

Residents' Matters

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2021
Wichita Falls Housing Authority

Make a Difference in Your Community!

The Resident Advisory Board is looking to recruit new members!

If you would like to participate and take a role in developing the annual plan and addressing resident concerns, please contact Executive Director, Donna Piper at donna@wfha.com.

Next Meeting: 2 pm Monday, September 27
WFHA main office

The Advisory Board will also provide input and guidance on the direction of programs to be held in the new Boys and Girls Club building. Construction will soon begin on this state-of-the-art facility in the Rosewood area!

WFHA to Continue Emergency Maintenance Only

We know that this is an unprecedented time of uncertainty and anxiety for our residents. We also know that many of our residents are suffering from job losses, furloughs and reduced hours, however with the sudden increase of positive COVID-19 cases in Wichita County we will only do emergency maintenance work orders in an effort to ensure the safety of not only you as a resident, but our maintenance department as well.

What is considered an emergency?

- No Air in the Apartment in temperatures over 85 degrees.
- Malfunctioning Refrigerator.
- A Clogged Toilet (in units with one toilet).
- No Electricity in Your Apartment.
- Flooding of Your Apartment.

These changes took effect September 1, 2021.

Please notify the maintenance department in your area or the main office if you have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, if you and your household members have been tested and are awaiting results, or if you are experiencing any symptoms related to the COVID-19.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we appreciate your patience during this time.

NEW RESIDENT COUNCIL

The WFHA has recently formed another resident council. Resident participation is critical to the success of the council. We encourage you to attend council meetings so that we may better serve our community. Your input is very valuable to our success.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers!

PRESIDENT - Antiqua Wiggins

VICE PRESIDENT - Carol Harris

SECRETARY - Shannon Gray

**ASSISTANT TREASURER -
Christine Schenk**

Position of Treasurer is still available!

If you would like to serve the council in this position, please contact Shammann Smith by email at shammann@wfha.com or by phone at 940-723-8389.

The meetings will be held on the first and third Monday of every month at the Paul Irwin Center, 115 E. Wichita St.

RESIDENTS' MATTERS IS ONLINE!

Find it on the [WFHA Facebook](#) page and the [WFHA website](#). We can also email you a copy! Please send digital copy requests to lisa@wfha.com. Paper copies will also be available upon request.

Do you have news to share?

Email your news or photos by Monday, October 18 to lisa@wfha.com.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK!



Stay up to date with news, events, and more from your Wichita Falls Housing Authority.

Can the ROSS Program Help Me with Needs and Services?

The Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program is designed to help adults and youth living in public housing overcome barriers and gain economic self-sufficiency.

If you have a child under the age of 18 you qualify for additional services. The ROSS Program has new funding to help pay for services that will help you in any way to become more self-sufficient. The program is self-directed and self-paced and uses tools such as goal setting and program management.

Set up an appointment to see how we can help you and your family overcome barriers and reach goals! Examples include paying for clothes, shoes and other needs for jobs or interviews; paying for items for you or your household; and so much more!

The only requirement is to be a resident (name listed on the lease). For more information, please call the ROSS Coordinator to schedule an appointment.

Paris Ward, ROSS Coordinator

Phone: 940-687-2450 or email: paris@wfha.com

Residents can not be enrolled in the FSS & ROSS Program at the same time.

Help is right here at the Housing Authority's ROSS Program!

CHILDCARE

- **NEW** Assistance paying for 30 days of childcare
- Connecting to long-term payment options

EDUCATION

- Assistance paying for GED tests
- Assistance applying for FAFSA
- Assistance applying for college, trade school
- Annual Scholarship Essay Writing Workshop

ELDERLY/DISABLED SUPPORT

- Assistance applying for Social Security and other benefits

EMPLOYMENT

- Assistance paying for Food Handler's Card or TABC Certification
- Assistance paying for TX ID card or driver's license for employment

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Assistance applying for health insurance
- Assistance scheduling medical appointments
- Assistance applying for SNAP, WIC, TANF, Medicaid and more

OTHER

- One-on-one case management and group activities
- Overcome barriers in your life

SUPPORT & RESOURCES

- Connection to professional agencies
- Classes with presenters to address needs

TRANSPORTATION

- Bus passes for healthcare appointments
- Bus passes for job training and interviews
- Bus passes for educational services
- Bus passes and taxi rides to work
- Taxi rides to work
- Gas cards for work



GET A FREE RIDE TO THE GROCERY STORE!

If you are elderly or disabled, the Housing Authority's ROSS Program can pay for your trip to do your grocery shopping!

Who: Elderly or disabled WFHA residents

What: A round trip by bus to Walmart (door to door service)

When: Bus available every Wednesday, starting at 9 am

How: Call Paris by noon any Tuesday at 940-687-2450 to sign up!

FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY!

ROSEWOOD/BAILEY

3rd Friday of each month
2:30-4 pm Sept. 17 & Oct. 15
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church at 809 Harding

MILL STREET

4th Tuesday of each month
2:30-4 pm Sept. 28 & Oct. 26
Mill Street section at the corner Whitney & N. Mill St.

BEN DONNELL

4th Wednesday of each month
1-3 pm Sept. 22 & Oct. 27
Paul Irwin Center at 115 East Wichita St.



Food distribution is open to the public. Many times United Regional will also be in attendance for health screenings and COVID vaccinations.



THE WRAP AROUND COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM

Are you a high school junior or senior who lives in the WF Housing Authority?

