



# CCHA NEWSLETTER

CARROLL COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Volume XV, Issue II  
DECEMBER 2024



## TENANT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Please join us for our Annual Tenant Holiday Dinner. This year's event will be held on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Manny's Pizza (located at 211 Main St., Savanna, IL). All tenants are welcome to come and enjoy a complimentary dinner and to celebrate the 2024 Holiday Season. We hope to see all of you there, as this is the perfect time to put on your party attire, come socialize with fellow tenants, and get into the holiday spirit.

**MENU: TACOS, PIZZA & ASSORTED DESSERTS WILL BE SERVED (6:00 P.M.)**

**ENTERTAINMENT: SWANY CONNECTION (6:45 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.)**

Following the entertainment, **SANTA** will make a special appearance to greet each of the children that are in attendance at the Holiday Dinner with a **GIFT**. A drawing for **DOOR PRIZES** will be held at the conclusion of the evening.

Please R.S.V.P. to the CCHA office by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024**. Again, we welcome and encourage all tenants to join us for an evening of holiday celebration.

**NOTE:** Complimentary transportation will be available upon request.

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*"A little smile, a word of cheer,  
A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year!"*  
- Author Unknown



### RUDOLPH REINDEER COOKIES RECIPE

Gather 'round the tree on this Christmas Eve and feast on these adorable reindeer cookies!

#### INGREDIENTS

- \* 1-1/2 pounds dark chocolate candy coating, chopped
- \* 1 package (16 oz.) Nutter Butter cookies
- \* 32 miniature marshmallows, cut in half crosswise
- \* Decorating icing
- \* 32 M&M's or Red Hots
- \* 64 miniature pretzels

#### DIRECTIONS

- \* In a microwave, melt candy coating; stir until smooth. Dip 1 cookie in chocolate; allow excess to drip off. Place on waxed paper.
- \* Attach 2 marshmallow halves onto cookie for eyes; add decorating icing for pupils and a mouth. Add an M&M or Red Hot for nose. Attach pretzels or pretzel pieces for antlers. Repeat with remaining cookies. Let stand until set. **YIELD:** 32 Cookies

*"Through a frosty winter night,  
In a sleigh with reindeer flight,  
Bringing joy to large and small,  
Merry Christmas one and all!"*

~ Author Unknown



### POLAR EXPRESS NIGHT

The Savanna American Legion Post 148 presents Polar Express Night. Come spend the evening with **SANTA, THE GRINCH**, and watch the **POLAR EXPRESS** in your pajamas! Hot chocolate and photo opportunities will be available.

**DATE:** Saturday, December 21, 2024

**TIME:** 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Savanna Museum and Cultural Center (406 Main St., Savanna, IL)

This is a **FREE** event for children up to age 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Donations are not required but are greatly appreciated!



### 3 THINGS RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER TEACHES US ABOUT LIFE

1. We all have our flaws. It's how we respond to them that matters.
2. Even Santa (the "boss" or upper management) can learn a lesson or two.
3. Covering up a "problem" is never the best way of dealing with it.



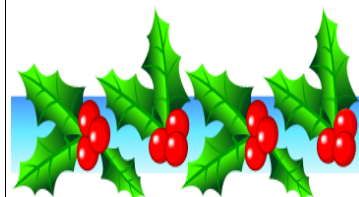
### CCHA MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Mest Manor Market Day  
Monday, December 2nd  
Approx. 10:30 a.m.  
(Mest Manor Dining Room)  
\* Available to Mest Manor & Maple Lane Tenants **Only**
- Tenant Holiday Dinner  
Thursday, December 12th  
Manny's Pizza  
Beginning at 6:00 p.m.  
\* See above article for details
- Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday, December 18th  
(Mest Manor Conf. Room)  
4:00p.m.

