

February 2026

Community Newsletter



Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (TAHRA) in partnership with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) present:



Adriana Gomez – WON 1ST PLACE IN 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2026

PRIZES FOR EACH SELECTION CATEGORY:

1ST PLACE: \$100

2ND PLACE: \$75

3RD PLACE: \$50

Winners from each Selection Category will be selected based on how well the artwork reflects “What Home Means to Me” and will move on for the regional-level competition.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

All posters, narratives, and applications **MUST** be postmarked, hand-delivered, or received by 4:00pm on Monday, March 31, 2025.

MAIL TO:

Lawrenceburg Housing Authority

ATTN: Alex Brewer

P.O. Drawer C

Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

If you have any questions, please email Alex at businesshr@lawrenceburgha.org.

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME POSTER CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all children grades K-12 residing in affordable housing assisted directly or supported under community development and affordable housing programs administered by a NAHRO Member authority (i.e. public housing, Section 8/HCV-assisted housing, CDBG, HOME, LIHTC.)

SPECIFICATIONS:

Theme: “What Home Means to Me”

Posters must be at least 8.5 x 11 in paper size (letter size). Larger posters will be accepted, up to 22 x 28 in.

Posters must have a **LANDSCAPE (HORIZONTAL)** orientation. Posters in portrait (vertical) orientation will be disqualified.

Artists may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed, and reproduced.

The artist’s name, grade level, and housing agency must be written on the back of each poster entry. Posters may only be created by one eligible artist.

SELECTION CATEGORIES:

Elementary School: K-5th Grade

Middle School: 6th-8th Grade

High School: 9th-12th Grade





Trespass List Updates

can be viewed online at TVHSTN.org or at the
Main Office – 600 Sulphur Springs Rd.

For community safety concerns, please contact: Officer Cobb
Liaison/Crime Prevention Officer Office Number:
423-586-5115 ext.8017



Toilet Paper Roll Drive for Community Roots Garden

Save those cardboard toilet paper tubes and give them a second life! The tubes make wonderful eco-friendly plant starter pots for the fruits, vegetables, and herbs that will grow in our Community Roots Garden. By donating your tubes, you're helping reduce waste, support local gardening, and nurture fresh produce for our neighborhood. Tubes can be dropped off at our Community Resource Center, located at 1149 Kennedy Cr. Thank you for helping our plants and our community.



60 THINGS TO THROW AWAY RIGHT NOW

(DECLUTTER CHALLENGE)

In the Kitchen

1. Expired spices and condiments
2. Chipped mugs and plates
3. Plastic containers with missing lids
4. Old takeout menus (you can find them online!)
5. Duplicate utensils you never use

In the Bedroom

Worn-out socks with holes
Clothes you haven't worn in a year
Extra hangers cluttering your wardrobe
Single earrings with no match
Old, flat pillows

Random Miscellaneous Clutter

Old greeting cards (unless sentimental)
Freebies /promotional items you don't use
Half-used candles with no scent left
Duplicates of items you don't need
Empty gift bags you never reuse

Digital Clutter

1. Old screenshots you don't need
2. Unused apps taking up space
3. Hundreds of unread emails
4. Duplicate or blurry photos
5. Subscriptions you forgot about

In the Bathroom

Expired skincare and makeup
Dried-up nail polish
Empty or shampoo bottles
Broken hair ties and stretched-out scrunchies
Old toothbrushes

For Parents/Kids' Stuff

Broken toys
Clothes your kids have outgrown
School papers you don't need to keep
Dried-out markers and crayons
Random Happy Meal toys

In the Office/Desk Area

Pens that don't work
Old notebooks you don't need
Expired coupons
Outdated receipts and bills
Mystery keys you don't know what they open

Sentimental Clutter

Unused wedding favours
Old textbooks from school
Dried flowers from years ago
Unwanted gifts you're keeping out of guilt
That one project you swear you'll finish but never do

1.
@TANYAHOMEINSPO

In the Living Room

DVDs/CDs you never watch or listen to
Random cables you don't use
Old magazines and newspapers
Board games with missing pieces
Throw blankets that have seen better days

In the Closet/Wardrobe

Shoes that hurt your feet
Bags you haven't used in years
Scarves & accessories you forgot you had
Old belts that don't fit
Clothes that need repairs (but you never fix them)

Garage, Storage, and Junk Drawer

Old holiday decorations you don't use
Dead batteries
Rusty tools
Expired cleaning products
Anything "just in case" that hasn't been touched in years

Mental Clutter (Let it Go!)

Guilt over getting rid of things
Unfinished projects that stress you out
Toxic social media accounts
Worrying about what people think
The idea that decluttering has to be perfect

Please remember that no wipes of any kind—including baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, makeup wipes, and "flushable" wipes—should be flushed down the toilet.

These products do not break down like toilet paper and can cause severe plumbing blockages, leading to costly repairs and potential damage to the building's plumbing system.

To help maintain a smooth and functioning sewer system, please dispose of all wipes in the trash. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in keeping our community's plumbing in good condition.



TVHS TRASH TRUCK RUNS every MONDAY

This is a service provided by TVHS to help residents dispose of large items such as televisions, couches, washers & dryers, etc. Lately, small items such as pizza boxes, bags of trash, etc. have been placed at the street. Please be aware that smaller items must be disposed of in the household trash can furnished by the City of Morristown. TVHS will no longer pick-up small items. If small items are placed at the street, you may receive a maintenance charge for pick-up. After the City empties your trash can, please return the trash can to your unit. Do not leave trash cans at the street from week to week.

Large items for TVHS pick-up should be placed at the curb from Sunday afternoon to no later than 7 a.m. on Monday morning. Do not place the large items at the street after 7 a.m. on Mondays. The trash truck will make one pass through each neighborhood and anything placed at the street after this time will result in a maintenance charge to your household.

