

MORRISTOWN
HOUSING
AUTHORITY

Neighborhood News

600 SULPHUR SPRINGS ROAD

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

600 SULPHUR SPRINGS

FEBRUARY IS
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Office is closed
February 15th,
in observance
of
Presidents Day!

**INSIDE THIS
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Bingo Dates

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No Trespass

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February

B I N G O

5	18	38	54	68
2	19	34	47	65
14	26	Free!	56	66
8	16	37	51	63
4	23	40	48	70

Bingo Card for all 3 sessions

Please Dial in at: 1-978-990-5000 Access Code: 5608185

How to Play instructions will be given

<u>Wednesday,</u> <u>February 10th, 2021 at</u> <u>2:00pm</u>	<u>Wednesday,</u> <u>February 17th, 2021 at</u> <u>2:00pm</u>	<u>Wednesday,</u> <u>February 24th, 2021 at</u> <u>2:00pm</u>
MHA Bingo	Skill Up Must receive SNAP Benefits to play (No TANF participants)	Ready by 6
Anyone can play!	If you are ready to reach your employment potential and become self-sufficient. Take the next step of independence today!	For parents/ guardians with children under the age of 6.
Valentines gift bags	When enroll into Skill Up program you could receive: Gas Cards Uniforms Supplies needed for work Testing fees paid Books for continuing education	Giveaways: Baby bottles Diapers Wipes Car Seat (Must attend Training of March 15, 2021) Booster Seat (Must attend Training of March 15, 2021)

Common Sense Parenting



Common Sense Parenting (CSP) is a practical, skill-based parenting program that can be applied to every family. The program's logical strategies and easy-to-learn techniques address issues of communication, discipline, decision making, relationships, and self-control and school success.

For more information, please contact:
Tamara Hall, thall@tnvoices.org or 615.330.5301 or
Carey Farley, cfarley@tnvoices.org or 615.979.0312

The Independent Living Program provides services to eligible individuals of all ages who are blind or who have a severe visual impairment to enable them to live as independently as possible in their homes and communities.



Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Independent Living Program
Contact your local office at: 423-434-6934

Hamblen County Health Department COVID vaccinations: PAGE 3

The Hamblen County Health Department has received a limited number of vaccines. To schedule an appointment, please use the link below. As we receive more vaccine, we will update the below site with additional dates and times. Please continue to check back as we will add more availability as we receive more vaccine. Please be aware we do not know when we will receive the vaccine, or how much we will receive, until it is delivered. If you have any questions, please reach out to the

East Region COVID Vaccine Hotline at 865-549-5343, Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm, except on holidays and weekends. Thank you for working with us during this time
 Hamblen County: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/hamblen-priority-list>
 Must have email, if no email address please use: etrhoc.liaison@tn.gov

Hamblen County Health Department COVID-19 Testing

Mon, Wed, Fri. self-test by appointment only (423)586-6431 ext. 0
 (for individuals 16 years of age and older, MUST have an e-mail account, and have a smart phone)
 Tues, Thurs----8:00-11:00 AM (Walk-ins Only—First come, First Serve)

Central Services continues to offer the emergency food pantry through a modified process and schedule.

The food pantry hours of operation are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Sign in times are at 9am and 1pm.

ReadyRosie has educational resources for parents of children 0 to 3rd grade. Families are engaged in activities that support learning in school or promote school readiness. This program is available in English and Spanish. A welcome video is available at <https://readyrosie.com/for-families/>

The **Morristown-Hamblen Library** is doing curbside only at this time and will continue through February 2021. Please call the Library at 423-586-6410 for more information or visit our website www.morristownhamblenlibrary.org

2021 RAM Clinic Schedule



Knoxville, TN @ Jacob Building

Feb 5 – Feb 7 all-day

Cookeville, TN @ Cookeville High School

Mar 20 – Mar 21 all-day

Knoxville, TN @ Ladies of Charity

Apr 17 all-day

Morristown, TN @ Walters State College

May 1 – May 2 all-day

Maryville, TN @ Denso Manufacturing – Associate Building

Aug 14 – Aug 15 all-day

Rutledge, Tennessee @ Grainger County Middle School

Oct 16 – Oct 17 all-day

The patient parking lot will open no later than 12:01 a.m. (midnight) on the first night of the event. As patients arrive at the parking lot, they will be provided with additional information regarding clinic opening processes and next steps. Clinic doors typically open at 6 a.m. This process will repeat throughout the clinic days.

