



# Valentine's Day

Find the words on the list in the word search below!

XZNEIH  
HZBMSWQXF  
ZQJFOOAAMCS  
CBIGLRRRTAFDX  
QGEOHTUSXEIBBWDXACSHDWWGODH  
UPPJWETWAFUPDJJUCEUVTMQAHVUZ  
URFQEBQEZHURUCBUBXBHULIJXFDEDA  
IAJWRRENUYSCEBQEF OORDBFEXWZY  
WGSSSENDNIKPTSKZATWCLGRPHNKM  
TJUWOESERVIC ECSNOFRJOUAQMUCE  
LKCOTMBLUFTHGUOHTCPQLLQTMFNU  
DOIYBQDYGHAPPINESSTOSZAHGEZY  
JZZHDUVQPDRPIHSDNEIRFGRTNIT  
DETSNRPEEPCDWHRMSQDTLFOESC  
FMJWAGHOB TOKLWUPODFOZAPJ  
AZKVCVHORXXPXJCLETTERS  
TGIFTSRMHSFEKNIPPTIA  
DIRDAWGDCAXRGTBFKH  
EITBBPJKCVBAZIMD  
QFPVIOZZINCHYJ  
JSQYDDZMHEYS  
HTBVSHHIXQ  
WIKLZFMZ  
BOTGPJ  
LVIR  
VR

ESSBWV  
SVHBTJUVS  
PTNNNUFJEKM  
JWRHIMFRQBLJC  
ACSHDWWGODH  
TMQAHVUZ  
XFDEDA  
BFEXWZY  
GRPHNKM  
JOUAQMUCE  
LQTMFNU  
STOSZAHGEZY  
IRFGRTNIT  
FOESC  
FOZAPJ  
LETTERS  
IPPTIA  
BFKH  
IMD  
CHYJ  
MHEYS  
HIXQ  
FMZ  
GPJ  
R



ARROWS  
CUPID  
FUN  
HEARTS  
LOVE  
RED  
SHARE

CANDY  
FLOWERS  
GIFTS  
KINDNESS  
NICE  
ROSE  
SWEET

CHOCOLATE  
FRIENDSHIP  
HAPPINESS  
LETTERS  
PINK  
SERVICE  
THOUGHTFUL





# Neighbors

## Macoupin County Housing

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

FEBRUARY 2026  
VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2

## February Facts

National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 7th. This day is dedicated to bringing greater attention to heart disease. So choose your favorite red shirt, dress, pants, hat, tie, scarf, or even socks and support American Heart Month.

Did you know that some of the very first Valentine's Day cards were handmade and decorated with lace, ribbon, and images of cupids and hearts. It was not until the 1840s that companies in the United States started to mass-produce Valentine's Day cards.

Abraham Lincoln was a wrestler in his youth, and rarely lost. His height and long arms made him a formidable opponent.

**Dionne, CEO**  
Stay Safe and Healthy!

**Address:**  
P.O. Box 226  
760 Anderson St. Carlinville, 62626  
217-854-8606  
Fax: 217-854-8749

**Toll Free:**  
1-866-363-5142

**Office Hours:**  
Monday & Tuesday  
8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Wednesdays  
Thursday & Friday  
8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Emergency Work Order  
Number:  
(217) 827-2100

**EMERGENCIES INCLUDE:**

- ♦ Gas leaks
- ♦ Broken water pipes
- ♦ Exposed electrical wires
- ♦ No heat (if the outside temperature is 45-degrees or lower)
- ♦ 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

**NSPIRE FOR FEBRUARY**

47-02

All Buchanan St. and the “Outside Circle” of DeArbee Drive– (ODD # Units)

**PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR FEBRUARY**

47-08 Girard

**\*Inspections may take place on any day of the month between the hours of 8am—4:30pm Monday—Friday.\***  
**You do not need to be home for these inspections.**

47-03 Staunton (700-747  
Kay Lane  
213-229 Deneen St.)

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

**OFFICE NEWS**

**Thursday, February 12, 2026 - MCHA Office Closed in honor of Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday**

**Monday, February 16, 2026- CLOSED to observe President’s Day**

When the office is closed, please call **EMERGENCY WORK ORDERS** in to the emergency phone number. Please wait until the office opens to call in routine work orders. If you call the emergency line and do not have an emergency, you could be charged.

