

January 2021

Happy New Year Everyone!

Well, I think you would all have to agree that 2020 was a year we will never forget. We cannot thank you all enough for working with us while we worked remote and currently under limited conditions. We hope that going into 2021 will be somewhat of an improvement. Since the pandemic is still affecting all of us, I will ask you all to follow us on our website, Rensselaerhousing.org or on our Facebook, Rensselaer Housing, in order for you to know what is happening regarding notices from the office.

My apologies on our Christmas cards not getting out to you. The major snowstorm hit and then, our entire staff was put into quarantine due to exposure to COVID the week of Christmas. We are still battling employees being exposed and are currently not running at full capacity.

As some of you are aware, Pastor Ken Newman has started an Open Pantry for the residents of RHA. Every Sunday in January from 12 – 12:30 p.m. you are welcome to come to the Community Room at 85 Aiken Avenue where you can pick out breads, pastries, and groceries. It is free to all residents of the Rensselaer Housing Authority.

There will also be a monthly food distribution, The “HOPE” Drive-Thru Pantry” in the city that the Pastor is also sponsoring. This month the food will be distributed on Sunday, January 8, 2021 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The location for this is at the Boys and Girls Club at 544 Broadway, Rensselaer. These boxes of food include milk, meats, and produce. They are free to all residents of the City of Rensselaer.

Just a reminder, our office window is currently open on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays only. We are in the office all 5 days, so you may still call if you need something. Please do not knock on the window on Tuesdays and Thursdays. No one will be answering.

Any resident coming into the lobby or laundry room is required to wear a mask. This is a state mandate for public places. We don't want to have to close down the laundry room or limit the hours that you can enter the lobby so please comply for everyone's safety.

During this pandemic, many residents have had their hours cut or possibly even lost their jobs. Please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can adjust your rent to your new income. Also, if any resident is in quarantine, please notify the office so that our maintenance staff remains safe. We need to work together during this challenging time.

On a brighter note, the New York State Public Housing Authority Directors Association (NYSPHADA) is once again sponsoring a scholarship for any students living in housing. To date, the amount of the scholarship is over \$4,000.00. Any interested student may come to the office Monday, Wednesday or Fridays to pick up an application, or call and we will mail it to you. The deadline for submission to NYSPHADA is February 22, 2021.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2021!