

Martin Housing Authority

MHA Messenger

Back to the Basics

by Brian Harris

Special points of interest:

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- Billing issues- See page 3
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Brian Harris
Executive Director

It is almost unthinkable to consider that gasoline prices may hit the \$4 per gallon mark this summer as is being predicted by all of the "experts". With the continuing rise of gasoline they also predict that prices on food, clothing, and practically everything else are going to go up too. How is a family to survive? How is a business to survive?

The simple answer is...to get back to the basics. As families begin to change the spending habits and limit purchases to necessities, businesses have to follow the same principle.

In an effort to limit fuel expenses MHA will begin to more carefully schedule maintenance work within our five cities. Trucks will be stocked with more items to prevent the need to leave the job site for parts. Postage costs will be reduced by carefully planning correspondence and possibly limiting or combining routine mailings. Other efforts will be made to reduce operational costs even more than in the

past to evidence more conservative stewardship of operating funds.

Despite the gloomy economic outlook, I am confident and optimistic that as we employ the basics of responsible spending, we will all succeed.

Please remember that if you need assistance in setting up a budget we have staff available to assist. Simply call us at the office and we will arrange a time to meet with you. We look forward to working together with you.

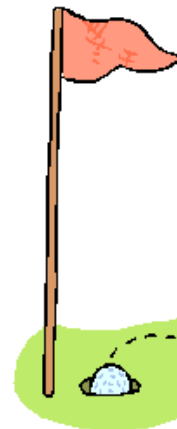




1st Annual MHA Golf Tournament
Four Person Scramble
to benefit
After-School & Summer Programs
for low-income children
Play golf and help raise money for a great cause



MTD Weedeater & Door prizes to be given away



When: Thursday
 May 22, 2008
 11:30am Lunch
 12:30 Tee Time

Where: Persimmon Hills Golf Course
 Sharon, TN
 (731) 456-2323

Cost: \$45.00 per player includes golf cart, awards & lunch

\$10,000
Hole in One
Prize

Super Sponsor \$250 hole & team
 Hole Sponsor \$100 per hole
 Door prize sponsor contribute door prizes or promotional items

Companies, individuals and/or other organizations are welcome to sponsor golf tournament activities. All proceeds go directly to the MHA After-School & Summer Program and will be recognized with signs if received by May 16, 2008.

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2008 For more information contact: Tiffany Latta 731-587-3186 extension 5

HUD Inspections Notice

HUD Inspections will be conducted according to the following schedule.

May 29th	Units 125-168 East Heights Drive– Martin
May 30th	All Dresden units

Failure to comply with these and other lease items may result in penalties and maintenance fees

WHAT MUST YOU DO TO PREPARE?

- Your apartment **MUST** be CLEAN and free of any garbage
- Every room **MUST** be easily accessible and free of debris
- **SMOKE DETECTORS MUST BE IN WORKING ORDER** – Residents will be charged a \$25 tamper fee for each inoperable detector as outlined in your lease.
- Breaker boxes and hot water heaters **MUST** have clear/easy access
- Front porch and yards **MUST** be free of trash and stored items
- Work Order items **MUST** be called in to the office prior to the inspection date to give us time to fix problems before inspection
- Authorized pets **MUST** be contained in proper pet carriers
- Front and Back doors **MUST** be free of anything blocking it (including piles of clothes, garbage, cleaning supplies, etc.)
- **NO** extension cords, cable or telephone lines will be permitted to run across hallways, rooms, or walkways.
- All light fixtures **MUST** be in working order. Burned out bulbs **MUST** be replaced before inspection.

Billing Issues

by Carla Vowell

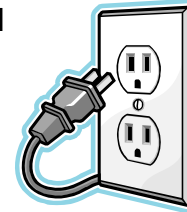
How does the billing on my utilities work?

Every month your unit is given a usage amount of electricity and gas based on a utility study and if you go over that allotted amount then you pay the difference.

There are some months that you will not have a utility bill and some months you might have several dollars worth. One thing to

keep in mind is that your utility bill is 2 months old when it appears on your bill. We get the bills at the

first of the month which is what you used the previous month, after processing them you see it on your bill for the following month. It can be confus-



ing and our office will be glad to explain it further if you have any questions. We also can give a copy of the utility allowances if you wish.

Extra note: the amount of utility that you are given only covers basics...items such as microwaves, dryers, air conditioners, large fans, etc. are not considered in the allowances given.

Low- Income Explanation

by Christie Thompson

Just what does low-income mean? HUD sets low-income limits for every county in Tennessee on an annual basis. These limits are based on average incomes of persons residing in the county. Limits change with the number of

persons in the family. Families with annual incomes higher than the low-income limit are not permitted to apply for public housing, however, families whose income increases beyond the low-income limit while they are a resident in

public housing are not required to move. The Weakley County income limits for 2008 are listed below:



Number in family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low- Income	\$27,150	\$31,050	\$34,900	\$38,800	\$41,900	\$45,000	\$48,100	\$51,200

Congratulations
April Cable Coupon Winner
Ms. Alice Hurst of
Greenfield

Job Opportunity

Workforce Investment Act has officially kicked off it's summer work program for youth ages 16 thru 21. The WIA will pay wages for youth to work at non profit agencies. The orientation program begins June 2nd and the work program begins June 9th.



If you know a youth that may qualify for this program please call

Billie Mackin at 364-5335 to apply.

ROSS News

by Kristy Robinson

Thanks to everyone that came out and played BINGO with us. We had a great time! Thanks to Dorothy Cook from Area Agency on Aging for coming out and speaking about Fraud, Scams, and Abuse of our elderly. It was very informative.



