



**COMMUNITY STAFF**

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**Life is a Snowflake**

Life is a snowflake  
a free-falling star  
a fragile reminder  
of all that we are

born of a raindrop  
laced by the breeze  
spinning through space  
dancing through trees

a diamond of light  
a gem in the sun  
a journey of hope  
a new life begun

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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 would like to welcome all our new residents!

Please like us on Facebook for updates and other interesting posts!



### Changes to Flat Rent

Effective 1/1/2021, per GMHA's ACOP and in accordance with HUD guidelines, GMHA has completed the review of our Flat Rents as they relate to local rents and the HUD Published Fair Market rents for 2021.

New Flat Rents are as follow:

- 1 bedroom - \$595 per month
- 2 bedroom - \$730 per month
- 3 bedroom - \$955 per month
- 4 bedroom - \$1000 per month



### New Option to Pay Rent

As of January 1, 2021, GMHA will offer the option for our tenants to pay rent via ACH (i.e. direct debit from their checking or savings accounts). Meaning if you provide us authorization, we will have a form for you to fill out (please ask your Housing Manager), GMHA can debit your account for the amount you can designate. This can be a one time option, or you can sign up for monthly recurring payments, that will be processed before the 5th of each month.



### Rent and Balance Reminders!

If you have an outstanding balance, no matter how small, you can help by paying before the end of the year. This can help with our funding for next year. 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.

**Also, do not forget to put your name or apartment number on the check or money order.**

### Winter Safety Tips

- Do not overload your circuit breakers during the holidays with your decorations.
- Do not leave decorations or lights turned on while you are away.
- Never block your doors and windows from exiting or entering.
- Never leave a candle unattended while you are at work or away.

Please visit the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/winterweather/index.html>

## COVID 19 Best Practices

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases.

They include:

1. Wash your hands often with plain soap and water. The CDC recommends washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, the CDC recommends using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering or non-surgical mask when around others.
3. 3. Avoid crowds and practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet apart from others).

You can find this list and other helpful information regarding corona virus at:

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/help-stop-spread-coronavirus-and-protect-your-family>

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### Message from Maintenance - Yes, snow season is here again!

**Murray Manor and Harris House residents:** maintenance does the best that they can, but cannot control Mother Nature. Watch for "black ice" that may form overnight from the freezing of water in the parking lot. Please do not pull your cars up so that they are hanging over the sidewalk. Maintenance will not be responsible for dented license plates or scratched front ends from the snow blower trying to maneuver around the front end of your car. This will keep maintenance from being able to clean sidewalks. Do not overuse the salt that is provide at the entrances. A little bit of salt sprinkled on the walks goes a long way. Please give the snow plow driver plenty of room and do not ask the driver to plow your parking spot. He will get to it if and when he can.

**Multi bedroom units:** Please do not ask Maintenance to plow your driveway. The snow removal is your responsibility, and the Maintenance Dept. is not allowed to plow it.

Due to Covid, we are continuing to do only emergency work orders until further notice. Make sure to dial extension 108 when phoning in the emergency.



## Message From the American Lung Association

There are still over 1,000 Freedom From Smoking® Plus memberships available for no cost to Ohio residents with Medicaid coverage who are ready to start their tobacco free lives! We also wanted to let you know that Nicotine Replacement Therapy patches are now included for FREE with enrollment in Freedom From Smoking® Plus! Participants will need to complete an assessment call with our Helpline staff after beginning their membership and up to 8 weeks of patches will be mailed to them. This is an exciting addition because the success rate for Freedom From Smoking® Plus boasts a 57% quit rate at 6 months when used in combination with a quit-smoking medication.



## Attention Pet Owners



With the cold weather upon us, this is a reminder to make sure you are still curbing and promptly picking up after your pet. It's not worth jeopardizing your lease agreement by disregarding the rules. Your compliance will keep our common grounds looking great and your neighbors will appreciate your consideration!

## Loud Music, Noise and Guests

As it gets colder outside we tend to spend more time inside our apartments. Please remember the bass on your TV or radio travels. Please be considerate of our neighbors and keep the noise down. All guests / visitors are required to park at the main entrance of Murray Manor and Harris House and should be accompanied in the building by the resident at all times.

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

December 25, 2020	Christmas Day	Friday
January 1, 2021	New Years Day	Friday
January 18, 2020	Martin Luther King Day	Monday
February 15, 2020	Presidents Day	Monday



# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Years! Rent Due</i>	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Late Fee Applied</i>	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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

385 Center Street  
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