

# Manhattan Housing Authority

## February 2012



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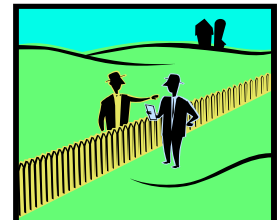
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## Pottawatomie Court Residents Form Resident Association

Pottawatomie Court residents met on January 10, 2012, to talk about forming a Resident Association for their community. Those in attendance have moved forward with creating the Resident Association and are now working on writing by-laws for the Association. The next Resident Association meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at 1008 Pottawatomie Court. Election of Officers will be held for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant of Arms and Public Relations upon approval of the by-laws by the Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners. All residents are invited and encouraged to participate in the Resident Association at your development! If your community does not have an active Resident Association and you are interested in forming one, please contact Crystal Borhani, Public Housing Manager, at 785 776-8588 ext. 302.

## MHA Resident of the Year Award

Each year the Manhattan Housing Authority recognizes a Resident of the Year at its Annual Board meeting. The Resident of the Year is chosen by all the residents of the Housing Authority's Public Housing communities. In the month of February, fliers will be sent to all residents asking for nominations for the 2011 Resident of the Year. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please fill out your flier and return it to the Administrative Office by the deadline date. Your nominee should be someone you know who resides in one of MHA's communities (Apartment Towers, Carlson Plaza, Baehr Place, Pottawatomie Court, Hudson Circle or Flint Hills Place) who you think should be recognized for their good deeds and contribution to their community. As a resident, you see your neighbor's good deeds far more than we do. If there is someone you think should be recognized, please let us know! Look for more information on an upcoming flier, or if you have questions, please call the Administrative Office at 776-8588.



# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Every February 14th, we celebrate the Valentine's Day holiday. But who was Valentine, and why do we spend millions on candy, cards and flowers on this one day? Here is a brief history of the meaning of Valentine's day. Historians know that a Catholic priest named Valentine, who later became a saint, lived during the time of the Roman Empire, around 200 A.D. However, they do not agree on how Valentine's Day as we know it got started. Here are two of the stories of the life of Valentine and why we celebrate Valentine's Day.

During the Roman empire, the Emperor declared that young men could not marry. He believed that soldiers who were not married and did not have children would be better fighters than those who were worried about their families back home. The most common history of Valentine's Day is that St. Valentine continued to perform marriages for Roman soldiers even after the Roman emperor had forbidden young men from marrying. Valentine believed it was wrong to keep these men from marrying the women they loved, so when young men of military age were ready to marry, they would bring their brides-to-be to Valentine, who would perform the marriage in secret. When the Emperor found out what Valentine was doing, he ordered him put to death. It is believed that February 14th was chosen as Valentine's Day because it was the day that St. Valentine died, but no one knows for sure if this is really the right date.

Another story about Valentine's Day is that St. Valentine attempted to help Roman prisoners escape the harsh prisons they were kept in. When the Romans discovered that Valentine was trying to help the prisoners, he was arrested and imprisoned also, and eventually put to death. One legend even goes so far as to say that Valentine himself sent the first "Valentine" letter. Allegedly, while Valentine was in prison, a daughter of one of the prison guards would visit him. Because of her visits, Valentine developed a great affection for her and sent her a letter before his death, which he signed "From your Valentine", which is still used to sign Valentine's Day cards today.

Whatever really happened in the life of St. Valentine, all the stories say he was a very compassionate, sympathetic and romantic person. Today, we take St. Valentine's Day as a day to celebrate our loved ones and friendships with others.



# What's Happening in Manhattan & at MHA - February 2012

## **CRAFTY SENIORS CRAFT SHOW AT MANHATTAN TOWN CENTER**

The Manhattan Town Center will hold the 2012 Crafty Seniors Craft Show on February 9 through February 12, 2012. The show features unique, hand made arts and crafts produced by seniors in Riley County and the surrounding area. Stop by the mall and check out all of the great exhibits!

## **FREE TAX PREPARATION!**

Kansas State Research & Extension of Riley County will be offering FREE tax preparation services beginning January 30, 2012. The service is offered to households with annual income of less than \$50,000. The free service will prepare simple IRS 1040 tax returns. They cannot complete itemized returns or returns for members of the military, international students or states other than Kansas. Appointments are held at the Manhattan Public Library. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call 785 565-6426. This service is sponsored by K-State Research & Extension, Manhattan Public Library and the IRS.