Free dental, vision and medical services are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Due to time constraints, be prepared to choose between DENTAL and VISION services. Medical services are offered to every patient attending the clinic.

Patients will be required to wear a face covering and must undergo a COVID-19 screening before entering the clinic. All services are free and open to the public. No ID required.

In some situations, such as inclement weather, volunteer cancellations, or other circumstances outside of RAM’s control, the parking lot may open earlier or a smaller number of patients served. RAM encourages everyone who would like services, especially dental services, to arrive as early as possible. *Clinic closing time may vary based on each service area’s daily capacity. Please check RAM’s clinic FAQ page for more information.

**The above details are subject to change. Please continue to check our schedule regularly for updates as your clinic dates near.



Dear friends,
The holiday seasons have come and gone, and we are all settling back in to our “new normal” routine of life. COVID-19 has changed everything about life as we know it. We all continue to focus on how to best support and protect our families, employees, residents and our communities in the face of this unfolding crises.

I realize that the stress and anxiety is heightened during this time. Balancing the strains of normal life has been difficult for us all. Some things you can do to relieve the stress is to take deep breaths throughout the day, stretch and go for a brisk walk and get plenty of rest.

While MHA offices remain closed to the public, we continue to provide services to families and seniors by offering communication and resident support. We are also updating our Facebook Page and Website with any new updates. We look forward to continuing our commitment of providing quality and affordable housing for you and your families.

Our team is always here to assist you, and we encourage you to reach out at any time. In the meantime, please continue to stay safe and healthy, and thank you for all that you are doing in this fight to reduce the spread of COVID -19. We are all in this together!

On behalf of the MHA Board Members, myself, and our team here at MHA, we wish you continued health and happiness this year alongside your family and friends. Have a good month and stay warm. Hopefully the groundhog will not see his shadow and spring will be right around the corner!

Sean Gilbert

Executive Director

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Rent Due</i>	2	3	4	5 RAM CLINIC	6 RAM CLINIC <i>Rent Late</i>
7 RAM CLINIC	8 Food Truck 2:00pm CLC	9	10 Valentine Bingo 2:00	11	12 File your taxes	13
14	15	16	17 Skill Up Bingo 2:00	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Ready by 6 Bingo 2:00	25	26	27
28	<i>Free Coats at the CLC. Please call to see if your size is available!</i>		Happy Birthday to everyone in February!			

**Monday February 22, 2021 will be the official start For Lakeway Transit
Cash Fare (pay as you go)**



Children (under age of 12 must be accom- panied by an adult) \$0.75	Adults \$1.50	Students (eligible to local colleges and trade schools) \$0.75	Senior Citizens (age 65 and older) \$0.75	People with Disabilities (with ap- proved application) \$0.75	Military Veterans \$0.75
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Transfer (additional cost) \$0.50 Please have exact change or pass ready when boarding the bus. LAKEWAY TRANSIT Drivers carry no change or tokens. Passengers may bring on board only the number of packages or items they can carry in one trip. LAKEWAY TRANSIT Prohibits the following: profanity, solicitation, use of alcohol or tobacco products. Driver has the right to refuse service.



Morristown Housing Authority

P.O. Box 497
600 Sulphur Springs Road
Morristown, TN 37815

Telephone (423) 586-5115
TN Relay Center (800) 848-0298
Fax (423) 586-3014

Dear Resident:

Effective April 1, 2021, households that receive a monthly utility reimbursement (credit rent) will no longer be issued their reimbursement on a debit card. At that time MHA will begin forwarding all utility reimbursements directly to Morristown Utility System (MUS). This collaboration with MUS will simplify the utility reimbursement process for your household. This only applies to residents in Morristown.

If you have any questions, please contact the MHA office at (423) 586-5115 x 8003 or ssamples@morristownpha.org.

