

Manhattan Housing Authority

December 2011



Inside This Issue:

PAGE 2: SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

PAGE 3: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN
MANHATTAN & AT MHA

PAGE 4: MONTHLY REMINDERS

PAGE 5: KIDS CORNER

PAGE 6: MHA DECEMBER CALENDAR

P.O. Box 1024 * 300 N 5th Street * Manhattan, KS 66505 * www.mhaks.com

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, ANN!

We would like to wish Ann Noll, Carlson Plaza resident, a very happy 100th birthday! Ann's friend Karen Hubbard and other friends and neighbors of Carlson Plaza threw Ann a surprise birthday party on November 18. Ann's friends even sent a letter to the President of the United States about Ann turning 100, and the President sent a letter back to congratulate Ann on her amazing milestone! Thank you to Karen and all of the residents of Carlson Plaza for helping Ann celebrate this very special birthday!



HOLIDAY BASKET DRAWINGS

Each year the Housing Authority gives away a Holiday Basket full of goodies for a great holiday meal. To be eligible for the Holiday Basket giveaway, just be sure to pay your December rent by December 10th. All residents who pay December rent by the 10th will have their names placed in the drawing. There will be a drawing for residents of Apartment Towers and Carlson Plaza and a drawing for residents of all of our other communities. Baskets will contain all you need for a holiday meal, including a ham, side dishes and dessert! Winners will be drawn December 21st.



Safety Spotlight: MHA Snow & Ice Removal and Other Winter Safety Tips

In the last few years, Manhattan has had some major snow and ice storms, so we all know how dangerous snow and ice can be. Here are a few reminders about the Housing Authority's snow and ice policies and other safety tips to keep in mind during the winter months.

The Housing Authority is responsible for snow removal from common areas and main sidewalks, and will remove snow within 48 hours; however, we will not begin snow removal until after the snow has stopped. We will also try to control icy sidewalks as much as possible with salt or sand. It is very easy for sidewalks to re-freeze after they have been salted, so it is important to always be careful when there is a chance of ice.

Residents who are not elderly or disabled are responsible for removing snow from their porch and sidewalk up to the main sidewalks. If you need a snow shovel, the Housing Authority will loan you one; just call the main office and let us know. It is important that you dress appropriately for the weather when you are shoveling snow. Pay special attention to your hands, feet, nose and ears to prevent frostbite.

Residents in communities with basketball courts and other play areas should be especially mindful of not letting children play in these areas when there is a chance that they may be icy. Even when salted, it is difficult to completely clear these areas of ice. Basketball courts are not meant to be used as an "ice rink" in the winter time, and we do not want anyone to be hurt on them.

It is best to avoid traveling in bad winter weather, but if you must travel when it is snowing or icy, be sure to let someone know when you are leaving your home and what route you will be taking, in case you become stranded. Be sure to check your car's antifreeze level before winter, and keep emergency gear in your car, such as flashlights, jumper cables, ice scraper, blankets, road flares, bottled water and at least some food.

For more information about winter driving safety, and other winter safety tips, go to www.weather.com.

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

RESIDENT HOLIDAY SOCIAL

It is finally time for one of our favorite events of the year, the Manhattan Housing Authority Resident Holiday Social! The 2011 Resident Holiday Social will be on Saturday, December 17, 2011, at the Riley County Senior Service Center, right next to our Administrative Office. The social is always a lot of fun for residents and staff alike. We expect to have a great turnout of Apartment Towers and Carlson Plaza residents, but remember that this event is for residents of ALL of our communities! We look forward to spending an afternoon of great food and great company with our residents. Invitations will be sent out soon, but in the meantime you can RSVP that you will be attending by calling the main office at 776-8588.

