

Emergency Numbers

(after hours)

903/896-4807 or

903/386-9400

Edgewood Police Dept.

911 or 903/896-4100

JULY

4 Independence Day
(office closed)

5&19 Food Bank-Crockett
Center

22 EHA Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST

9 Cheatham Back-to-School
Block Party-FREE school
supplies

19 Public Hearing on proposed
Changes at E.H.A., 6 p.m.

19 EHA Board Mtg., 6:30 p.

25 First day of school!!

ADMISSION & CONTINUED OCCUPANCY CHANGES

Time to make some changes to our Admissions & Continued Occupancy Policy. Changes involve an increase in Flat Rents, increase in Security Deposits and a change to the Community Center usage policy. A public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m., August 19th in the housing office, 202 N. Houston. Those wanting to learn more about the proposed changes can contact us prior to the meeting or can attend the meeting to make comments on the proposed changes.

EDGEWOOD HOUSING AUTHORITY

JANICE WINGO,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMER 2014

Notes from the Administrator.....

It's summer and we hope you'll take a moment to read up on what we feel is important information. We're trying a briefer, summary type style, input is always welcome.

As most of you know, Fruitvale Housing had some difficulties last year and we stepped in to help them out. Most people assume there's a large vat of money to be reached into when an authority runs into trouble—not true. Everyone has a budget from which everything must be handled. We must think ahead and have a cushion for emergencies when those things we didn't expect arise. Edgewood Housing is on solid financial grounds, but Fruitvale still struggles. Please keep this authority in your thoughts, as the residents there love their homes and are understanding and grateful. We're happy to report Fruitvale has a new executive director and maintenance man who are doing great.

The most important part of this newsletter is to notify you about some coming changes. Please take a moment to read the article, "Admissions & Continued Occupancy Policy Changes."

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Grand Saline Community Pool-Hours: Monday 4-10 pm, Tuesday-Friday 1-7 pm, Saturday 12-6 pm. The cost is: under 2 yrs of age FREE, 2-4 year olds \$1, and 5 and older \$3.

Roundup Roller Rink-in Grand Saline is open Fridays and Saturdays 7-11 pm, \$5.

Back to School Block party-School supplies giveaway, games, food and fun. Cheatham Memorial United Methodist Church, Aug. 9th, 9-1 pm. Student must attend Edgewood school and bring proof of residency (utility bill, report card, etc.).

East Texas Baptist Camp Meeting-July 14-18, Canton Civic Center. Outstanding gospel music and preaching each night at 7 p.m. FREE!

*7/8/14 Bobby put on all residents doors

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

THINGS YOUR MOTHER SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU

1. Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
2. Store open chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. They will stay fresh much longer and not mold!
3. To reheat pizza, place in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. Keeps crust crispy.
5. Flexible vacuum-to get something out of a heat register or under the fridge add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.
6. Conditioner-use hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair!
7. Be kind and thoughtful to those working outside in the summer. You never know when you'll be one of them.

MOSQUITOS—The best time to do something about flying pests is before they overcome you.

- 1) Walk around the outside of your apartment and look for any standing water in containers and empty it. If your neighbors have any in their yards, ask them to empty it. If there is a undrainable spot, put a few drops of dish soap in to kill larvae.
- 2) Be sure and put your repellent near the front door and use it before going outside.
- 3) Go easy on perfumes that will attract pests.
- 4) Create a breeze--mosquitoes can only fly 8 mph so it doesn't take much to push them off course—sit near a fan.
5. Try carrying a dryer sheet in your pocket. It helps repel mosquitoes.



MAINTENANCE REPORT



The biggest chunk of the guys' time during summer will be mowing and AC problems.

MOWING--remember to pick up any trash, toys, etc. If they can't mow your yard and have to come back, you will be charged.

AC--it's Texas and the AC is vital. You must keep the return vents (and all vents) free of any blockage. This means better cooling and less bill to pay.

TOILETS--if you have kids, please take a moment and discuss the problems with too much toilet paper in the bowl. Also, older children can be shown where the cutoff valve is in case of an overflow.

Please remember when you call, that while your problem is important, some things are a priority and air conditioning can be life threatening for the elderly and very young. The work will be done, but if you're the one with the AC problem, you'll be thankful that it's fixed ahead of a leaky faucet.

WATER**WATER**WATER

Anyone not living under a rock is aware of the current drought we are experiencing. While rain is the answer, please be aware that you can do something.

*Don't let the water run when you're brushing your teeth (the same thing works when taking a shower).

*Take showers not baths--showers often use less water than baths. Take only 1 shower/bath per day.

*Wash a sink full of dishes and then rinse all of them together.

*Keep water in the fridge for drinking--don't run tap until the water gets cool enough to drink.

*If you have children, drive them by Lake Tawakoni and explain the danger our state is in with the low water levels. Then walk them through your apartment and show them what they can do to help.

*Visually inspect outside/inside your place for any leaks (great time to make sure there aren't any puddles--mosquitoes) and call maintenance ASAP.

