



Financial Literacy Classes

Consumer Credit Counseling Service, in partnership with Chemical Bank, is offering two (2) FREE classes: "Budgeting", and "Credit & Home Buying". Class attendees receive useful gifts and an incentive savings program through Chemical Bank. Classes are held at **5:00PM at Chemical Bank, 999 E. Main St., Ravenna, OH 44266**, on the below dates:

Budgeting: 12/20/2018, 1/17/2019, 2/21/2019, 3/14/2019, 4/17/2019, 5/15/2019, 6/19/2019, 7/17/2019, 8/21/2019, 9/18/2019

Credit & Home Buying: 1/3/2019, 2/7/2019, 2/28/2019, 4/3/2019, 5/1/2019, 6/5/2019, 7/3/2019, 8/7/2019, 9/4/2019

You must contact Consumer Credit Counseling Service at (330) 297-0080 Ext. 363 to register for the classes you wish to attend.



Keep Warm All Winter With PMHA's Giving Tree

Are you or your children in need of warm winter gear, such as a hat, a scarf, mittens, or gloves? If so, we can help! Thanks to generous donations from PMHA staff and Portage County community members, we have a fully stocked Giving Tree available in the PMHA Main Office lobby, for all residents to use this winter.

Please feel free to stop in and take any item(s) from the GivingTree for yourself and your household members. We simply ask that you please only take what you need, so that others can have the items they need, too. Together, we can help our community to stay warm this winter, one mitten at a time!



Happy Holidays!



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.

Timely Reporting of Changes

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.**

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



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 December 2018, rent must be paid no later than: DEC. 10, 2018

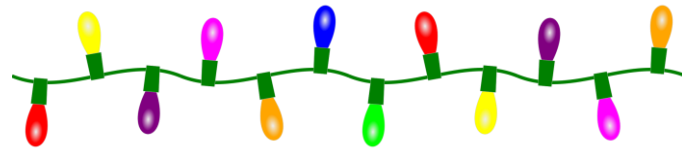
PMHA on Social Media

Stay up to date on the latest PMHA news, information, and events. "Like" and follow our **Facebook page: @PMHARavenna** and follow us on **Twitter: @portage_housing**

PMHA Drop Box – For Your Convenience

The PMHA main office is open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. If you need to submit paperwork, drop off documents, pay your rent, etc., you are strongly encouraged to do so during regular office hours. However, if circumstances prevent you from being able to come during office hours, **please place your document(s) in the secure locked drop box located to the lower left hand side of the PMHA main entrance door.**

Please **DO NOT** place your documents in the PMHA mailbox posted at the agency driveway, as this is for USPS mail delivery **ONLY**, and it is not secure (it does not lock). If you have any questions, please contact the PMHA office at (330) 297-1489 and ask to speak with your property manager. Thank you!



Office Closings

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018
Christmas Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019
New Year's Day

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019
Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019
President's Day

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



Portage Senior Center



The Portage Senior Center provides social and recreational activities to promote health, community and fellowship to all Portage County senior citizens. Weekly activities include bingo, exercise class, card games, dominoes, art class, tai chi, and Wii bowling. There are many special events that happen throughout the year such as bake sales, holiday parties, potluck dinners, education seminars, monthly bus trips and monthly blood pressure and glucose checks. Lunch is served every day, and the center always has donuts, coffee and tea available. The Portage Senior Center is located at 705 Oakwood St., Lower Level (Floor G), in Ravenna. For more information, call (330) 297-3456 or visit the website at <http://fcsserves.org/program/portage-senior-center/>.

MightyPack Program

MightyPack strives to promote the well-being of our community's children with a mission to fight against childhood hunger and foster a healthy and nurtured community. MightyPack is a **free** program that provides nutritious meals to children and teens for each weekend, to fill in the gaps when the school breakfast and lunch programs cannot provide.



Food is prepared and packaged by Kent State University volunteers every week and delivered to designated sites before the weekend. In order to qualify, site administrators may recommend the programs to eligible individuals ages 2-18 years old. If your children would benefit from receiving **free** MightyPack weekend food, please contact Sabrina Moss, PMHA Social Services Coordinator, by phone at (330) 297-1489 ext. 213, or by email at smoss@portagehousing.org.

Ohio Means Jobs

Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) offers a selection of services to help job seekers find employment. A computer lab is available for job hunting, and a variety of classes are offered, including Money Management, Skills Employers Want, Interviewing Skills, Resumes, and Basic Computer Usage. Additionally, information regarding the Senior Employment Service Employment Program (Mature Services for persons 55 years and older) is available.

OMJ also has a youth K-12 program that has everything to prepare students for the future, all in one place! Youth can learn about in-demand occupations, take a career interest survey, create a mock interview, utilize free assessments and trainings, and search over 1.5 million scholarships.

Visit the OMJ website at www.ohiomeansjobs.com, or contact the Portage County OMJ office by telephone at (330) 296-2841.



PMHA's Section 8 Waiting List

The PMHA Section 8 Voucher waiting list reopened on November 21, 2018. Those who are interested in applying for the Section 8 Voucher program must submit an application through the online application portal at <http://rentcafe.com/apartments/oh/ravenna/portage-metropolitan-housing-authority/index.aspx> or using the link provided on the PMHA website at www.portagehousing.org.

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ **Holiday Safety Tips** ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc., offers the following tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday season. By following general fire safety precautions, potential holiday fires, deaths, and injuries remain preventable.

Holiday Lights: Before installing always inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets: Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave holiday lights on while you are asleep or when you are gone!

Cooking: Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove. Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop. Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire. Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated. Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool. If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.

Candle Care - Avoid Using Lit Candles: If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning. As in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan!

Smoking: PMHA designated all Public Housing properties as smoke free effective July 30, 2018, banning 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.



Safer Futures: The mission of Safer Futures is to lessen the scope of domestic violence in Portage County. They are your link to shelter, support, legal advocacy and referrals. Call Safer Futures if you...

Have a friend in trouble: *"My friend is always talking about how difficult her relationship is..." I know she is in trouble."*

Need to talk about your situation: *"I know we fight a lot, but is this really an abusive relationship?"..." I am not quite ready for shelter, I just need to know my options."*

Need shelter and are ready to make a change in your life: *"I'm concerned about what a shelter has to offer me, what is it like?"*

Call the Safer Futures 24-hour Support Line at (330) 673-2500 or (330) 296-2100