



#### COMMUNITY STAFF

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# Geauga Metropolitan Housing

## News Release

Welcome all of our new and current residents! I hope you find our newsletters useful and full of information.

### GMHA Website

The Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority website has a new look! Please visit <http://www.geaugamha.org> to find updated announcements and other useful information.

### William F. Gandert OHAC Scholarship Awards

The Ohio Housing Conference (OHAC) is offering up to six scholarships for graduating seniors, re-entry adults or continuing education students. To receive more information, please visit the GMHA website or speak with your Housing Manager. The deadline to apply is March 16, 2020.

### Poster Contest

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is sponsoring a poster contest. The contest is open to all student enrolled in elementary, middle or high school, residing in GMHA Housing or receiving Section 8 through GMHA. More information and the application can be found on the GMHA website or you can speak with your Housing Manager. Posters must be submitted to GMHA no later than March 6, 2020 or to OHAC by March 20, 2020.

Help us ensure an accurate count.

United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
**2020**

Learn more at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

### Census Day is April 1, 2020

It's Easy, Safe and Secure. You can help your community by taking a few minutes to answer brief questions about your household when you receive your invitation to respond in the mail. Information is confidential and protected by federal law from individuals and agencies. You will not be asked for Social Security numbers or bank or credit card information. Please visit our GMHA website for more information.

Spring

*Frogs croak,*

*Rains soak,*

*Chicks peep,*

*Crickets leap,*

*Bees hum,*

*Robins come*

*Birds sing.*

*That's Spring!*

## How Do I Make a Budget?

A budget is a plan that shows you how you can spend your money every month. Making a budget can help you make sure you do not run out of money each month. A budget also will help you save money for your goals or for emergencies.

Write down your expenses. Expenses are what you spend money on. Expenses include:

### Bills:

- Bills that are the same each month
- Bills that might change each month, like utilities
- Bills you pay once or twice a year, like car insurance

### Other expenses, like:

- Food
- Gas
- Entertainment
- Clothes
- Unplanned expenses, like car or medical bills
- Credit card bills

You might have bills that change every month. Look at what you paid for the same month last year. You might need \$200 for your gas bill in January, but \$30 in July.

Write down how much money you make. This includes your paychecks, social security checks and any other money you get, like child support.

Subtract your expenses from how much money you make. This number should be more than zero. If it is less than zero, you are spending more money than you make. Look at your budget to see what you do not need or what you could spend less on.

### How do I use my budget?

- At the beginning of the month, make a plan for how you will spend your money that month. Write what you think you will earn and spend
- Write down what you spend. Try to do this every day.
- At the end of the month, see if you spent what you planned
- Use the information to help you plan the next month's budget.

[www.consumer.gov/articles/1002-making-budget#!what-to-do](http://www.consumer.gov/articles/1002-making-budget#!what-to-do)

## Maintenance Reminder for Murray Manor and Harris House

Should you burn toast, bacon etc., please do not open the apartment door to vent smoke into the hallway. This may cause the fire alarm system to activate. Please open your windows and if needed, blow the smoke out with a fan.



## Smoke-Free Policy Reminder

HUD issued the smoke-free rule on November 30, 2016. The rule required all Public Housing to have a smoke-free policy in effect by July 31, 2018. GMHA adopted this policy and made it effective on March 15, 2018. The smoke-free policy prohibits smoking in **all indoor areas**, including **dwelling units**, and within **25 feet** of all indoor areas.

A smoke-free building does not mean that people who smoke cannot live in the building, or that people who smoke must quit. It simply means that people cannot smoke inside the building or in other areas specified in the policy. Should you have a concern or complaint, please contact your Housing Manager. [NoSmoking.org](http://NoSmoking.org)

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## Please Pick Up After Your Pet

When walking your dog, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste and then dispose of it

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## Rent Reminder

Please remember that rent is always due on the 1st calendar day of each month. On the 6th day a late fee of \$25.00 is added to your account. Four late payments could lead to the termination of your tenancy. Also, do not forget to put your name or apartment number on the check or money order. Please be sure to date your check with the year 2020. Banks will not honor checks with 2019.

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## Tax Help

- Through United Way's partnership with H&R Block, every household with a simple return can file their federal and state taxes for free. The website is <https://www.myfreetaxes.com>.
- Geauga Library system has AARP sponsored (which is for any adult ) sessions at 3 branches:
  - Bainbridge Library Telephone: 440-543-5611
  - Middlefield Library Telephone: 440-632-1961
  - Chardon Library Telephone: 440-285-7601
- Ohio means Jobs Career Center has 10 desktops and free Wi-Fi clients may use to file their taxes.
- IRS website that provides links to free software programs depending on current gross income amounts. <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>

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## Upcoming Holidays and Special Days GMHA will be closed these days.

April 10, 2020	1/2 day	Friday
May 25, 2020	Memorial Day	Monday



# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Rent Due</i>	2 <i>Old Stuff Day</i>	3 <i>Burton Library Lego Club</i>	4 <i>Do Something Day</i>	5 <i>World Tennis Day</i>	6 <i>Late Fee Applied</i>	7 <i>National Cereal Day</i>
8 <i>National Agricul- ture Week</i>	9 <i>Barbie Day</i>	10 <i>Burton Library Lego Club</i>	11 <i>Johnny Appleseed Day</i>	12 <i>Burton Library Bring your own craft</i>	13 <i>Ear Muff Day</i>	14 <i>National Potato Chip Day</i>
15 <i>Ma &amp; Pa's Gather Sap with the Horses</i>	16 <i>Everything you do is right Day</i>	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 <i>Oatmeal Cookie Day</i>	19 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	20 <i>Sparrow Day</i>	21 <i>Burton Library Meet the Snow Queen and her sister</i>
22 <i>National Goof Off Day</i>	23 <i>Chip and Dip Day</i>	24 <i>Burton Library Lego Club</i>	25 <i>Burton Library 3-D Printing 101</i>	26 <i>Make Your Own Holiday Day</i>	27 <i>National Scribble Day</i>	28 <i>Respect Your Cat Day</i>
29 <i>Lemon Chiffon Cake Day</i>	30 <i>Take a walk in The Park Day</i>	31 <i>National Crayon Day</i>				



**Gauga**  
Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Your key to affordable housing in Geauga County.

385 Center Street  
Chardon, OH 44024