



October is Fire Prevention Month so we have included some useful information about Fire Safety inside. Remember, if you have a fire OF ANY SORT at your home, it HAS to be reported to the office. Not doing so may result in an eviction.

Fall is officially here! You are welcome to decorate for the holidays, just be sure to take decorations back down a few days after the holiday. Keep in mind that decorations for any occasion must be safe (not a trip hazard, no electric cords running along the ground, in good condition). Anyone with questions can call the office.

Please be safe when trick-or-treating in the subdivisions. Only visit residences with the porch light on, children should stay with an adult and obey trick-or-treat days and times for each town.

*Margaret (Peg) Barkley*  
CEO

**Address:**

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(217) 854-5393  
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**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**EMERGENCY  
NUMBER:  
(217) 827-2100**

**EMERGENCIES  
INCLUDE:**

- ◆ Gas leaks
- ◆ Broken water pipes
- ◆ Exposed electrical wires
- ◆ No heat (if the outside temperature is 45-degrees or lower)
- ◆ Sewer line stoppage (not drain line)- this includes a clogged toilet
- ◆ CO/Smoke detector beeping or chirping

Also fire, flood, or anything that threatens life, safety or property damage.

## **SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS COMING JULY 30, 2018**



The Macoupin Homes, L.P. board has voted to make all subdivisions smoke-free as of July 30, 2018. We are making efforts to make the transition as smooth as possible. We will be offering workshops to help Housing residents who wish to stop smoking. The dates are as follows:

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 11 a.m.**

at Staunton Water Tower Ct. Pavilion

**Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 10 a.m.**

at Virden Rec Hall

**Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 10 a.m.**

at Carlinville or Staunton Rec Hall (To Be Decided)

**\*INSPECTIONS MAY TAKE PLACE ON ANY DAY OF THE MONTH  
(1-31) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF  
8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY  
SPECIFIC DAYS AND TIMES WILL NOT BE GIVEN.**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOTICE  
OF ANY INSPECTIONS FOR THE MONTH.**

## **HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS**

Housekeeping inspections this month will take place in the homes on **Horizon Lane in Gillespie**. Please refer to the Macoupin Homes LP Housekeeping Policy for any questions.

## Energy Assistance Program Enrollment Begins October 1

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Community Assistance recently announced that the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will begin accepting applications for winter heating assistance for seniors and people with disabilities beginning October 1.

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program for low-income families, in which heating bill payments are made on behalf of households. Applications are processed through a network of 35 local administering agencies around the state. These agencies will begin accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis from the elderly and people with disabilities starting on October 1.

Customers must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance, including:

- proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day income period beginning with the date of the application;
- a copy of their current heat and electric bills issues within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly);
- a copy of their rental agreement (if they are renting) showing that utilities are

included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact information;

-proof of Social Security numbers for all household members; and

-proof that their household received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD) or other benefits, such as medical eligibility or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

A single-person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$1,508; two people, \$2,030; three people, \$2,553; and four people, \$3075. Benefits are paid directly to energy vendors on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households where heating costs are included in their rent; these households must provide proof that their rent is more than 30 percent of their income in order to qualify for LIHEAP benefits.

Disconnected households and families with children age 5 or younger (includes all children who are not yet 6 years old, that is, up to 5 years and 364 days old) can begin applying for LIHEAP assistance beginning November 1. Individuals not eligible for

priority enrollment can apply beginning December 1. LIHEAP applicants will be served on a first-come, first-served basis until May 31, 2018, or until funding is exhausted.

The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) is a similar bill-payment assistance program and applications will be accepted starting October 1 for LIHEAP eligible households who are customers of Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, and Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas Utilities. Under PIPP, eligible households pay a percentage of their income toward their utility bill, supplemented by a monthly state benefit. Participating households are eligible for a reduction in outstanding bills for every on-time payment they make. PIPP applicants will be served on a first-come, first served basis until December 31 or until funding is exhausted.

In Macoupin County, the administering agency is Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation, located at 223 South Macoupin Street, Gillespie; call (217) 839-4431. For a complete list of LIHEAP's local administering agencies and additional information about the program, visit [liheapillinois.com](http://liheapillinois.com).

- # FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

  - Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven. Use a cooking timer.
  - Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (i.e. potholders, towels, rags, plastic, drapes and food packaging).
  - Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn (i.e. mattresses, bedding, upholstered furniture, draperies, etc.).
  - Never smoke in bed, when drowsy, medicated or intoxicated as this could lead to falling asleep with a lit cigarette.
  - Do not smoke or have open flame around medical oxygen.
  - Keep matches and lighters away from children.
  - Supervise young children closely. Do not leave them alone even for short periods of time.
  - Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
  - Keep candles away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammable decorations).
  - Do not use portable space heaters.
  - Do not store flammable chemicals, such as gasoline and paints inside. The vapors from the flammable chemicals will seek an ignition source and can explode.
  - Do not overload outlets, turn off TV, fans and other devices when not in use. This will keep these devices from over heating.
  - Never use a gas range as a substitute for a furnace.