

THA Summer 2025 Newsletter

- City of Tonawanda Summer Activities booklets have been distributed to all Tenant mailboxes. There are fun things to do all Summer long in the City, check the many social media sites for more information, or visit the City of Tonawanda website <https://tonawandany.myrec.com/>
- July 4, 2025 – Fireworks at the Renaissance Bridge.
- THA has an ongoing Coloring Contest each month sponsored by the Tenant Reps. The coloring page is available in the office during regular business hours. You can submit your entry at the Office.
- Canal Fest – July 15-20th. More information at Canal Fest of the Tonawandas.
- Kohler pool opening June 30th. Recreation passes can be purchased at the pool.
- Boys and Girls Club of the Tonawandas. Located on Franklin Street just a couple of blocks away, offers many programs year-round. Check their website for after-school programs as well.

THA is enforcing the rules that already exist in your Tenant Manual, THA website www.tonha.org, and *also see back*

- Exterior storage- Clearly stated it is our goal to reduce what is stored outside of every unit and get everyone into compliance. Tenants will receive letters detailing where your unit may be out of compliance with a clear date for you to resolve this issue. THA will remove items that are not compliant and after Tenant notification.
- Pools- Pools of any size /type are not allowed on THA property, for any reason. This rule is in place due to Liability Insurance reasons. Our insurance carrier does not allow pools of any type in our policy.
- Fireworks- Strictly prohibited. THA is private property and fireworks of any type or kind are prohibited year-round. With buildings and people so close together the fire risk presented by fireworks is big!
- Parking Lots- No bike riding, skating, scooters or playing in the parking lots. Parents, please ensure your children are **NOT** playing in the parking lots. EVER!!! The safety of the children and others is most important and we do not want to see anyone get injured.
- Scooter and e-bike- THA is private property, but we do follow the new City of Tonawanda rules for e-bikes and scooters. We have included a copy of the rules with this Newsletter, and it is also included on the THA website www.tonha.org. THA will follow the rules enclosed.
- Gas grills and fire pits- THA allows the use of a gas grill, and while in use the grill must be 10' away from any structure or building. NO wood-fired grills /smokers allowed.
- Fire Pits (gas or wood-fired) are not allowed on the THA property at any time due to Liability Insurance.
- Party tents and bounce houses/ ball pits (yours or rentals) are prohibited at all times. THA will fine Tenants for ignoring these rules.
- Water spigots – These are community/ shared water spigots. Tenants are not charged for their use. Some of these spigots currently are not in working order due to plumbing issues.
- Lawn cutting and weed whacking – Sign up for text alerts to make sure you know when we are cutting. In advance of our cutting, move your belongings to allow THA to cut with as few obstructions as possible. Call the Office to have your cell number added to the Text Alert program.



The office will be closed: July 4th & September 1st



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To: All tenants of Tonawanda Housing Authority
Date: June 15, 2023

NOTICE OF CHANGE- YARD POLICY

Due to the accumulation of items around buildings and property we cannot maintain all the lawns, weeds, and buildings to our fullest extent.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that effective as of the Fifteenth day of July 2023 and commencing on the Fifteenth day of July 2023 the Yard Policy for Tonawanda Housing Authority will be as follows:


The only thing(s) that may be left outside (front & rear of apartment) when not in use are:

- One (1) propane grill & must be against the apartment.
* When in use it must be ten (10) feet away from the building.
- One (1) bike per household member, neatly locked up together at the rear of your apartment.

ALL other items must be: folded up and stored in your shed, utility room, apartment, or, if needed- off site. This includes- tables, chairs, umbrellas, pop up tents, gazebos, screen rooms, rugs, strollers, wagons, scooters, powered mobility scooters, lawn mowers, snowblowers, machinery of any type, ANY & ALL toys, etc

The following items are NOT permitted on the property: large patio furniture (unless it folds up and can be stored inside), picnic tables, fire pits, tiki torches, ponds, water fountains, bird baths, gas powered bikes/scooters/ATVs, bounce houses, slides of any size, pools, kids play roller coasters, basketball hoops, trampolines/bouncers, gym equipment, play houses.

THA may be forced to remove items that are not within this policy.