The Wrap Around College Preparation Program is designed to take an interactive approach to encourage high school seniors to continue their education. This program will walk students and parents through the necessary steps to ensure students will attend college. This program creates a community that will wrap their arms around participants and help them reach their goal of achieving a higher education!

Join us with your parents from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 21 at 115 East Wichita St. for an informational meeting.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED/SERVICES OFFERED:

- Career and college exploration
- Paying for SAT/ACT tests and college applications
- Financial aid completion (FAFSA)
- College application (program will pay application fees)
- Scholarship assistance
- Virtual college tours and admissions/recruitment meetings
- & More!

Seniors will also receive college prep gifts, a family/community banquet, and a signing day event!

To register, please contact Paris Ward at 940-687-2450. Space is limited. Call ASAP. Sponsored by Superior Health Plan.



©Program created and implemented by Paris D. Ward, 2021

COOK AT HOME AND COOK WITH ME

Introducing virtual cooking class! Each month, residents will pick up their cooking supply bag before class. Bags will include all the ingredients needed to make a tasty, healthy, and affordable dish at home.



Residents will login via Zoom to join the virtual class! At the end, you will have a delicious home-cooked meal to eat in the comfort of YOUR kitchen!

To register, call Paris at 940-687-2450 by 3 pm Tuesday, September 7. Please leave a voicemail.

If someone picks up a bag and does not join class, they will NOT be allowed to attend class for the next two months and will be ineligible for drawings.

Are you a WFHA resident age 50 or above?

Would you enjoy...

- Meeting other residents in your age group?
- Getting out of the house to socialize?
- HAVING FUN free of charge?

Come enjoy BINGO with prizes! We will also have a presenter each month!

Seasoned Residents' Club
1-2 pm Sept. 23 and Oct. 28
Paul Irwin Center
115 East Wichita St.

Please RSVP to Paris at 940-687-2450. Masks are required in WFHA buildings.

INTERACTIVE COOKING CLASS

September 10 & October 14

Bag Pick Up: 9:30-10:30 am
Virtual Class: 11 am-Noon

Attend four classes to be eligible for a chance to win an air fryer!



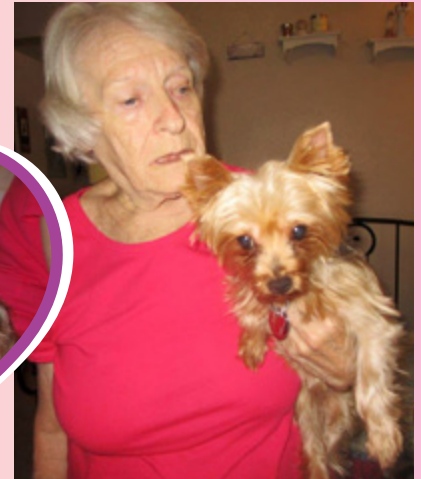
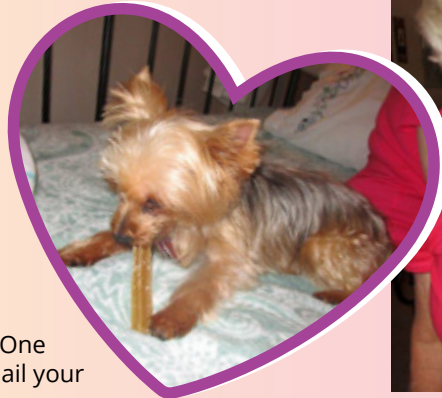
In collaboration with the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank.

FEATURED PET

Our pet of the month is a 7-year old Yorkshire Terrier named Itsey.

This itty bitsy cutie resides with owner Marilyn Honaker. Itsey has never met a stranger and loves everyone! What a GOOD GIRL!

Want to show off your pet? Send us your photos! One lucky pet will be chosen for the upcoming issue. Email your photos by **Monday, October 18** to lisa@wfha.com.



DIAPER GIVEAWAY!



Sept 20th & Oct 18th

10 am - 12 pm

Stop by the Paul Irwin Center at

115 East Wichita St.

Learn how **Inheritance Blessings** can provide parenting support and ***free* materials! Take home diapers and wipes for your 'little one' just for attending!**

Must have a child under 3 years old or on the way.

Hosted by Inheritance Blessings, in collaboration with the Wichita Falls Housing Authority's ROSS Program.

Questions, contact **Karissa** at Inheritance at **940-322-3678** or **Paris** at WFHA at **940-687-2450**

Speak with an Attorney for FREE



Presented By Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

Legal Aid provides free legal counsel to low income individuals. These are actual attorneys who work for the good of the people at **NO COST** to the client!

Noon-3 pm
September 16 and October 21
Paul Irwin Center at 115 East Wichita St.

Legal Aid will take applications **ON SITE!** You can apply for services and get legal advice all in the same day at the Housing Authority's ROSS Program clinic.

Legal Aid helps in a variety of areas:

- Child support
- Custody/visitation
- Divorce
- Landlord/tenant issues
- Applying for public benefits
- Appeals for SSI/SSD
- Preparing wills/estate planning
- Federal taxes
- Property matters
- Getting your record expunged
- Bankruptcy

Don't miss this opportunity to have your questions answered by an attorney at no cost to you!

This event is free for WFHA residents. For more information contact Paris, ROSS Coordinator, at 940-687-2450 or leave a message with Alison at 940-687-9906.

Limited space! First come, first served! Masks are greatly appreciated. Children are welcome to attend with parents!

WFHA.com

- Programs & Services
- Event Calendar
- Policies & Guidelines
- Maintenance Requests
- Housing Information