MAYOR'S SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS LIGHTED PARADE

The Mayor's Spirit of the Holidays Lighted Parade will be held on the Friday, December 2, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The parade begins at Manhattan Town Center, runs through Downtown Manhattan on Poyntz Avenue and ends in Aggieville's Triangle Park for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event is part of the Mayor's Holiday Food and Fund Drive to collect food donations to assist those in need over the holidays. Please come and join in the spirit of the holidays!

HOUSING AUTHORITY DECEMBER OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Manhattan Housing Authority's Administrative Office will close at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 9, 2011, for Staff holiday party. The Administrative Office will also be closed all day on Monday, December 26, 2011 and Monday, January 2, 2012. If you have a maintenance emergency any time that the office is closed, please call 776-8588 and follow the steps to place an emergency work order.

WINTER WARM-UP COAT DRIVE AND GIVE AWAY

The United Way will be giving away free new and gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and winter boots on Monday, December 5, 2011. The give away will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 323 Poyntz Avenue. You must be present to receive items (someone cannot pick them up for you), with a limit of 1 coat per person. For more information, contact the United Way at 776-3779.

Monthly Reminders - December 2011

MAINTENANCE TIPS

The Maintenance department would like to remind residents that there are steps you can take to avoid damages to your home and your belongings during the winter months. First, it is very important to keep the thermostat set to at least 68 degrees, especially if you will be away from your home for more than one day. This will help to avoid frozen water pipes that may break and cause serious damage. Most of the time these breaks occur when the thermostat has been set very low or turned off because the resident is away for a day or two. By the time the resident returns home to discover the break, a whole lot of damage has been done. The Housing Authority is NOT responsible for damage to your personal property or belongings due to broken water pipes. If a water pipe freezes and breaks because the unit was not adequately heated (heat was turned off or set too low), damages to the unit may also be charged to the tenant. If you have any questions about how to operate your thermostat, please call the main office at 776-8588.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

As a friendly reminder about holiday decorations, we ask that you follow the guidelines below to help keep your community safe and in tidy order.

1. Holiday decorations may be placed in the area around your unit. However, decorations cannot block access to your unit or be a tripping hazard.
2. You are responsible for damage caused to MHA property by your decorations, such as clips or hangers, and also for vandalism, theft or loss of decorations.
3. Holiday decorations must be taken down within 1 week after the holiday! Any decorations that are left out later are subject to removal and disposal by staff and you will be assessed a fee for removal.
4. Decorations that need to be attached to roofs, gutters or window frames are not allowed unless they can be attached with plastic gutter clips.
5. You must follow all standard safety precautions for decorations. No open flames, such as candles, can be left outside MHA units. Lit candles in your unit must be completely extinguished before you leave your home.

If you have any questions about holiday decorations, please call the main office at 776-8588. Thank you for your cooperation!



Just for Laughs!

Q: What do you call a snowman in the Summer?

