

**HOUSING
PARTNERSHIP
OF THE FOX
CITIES**

Housing Partnership Staff
& Contact Information

Main office:
(920) 731-6644 Phone
(920) 731-7087 Fax

Non-emergency Maintenance Line ex. 109

Emergency maintenance pager: (920) 554-4027
(Enter your phone number after the beep and someone will call you back.)

Lisa Schneider, Executive Director ex. 101

Jenni Kunding, Case Manager ex. 108

Dorothy Olson, Life Skills Coordinator ex. 107

Emma Reiser, Rental Program Mgr. ex. 102

Lee Rossiter, Administrative Services Coordinator ex. 103

Michelle Jensen, Health and Wellness Coordinator ex. 109

Skip Bowen, Administrative Assistant

Mike Ninedorf, Project Manager

Karen Schiller, Development Director

Nancy Seversen, Project Coordinator

Amy Seversen, Project Assistant

Housing Partnership website:
www.housing-partnership.org

Office location:
**605 E. Hancock St.,
Appleton, WI 54911**

Office hours:
Mon. – Thurs.: 8 am – 4 pm
Fri.: 8 am – 12 pm

Winter 2010 Tenant Newsletter

JANUARY 2010



Homestead Tax Credit

Certain low-income households qualify for the Homestead Tax Credit when filing their state income tax return. However, one stipulation of qualifying for this credit is that you must not reside in housing that is tax-exempt. Most housing owned and managed by the Housing Partnership is exempt from property taxes, so many tenants are not able to claim this credit. If you rented from a different landlord during any part of 2009 you might be able to claim the credit for the rent you paid at that unit. Tenants who reside in the Wire Works complex (601 E. Hancock St.) or the Open Door complex (320 W. Eighth St.) may qualify for the tax credit as these properties are not tax-exempt. All other properties owned or managed by the Housing Partnership are tax exempt.

You should talk to a qualified tax adviser if you have questions about filing your taxes. Information about the Homestead Tax Credit can also be found on the WI Department of Revenue website at <http://www.dor.state.wi.us/faqs/ise/home.html#home2>. If you find that you are eligible to claim the Homestead Tax Credit you may drop off the appropriate form at our office. In most cases we will be able to complete the form within 1-2 business days, but please call ahead if you need it sooner than that.

CENSUS 2010



In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will issue a call to action for every resident of our nation: "Be Counted." The U.S. Census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding for grants, new hospitals, roads, schools and other facilities and programs. The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the boundaries of legislative districts. An incomplete count could mean your community does not receive its fair share of funding.

FAST FACTS ABOUT THE CENSUS

Safe – The Census Bureau protects information that identifies respondents or their households for 72 years.

Easy – The questionnaire contains only a few simple questions and takes just a few minutes to answer and return by mail.

Everyone counts – The census is a count of everyone living in the United States, including all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

Coming soon – Census questionnaires will be mailed in March 2010.

For more information go to
www.census.gov/2010census



CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Only for tenants who live at 601 E. Hancock St., 320 W. Eighth St., 2420 E. Peter St., and 722 W. Fifth St.:

On Tuesday, January 12 we will pick up Christmas trees for disposal. If you have a Christmas tree and are unable to dispose of it yourself, please leave it next to (not in front of) the dumpsters beginning Sunday, January 10th. We will pick up the trees sometime after 9 am on the 12th. Trees put out in the wrong area or after the pickup day will not be picked up by the Housing Partnership. Do not put your Christmas tree out before January 10th because it may become frozen to the ground or covered by snow.

For tenants who live at any other property:

Christmas trees will be picked up by the City from the curb. Please remove plastic bags when placing a tree on the curb. See below for dates:

- In Appleton, Christmas trees will be picked up on your regular garbage day during the week of January 18th.
- In Neenah, trees will be picked up the week of January 11th.
- In Menasha, you may set your tree out anytime in the month of January and it will be picked up sometime during this month.

If you miss scheduled pickup in your area, you are responsible for bringing your tree to the appropriate municipal yard waste drop-off site. You may call our office for these locations.

Appleton, WI 54911
605 E. Hancock St.

Housing Partnership of the Fox Cities



Response to tenant surveys and feedback

Over the last year or so the Housing Partnership asked some tenants to fill out surveys about our housing and programs. We also tracked other feedback given by tenants throughout the year. We used this feedback to make some changes and improvements to the services and housing we provide. Below are some examples of what we did in response to your feedback. We hope this encourages you to continue offering your input!

- Many tenants who live in units without air conditioning inquired about what can be done to keep their house cooler. We are installing ceiling fans in our new units and as they turn over between tenants, and we hope to install more ceiling fans at all of our units as time and money are available.
- Many tenants expressed interest in health and wellness programming. We are lucky to have Michelle Jensen, our Health and Wellness Coordinator, for one year through AmeriCorps. You have probably noticed her health and wellness newsletter. Please call her at (920) 731-6644 ex. 106 if you are interested in the resources and help she can provide.
- Tenants said they want to know how to reduce their utility bills. Included with this newsletter is an insert about how to make your home more efficient.
- Due to concerns about the sharing of yard care and shoveling, a system was developed to help tenants keep track of the work they complete. This should alleviate problems neighbors have making sure the work is equally shared.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

The Housing Partnership would like to expand the use of email in corresponding with our tenants. Email is faster and more efficient for our organization.

If you would like to submit your email address to us please send an email to emma@housing-partnership.org. We may still use your phone number or mailing address for certain communication, but email will be utilized when possible for any tenant who has shared their email address with us. Don't forget to let us know if your email address has changed or changes in the future.



Changes to garbage and recycling pick-up



The City of Appleton and City of Neenah made changes to garbage and recycling services for 2010. Tenants who live at properties where Waste Management dumpsters are used are not affected by these changes.

In **Appleton**, overflow service will occur monthly on the week after the second Sunday of the month. Pink sticker overflow will still be picked up weekly but a 2 bag per week limit is now in effect. Bulky overflow, scrap metal, and major appliance pickup has been reduced from bi-weekly to monthly. You must still purchase the appropriate stickers for overflow not picked up on the free week. Call the Dept. of Public Works 832-6474 with questions.

In **Neenah**, single-stream recycling is now in use. Residents must now provide their own 35-gallon recycling container. All recyclables (glass, aluminum, paper, cardboard, etc.) go together in one bin.

New Housing Partnership Website!

The new Housing Partnership website will be launched in January 2010. The new site will contain a lot of useful information and links for tenants, as well as basic information you may look for from time to time like our office hours and contact information. You may also be interested in exploring the website to find out more about our mission, history, staff, etc.

Check it out starting later this month at www.housing-partnership.org.

If you have any questions or suggestions let us know. We look forward to feedback from users about how they like the new site!

Starting in January, Emma's office hours will be slightly more limited than before. You are encouraged to call ahead if you plan on stopping in the office for a specific request to see if Emma will be in or if someone else can help you. Phone calls and emails will still be responded to in a timely manner, usually within 24 hours Monday through Friday. The office will still be adequately staffed during the days rent is due.