#### OFFICE CLOSURE:

#### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Tuesday, December 24th  
Wednesday, December 25th





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Terry Tipp	3
Danae Rubio	5
Sherrill Cancelose	10
Michelle Lyman	14
Kimberly Gouty	15
Michael Smith	17
Robert Racky	18
Mary Menke	19
Eva Mika	25
Ella Miller	26



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525 Third Street  
Savanna, IL 61074

Phone: 815-273-7081  
Fax: 815-273-4050

E-mail: ccha@grics.net  
Website: carrollcountyha.com

CCHA Board Members  
Peg Haffey, Chairman  
Bill Robinson, Vice-Chairman  
Joanna Davies, Commissioner  
Dan Nevills, Commissioner  
Amanda Titus, Commissioner/Treasurer

CCHA Staff

Ed Bochniak, Executive Director  
Patty Acree, Administrative Assistant  
Randy Meade, Maintenance Lead  
Chad O'Neill, Maintenance Assistant

Mission Statement

The Housing Authority of the County of Carroll is committed to providing quality, affordable housing that is decent and safe, to eligible families in this community. We endeavor to instill pride and desire for an enhanced quality of life for our residents and their families.

We are committed to serving our residents and this entire community in a manner that demonstrates professional courtesy, respect, and caring.



SELF-CARE TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays can be a time of mixed emotions and stress for most of us. Between family gatherings, gift giving, and planning seasonal events, it is easy to feel overwhelmed or stretched thin. 'Tis the season for connecting and enjoying, but when we are busy and tired, it can be hard to feel that holiday cheer. That's why holiday self care is so important. Taking simple steps to care for yourself during the holidays can make all the difference. By paying attention to what helps you stay calm and happy, you will be able to make the most of the season without burning out.



- Handling holiday emotions** Holidays bring a mix of emotions some joyful, and some stressful. To keep your emotions in check, try simple grounding activities. Taking a few slow breaths, writing down on thing you are grateful for, or even stepping outside for a few minutes can help.
- Staying well while celebrating** With holiday treats and late nights, it can be easy to lose track of what your body needs. A little attention to basics—like getting enough sleep, drinking water, and eating balanced meals—can keep you feeling your best.
- Setting gentle boundaries with family and friends** Holiday gatherings often come with expectations and commitments that can often feel overwhelming. Saying “yes” to everything might seem like the right thing, but it’s okay to set limits to protect your own well-being.

Holiday self-care is about keeping things simple. When you give yourself permission to slow down, set boundaries, and enjoy the little things—you are able to fully enjoy the season. Remember, taking care of yourself isn't a luxury; it's a way to make the most of the holidays. Wishing you a peaceful, joyful holiday season with plenty of moments to relax and recharge!

CHRISTMAS LONG AGO

~Christmas Poem by Jo Geis



Frosty days and ice-still nights, Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,  
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow, That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee, Icy-window filigree,  
Sugarplums and candle glow, Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair, Sweet-voiced carols in the air,  
Stocking hanging in a row, Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue, good friends calling out to you.  
Life, so fact, will always slow...For dreams of Christmas long ago!

FESTIVAL OF TREES - JOLLY HOLIDAY EVENT

The Savanna Historical Society is presenting its 2024 Annual Festival of Trees. There will be approximately 50 creative, and beautifully decorated Christmas trees filling the first floor of the Historical Society to delight children, and add a wonderful warm Christmas spirit to our community. The decorated trees are sponsored by local businesses, organizations, schools, churches, and individuals. Visitors submit their votes for their Favorite Tree in each of the following categories: Full-Size Tree, Table Top Tree, and Creation “Tree.”



Also, Silent Auction items will be available. Visitors register bids on silent auction items throughout the Festival and winners are announced at the end.

Admission to the Festival of Trees is free to the public, although, donations will be accepted.

**DATES:** Friday, November 29, 2024 - Sunday, December 15, 2024

**HOURS:** Monday - Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm  
Saturdays & Sundays Noon - 5:00pm

**LOCATION:** Savanna Historical Museum & Cultural Center (406 Main St., Savanna, IL)