

# Housing Authority Newsletter

OCTOBER 2016



## Families Find Relief for Back-to-School Expenses

by Gavin Rose

Back to school time is often a flurry of excitement, scrambling, and expenses. The average cost of school supplies for a child can be over \$100 per year—which adds up quickly—especially at the end of the summer months. Buying new clothes and shoes, backpacks, notebooks, calculators and the like can make the beginning of each school year a struggle for families who are trying to make ends meet.

While some agencies have offered back to school events for several years now, most of these events are only open for Moses Lake residents. In response to this disparity, the Housing Authority of Grant County's homeless assistance program was able to help some families by purchasing school supplies for their children this year. HAGC focused on assisting Grant County families that live outside of Moses Lake where community resources are not as abundant. A case manager from HAGC met the families at a local store and assisted them in shopping and paying for items on the supply lists. Additionally, we were able to offer assistance with the students' haircuts, backpacks, and some clothing.

The families who qualified for this program were a part of HAGC's Family Self Sufficiency Project; a program supported by Building Changes' Washington Youth and Family Fund. This grant assists families who were previously homeless and had received rental assistance from the Housing Authority in order to quickly become housed. The purpose of the WYFF grant is to provide support to families so that they can continue paying their rent and remain in a home. Sometimes an extra or unexpected expense is enough to threaten housing stability. HAGC is appreciative to have this flexible grant funding that allows us to find ways to help families end homelessness.



### **For Section 8 Voucher Holders**

Inspections are now every 24 months instead of every 12 months.

Please remember to maintain your unit and call in all work orders immediately to your landlord. Taking care of the little things right away as they happen will help you not feel as stressed when inspection time rolls around.

### **Section 8 Voucher Waiting List**

1. If you are currently in Public Housing, Subsidized Larson, or Regular Rentals: Please be sure to update your mailing address for the Section 8 Voucher waiting list.
2. Provide current (within 60 days) proof of income. For applicants receiving Social Security benefits, call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) and request a 'Proof of Benefits' letter and what type of benefits you are entitled to (retirement, disability, disabled child, etc).

### **For All Tenants**

1. Garbage cans must be put on the road or sidewalk where the truck driver can pick them up easily (nothing blocking the can). You may be charged if the garbage truck has to come back out to your house to pick-up your garbage can. Also, be sure to allow BBQ coals to cool COMPLETELY before putting them in the garbage can.
2. We do not accept cash (except for key charges). All payments must be either check or money order. Also remember that rent payments must be IN our office by the 5th of each month– not just post marked by the 5th. Thank you!

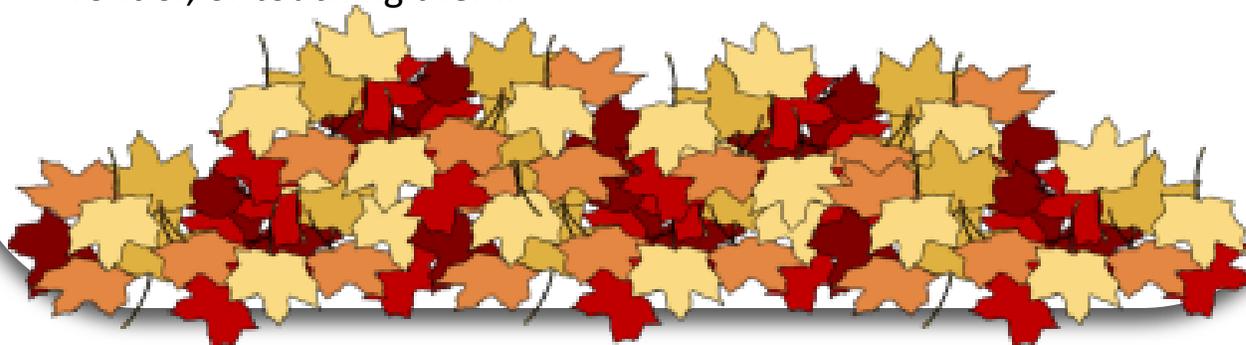
# Reminders

baby,  
it's cold  
outside



### Prepare Your Home For The Cold Weather

1. Disconnect all hoses from your home's exterior. If hoses are left connected through the winter, it may cause the faucet to freeze and break. In years past we have seen this happen, resulting in flooding during the spring and close to \$2,000 in damage to the floor.
2. Replace furnace filters. Replacing filters can save you \$\$MONEY\$\$\$. When a filter is dirty or clogged, it causes the furnace to work harder because of decreased airflow and can also cause the furnace to break down.
3. Check your heaters and be sure that no furniture or curtains are in front of, or touching them.



# Halloween

## Activities and Safety reminders

### Halloween Safety Tips

1. Children under the age of 12 should Trick-or-Treat with adult supervision.
2. Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
3. Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
4. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
5. Serve your kids a filling meal before trick or treating and they won't be as tempted to eat any candy before they bring it home for you to check.

**Ephrata**– Downtown Trick-or-Treat, 10/31 4-6pm

**Moses Lake**– Downtown Trick-or-Treat, 10/31 4-7pm

-Grocery Outlet Halloween Party, 10/31 6-8pm

-Emmanuel Baptist Harvest Party, 10/28 6-8pm

516 E Nelson, Moses Lake

Bring a canned food donation

-Howling Halloween, 10/23 11am-3pm

Halloween event for kids and pets!

1331 E Nelson rd (Basin Feed), Moses Lake

**Warden**– Warden Assembly's Harvest Fest 10/31 5-7pm

416 S Oak, Warden

Cupcake walk, games, prizes and candy



**Our mission is to provide, maintain, and develop quality housing and neighborhoods for residents facing barriers.**

**Housing Authority  
of Grant County**

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