

Spring Newsletter 2.0

(April 2024)

Grass Cutting – As we move into Spring THA will be performing grass cutting operations. To keep everyone safe, we ask you to leave the area when our mowers approach and remove children from the area. Our mowers will stop cutting and turn off their engines if you do not leave the area. This is an indicator to you that you need to move away from that area until we finish cutting. THA does send text alerts when we are cutting grass to give tenants notice that we are going to be cutting the grass. Residents are expected to move ANY furniture while grass cutting is underway.

Text Alert – Sign up by giving the office your cell phone number. THA uses this method to alert tenants to issues such as grass cutting, snow plowing, power outages and office closures.

Outdoor Storage – A reminder of what you can/ cannot do regarding storage of items on the outside of your apartment. All storage that is allowed needs to be always kept in an orderly fashion.

- No fire pits of any kind.
- No pools, of any kind and size, are ever allowed on the THA property due to our insurance liability cost. A sprinkler is allowed, and Tonawanda does have Kohler pool in the summer months.
- No gazebo's, screen tents, regular tents. No permanent structures of any kind and nothing left up overnight. THA does not allow exterior modifications to the buildings. Umbrellas and pop-up tent / awnings are allowed but must be stored each night.
- Playground equipment – Nothing that a child can climb on (liability insurance) such as jungle gyms, slides, playhouses. *Do not install swings on the laundry poles! Those poles were installed in 1942 and were never designed to handle the weight of a child swinging on them.*
- **Rental tents, ball pits, inflatable slides are not allowed on THA property. If you have questions on the use of these rental items, please contact the office for clarification. Non-compliance with this regulation will result in a fine.**
- Gas grills only, no charcoal or wood as fuel. **When in use, the grill needs to be at least 10 Feet from any structure per City of Tonawanda Fire Regulations.**
- You must not store “returnable” bottles and cans outside your apartment. Residue in the containers (even if washed) will attract bugs and rodents. THA spends thousands of dollars a year on pest control and requires tenants to comply. Return them more frequently to avoid outdoor storage.
- Garbage and recycle totes – Your garbage tote should go to the curb for pick up every week. Do not leave garbage in your tote especially in the Spring – early Fall as this attracts bugs and rodents (to include squirrels). In the warmer weather **THA does look for garbage totes that have NOT been taken out and will take your tote to the curb and charge you a fee for doing so.** Recycle schedules are on the City of Tonawanda website. Recycle totes go to the curb every 2 weeks.
- **Please do not feed the animals!** – Do not leave food outside for what you think are stray cats and squirrels. This food ends up feeding every other animal and rodent in the area. And then, they keep coming back because they found food! THA spends thousands of dollars with exterminators every year to control pests on the property.
- **Outdoor storage for apartments that are located (or face) on Gibson and Hinds Streets. You must not store anything in your yard facing the street. Toys, chairs or outdoor furniture, bicycles, grills, etc. must be stored in the rear (NOT on the side) of your apartment / building when not in use.**

Annual Inspections – THA is conducting Apartment Inspections in 2024. We will notify the tenant 1 week in advance and we will be using the HUD standard for the inspection. A copy of that inspection list will be provided to the tenant in their notification. Please, if you have missing or inoperable smoke detectors, notify the Office NOW so we can repair / replace them.

Sewer reminder – THA is constantly challenged by inappropriate items being flushed down toilets and into our sewer system. It results in expensive repairs, the cost of which is passed on to tenants in the form of rent increases and service fees. Baby/ adult wipes should NEVER be flushed down a toilet. It doesn't matter what the packaging on the wipes says, they do not break down and create plugs in the THA system and the Municipal sewer systems. Google it! ***“No Wipes in the Pipes”***

Tenant Rep question for Tenants - If there is interest in NARCAN training THA is willing to set up another training day. Reach out to your Tenant Reps Lisa and Dawn to let them know there is interest in this training.

Property Safety – Did you know that most if not all Gibson Street apartments have Dusk to Dawn light bulbs installed in your exterior porch lights? All you must do is leave your porch light switch turned on and the bulb will automatically turn itself on and off at sunset and sunrise. If you don't have them, or they are not working, call the Office and place a Work Order for THA to install the bulbs. There is no charge for this Security enhancement. Hinds Street apartments have a fixture that doesn't allow for these types of bulbs currently. But Hinds Street Tenant can leave their porch lights on overnight.

Electric scooters and bikes – THA and City of Tonawanda does not have any specific rules / regulations for the use of scooters and E-Bikes. Riders should follow all rules and regulations that pertain to bicycle use. Speed on sidewalks is a concern, and pedestrians have the right of way. Bicycle helmets should be worn when operating a scooter or E-Bike. There is No Riding in the Parking Lots. The operator of the scooter or E-Bike has the responsibility to always operate the device in a safe and courteous manner on the THA property.