Morristown Housing Authority

Emergency Calls

- 1) Fire in any building in the Morristown Housing Authority.
- 2) Broken water lines on M.H.A. property.
- 3) Any water heater where the relief valve pops off or develops a hole in the tank where water runs constantly.
- 4) Any electrical problem which causes a power failure or poses a threat to persons or property.
- 5) Gas leak at any appliance or meter.
- 6) Smoke alarm (alarm going off, needs repaired, lose or hanging).
- 7) Heating system off (only if outside temperature is below 55 degrees F.)
- 8) Commode stopped up and overflowing.
- 9) Give assistance to the Police Department in case of break in or emergency.
- 10) An elderly tenant is thought to be hurt or in difficulty.
- 11) Range (only if the entire range doesn't work).
- 12) Any sewer line clogged.
- 13) Refrigerator not working.
- 14) Roof leaking.
- 15) Outside door lock torn up.

After Hours Maintenance Emergency

423-273-2489

COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

When temperatures are below freezing for an extended period of time or extremely cold for short periods, water lines could freeze.

In an effort to prevent frozen water lines please take the following precautions:

- Open your kitchen cabinet doors below the sink. This allows warm air to enter and help keep pipes from freezing.
- Allow a small stream of water to run through your kitchen faucet at night. A constant flow of water will help prevent freezing.

Do not open your faucet all the way. A small stream is all that is needed.

- Make sure water hoses are not connected to the outside spickets.

When temperatures rise above freezing throughout the day there is no need to take these precautions

Pest Control Schedule UPDATE-----EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2021

All MHA units will receive Pest Control treatments in the months of March and September.

The semi – annual treatments will begin on the second Tuesday of the month and continue until all MHA units receive the Pest Control Treatment. No units will be excluded from the March and September treatment schedule.

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

To schedule additional Pest Control at your unit, please contact the MHA office at :**423-586-5115 extension 8010**. Call-In treatments will begin on the second Tuesday of each month until complete.

You must contact the office by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday to have your unit scheduled for the following week

EXTENDED through MARCH 31, 2021

CDC Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19

On September 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a Notice and Order under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act. To prevent the further spread of COVID-19, the Order is a temporary halt in residential evictions. This Order is separate from the now expired eviction moratorium in Section 4024 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The Order applies to all tenants in the country (including assisted renters) who are subject to eviction for nonpayment of rent and who submit a Declaration as described in the Order (see below). The Order is in effect from September 4, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Under the Order, tenants cannot be evicted for nonpayment of rent, provided the tenant signs the Declaration that is attached to the CDC Order certifying that:

1. They have used best efforts to obtain all available government assistance for rent or housing;
2. They expect to earn no more than \$99,000 in annual income for Calendar Year 2020 (or no more than \$198,000 if filing a joint tax return), were not required to report any income in 2019 to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or received an Economic Impact Payment (stimulus check) pursuant to Section 2201 of the CARES Act;
3. They are unable to pay their full rent or make a full housing payment due to substantial loss of household income, loss of compensable hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket medical expenses;
4. They are using best efforts to make timely partial payments that are as close to the full payment as their circumstances may permit, taking into account other nondiscretionary expenses;
5. If evicted they would likely become homeless, need to move into a homeless shelter, or need to move into a new residence shared by other people who live in close quarters because they have no other available housing options.
6. They understand they must still pay rent or make a housing payment, and comply with other obligations that they may have under their tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract. They understand that fees, penalties, or interest for not paying rent or making a housing payment on time as required by their tenancy, lease agreement, or similar contract may still be charged or collected; and
7. They understand that at the end of this temporary halt on evictions on December 31, 2020, their housing provider may require payment in full for all payments not made prior to and during the temporary halt and failure to pay may make them subject to eviction.

The Order does not relieve the tenants' obligation to pay rent and the tenants must continue to comply with terms under the lease. However, tenants qualifying as "Covered Persons" under the Order cannot be evicted for nonpayment of rent in violation of the lease if the CDC eviction protections are invoked (see below). Nothing in the Order precludes the landlords from charging or collecting fees, penalties, or interest as a result of the tenants' inability to pay rent on a timely basis. Evictions unrelated to nonpayment of rent can still take place, e.g., criminal activity. Any state, local, or territorial area with a moratorium on residential evictions that provides the same or greater level of public-health protection can supersede the Order. Nothing in the Order affects the CARES Act waivers or funding a PHA receives or is utilizing.

Under the Order, public housing and section 8 tenants are "Covered Persons" with eviction protection if they complete and provide the required Declaration referenced in the Order to their PHA or landlord. A tenant cannot be required to complete the Declaration. However, without it, tenants will not have the CDC eviction protection. Within the upcoming weeks, PIH will be providing PHAs with a flyer that can be provided to tenants in the near future.