Upcoming Events:

May 22nd- Recipe Exchange Party
10am- Bring any-

thing from beverages, appetizers, salads, sides, main dishes or desserts. Share your favorite recipe. Bring a small dish for people to taste. Bring the rec-

ipe written out on an index card. I'll make copies of the recipe to give to everyone. Everyone will get a chance to sample everyone else's dish and leave with the recipe. We will have a great time! If you have any questions please give me a call.

Due to the inclement weather we had this month, the Yard of the Month judging has been postpone to next month. Hopefully this will give everyone some time to tend to their yards.

Yards will be judged on the following:

- Yard Maintenance
- Front porch free of debris and clutter
- Driveway free of oil and other stains.
- Design and Landscaping

All plantings must be living, no plastic, silk or artificial plants



Work Orders

by Jim Shaw

With the cost of gas being so high, the maintenance department will have to try to hold mileage down as much as possible. If work orders are not an emergency, they will be scheduled for when someone is

in that area. Please be patient with us. Every work order is important and will be responded to as soon as possible.



Friendly Reminder

We get numerous calls each month regarding parking problems. We would like to remind our residents that Martin Housing Authority **does not** have assigned parking. You may park on the paved areas only. Do not park in the grass.

After-School Program News

by Robert Nunley

The Stuart Center After-School Program has a busy month of April as this school year is quickly coming to a close. Much of the past semester's program highlights can be attributed to our ever increasing partnership with the University. This 2007/08 school year has been outstanding with our continued involvement with the School of Social Work and its faculty and students. In addition to this long standing partnership we have added several new ones this semester. For example, the BCM is a ministry that frequently provides volunteers to assist with after-school program functions. This month they are hosting a Cookout for our After-School Program at their campus center. Transportation will be provided by First Baptist Church who will provide a church vehicle and driver for that day's event. Also, new this month is a planned Spring Clean-up in

partnership with selected members of UTM Football team. They will visit MHA Community to assist our After-school program children and youth with a beautification project around the exterior of the Center. Students and UTM Football team members will trim hedges rake leaves and plant flowers to improve the Stuart Center's curb appeal.

Additionally, Lester Hudson who is a member of UTM men's Basketball Team and OVC Player of the Year will visit our After-School Program this month. He is scheduled to visit with our children to speak with them about healthy



choices. Mr. Hudson was recently named to the All-American College Basketball Second Team and has the distinction of being the first UTM Men's Basketball player to achieve this honor. He has recently announced that he plans to submit his name for the upcoming NBA Draft. And finally, UTM's College of Education and Behavioral Science is hosting a MHA After-School Program Day on Campus. The visit will include campus tour given by UTM students and a visit to the Recreation Center for some fun and light refreshments. The Dean, Mary Hall, has assisted in making this opportunity available to our program. We hope this event will cause our program participants to think and believe that a College Education is within their reach. We hope to make this an annual event each



Social Services

by Tiffany Latta


 Martin Housing Authority's Summer Program will begin shortly. The program is FREE to children beginning Kindergarten through the 8th grade. The program will begin June 2nd through July 25th. Hours of operation will be 10:30am until 2:30pm.

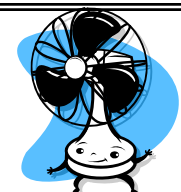
The children will enjoy hot lunches, weekly swimming, martial arts lessons and library visits. Applications will be available beginning Monday, May 26th and can be picked up from the Housing Authority Office or at the Stuart Commu-




nity Center. Space is limited so hurry to reserve your child's spot now! We look forward to enjoying exciting times this summer with your children. For more information, contact Robert Nunley or Tiffany Latta at 587-3186.



Energy Saving Tip: House fans help cool your home by pulling cool air through the house. They are effective when operated at night when the outside air is cooler than the inside.



May 2008 Cable Coupon
 What is the name of the UTM's Basketball and OVC Player of the year that will be visiting the After School Program?

(Name)

(Address)

(Phone)

Please return to MHA office by May 7th by 4:30pm for your chance of winning a free month of cable. Good Luck!

Welcome New Residents!!!

<u>Martin</u> Linda Booker Erica Vasi	<u>Sharon</u> Stephanie Booker Cortney Wade
<u>Greenfield</u> Wendy Kemp	<u>Gleason</u> Carolyn Needham Torchie Mayo



May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes: Pest Co. in Martin 5th & 6th				1 Rent Due	2 Rent Due	3
4	5 Rent Due Pest Co. in Martin	6 Rent Due Pest Co. in Martin	7 Rent Due Late Charges after 4:30pm	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18	19	20 Last Day of School 1/2day	21 Court Detainers after 4:30pm	22 ROSS Recipe Party 10am	23	24
25	26 Office Closed- Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

Calendar of Events

- **Rent Due:** May 1st-7th
- **Late Charges:** May 7th after 4:30
- **Pest Co. in Martin:** 5th & 6th
- **Court Detainers:** May 21st after 4:30
- **Office Closed:** May 26th

GED/Computer classes & Job Readiness are FREE and available to those who wish to improve their skills and marketability. Classes offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays



Martin Housing Authority
134 East Heights Drive
Martin, TN 38237

Phone: 731-587-3186
Fax: 731-587-0019
email@martinhousing.org

SERVING WEAKLEY COUNTY SINCE 1962.

**[We're on the web!
www.martinhousing.org]**

WE CARE Ministries will be partnering with the Mobile Pantry from Nashville to distribute their additional food supply. The Mobile Pantry program is a free grocery distribution for individuals/families in need of some extra help with groceries. The food will be available **ONLY - April 28th at 10:30 - 12:00** at the WE CARE Ministries parking lot.

For more information please call 587-6257.

WE CARE Encouragement Devotional Service

Sunday May 11th at 3pm

Fellowship and Meal following.

For more information please call 587-6257

Blessings to you, Betty Baker, Director WE CARE Ministries, Inc.