ANNUAL LEASE RE-EXAMINATIONS

With the new year upon us, the Annual Lease Re-examinations will be fast approaching in February. In the meantime, if you receive a letter from the Social Security Administration indicating your income increase for 2015, please bring it to the CCHA office and we will make a copy for your file. Also, you will be receiving a letter from our office regarding the required information needed to complete your re-examination. Upon receipt of the Lease Re-examination letter, call the CCHA office to schedule your appointment. Please be sure that all applicable forms are completed prior to your appointment. It is especially important that the “Banking Verification” form be taken to your banking institution a few weeks prior to your appointment to be completed, as a few local banks have to forward the paperwork to their office headquarters, which may be in a different state, to be completed. As a reminder, all re-examinations must be completed and forwarded to the Chicago HUD office by February 27, 2015. Thus, if your re-examination is not completed by this date your Lease will not be renewed.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH CASSEROLE RECIPE

If you will be having overnight company during the holidays, you may want to consider this casserole!

INGREDIENTS
* 4 cups frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
* 1 pound pork sausage, cooked/drain
* 1/2 pound bacon strips, cooked/crumbled
* 1 medium green pepper, chopped
* 1 green onion, chopped
* 2 cups (8 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese, divided
* 4 eggs
* 3 cups 2% milk
* 1 cup reduced-fat biscuit/baking mix
* 1/2 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS
* In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients; stir in 1 cup cheese. Transfer to a greased 13x9 baking dish.
* In another bowl, whisk eggs, milk, baking mix and salt until blended; pour over top.
* Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Refrigerate, covered, overnight.
* Bake, uncovered at 375° for 30-35 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.
Yield: 12 servings.

NEW YEAR’S PRAYER FOR ONE AND ALL

Dear Lord, so far this year I have done well. I have not gossiped, I have not lost my temper, I have not been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I’m very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I’m going to get out of bed, and from then on I’m probably going to need a lot more help. ~ Amen

A NEW YEAR PRAYER FOR THE ELDERLY

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway. The good fortune to run into the ones that I do, And the eyesight to tell the difference.

LECTURE TOUR WITH A DIFFERENCE

On New Year’s Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. “What are you doing out here at four o’clock in the morning?” asked the police officer. “I’m on my way to a lecture,’ answered Daniel. “And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year’s Eve?” enquired the constable sarcastically. “My wife,” slurred Daniel grimly.

CCHA MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:
• BINGO (Mest Manor) Monday, January 5th & 19th 1:00p.m. (All Tenants Welcome)
• Board Game/Card Club Saturday, January 10th 6:30p.m. (Mest Manor) All Tenants Welcome
• Pest Control Friday, January 16th 9:00a.m. (Carroll Apartments)
• Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, January 20th 2:00 p.m. (Mest Manor Dining Room)
• Tenant Meetings Tuesday, January 27th 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. (Mest Manor - Dining Room) Wednesday, January 28th 3:00 p.m. (Maple Lane)
• Tenant Potluck (Mest Manor) Tuesday, January 27th

OFFICE CLOSURE:
NEW YEAR’S DAY
Thursday, January 1st
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday, January 19th

CARROLL COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
ANNUAL LEASE 1
RE-EXAMINATIONS 1
HOLIDAY BRUNCH 1
CASSEROLE RECIPE 1
NEW YEAR’S PRAYERS 1
ODE TO JANUARY 2
HOW TO BE A GOOD APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

“APPROACH THE NEW YEAR WITH RESOLVE TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES HIDDEN IN EACH NEW DAY.” - MICHAEL JOSEPHSON

CCHA NEWSLETTER
Ode to January

’Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house nothing would fit me, not even a blouse. The cookies I had nibbled, the eggnog I had taste at the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scale there arose such a number! When I walked to the store (less a walk than a slumber) I’d remember the marvelous meals I’d prepared; The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese and the way I had never said, “No thank you, please.”

As I dressed myself in my husband’s old shirt and prepared once again to do battle with dirt - I said to myself, as I only can “You can’t spend a winter disguised as a man!”

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip, get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.

I won’t have a cookie, not even a lick. I’ll want only to chew on a long celery stick. I won’t have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie, I’ll munch on a carrot and quietly cry. I’m hungry, I’m lonesome, and life is a bore. But isn’t that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

How to Be a Good Apartment Neighbor

Residing in an apartment may be a step down from owning a house, but everything comes with responsibilities. An apartment lifestyle might be more complicated when it comes to etiquette issues because of the limited space between other people, yet a little courtesy can certainly make apartment life much easier. Following are a few helpful tips on maintaining a courteous relationship with your fellow apartment neighbors, so that living in close proximity with others proceeds well.

1. **Be friendly towards others.** You don’t necessarily need to know them, but a simple hello or greeting goes a long way.

2. **Be soft-spoken when entering or exiting.** It may be normal to walk from the parking lot to your front door and vice versa, but you will need to consider how loud a person is. Avoid stomping on stairwells, especially when leaving before sunrise or coming back late at night.

3. **Be considerate of the noise level inside the apartment.** This is one of the most common complaints. If a neighbor requests for you to keep the noise level down, try to negotiate a solution.

4. **Have on-site laundry etiquette.** It is advisable to avoid leaving clothes abandoned for a prolonged period. If there’s a limited amount of washers and dryers available and another person’s clothes have been in there for a long time, it is considerate to lay their clothes on a clean plastic or garbage bag on a counter or somewhere off the floor. Each person is responsible for their own belongings, but it is also a two-way street way of using shared amenities.

4. **Offer any positive assistance or convenience to your elderly neighbors.** If you see them in the parking lot with groceries, ask them if they need help carrying them inside the building or hold any doors open. If you see their mail piling up or you don’t notice their light on at night for some time, knock on their door and see if they are doing okay.

Live the **GOLDEN RULE.** Treat others as you would like to be treated. Put yourself in their shoes about noise levels, parking in one’s stall, and other lifestyles. These aren’t your family members, friends, nor roommates; they are just ordinary people, some whom would like to live in peace and quiet.