. These drugs are never, ever "re-used"! You may leave your drugs in original bottles or packaging, but mark out your name. Why should you take your drugs to a take-back? Removing old, unused medications from your home helps keep them out of the hands of children, teens or adults. "Flushing" drugs contaminates our water systems. Drugs that have expired lose their effectiveness.

National AmeriCorps Week was March 7-13 and was a week of opportunity to showcase the AmeriCorps motto of "Getting Things Done" by connecting service members with organizations to meet the needs of communities served. To celebrate the week, our local grantee, Tennessee's Community Assistance Corporation directors Becca and Hayley, met with our current AmeriCorps member, LaTrece, and former AmeriCorps (now HRS staff) Shaquawana Wester and Kathy Garcia to distribute breads and pastries and help at Quawana's Closet. Highlands Residential has used numerous AmeriCorps members since fall of 2011. Shaquawana, Kathy G. and Misty Parker, all former AmeriCorps members, now work at Highlands Residential.



 **APRIL 2021**

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4  EASTER SUNDAY	5 FREE DELI BREAD TNT: After-School Program	6 Quawana's Closet Open 1:30-3 p.m. KIDS matter Reading Program	7 FREE DELI BREAD TNT: After-School Program	8 FREE DELI BREAD KIDS matter Reading Program	9	10
11	12 TNT: After-School Program LATE FEES ADDED	13 Quawana's Closet Open 1:30-3 p.m. KIDS matter Reading Program PEST CONTROL TREATMENT DAY	14 TNT: After-School Program PEST CONTROL TREATMENT DAY	15 Board Meeting KIDS matter Reading Program EVICTION NOTICES FOR NON-PAY	16	17
18	19 TNT: After-School Program	20 Quawana's Closet Open 1:30-3 p.m. KIDS matter Reading Program	21 TNT: After-School Program	22 KIDS matter Reading Program	23	24 DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY
25	26 TNT: After-School Program	27 Quawana's Closet Open 1:30-3 p.m. KIDS matter Reading Program	28 TNT: After-School Program	29 "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest Entries Due by Noon Tomorrow KIDS matter Reading Program	30 MAIN OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON TODAY LAST DAY TO CALL FOR PEST CONTROL	



MAIL

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»»» The office is closed for lunch from 12-1 p.m.

All Resident Services activities operate under Highlands Residential Resources, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

It is the policy of HRS to ensure that no citizen shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

POLICY REMINDERS



The HRS Smoking Policy is now in effect for all HRS homes. A copy of the policy is available at the HRS main office.

NO FIREWORKS AT ANY TIME ON ANY HRS PROPERTY BY ANYONE.

No fireworks (includes bottle rockets, firecrackers, sparkers, poppers, etc.) at any time on any HRS property by anyone."



ADDRESSES: ONLY residents listed on the current lease can receive mail at one of our addresses and no one else.