



PMHA Resident News



Public Housing Newsletter

April 2018

PMHA Smoke-Free Policy

PMHA will designate all Public Housing properties as smoke free effective July 30, 2018, as per HUD's Final Rule "Instituting Smoke-Free Public Housing".

In the first quarter of 2018, PMHA staff conducted resident meetings for input on the draft smoke-free policy and modified the draft policy based on resident input. PMHA issued the revised draft policy to all Public Housing residents for a 30-day comment period, until March 31, 2018. The policy will be completed and implemented by the effective date of July 30, 2018.

Under this policy, PMHA bans the use of all prohibited tobacco products in all PMHA owned and/or managed dwelling units, within all units, indoor common areas, administrative offices and buildings and in outdoor areas within 25 feet of any PMHA housing or administrative offices, buildings or structures along with outdoor common areas.

Failure to adhere to the Smoke-Free Policy will be considered a violation of the Lease Agreement and is grounds for termination of tenancy.

PMHA's Mission Statement

The Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority is dedicated to meeting the housing needs of low-income families and individuals of Portage County by developing, managing and supporting decent, affordable housing in cooperation with community partners.

Office Hours

PMHA offices are open Mondays through Thursdays from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, except for holidays. Office visitors are advised to call ahead for an appointment whenever possible.

Smoking Cessation

There are several community organizations that provide smoking cessation services or resources, which can assist residents in preparation for smoke-free housing, including:

Portage County Health Department in collaboration with University Hospital's Portage County Medical Center -- Call 330-296-9919, ext. 129 or email amitchell@portageco.com

Ohio Department of Health Website:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/quitnow/Tobacco/TobaccoHome/Tobacco.aspx>

The Ohio Tobacco Quit Line
Call 1-800-QUIT NOW (784-8669) or log on to <http://ohio.quitlogix.org>

CVS MinuteClinic Start to Stop Program -- Locate your nearest CVS MinuteClinic here: <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/clinic-locator>

Tips from Former Smokers Website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/>

American Cancer Society
To speak to a quit specialist, call **1-800-227-2345**

American Lung Association Freedom from Smoking Online Program – Website: <http://www.ffsonline.org/>

Truth Initiative's EX Plan Program Website:
<http://www.becomeanex.org/>

Smoke-Free Housing:
The Smart Choice for
Our Community



Earth Day: April 22, 2018

Did you know that Earth Day is celebrated annually on April 22nd? While many people, including school children, celebrate Earth Day every year, the history of Earth Day is not widely known. In fact, children played a monumental role in getting the celebration started.

In the 1960s, Senator Gaylord Nelson thought of creating a special day to celebrate planet Earth because he was worried about its fate. He knew that the Earth was becoming too polluted. The senator talked to members of Congress and the president about pollution and other environmental-related planetary problems. President Kennedy began visiting parts of the U.S. to discuss these problems.

Senator Nelson and others still didn't think enough was being done to help Earth, so they created Earth Day as a way to teach people about the importance of improving our environment. Senator Nelson wrote to various colleges and posted an article in "Scholastic" magazine about Earth Day, hoping that children would join his efforts. After word got around, the first Earth Day was held April 22, 1970.

Today, Earth Day is celebrated all over the planet, not just in the United States. Earth Day continues to be organized through grass-roots efforts. Every year on April 22, millions of people get together to celebrate the Earth and promote sustainable activities because of the foresight of Senator Nelson.



For more information on Earth Day, please visit the following websites:

Earth Day Network

<https://www.earthday.org/>

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<https://www.epa.gov/earthday>

The Children's Advocacy Center of Portage Co.

1 in 10 children will be sexually abused by age 18. 90% of those children are abused by a known and trusted adult.

The mission of The Children's Advocacy Center of Portage County is to improve the community's response to child abuse and neglect and lessen the negative impact of abuse on children. **To report suspicions of child abuse or neglect in Portage County call: 330-296-CARE (2273).**

When a child asks for help:

- Listen.
- Believe the child.
- Tell the child it is not his/her fault.
- Don't question the child yourself. This may further traumatize the child and jeopardize the investigation.
- Report your suspicions by calling 330-296-2273.

For further information on The Children's Advocacy Center, please visit the following website: <http://childadvocacyportage.org/>

PMHA Is On Facebook!

PMHA has a new Facebook page, which can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PMHARavenna/>

Please "like" our page and "follow" us, in order to stay up to date on the latest PMHA information, news, and events. Feel free to share our page with you neighbors, family, and friends.



Like us on
Facebook

Portage County Job & Family Services
1st annual

FAMILY FUN DAY

Sponsored by the Children Services Division!

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

228 S. SCRANTON ST RAVENNA, OHIO 44266

1:00 PM-3:00PM

Speakers: Shaken Baby Syndrome hosted by
University Hospitals 1:30PM-2:00PM
Positive Parenting (Triple P Program) hosted by
Children's Advantage: 2:15PM-2:45PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TOGETHER TO PLAY GAMES,
MAKE CRAFTS AND ENJOY A FUN DAY OUT
TOGETHER! PARENTS ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE
COMMUNITY PARTNER TABLES AND LEARN MORE ABOUT
RESOURCES AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE
IN PORTAGE COUNTY.