Penalties:

- **Tenant – Perjury – 5 years in jail and/or fine**
- **Landlords – Individual landlords – 1 year in jail and/or \$100,000 fine (\$250,000, if death)**
- **Organizational Landlords - \$200,000 (\$500,000 if death)**
- **Enforced by the US Department of Justice**

THE DECLARATION FORM FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S TEMPORARY HALT IN EVICTIONS TO PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19 IS AVAILABLE AT THE MORRISTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICE OR ONLINE AT www.morristownpha.org.

Maintenance Updates & Procedures

Postal Boxes & No Parking Update

Morristown Housing Authority Communities are provided Postal Boxes that are serviced by the United States Postal Service. City sidewalks have "curb cuts" to allow access for all. NO PARKING is allowed that blocks access to any Postal Boxes or curb cuts.

Currently, MHA Maintenance Crews are painting the curbs at all Postal Boxes. Please keep in mind that NO PARKING is allowed in areas where the curb is painted yellow.

Tickets may be issued for parking improperly. The maintenance and upkeep of curb cuts is the responsibility of the City of Morristown.

Trash Notice to Residents

Morristown Housing Authority's trash truck runs each Monday. This is a service provided by MHA 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.

MHA 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 MHA 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 may result in a maintenance charge to your household. If a holiday falls on a Monday, the MHA trash truck will run on Tuesday.

Morristown Housing Authority does not furnish or repair the City provided trash cans. If you need a trash can or have one that is in need of repair, please contact:

The City of Morristown Public Works Department at 423-585-4658.

Filter Replacement

Beginning in January 2021 MHA will change the protocol for replacing HVAC Filters.

MHA staff will begin changing filters quarterly. This will begin on the second Tuesday until complete in January, April, July and October.

Additional filters will be left for residents to change in the months MHA does not change filters. Do not store personal belongings inside mechanical closets.

If it is determined equipment has been damaged from personal items stored in closets or filters have not been changed causing equipment to fail, you could be charged for repairs.

Mechanical Closets cannot be used for storage!

Bed Bug Treatments Is A Service That Is Provided by The Housing Authority at No Cost to Compliant Residents

If you get Bed Bugs, it is imperative that you completely follow, step by step instructions of the control providers prep list to begin the extermination process. MHA will continue to provide this service at no cost for residents who comply with the pest control provider's prep list. Lack of cooperation on the part of some residents has caused our pest control provider to request additional charges from MHA. We have negotiated with the pest control provider to hold these additional charges to a minimum. These charges are only what will be charged by the pest control provider. MHA will not add additional charges

New Guidelines for Bed Bug Treatments:

- Non-Compliance for Bed Bug Treatments
- First Attempt – Documentation (Write Up)
- Second Attempt - \$100 -owed by resident
- Third Attempt – Lease Termination

Pest Control Procedure

All units will be treated monthly.
Treatments are not optional.

Units will be treated when they become vacant and monitored during turnaround for any needed follow up treatments. Heavily infested vacant units will be treated aggressively until pest are eliminated. Heavily infested occupied units will be noted and treated on 14-day intervals. Any housekeeping issues will be noted by the technicians and followed up by MHA staff to ensure compliance.

First Thursday

- Charles Turner Homes
- Mountain View Village
- Mountain View Village Extension
- John R. Johnson Homes

2nd Thursday

- C. Frank Davis Homes

3rd Thursday

- C. Frank Davis Homes E

4th Thursday

- Lon Price Homes
- Julia Bales Callaway Homes
- S.S. Surret Homes

Treatments will begin Thursdays completed 12pm Fridays.

Residents will be notified if additional treatments are required. Should this schedule change for any reason, residents will be notified 48 hours prior to new start date.

(This does not include Bed Bug or Termite Treatment) (Revised 4/2016)

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in keeping our Communities neat!

Morristown Housing Authority Smoke-Free Policy

Effective July 1, 2018, the use of tobacco products by residents or guests is prohibited in all public housing living units and interior areas (including but not limited to hallways, porches, administrative offices, maintenance facilities, warehouses, and similar structures).

As well as in outdoor areas within 25 feet from public housing, community room, Neighborhood Network Center, administrative and maintenance office buildings.

