

Manhattan Housing Authority

May 2011



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Manhattan Housing Authority Resident of the Year & Employee of the Year

The Manhattan Housing Authority held its 2011 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2011 in the Manhattan City Commission room at City Hall. During the meeting, it was our honor to present Angel Rodriguez of Carlson Plaza with the 2010 Resident of the Year award. Angel was nominated by other residents for being a good neighbor who is active in his community and always helpful to others. Congratulations to Angel for this well deserved award!

The Housing Authority was also proud to recognize Pat Andel, Maintenance Worker II, as the 2010 Employee of the Year. This award is voted on by all the employees of MHA. Pat has been an outstanding employee of the Housing Authority for 20 years.

Other residents receiving recognition at the Annual Meeting were: Michelle Gonzalez (Resident Volunteer), Daniel Bol and Linda Wiley (Apartment Towers Computer Lab Monitors), John Hawks (Pottawatomie Court Computer Lab Monitor), Jessica & Kedric Elmore (Carlson Plaza Hosts), Eve Moore (Carlson Plaza Assistant Hostess), Krienede Torres (Apartment Towers Hostess), Dayna Accaputo (Flint Hills Place Groundskeeper), Charles Trotter (The Gardens at Flint Hills Groundskeeper), Audra Collins (Hudson Circle Groundskeeper), Amy Price (Baehr Place Groundskeeper), & Marvin Hitschman (Pottawatomie Court Groundskeeper).



Angel Rodriguez, Resident of the Year, and Pat Andel, Employee of the Year, with JoAnn Sutton (Executive Director) and Eileen Meyer (Board of Commissioners Chair)



Happy Mother's Day!



Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not thought up by Hallmark. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festivals of the Greeks and Romans.

In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day." Fifteen years later, Julia Ward Howe, a Boston poet, pacifist, suffragist, and author of the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," organized a day encouraging mothers to rally for peace, since she believed they bore the loss of human life more harshly than anyone else.

In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the life work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen and politicians to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.

At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers, and eventually, by sending cards, presents, and flowers. With the increasing gift-giving activity associated with Mother's Day, Anna Jarvis became enraged. She believed that the day's sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit. In 1923 she filed a lawsuit to stop a Mother's Day festival, and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a convention selling carnations for a war mother's group. Before her death in 1948, Jarvis is said to have confessed that she regretted ever starting the mother's day tradition.

Despite Jarvis's misgivings, Mother's Day has flourished in the United States. In fact, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers.

www.mothers-day.123holiday.net



Monthly Reminders - May 2011

Use Caution With “Sharps”; MHA Can Help, Free of Charge!

Many of our residents have medical conditions, like diabetes, that require them to use needles to test their blood or take medicine. The needles that are used are called “sharps”, and can be a health hazard to others if they are not disposed of properly. The best way to dispose of sharps is to collect them in a special plastic container that is kept out of the reach of children. When a container is full, it can be taken to the Riley County Health Department for proper disposal. Sharps should never be placed in the trash without first being placed in some form of container that cannot be pierced by the sharps and that has a lid. Needles and other sharp objects can poke through trash bags and stick or cut someone, putting them at risk for infections and other hazards. If you are required to use needles for medical reasons and need help in properly disposing of your sharps, MHA can help by providing sharps containers and by taking full containers to the Riley County Health Department at no cost to the resident. Please call the main office at 776-8588 for more information.

Work Order Times - Patience, Please! The Housing Authority makes every effort to complete routine work order requests in a timely manner, in the order they are received. However, this does not mean that routine work orders will be completed the same day or the next day. Maintenance staff have many responsibilities and duties, including routine work orders, emergency work orders, readying vacant units for new residents and completing preventative maintenance. Please allow seven days (7) for completion of routine work orders before calling the Administrative Office to check on the status of the work order. This will help to prevent confusion and duplicate work orders. Emergency work orders will be addressed within 24 hours.

REAC Inspections: The Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) is an agency that HUD contracts to inspect Public Housing properties across the nation. REAC will be inspecting the Housing Authority’s Public Housing communities this summer, and we want to be ready for their visit. Pre-REAC inspections will be done on all Public Housing units in the coming weeks. As stated in the lease, you will receive at least 48 hours notice prior to the inspection. If you are not home when staff arrives for inspection, Maintenance will enter your unit to inspect for needed repairs and will secure your unit when the pre-REAC inspection is finished. We will use the same procedure when REAC inspections are conducted later this summer. Please call the office if you have questions or concerns.

Keep an Eye on Your Community! The Housing Authority works best with the help of our residents. If you see things in your community that you feel should be addressed, please let us know. One of the things that we could use your help with is knowing if someone has moved from their unit without notice. When this happens, it is often on the weekend or in the night, so staff does not see the person moving out. Serious damage can be done to the apartment when it is abandoned, especially if the utilities are turned off. If you see someone moving out and you don’t think it is on the “up-and-up”, please give us a call. More often than not the person has given a proper notice, but just in case they haven’t, it will help us to make sure no unnecessary damage is done to the unit. We appreciate your assistance in keeping your community safe!