Be proactive--every little bit helps.

** 1/29/13 Bobby/Dennis placed on all doors (questionnaire p. 4)*

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WANTED:
RESIDENT
COMMISSIONER

We have an opening for a resident commissioner. This will be for a 2-year term and anyone interested in stepping up and heeding the call for their community needs to contact us immediately. This is your chance to speak up for yourself and your fellow residents. The Edgewood mayor appoints all commissioners, but we would like to present him with a list of interested applicants.

FEBRUARY

14 Valentine's Day

18 President's Day

19 EHA Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.

MARCH

10 Daylight Savings Begins

17 St. Patrick's Day

26 EHA Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.

29 Good Friday

31 Easter

APRIL

1 April Fool's Day

27 Bluebird Festival

EDGEWOOD HOUSING AUTHORITY

JANICE WINGO,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WINTER 2013

Notes from the administrator...

We closed 2012 with many positive events. Thanks to the help of volunteers-Candace Rodriguez, Radie Burks, Spencer Miguel, and Bruce Ingram, we created a great float for the Christmas parade that won 1st place. Residents who rode the float in the parade were Lindsey Black, Viola Chaney, Spencer Miguel, Candace Rodriguez, Stephanie Miller, Danielle Barbee, and Timothy, Destiny, and Jacob Moyers.

There have been many times that residents ask us "You know so-in-so is doing ___? Why don't you do something?" We must have someone willing to stand up and testify in court if needed. You may want to report what you see anonymously, but unless we have tangible proof or we witness it first hand, we cannot do anything without a witness who is willing to testify.

We are receiving multiple complaints about damages being done by stray dogs. As we continue to advise, you must call the city office to complain. They have a leash law which is not being enforced, but if enough people complain, they will be forced to respond. The city office phone number is 903/896-4448.

In February 2010 we asked for feedback on our newsletter. No one responded, but when we discontinued it, several residents came in and asked why. When we questioned the lack of response it was the same answer, "I thought someone else would say something." So here's your opportunity to speak up. If this newsletter is not serving it's purpose (keeping residents informed) we must discontinue it. Take a moment and fill in the form on the back page and tell us what you like, don't like, or would like to see included in this newsletter. At the end of the month the forms will be evaluated and we will either try to improve or discontinue this newsletter. We don't have all the answers, but we have a willingness to try.

Let's all have a happy, safe, new year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are several scholarships offered for residents of public housing or participants in the Section 8 program.

Southwest NAHRO offers three categories of scholarships for graduating seniors, they are: (1) \$4000 payable \$1000 per year over four years; (1) \$1000 one-year Philip W. Miller Academic Scholarship; and several \$100 scholarships to seniors who attain a four-year 3.0 GPA and an 18 on the ACT. The application must be postmarked by **Friday, March 15, 2013**.

Southwest NAHRO also offers scholarships for adult heads of households who are currently attending college. Application deadline is **Friday, March 15, 2013**, and winners can receive either \$500 or \$750. The head of household must be currently attending college.

TX NAHRO offers ten \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are living in public housing or receiving Section 8 Rental Assistance. Entry deadline is **Friday, February 15, 2013**.

Please stop by the office to pickup applications and request additional information.

AROUND EHA

LAUNDRY USERS

Please clean up after yourself; the laundry room is not a place to leave unwanted clothes.



LAWN CARE

In February you will be asked to sign a form declaring your intention to mow your own yard as needed, or pay \$8 per month for lawn care.

If you elect to do your own lawn care, you will be expected to maintain it to the same standards as the maintenance staff is maintaining your neighbors' yards, by mowing and weed-eating at least as often as they do.

However, please remember that if the maintenance staff must make a special trip back to mow your yard because either you did not mow as agreed or it was so cluttered with toys, hoses, trash, etc. that they couldn't mow when they were there, you will be charged an additional \$12 for the inconvenience of making a second trip, in addition to the \$8.00 in the contract. Please see that the yard stays clear of all such items. If all members of your household are elderly or disabled, you will not be required to pay for lawn service.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) provides demand-response free/low charge public transportation in all 14 counties of East Texas.

ETCOG provides rural transportation for \$2-\$5 per trip. Seniors (60+) may receive free transportation. Donations are accepted.

On out of town trips they ask you to be ready by 7 am and the predicted arrival time is 10 am. You may be asked to be ready at an earlier time; in the event that your time changes you will be given a call. Please don't schedule doctor's appointments or out of town trips earlier than 10 am.

Service is available between 6 am and 6 pm. Local trips are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Trips to Tyler must be scheduled for Thursdays. To schedule a trip call 1-800-590-3371.

NEW AC/HEATING UNITS

We appreciate everyone's patience while the new units were put in. We know that it was an inconvenience due to the many inspections, but believe that you will benefit from lower energy bills. We had begun to have trouble with the old units, so it was time for a change. Total expenditures to replace all units was \$135,574.82 or \$2711.50 per apartment. This was funded by our 2011 and 2012 Capital Fund grants. Please remember to never block your return air grill with furniture or other items; and to not store anything in the closet with your AC unit.

