March 2023 Volume 28. Issue 03

#### \*\*Free Family Fun Event \*\*

### Family Mental Health Summit **MARCH 25, 2023**

#### About This Event

Indoor event where families and caregivers can meet with providers, and providers can network with each other.





#### Time and Place

Saturday, March 25, 2023 Between 10 AM to 2 PM Ben-Gil Gymnasium 340 Kelly Street, Gillespie

- Expert panel discussions
  - · Networking
  - · FREE PIZZA
- · Fun games and projects for kids.
- · Meet local mental health professionals
  - · Resource sharing



**Co-Sponsored by:** 

Macoupin Co Public Health & Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center.



## Neighbors



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#### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



March 2023





Spring arrives this month! That means mowing will begin soon in the developments, so it's time to prepare the yards that have been covered by leaves and snow all winter long. Pick up all toys, paper, bottles, cans, clothing, and anything else that may be littering the yard. Store lawn furniture, grills, bikes, and outside toys next to the building, out of the way of the mowers.

MCHA has collaborated with Ameren and their Illinois Energy Efficiency Program. This program gives energy efficiency measures that helps both the Housing Authority and the tenants to save on energy costs. We have been out with an Ameren representative over the past couple of weeks in the developments changing out light bulbs to LEDs, installing water saving aerators and showerheads, and installing smart thermostats. This work should be done, or close to it. All of these products they installed were designed to help you improve comfort, manage usage, and reduce costs.

#### HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Dionne Wyatt, CEO



Daylight Savings begins Sunday, March 12th! Don't forget to SPRING forward 1 hour!

Address:

P.O. Box 226

760 Anderson St.

Carlinville, IL 62626

(217) 854-8606

Fax: (217) 854-8749

Toll Free:

1-866-363-5142

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday

8am-4:30pm

CLOSED WEDNESDAY

Thursday & Friday

8am-4:30pm

**Emergency Work** Order Number:

(217) 827-2100

**EMERGENCIES INCLUDE:** 

- Gas leaks
- **Broken water pipes**
- **Exposed electrical**
- No heat (if the outside temperature is 45-degrees or low-
- Sewer line stoppage (not drain line)- this includes a clogged toilet
- CO/Smoke detector beeping or chirping

Also fire, flood, or anything that threatens life, safety or property damage.

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#### **UPCS for March**

47-10– Gillespie(503-511, 603-613 Gillespie St., 304-306 High St., 504-510 South St., 307-311 Fillmore St.)

#### **Preventive Maintenance for March**

- 47-11- Virden(304-316 Church St., 127-131 Prairie St.)
- 47-12- Staunton(221-228 Sunset Ct., 603-621 Kay Ln.)

\*Q&A (Quality Assurance) inspections may take place on work orders and inspections anywhere from 3-5 days after the inspection/work order happened.

Residents who have trouble keeping up with rent payments have an opportunity to get ahead with their income tax refunds. If you struggle with paying rent, use the money you get back to pay one or two months of rent. If you continue to pay your rent monthly, you can let that extra money remain on your account as a cushion. Remember, paying late three times in a 12-month period may result in eviction. If you're having trouble getting caught up or setting up a budget, you can contact the office for help. Also, please report changes in income promptly.

#### What is FSS?

FSS stands for Family Self-Sufficiency and allows public housing residents to build financial assets as the household increases income from wages. Participation generally lasts 5 years, during which participants identify educational, professional and personal goals, such as: educational advancement (i.e. GED or post-secondary); completion of specialized job training; obtaining employment; career advancement; transitioning out of subsidized housing or homeownership.

The FSS program not only involves goal setting, but also mentoring and financial incentive to empower families in making positive life changes. When a resident becomes part of the program, they have the ability to benefit from an escrow account. As their earned income increases and their rent increases, a portion of that rent goes into an escrow account which they can withdraw upon meeting their set goals.

If you are interested in learning more about the FSS program, call 217-854-8606 and ask for Stephanie.



# CONGRATULATIONS Mary Daniels

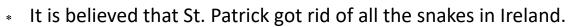
is the winner of the \$50 Walmart gift card for February UPCS inspections!

47-10- Gillespie (503-511, 603-613 Gillespie St., 304-306 High St., 504-510 South St., 307-311 Fillmore St.) will have a chance in March. Make sure your apartment is ready and meeting the House-keeping Policy!

When your children are outside playing, please remind them to stay out of the office parking lot and the roads, as they can get busy. Please keep an eye on them when they are outside at all times. Parents are responsible for their children's actions.

Tenants are to maintain the exterior and interior of their home in a safe and sanitary condition. Tenant shall notify the Macoupin County Housing Authority promptly of required repairs to the unit and of unsafe conditions in the areas surrounding the unit.

#### Fun Facts about St. Patrick's Day





- \* The shamrock is a symbol of Ireland.
- \* The Chicago River is turned green every year to celebrate.
- Blue was actually the color most associated with St. Patrick. Green was considered to unlucky.



The first St. Patrick's Day parade happened in America, not Ireland.

#### Macoupin County Public Transportation will have the following events scheduled for the month of March.



- Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> Science Center
   Spaghetti Factory St. Louis, MO
- Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> St. Louis Union Station & Sugar Fire Smoke House St. Louis, MO



#### Macoupin County Public Transportation

112 S. Macoupin St. Gillespie, IL 62033 Call 217-839-4132 to reserve your seat