

Rensselaer Housing Authority

June 2021

Happy spring! It looks as if the rain has finally ended and the good weather has arrived!

Just some updates of what we are planning for our families this year. For the PDA residents (townhouses), Rensselaer Housing Authority has purchased 2 additional pieces of property on First Street. The first one is next to our Maintenance Garage. Our plans are to fence in the property and install a bulk dumpster for PDA residents only. Now you don't have to go to the dumpster on Aiken Avenue to throw away your bulk items. The second piece that we purchased is located at 1468 First Street. We are in the planning stages of putting in a covered structure with picnic tables and barbecue grills for our families to use. There will also be an assigned smoking area there. We are hoping to revamp part of the Second Street parking lot to do the same. Second Street will include an area for a Community Garden as well.

Aiken Avenue residents can look for something very similar regarding picnic/grilling/smoking areas that we are tentatively planning for somewhere on the back yard property. Within the next couple of months, the Aiken Avenue complex will be getting a facelift...new siding (some of which is already done), new eaves and new soffits, along with new house number signs.

Two of our residents on Aiken Avenue have already starting planting flowers at the entrances and starting the annual Community Garden. Out of respect for their hard work, please see that your children do not play in these areas.

As you may have noticed, we now have a Grounds Person, Christopher. He takes great pride in his work and tries diligently to keep things in order. Kindly help out by putting the trash from your cars, candy/ice cream wrappers, cigarette butts, etc. in proper receptacles. For PDA residents, you may decorate/plant flowers within the first 2 ½ feet out from your front window. Anything on the rest of the lawn will be disposed of when maintenance is there to mow so please be sure to keep it clear at all times. Also, a reminder that nothing is to block any doors. Please keep your lawn furniture in your back yards to avoid this fire hazard.

I'm sure that you are all aware that marijuana is now legal in New York State. Please understand that HUD does not allow marijuana, including medical marijuana in or on public housing property. Federal Law supersedes State Law. You can however, smoke it, as well as cigarettes on public sidewalks. All I ask is that you are aware of when children are around when you smoke...no matter what you smoke! Parents, you can help by keeping your children away from areas where you see our residents smoking.

With summer around the corner and our children being outside, we ask that you keep an extra watchful eye out. Also, please ask your children to watch their language when they are outside on the grounds because they can be heard inside the apartments as well as outside and we have a lot of little people living at both sites.

Now with COVID rules easing up, RHA will be resuming their annual inspections of your apartments. Our staff, whether vaccinated or not, will be required to wear masks while in your apartments during their inspections. ALL residents will still be required to wear masks in our Lobby and in the Laundry Room on Aiken Avenue since we cannot verify who has or hasn't been vaccinated.

Remember, the food pantry on Aiken Avenue is held every Sunday from 12 – 12:30 p.m. This is for all residents including PDA. Check our Facebook page for updates on this and the monthly Food Drive at the Boys and Girls Club, as well as any other important information that we need to get out to you.

We at the office hope that everyone enjoys a healthy, happy summer! Be safe!