**(217) 827-2100**

**EMERGENCIES INCLUDE:**

- ♦ Gas Leaks
- ♦ Broken Water Pipes
- ♦ Exposed Electrical Wires
- ♦ No Heat (if the outside temperature is 45-degrees or lower)
- ♦ Sewer Line Stoppage (not drain line)- this includes stopped up toilet
- ♦ CO/Smoke detector going off
- ♦ Also Fire, Flood, or Anything that Threatens Life Safety or Property Damage.

***APPLICATION***

***ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING AUTHORITIES  
CENTRAL COUNCIL***

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

***Name:***\_\_\_\_\_ ***Phone Number:***\_\_\_\_\_

***Address:***\_\_\_\_\_ ***City***\_\_\_\_\_, ***State***\_\_\_\_\_, ***Zip***\_\_\_\_\_

***Age:***\_\_\_\_ ***Grade in School:***\_\_\_\_ ***Graduation Date/G.E.D. Completion:***\_\_\_\_\_

***Academic Major (if any):***\_\_\_\_\_ ***Grade Point Average:***\_\_\_\_\_

***List the Colleges or Universities of interest to you, to which you have applied, or to which you have been accepted:***

***Summarize your academic accomplishments (i.e., scholarships, awards, etc.):***\_\_\_\_\_

***List Extra-curricular school activities in which you have participated (i.e., clubs, teams, etc.):***\_\_\_\_\_

***Indicate some of the community activities in which you have participated (i.e., church, community service, etc.):***

***List any hobbies and special interests:***\_\_\_\_\_

***Indicate any jobs that you have held:***\_\_\_\_\_

***List two personal references (names, addresses, and phone numbers):***\_\_\_\_\_

***(Use additional sheets if more room is required.)***

***In addition to the above information, you must provide the Housing Authority with the following for your application to be complete: all high school, college, and/or trade school transcripts; two letters of recommendation from teachers; and an essay of 200 words on your goals and how you would use the grant. (Use a separate sheet.) Print or type neatly.***

**ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

***CENTRAL COUNCIL***

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

The Central Illinois Council of the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities has elected to implement an Educational Assistance Grant Program. The Central Council will administer the program. The funds can be used for tuition, books, approved activity fees, necessities, work programs, and other items at the discretion of the sponsoring Council. The application requirements and grant rules are as follows:

- Applicant must be a graduating senior or anyone continuing their education and residing in a member agency-owned or managed project. Previous participants can reapply.
- Students must have maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average during their junior and senior years (except G.E.D.).
- The Housing Authority's Executive Director must recommend the student. ***All applications must be submitted by the Executive Director only. The Executive Director is responsible for verifying all application requirements and collecting all application materials.*** Local promotion of the Grant Program is the responsibility of the Executive Director.
- Applications must include 1) a school transcript or proof of G.E.D. completion; 2) two teacher recommendations; 3) an essay (200 words) by the student explaining their goals and how the grant would be used; and 4) the Executive Directors' comments.
- Additional recommendations from clergy, counselors, and others may be submitted.
- Provide a list of schools to which the student has applied. Proof of subsequent admission will be required.
- Student must describe extra-curricular activities, awards, community services, employment, and other accomplishments.
- If the leaseholder is the recipient of this scholarship, they must be in good standing with the Housing Authority. The recipient will continue to be eligible to receive payments if he/her move out of the Housing Authority.
- ***The deadline for receipt of application materials is March 31, 2026. ENCLOSE ALL MATERIALS*** and forward to the Executive Director of your Housing Authority.
- Grant will be awarded for the academic year 2026-2027.

**Remember you will have a chance to WIN a \$50.00 Walmart gift card if your unit will have a UPCS inspection this month.**

**Please refer to the pervious page to see if you are part of February UPCS inspections.**

## Helpful Cleaning Tips!

Get your whole house clutter free in just one month! I can't tell you how much having a decluttered home improves my life. I'm more relaxed, able to focus and generally less stressed. As someone who suffers from anxiety, this makes a huge difference in my happiness.

## Clutter Free in 30 Days

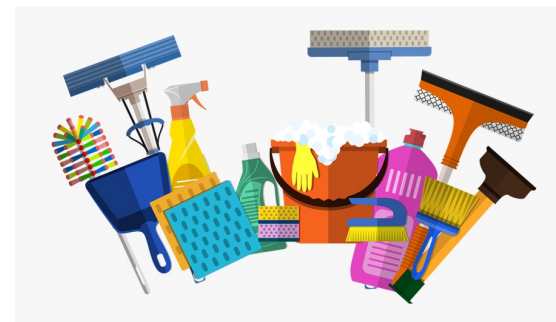
**Go through the list and get rid of things that are:**

Old  
Broken  
Never used  
Duplicates  
Unwanted

Here we go!