Questions? Please contact Public Information Officer
Kim McClendon at (330)357-7190 or
Kim.McClendon@jfs.ohio.gov



PORTAGE LEARNING CENTERS 

Head Start and Early Head Start

NOW ENROLLING!

FREE, quality childcare and school readiness programs!

- Located throughout Portage County, with centers in Atwater, Kent, Ravenna and Streetsboro
- Full Day, Full Week classes, as well as Half Day classes are available
- Limited transportation is available for Half-Day classes
- HOME-BASED services are also available throughout the county
- Serving children birth to five, as well as pregnant women
- Focused development and school readiness services
- Income guidelines apply

HEAD START has been providing high quality, early education for over
50 years!

Call to schedule your child's enrollment today!

(330) 297-7795

TIRED OF FINANCIAL STRESS?

You're Invited to the



2018 PORTAGE COUNTY Financial Wellness Fair

Maplewood Career Center – 7075 State Route 88 Ravenna

Saturday, April 21, 2018 – 8:00am – 12:00pm



Door Prizes Include...

- Cleveland Indians Tickets
- Giant Eagle Gift Cards
- Harry & David Gift Basket
- Local Restaurant Gift Cards
- ...and MUCH MORE!



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Brad Cromes, Portage County Treasurer
449 S. Meridian St. Ravenna, OH 44266 – 330-297-3595 – bcromes@portageco.com

The Portage County Financial Wellness Fair is a ***FREE*** opportunity to improve your knowledge & skill in managing your finances – and have fun doing it!

Attendees will have access to ***FREE*** half-hour classes on a wide range of financial topics, including budgeting, credit & debt, health care, insurance, & much more.

All attendees receive one entry in our pick-a-prize raffle, and each class attended earns an additional entry. The more you learn, the more you can win!

The event will also feature an expo area for residents to meet & talk one-on-one with local financial service providers.

Take advantage of this ***FREE*** and fun way of learning more about important financial topics – **everyone** is welcome!

WATER HEATER SAFETY TIPS

Keep safe by following these water heater recommendations:

On residential tanks, the settings are normally warm, hot, very hot or something similar. There is so much variation on what these settings mean, but the right temperature is at least **120 degrees at the tap**, which you can test with a meat or candy thermometer.

It is important to keep the temperature close to 120 degrees to kill germs and prevent children from being scalded. Compared to adults, babies and children have thinner skin that burns faster and at lower temperatures. It's a good idea to check the water temperature using your wrist or elbow every time you bathe a baby, toddler or young child. For more information about preventing burns and scalds to children visit MakeSafeHappen.com.

Remove paper, accumulated dust or other combustibles from around the water heater. Flammable materials should be kept at least 18" away from the water heater.

Never leave children unattended around a water heater.

If you have any questions or concerns about your unit's water heater, please call the PMHA Maintenance Department at (330) 297-1489.

Resident Services Page on the PMHA Website

The PMHA website now contains a page for Public Housing Resident Services. Please feel free to visit this new page at:

<http://www.portagehousing.org/resident/index.php>

If you have questions or comments about the Resident Services page, please contact Carolyn Budd, Special Programs Manager, at (330) 297-1489 ext. 239, or by email at cbudd@portagehousing.org.

Reporting Income & Household Composition Changes in a Timely Manner

Public Housing residents are expected to report income and household composition in a timely manner. This means **ALL changes in income and family composition must be reported, in writing, within 10 days of the occurrence.**

Failure to report changes in a timely manner, and/or misrepresentation of facts, may result in a retroactive rent adjustment, the resident owing a debt to PMHA, and/or termination of occupancy of the household.

In order to properly report a change, please come to the PMHA Main Office to obtain a Public Housing Income or Family Composition Change Form and a Personal Declaration, or access these forms online at:

http://www.portagehousing.org/document_center/index.php

Office Closings

The PMHA office will be closed as follows in recognition of the upcoming holidays:

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018
Memorial Day

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018
Independence Day

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2018
Labor Day

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018
Columbus Day

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018
Veterans Day

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018
Thanksgiving

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018
Christmas



Rent Due Date

Please do not forget that rent is DUE and PAYABLE on the first day of each month and shall be considered delinquent

after the fifth working day of the month.

Monthly rent must be paid by mail or in person (with a check or money order only) to the Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority, 2832 State Route 59, Ravenna, OH 44266.

For the month of APRIL 2018, rent is due no later than:

April 9, 2018

Do you need help, but don't know where to turn?

Assistance to PMHA Public Housing residents is available through referrals and linkages to community services. **Sabrina Moss**, Social Services Coordinator, is available to assist you. Please feel free to contact Sabrina at the PMHA office if you or a family member is in need of assistance.

Phone: (330) 297-1489 Ext. 213 • Fax: (330) 297-6295 • Email: smoss@portagehousing.org

Sabrina's Office Hours: Monday through Thursday from 7:00AM to 5:00PM