## **SHARE YOUR WRITING WITH MHA!**

Attention all creative writers: We know you are out there! If you have a short story, poetry or other writings you would like to share with others, please feel free to submit it to our office. We would love to be able to help you share your writing with others by putting it in a future MHA newsletter. Of course, anything submitted must be appropriate for residents of all ages, and it will be up to MHA staff what we can and cannot put in the newsletter. If you have any questions about having something put in the newsletter, please call 785 776-8588 ext 306.



## Monthly Reminders - February 2012

### **RENT PAYMENTS**

The Housing Authority uses an electronic scanner to scan checks and money orders to make deposits to our bank. In order to help this scanner work better, please be sure to write out checks or money orders in **blue** or **black** ink. Using different color ink makes it hard for the scanner to read the correct amount on the check or money order. Using blue or black ink saves us a lot of time and energy by allowing the checks to scan correctly the first time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

### **PLEASE KEEP FOOD AND DRINKS IN COMMUNITY ROOMS, NOT LOBBY AREAS**

If you are a resident of Apartment Towers or Carlson Plaza, please be sure to keep food and drinks in the Community Room. Community Rooms of each site can be used for resident activities, talking with visitors or just passing the time, and you are welcome to have food and drink in these areas. However, the rules for each site state that food and drink should be kept out of the lobby areas. This will help to prevent spills that can damage or stain the rugs and furniture in the lobby. We appreciate your help in keeping these areas clean!



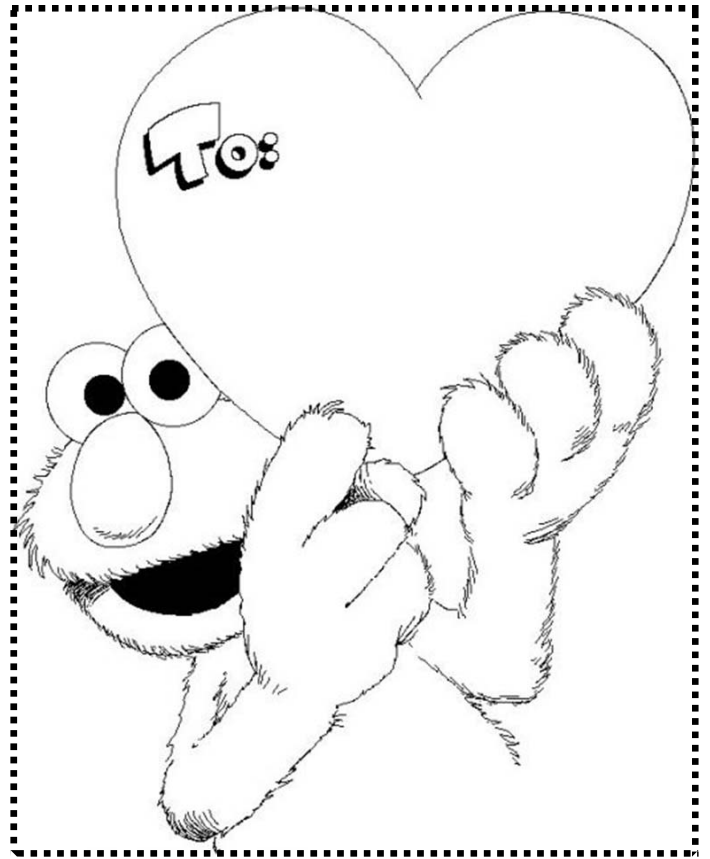
### **POTTAWATOMIE COURT COMPUTER LAB MONITOR NEEDED**

The Pottawatomie Court Computer Lab was re-opened recently after a long break. Our new monitor did a fantastic job cleaning and organizing the lab and getting it ready to be back in business. Unfortunately, due to a busier than expected schedule, she was unable to keep the lab monitor position. The Pottawatomie Court lab will be closed until a new lab monitor is found. If you are interested in fulfilling the lab monitor position, please stop by our office and complete an Employment Application for the position. Remember, the Lab Monitor is a volunteer position, but the Housing Authority is able to provide a stipend of up to \$200 each month depending on the number of hours volunteered. If you have questions about the position, please feel free to contact us at 785 776-8588 ext 306.