- TV stand
- Book collection
- Movies/CDs
- Bathroom cabinets
- Shower toiletries
- Makeup

- Jewelry
- Purse and wallet
- Hallway closet
- Bedroom end table
- Your clothes
- Your spouses clothes
- Your kids clothes
- Kid toys
- Office desk
- Fridge
- Freezer
- Medicine cabinet
- Under the kitchen sink
- Utensils
- Dishes
- Pots and pans







**Macoupin County  
Public Transportation**  
509 Illinois Avenue | Gillespie, IL  
Phone: 217-839-4130 Fax: 217-839-3809

# February Group Trips

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH | Antique Mall Shopping & Lunch**

- Call for pick-up/drop-off location | Cost: \$20 per person
- Dining at Reno’s Pizza in Carlinville
- Antique stores: The Chirping Frog, The Pink Elephant, It Is What It Is, Mother Road

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH | Dining & Shopping in Godfrey & Alton**

- Call for pick-up/drop-off location | Cost: \$20 per person
- Dining at Josephine’s Tea Room
- Shopping: Alton Square Mall

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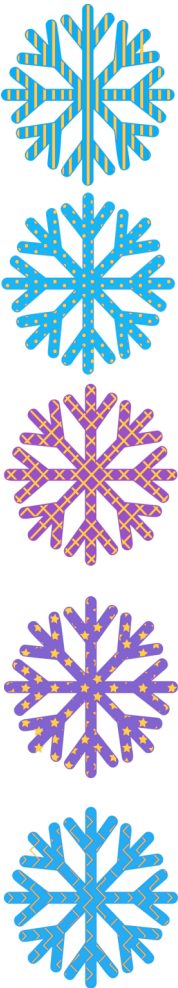
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH | Dining & Shopping in Litchfield**

- Call for pick-up/drop-off location | Cost: \$10 per person
- Dining at The Ariston
- Shopping at Walmart, Aldi, Dollar Tree, and Rural King

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH | Dining & shopping in Troy & St. Louis**

- Call for pick-up/drop-off location | Cost: \$20 per person
- Dining at Cracker Barrel in Troy
- Shopping at IKEA in St. Louis



Seats are limited and are available on a first come first served basis.  
All trips must have a minimum of 6 riders to proceed.  
Please call us at 217-839-4130 to reserve a seat.

*All riders are entitled to a 15-bag maximum limit, with the max weight of a bag being no more than 20lbs. All riders are responsible for their own bags and purchases. Macoupin County Public Transportation assumes no liability or responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen items or property.*

*Partially funded by the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland through the Older Americans Act of the Illinois Department of Aging.*



**RESIDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
SHOVELING DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS**

Please keep in mind that The Housing Authority is not responsible for shoveling driveways and sidewalks. Each city/town will plow the roads so make sure vehicles are parked where they will not get blocked by snow.



**RESIDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
CHANGING FURNACE FILTERS EVERY 30 DAYS**

Residents are responsible for changing their own furnace filters every 30 days. If you do not change your filter, it gets clogged and can cause permanent damage to the furnace. If you are unable to change your filter due to furnace placement or disability, please purchase the filter and then call the office so we may set up a work order to assist you.

**Rent Payments**

Please keep in mind that you are to pay your rent and all work order charges at your designated bank. If you pay at the wrong bank you will be charged a \$20 bookkeeping fee that you will be required to pay. Also, make sure you are giving them your name and address when paying at the bank. If you have someone else pay your rent or charges, they need to give them your name and address so we know who’s account we need to apply the money to. If we have the wrong name, your rent payment may be missed and always keep your receipt! I have listed below the town and the bank you should be paying at.

- Mt. Olive—Constitution Bank**
- Bunker Hill—United Community Bank**
- Carlinville—CNB Bank and Trust**
- Staunton—Bank of Springfield in Staunton**
- Gillespie—United Community Bank**
- Virden—Prairie State Bank and Trust**
- Girard—1st National Bank of Girard**
- Benld & Palmyra —Carlinville Office**