Radon Gas

MHA is in the RAD conversion process and public housing agencies are required to conduct Radon Gas testing as part of the conversion. A few months ago, MHA utilized contractors to conduct Radon Gas testing in all units. Following the results, MHA contracted to have Radon Gas Mitigation Systems installed. Per EPA recommendation, these systems are being installed in identified buildings where gas levels are above 4 Picocuries.

What is Radon?

Radon is a gas that you cannot smell, taste or see. Radon comes from the breakdown of naturally-occurring radioactive elements (such as uranium and thorium) in soils and rocks. As part of the radioactive decay process, radon gas is produced. The gas moves up through the soil to the surface, where it can enter homes, schools and the workplace through cracks and other holes in the foundation. In some cases, radon can enter buildings through well water and come from building materials. Any home can have a radon problem – old or new homes, well-sealed or drafty homes, and homes with or without basements. Because radon comes naturally from the earth, people are always exposed to it.

Maintenance After Hours EMERGENCY NUMBER 423/273-2489

If you are unsure if you have an emergency, please refer to your "Emergency Calls" refrigerator magnet.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in Morristown area, MHA will only be responding to emergency work orders until further notice. Residents will be notified of changes to this protocol in future Newsletters.

Hearing impaired residents, should call TN Relay Center at 1-800-848-0298



From the Desk of
Jeff Green, Operations Director
423-586-5115ext. 8004

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)
CLOSED Friday

PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CURRENT OFFICE PROCEDURES

(FORMS ARE LOCATED IN THE BIN)

Applicants: If you have applied for Public Housing or Section 8, the Morristown Housing Authority will be mailing the required documents and instructions to you.

****If** are providing your documents at this time, please leave them in the drop box (envelopes provided outside). Any originals will be returned to you in the mail. Please do not leave driver's license, social security cards, or birth certificates, we will request those at a later time.

Rental Adjustment: If you are reporting any changes in household income or family composition, please complete a rental adjustment form (put original copy in the drop box, you keep the yellow copy).

Move- outs: If you are turning in a notice to move, please complete the Notice to Vacate form (PH for Public Housing, S8 for Section 8). If you are turning in your keys, please put them in an envelope (provided outside), you must list your name and address on the envelope.

Large Envelope Drop Box

Public Housing/Section 8

- Apply for Public Housing & Section 8
- Reasonable Accommodation
- PH Transfer Request
- Voucher Extension Request

MHA's Social Distancing Station

Public Housing/Section 8

- Rental Adjustment/ Zero Income
- Notice to Vacate/ Intent to Move
- Documents for Tenant/Applicant Pick up

Rent Drop Box

RECERTIFICATION APPOINTMENTS

Please complete all forms entirely and sign all documents.

- Place the Recertification packet in the drop box along with all verifying documents.
- Documents may also be emailed, faxed or mailed to the contact below.
- Staff available by email or phone.
- Envelopes are available in the bin
- You may be contacted by phone, email or mail for additional information.

Sherrie Samples, Housing Director
423 586-5115 X 8003
ssamples@morristownpha.org

Christy McMurray, HCV Director
423 586-5115 X 8009
cmcmurray@morristownpha.org

www.morristownpha.org ——— FAX: 423 586-3014 ——— Thank you for your assistance.

PARKING POLICY

Rules for Parking of Motor Vehicles

The following list of Morristown Housing Authority's (MHA) rules and regulations applies to residents in Public Housing Developments.

MHA may designate parking spaces.

In MHA developments where there are parking lots, the housing authority may designate allowable uses for parking spaces by marking and/or signs. Designations may include, but are not limited to, Resident Parking, Visitor Parking MHA Staff Parking, Handicap Parking, No Parking, etc. Any space not otherwise marked is hereby designated for Resident Parking only.



Police Officer Derrick "Stick" Johnson

Vehicle Registration

On-site parking of resident-controlled vehicles is restricted to two vehicles per household. A resident must register all vehicles she/he wishes to park on-site with MHA. At the discretion of MHA, registration is available for vehicles owned by residents and those that residents do not own but which she/he has permission to use. All registered vehicles must display a MHA sticker in the lower left corner of the rear window or in a visible location on motorcycles.

Morristown Police Department
MHA Liaison &
Crime Prevention Officer
Network Center --1149 Kennedy Circle
423-587-0376