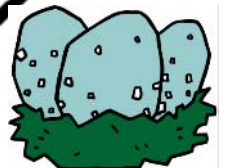
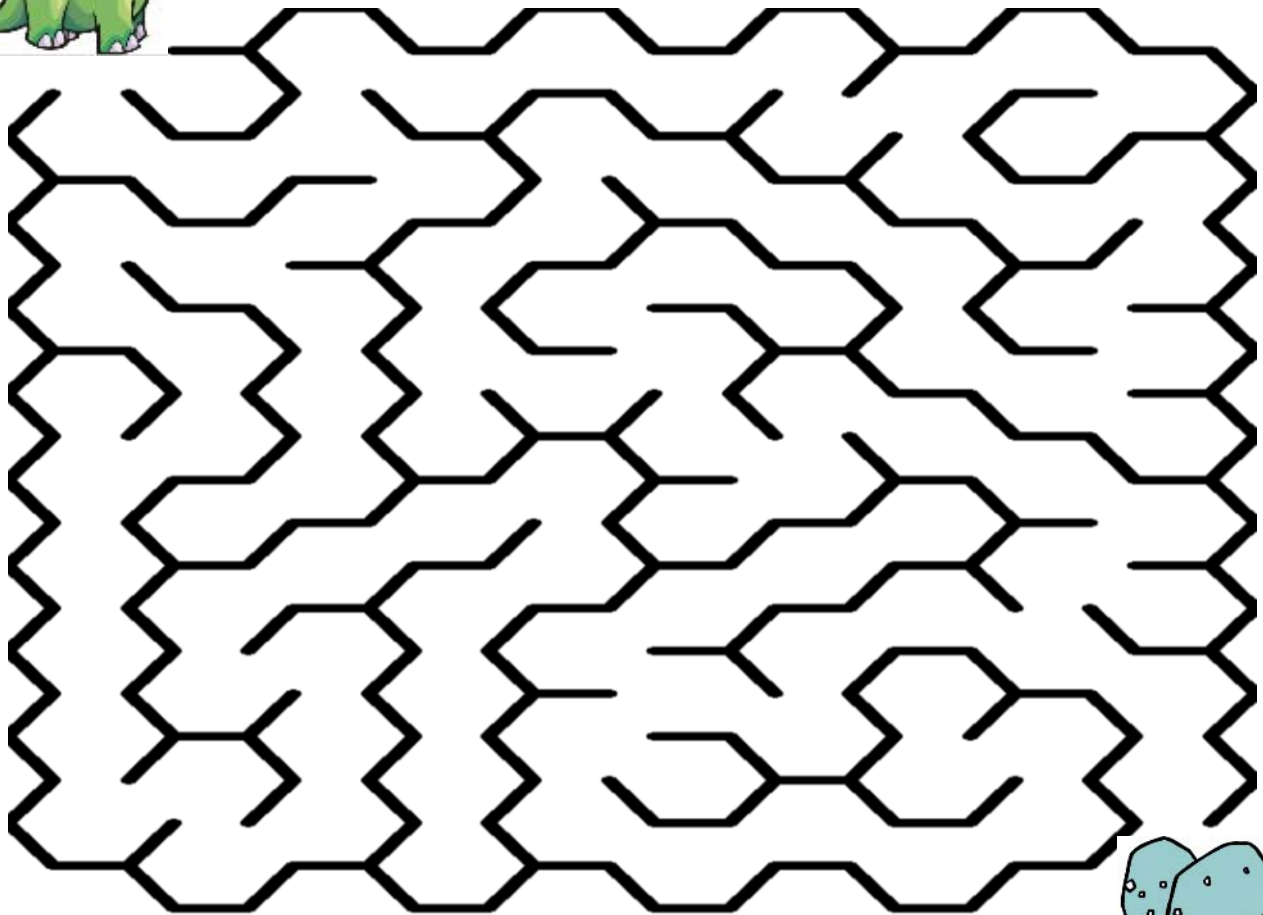


**KID'S  
CORNER!**

Here's an Elmo Valentine that you can color and give to your special Valentine!



Help the Mommy dinosaur find her eggs!



# FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 LAST DAY TO PAY RENT!	11 LATE FEES IN EFFECT!
12	13	14	15 MHA Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m. @ Apartment Towers	16	17	18
19	20 MHA Offices Closed - President's Day	21 Pest Control for Hudson Circle, Baehr Place and Flint Hills Place	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

**If you have questions or concerns about the MHA Newsletter or calendar events, please call the Administrative Office at 776-8588.**