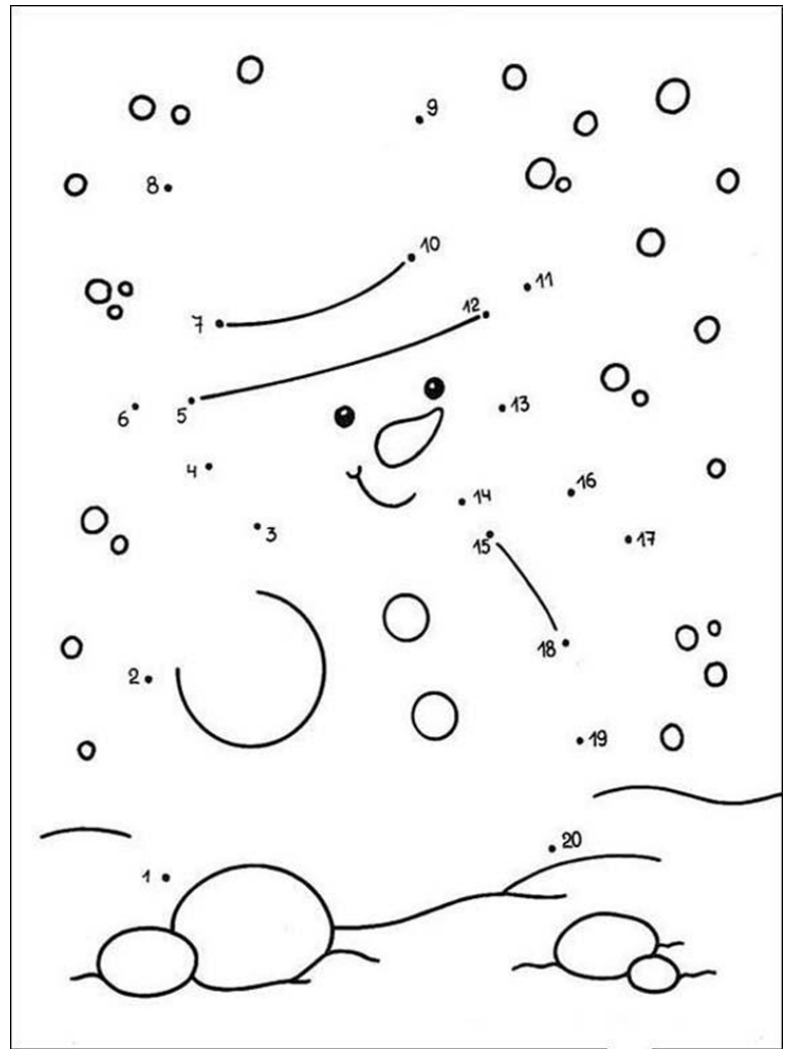
A: A puddle!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A: Frostbite!

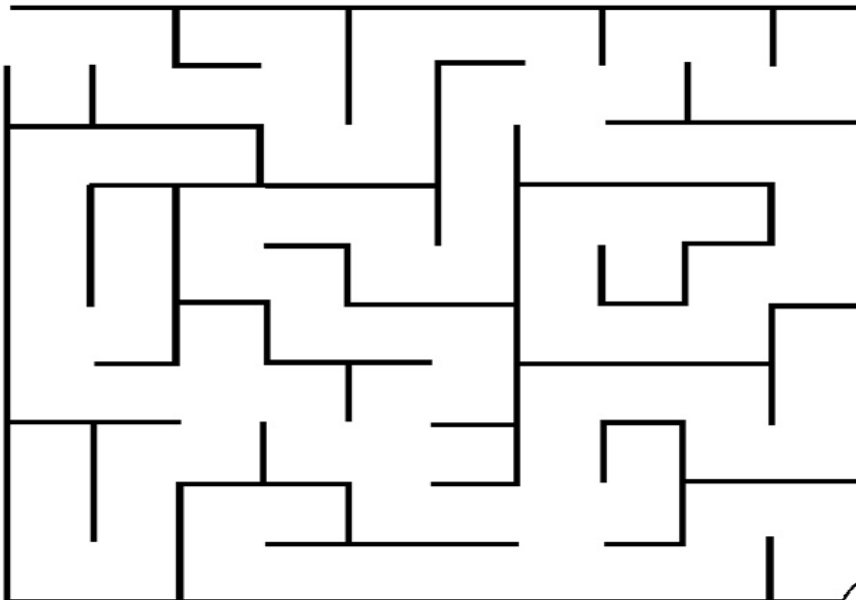
Q: What did the snowman eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes



Penguin's Home

Help your penguin friend find his home.



DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <i>Mayors Holiday Parade— 6:00 p.m. on Poyntz Avenue!</i>	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>MHA Offices Closed at 11:00 A.M.</i>	10
11	12 <i>Late Fees In Effect!</i>	13	14	15	16	17 <i>Resident Holiday Social</i>
18	19	20 <i>Pest Control at Hudson Circle, Baehr Place & FHI</i>	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>MHA Offices Closed!</i>	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Years Eve!</i>

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