What's Happening in Manhattan & at MHA - May 2011

Spend Mother's Day at the Zoo!

Visit the Sunset Zoo on Sunday, May 8th (Mother's Day) and Mom gets in free with a paid child's admission! This is a great way for families to spend time together. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for kids ages 3-12, and free for kids under 3. The zoo's hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy this great attraction that we have right here in Manhattan!

MHA Board of Commissioners Elects New Officers

The Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners elected new officers at the 2011 Annual Meeting, held on April 14th. Jan Galitzer was elected as Board Chair for 2011 and Ida Jane Leupold was re-elected as Board Vice Chair. Congratulations to Jan and Ida Jane! We would also like to thank our other Board members for volunteering their time to serve MHA and our community. Besides Jan and Ida Jane, other Board members are: Eileen Meyer, Randy Stitt, Phil Anderson and Lorenza Lockett. Bob Strawn's term as City Commission Liaison ended April 19, 2011. At the May 3, 2011 City Commission meeting, City Commissioner Richard B. Jankovich was appointed to fill Bob Strawn's remaining term. Mr. Jankovich's term begins May 3, 2011 and expires May 3, 2013. Thank you to all of our Commissioners for their guidance and support of the Manhattan Housing Authority!

Manhattan Downtown Farmers Market

The Downtown Farmers Market is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays from May 1 to October 31. The market has fresh flowers, fresh eggs and fresh produce. There are also homemade pies, cookies and other baked goods, along with displays by local artists. The market is held on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 5th and Humboldt, and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Cico Park. If you are in the neighborhood on one of these days, stop by and check out the Farmers Market!

May Resident Advisory Board Meeting Cancelled:

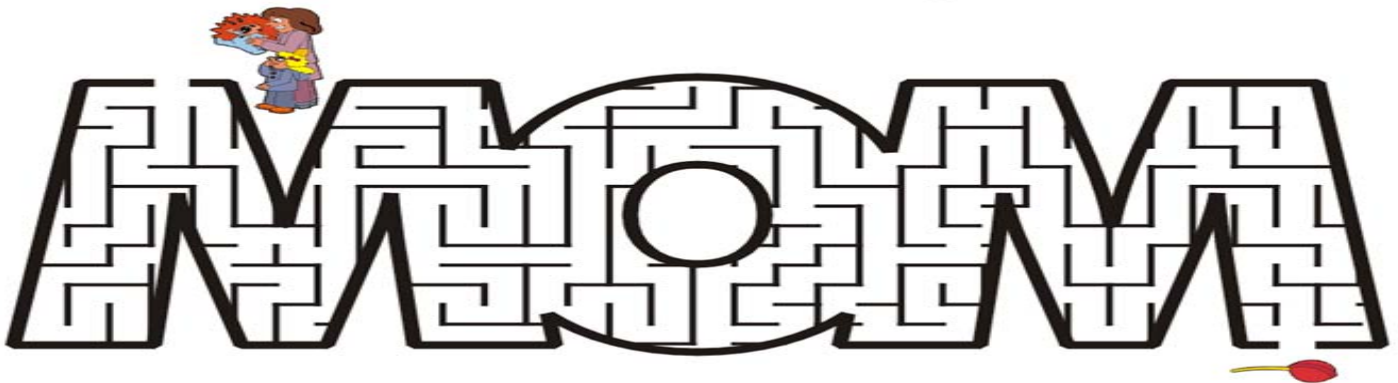
The Manhattan Housing Authority's Resident Advisory Board meeting will not be held in May due to scheduling difficulties. The date of the June Resident Advisory Board meeting will be listed in the June newsletter calendar. For more information, contact the MHA Office at 785 776-8588.

Kid's Corner!

Hey kids, don't forget that Mother's Day is May 8th! Let Mom know how much you love her and thank her for all she does! Color the picture for a quick Mother's Day card!



Help the mother and baby find their way through the MOM shaped maze to find the missing rattle.



More Mother's Day Laughs!

Johnny and his mother returned from grocery shopping one day and began putting away the groceries. Johnny opened a box of animal crackers and spread them all over the table. "What are you doing?" his mother asked. "The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken," Johnny explained. "So, I'm looking for the seal!"

MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 <i>Public Housing Manager Out of Office</i>	11 <i>Public Housing Manager Out of Office</i>	12 <i>Public Housing Manager Out of Office</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>MHA Board of Commissioners Regular Meet- ing-5:30 p.m. @ Apt. Towers</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>MHA Offices Closed- Memorial Day</i>	31	<p>If you have questions or concerns about the MHA Newsletter or calendar events, please call the Administrative Office at 776-8588.</p>			