BY: 
Dale Kokanovich
Executive Secretary/Manager
Tonawanda Housing Authority

BICYCLE WITH ELECTRIC ASSIST(E-BIKE)

- As defined in 102-c of NYS VTL
- Less than 36 inches wide (**HAS Pedals**)
 - Electric motor less than 750 watts
 - Equipped with pedals and equipment required for bicycles
 - Fits into one of the three classes

No license, registration, insurance or inspection required
 NO City Ordinances to date, only current state laws
 May have characteristics of motorcycle or limited use motorcycle
 Not a motor vehicle as defined in VTL



NO DRIVER LICENSE / REGISTRATION OR INSURANCE NEEDED

CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3
Assistance is provided only when pedaling and stops assisting at 20 mph	Equipped with a throttle that propels the e-bike without pedaling up to 20 mph	Propelled without pedaling up to 25 mph Helmet required for all operators & riders 16+
NOT ALLOWED: Operator under 16 years old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No tickets issued to 15 or younger. ISSUED to parent or guardian BUT only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The violation occurred in their presence AND - Such parent / guardian is over 18 years old. On public lands/parks/bike paths or property (other than streets) Operating on sidewalks Parking on sidewalks (exceptions) Operating over 20 mph Operating without a manufacturer tag affixed: 1. Class 2. Maximum motor assist speed 3. Motor wattage OPERATORS MUST: Obey the rules of the road the same as a bicycle & vehicle Use a bike lane (other than streets) or keep right on streets and ride with traffic Stop & provide name and address if 18+ in an injury accident Yield right of way to pedestrians Operate only on streets posted 30 mph or less Ensure Passengers 5-14 years old have a helmet		
VTL 1242(2) Defined in VTL 1242(13) VTL 1242(4)(a) VTL 1242(5)(a) VTL 1242(5)(a)(iii) VTL 1242(9) VTL 1242(11)(b)	Operation prohibited outside of cities with population of 1 million or more VTL 1242(10) <i>If encountered all VTL applies same as Class 1 & 2</i>	DWI and DWAI Must be a crash involved to enforce. VTL 1242-a(9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collision with: • Vehicle or • Person or • Building or other object (other than street) Bicycles & Bicycles with Electric Assist Applicable VTL sections: 1231 – 1243 Rev 5/8/2025

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



As defined in 114-e of NYS VTL

- Less than 100 pounds
- Has handbars, floorboard or a seat that can be stood or sat upon
- Electric motor equipped
- Powered by the electric motor and / or human power
- Maximum capable speed of 20 mph on paved and level surface

No license, registration, insurance or inspection required
 NO City Ordinances to date, only current state laws
 Different than Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices
 -VTL 114-d defined
 Not a motor vehicle as defined in VTL

PROHIBITED

More than one person at a time (NO PASSENGERS) VTL 1282(1)

Packages obstructing view or requiring both hands VTL 1282(2)

Operators under 16 (NO PASSENGERS) VTL 1282(4)

- No tickets issued to under 16, Issued to parent or guardian BUT only if:
 - The violation occurred in their presence AND
 - Such parent / guardian is over 18 years old.

Operating over 15 mph VTL 1282(6)

On public / bike paths or property (other than streets) VTL 1282(8)(a)

Operating without a manufacturer tag affixed: VTL 1282(9)(b)

1. Maximum motor assist speed 2. # of persons designed for 3. Motor wattage

Clinging to vehicles VTL 1283(1)

Operating on sidewalks VTL 1282(7)(a)

Park on sidewalk blocking pedestrians (some exceptions) VTL 1282(7)(b)

Required equipment:

Front - White light, Rear- Red light, and two side lights VTL 1285(1)

(½ after sunset to ½ before sunrise)

Bell or audible device (not a siren or whistle) VTL 1285(2)

Brake capable of stopping the scooter VTL 1285(3)

OPERATORS MUST:

ObeY all rules of the road same as a vehicle & bicycle VTL 1281(1)

Yield right of way to pedestrians VTL 1282(3)

Have a helmet if 16 or 17 to ride or operate VTL 1286(1)

MUST operate on streets posted 30 mph or less VTL 1282(5)

Use bike lane (if provided) or keep right on streets VTL 1284(1)

Ride single file VTL 1284(2)

Completely stop before entering roadway
 (from private road, driveway, alley or over a curb.) VTL 1284(3)

Provide name and address if 18+ in an injury accident VTL 1287(1)

Electric Scooter applicable Vehicle and Traffic Law sections: 1281-1289

DWI and DWAI

Must be a crash involved to enforce:

Collision with:

- Vehicle or
- Person or
- Building or other object (other than street)

VTL 1289

VTL 1289(9)

Rev 5/8/2025