IF LARGE ITEMS ARE PLACED AT OR NEAR YOUR UNIT AFTER THE DESIGNATED TIMES, YOU WILL BE CHARGED. IF A NEIGHBOR IS PLACING THINGS IN FRONT OF YOUR UNIT, CALL THE OFFICE AND FILL OUT A COMPLAINT FORM TO PREVENT BEING CHARGED.

If a holiday falls on a Monday, the TVHS trash truck will run on Tuesday.

Tennessee Valley Housing Services does not furnish or repair the City provided trash cans. If you need a trash can, recycle bin or have one that is in need of repair, please contact: The City of Morristown Public Works Department at 423-585-4658.

What Attracts Cockroaches in Your Home?

Ample of Moisture



The number one thing that attracts roaches to a home is an ample amount of moisture. It is one of the necessities for pests like cockroaches to thrive and survive.

Easy Access



Do you know that rats and cockroaches are masters when it comes to sneaking in a premise through a small opening or crack? So, if you are offering easy access to cockroaches, will they say no?

Dense Landscaping



Do you think cockroaches will enter directly your home? No, many times, they make an entry first in your dense garden because they get all they want there like water, shelter, and food.

Cockroach Prone Location



The second thing and the most common factor that may make your house more vulnerable to cockroach infestation despite you keeping it clean is its location.

Food Sources



Another main thing that attracts cockroaches to a home is food. When they find ample amounts of food sources at a place, these pests prefer hiding and staying there for an extended period.

Cluttered and Neglected Areas



Last and the most neglected reason for which cockroaches often infest a house is a neglected area or area with some clutter.

What is considered an emergency work order?

AFTER HOURS emergency number 423-273-2489

Hearing impaired residents should call TN Relay Center at 711

- Refrigerator not working
- Outside door lock torn up
- Broken water lines on TVHS property.
- Gas leak at any appliance or meter.
- Fire in any building in the TVHS
- Range (only if entire range doesn't work)
- Commode stopped up and overflowing.
- Smoke alarm (going off, needs repair, loose or hanging)
- An elderly tenant is thought to be hurt or in difficulty.
- Heating system off (only if outside temperature is below 55 degrees F.)
- Give assistance to the Police Department in case of break in or emergency.
- Any electrical problem which causes a power failure or poses a threat to persons or property.
- Any water heater where the relief valve pops off or develops a hole in the tank where water runs constantly

Filter Changes & Smoke Alarms

TVHS staff will change filters each month. Filter changing will begin on the second Monday of each month and be completed by Friday of the same week. No personal items may be stored in the mechanical closets. During filter change, smoke alarms will be checked as well as the overall condition of units. Housekeeping and any lease violations will be noted.



Please remember all TVHS properties are smoke free!



Pest Control

All TVHS units will receive Pest Control treatments in the months of March & September. These semi - annual treatments will begin on the second Monday of the month and be completed by Friday of the same week. No units will be excluded from the March & September treatment schedule.

Additional Pest Control Services will be on a call-in basis.

Call-In treatments will begin on the second Monday of each month and completed by Friday of the same week. Call the office by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday to have your unit scheduled for the following week.

To schedule additional Pest Control at your unit, contact 423-586-5115 X 8010.

Insights, Updates & News



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we move fully into the new year, February offers a natural pause—a chance to reconnect with our routines

while also reflecting on the moments that shape our communities. This month brings familiar touchstones like Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day, along with an important opportunity to honor and reflect during Black History Month.

Black History Month invites us to recognize the profound impact African Americans have had on our nation's story. From innovation and leadership to culture, service, and advocacy, these contributions have helped shape the America we know today. As President Gerald Ford noted when Black History Month was formally recognized, this time allows us to honor achievements that too often went unacknowledged, while also deepening our understanding of our shared history.

We encourage families to use this month as a chance for meaningful conversations, especially with children, about African American heritage and the values of resilience, equality, and community that continue to move us forward. Learning from the past helps us better understand one another and strengthens the future we are building together.

On behalf of the TVHS Board of Commissioners, our dedicated staff, and myself, thank you for being part of our community. We wish you continued health, warmth, and well-being this winter season. Enjoy the month ahead, stay safe, and here's hoping the promise of spring isn't too far away.

All my best,

Sean Gilbert

Sean Gilbert



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Dear Residents,

My name is Dale Vento, and I am honored to introduce myself as the new Operations Director for Tennessee Valley Housing Services.

Many of you may already know me. I joined TVHS in September of 2022 as a Maintenance Mechanic, and over the past few years, I've had the opportunity to work closely with our properties, our customers, and our dedicated staff. Stepping into this new role is both exciting and meaningful to me, because I truly believe in the mission of this organization and the communities we serve.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank Jeff Green, who recently retired after 27 years of dedicated service as Operations Director. It has been a privilege to work under Jeff's leadership for nearly four years. His knowledge, experience, and commitment to this organization set a strong foundation, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from him. I wish Jeff the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

Prior to joining TVHS, I spent many years serving in the United States Army, where I held leadership roles including Sergeant Major and Deputy Engineer. That experience gave me a strong background in leadership, operations, procurement, and project management—skills I am excited to bring into this role as we continue to care for and improve our communities.

As Operations Director, my focus will be on supporting our maintenance teams, ensuring our properties are well maintained, and working collaboratively to keep operations running smoothly and efficiently. I'm excited to hit the ground running and build upon the solid work already in place.

Most importantly, I want our residents to know that I am committed to listening, learning, and doing my part to help make Tennessee Valley Housing Services a place you are proud to call home.

Thank you for the warm welcome I've already received, and I look forward to serving you in this new capacity.

Sincerely,

Dale Vento

Dale Vento