

HELPFUL ADVICE



- ❖ **Income Changes:** If your income changes please call the office and report your changes within 10 days. You will also need to bring in at least 2 paycheck stubs to verify the changes. Unfortunately, we can't figure your rent until we have verification of your income changes. Also inform the office if you are no longer working. We have found people have been working and not informing the office and those have been back charged.
- ❖ Please return paperwork that has been sent from the office within 10 days. Not turning in your paperwork can result in an eviction.
- ❖ April will be the start of Annual Recertification. Please have everything ready. If you have any medical deductions PLEASE have documentation.
- ❖ The window project will be starting in the spring. Watch for updates in future newsletters
- ❖ There is NO Smoking in your apartment at all!! This is a National HUD policy. We can no longer charge a smoking fee to allow you to smoke in your apartment. You **MUST** be 25 feet from the building.

Happy Valentine's Day

REAC INSPECTORS WILL BE HERE MARCH 13-17. THEY WILL BE CHECKING THE PROPERTIES FOR DEFICIENCIES OR PROBLEMS. THEY WILL BE AROUND ALL WEEK AND WILL NEED ACCESS INTO YOUR APARTMENT. THIS IS YOUR 48 HOUR NOTICE ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF YOUR LEASE. WE WILL SEND A SEPARATE REMINDER CLOSER TO THOSE DATES.

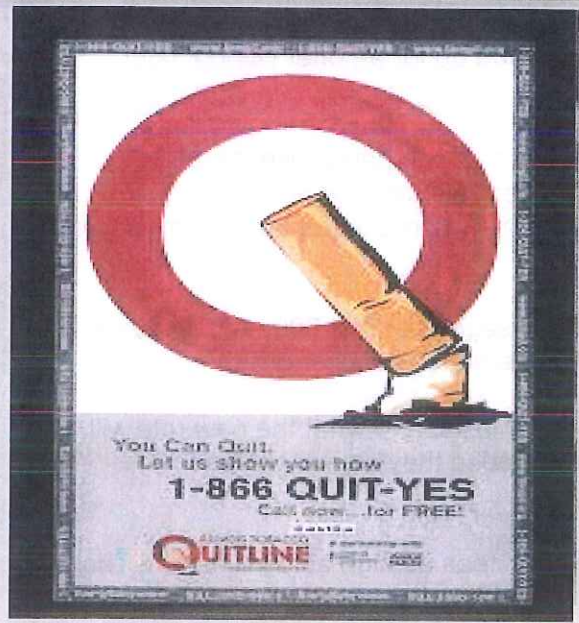
**JUST A REMINDER:
THERE IS NO ASSIGNED PARKING EXCEPT FOR
HANDICAPPED MARKED SPACES**

February 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Closed Presidents' Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 RENT DUE				

Happy Valentine's Day



March/April is the timeframe for the Ameren switch over. Originally the idea was to wait to start using the new heat/ac units that some of the towns received, but you will be using these soon. We will be having informational sessions on how to use the new units. Watch future newsletters for more information.

www.pikehousing.com

Pike County Housing Authority

**838 Mason St.
P.O. Box 123
Barry, IL 62312**

**Phone: 217-407-0707
Fax: 217-407-0708**

Maintenance

**Supervisor
Josh Harrison**

For any after hours or weekend maintenance issues please call 217-407-0707 and press #1 to be connected to Josh.

From 8am to 5pm please contact the office for any maintenance issues.

Closed 12pm-1pm for lunch

Rules to Live by in the Electric Market

If somebody comes to your door or calls you on the phone to pitch a new supply deal, follow these rules:

Rule No. 1: Beware of high-pressure sales tactics. Beware of people at your door who say they're from the "electric company." Don't give out your account number or power bill to just anybody who asks for it. That person may be trying to sign you up for an offer without your permission.

Rule No. 2: Find out what the company is charging and how that compares with the utility's price. Find out if the rate from an alternative supplier is a fixed rate, and for how long, or a variable rate that changes on a monthly basis. Note: Ameren, the regulated utility company, is changing these supply rates through May 2017:

First 800 kWh used: 6.519 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh); Usage over first 800: 4.781¢ per kWh
(Note: This is the price you compare to any alternative supplier offer.)

Rule No. 3: Ask if the rate is an introductory rate, how long it lasts, and what the new rate will be. We get a lot of complaints from people who say the low price they signed up for disappeared after a few months and their bill skyrocketed.

Rule No. 4: Always ask if there is a monthly fee. We've seen fees as high as \$9 a month. That's \$100 in costs before you even use any electricity.

Rule No. 5: Ask if there is an exit fee if you want to leave a plan before the contract is up. Under the law, exit fees are capped at \$50, and customers are allowed to leave a contract without paying an exit fee within 10 days after the date of the first bill.

If you have questions about alternative supplier deals, call the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), a nonprofit consumer group, at 1-800-669-5556, or visit www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.