Neighborhood Watch Works

Report any sign of vandalism or suspicious activity to the police immediately. Let's keep unwanted troublemakers out of the apartment complexes. Call us so we can document the problem and possibly issue a no trespass order to the intruder. We need this information if we need to go to court for an eviction.

ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS

We are required by law to take reasonable steps to make the site as accessible for disabled residents as for non-disabled residents. If any member of your household is disabled or becomes disabled and needs accommodation or modification of the site or its policies, please bring it to our attention. You must also inform us if your household may have difficulty meeting its obligations under the lease or house rules because of a member's disability. We want to make sure that disabled residents are treated fairly and have the same positive experience at the site as non-disabled residents, and we need your help in meeting this goal.

FYI.....

TOP 10 ACTS OF FRAUD FOUND IN PUBLIC HOUSING

1. Allowing additional people to live in unit.
2. Working a contract labor job for cash and not reporting.
3. Resident not residing in apartment.
4. Failure to report that people outside the household are paying tenant's bills.
5. Failure to report increases in income within 10 days of change.
6. Failure to report when family members move out.
7. Failure to report death of household member.
8. Allowing someone outside household to claim your dependents on their income tax.
9. Not reporting starting work within 10 days as required.
10. Not reporting when children go to work.

CONSEQUENCES

Prison, repayment, eviction, etc.

WHATEVER THE COST- IT'S NOT WORTH IT

The Good Neighbor

Your Lease requires that you act, and cause your household members and guests to act in a manner that will not disturb other residents' peaceful enjoyment of their accommodations and that will be conducive to maintaining all Housing Authority developments in a decent, safe and sanitary condition. Be a good neighbor to others and they'll be the same to you.

WHY REPORT YOUR INCOME?

EHA has recently conducted several investigations using a new HUD program called EIV. This program allows EHA to view the current income of all household members living in public housing and compare it to the reported income on which the rent is figured. Consequences for those under-reporting income could be eviction, criminal charges, etc. It could also result in substantial back charges for underpaid rent. Tenants have had back charges of over \$500 that had to be paid because they failed to report that their wages or benefits had been increased.

Please be sure you keep your income and all household information up to date with the office to avoid putting your family in situations like these. Although your rent may go up as the result of a new job or a family member receiving a raise, keeping this information from the office is not worth losing your apartment or having to pay a back charge. Income information can be updated with the office at anytime, not just at the time of your yearly recertification. In fact, your lease requires income changes be reported within 10 days of their occurrence.

****WARNING**WARNING****

Please be aware that you will be responsible for any damages caused by stickers (or anything with adhesive backing) applied in your apartment. For example—the varnish finish on doors and cabinets can be badly scarred when stickers are removed. The cost for a new door is \$100. It would be wise to take a moment and make sure everyone in the apartment knows the consequences of applying anything with adhesives.

GUESTS and VISITORS

Residents need to keep in mind that you may not have overnight guests or visitors in the apartment for more than fifteen (15) days within a 12-month period without prior written approval of Management. A guest is defined as a person in the leased apartment or on the property with the consent of a Resident's household member. Management may regulate, limit, or prohibit from Housing Authority property, guests who have been disturbing other residents or violating this Lease or Management Policies.

OTHER NEWS

Newsletter

☐ I am not interested in the newsletter.

☐ I read the newsletter faithfully and the writers are extremely good (especially Jan).

I would like to see information about:

Some possible articles might include:

(Please check those you are interested in)

☐ Stretching your dollar

☐ Lease requirements

☐ Section 8 program

☐ Self-improvement

☐ Community activities

Please take a moment and write down what you would be interested in. Our goal with the newsletter is to keep you informed and keep an open line of communication. We need your input to make that possible.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

Finding time for homework is no easy feat for parents on the go. However, the time you spend with your children keeps you involved, decreases the chances that your child will fall behind in class, and shows the value you put on education.

If you weren't tops in school, there are still steps you can take to benefit your child.

- 1) Be available and look for opportunities to praise them for staying on task with their homework.
- 2) Set a positive example. Read a book, write a letter, balance your checkbook, or make a grocery list. Turn your TV off. If there are questions you can't answer, call a classmate or teacher. Then both of you listen so you understand as well as your child.
- 3) Children need to get started studying at a designated time. They respond better if a regular routine is followed. Stick to that time. There are always exceptions but they should be few and far between.

CONTACTING TEACHERS

Start by attending open house when your school has it. Meet the teachers and tell them that you're available whenever necessary. Tell them you are interested in your child's progress and they may call you during their free period if they can. At the end of the first week, call and ask how it's going and share any of your concerns. Also tell about any major events, such as the death of a relative or other emotional situations. Be sure to thank them and schedule meetings when needed.

MAKE THE GRADE IT PAYS

Don't forget to bring in your kids' report cards for any six-weeks in which they have perfect attendance or make the A/B honor roll. Their gift cards are waiting to be claimed.