



Dickson Housing Authority Newsletter

Spring Edition

“With the arrival of Spring comes the opportunity to refresh, renew, and reconnect.”

March, April & May 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REMINDERS

Rent is due by the 1st of each month.

Payments not received by the close of business day on the 10th of each month will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.

Please note that utility charges run one month behind. The charges you see posted each month are for the previous month.

If you have new contact information such as phone number, or email address, please contact our office as soon as possible.

If you're planning to move out, you must give the DHA office a 30-Day written notice.

The DHA waitlist will be opening soon! Watch for announcements.

Local Departments

Dickson Police Department
Non-Emergency Dispatch
615-446-8041

Fire Department
615-446-6331

Emergency
Dial: 911

Help Center
(615) 441-0076

LIHEAP
(931) 289-4104

REED COMMUNITY CENTER



ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 • 10:00 AM



1202 E. WALNUT ST,
DICKSON, TN

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT TERRY
WILCOX AT 931-688-1579

NEW!

QUICK ACCESS to DHA Website QR CODE

We are making it easier for residents to get information, forms, and updates without needing to come to the office.

Simply open your phone camera and scan the QR code below.



What You Can Do After Scanning:

- View announcements and property updates
- Access important forms and documents
- Review policies and notices
- Get contact information for the office
- Find maintenance request instructions
- Stay informed about inspections and community events

Need Help Scanning?

Stop by the office and staff will gladly assist you.



REED COMMUNITY CENTER Upcoming Events



MARCH EVENTS



Computer Lab Opening
March 1st
9:00 AM

Trip to Walmart
March 13th
9:00 AM



APRIL EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt
April 4th
10:00 AM–2:00 PM

MAY EVENTS



Community Cook-Out
May 22nd
5:00 PM

Join us for fun, community, and great
times at Reed Community Center!
Everyone is welcome!

Please note: Children at DHA events should always be accompanied and supervised by a parent or adult.

IMPORTANT HEALTH & SAFETY NOTICE

SAFE CLEANING PRACTICES

The Dickson Housing Authority (DHA) is committed to maintaining safe and healthy housing for all residents. Recently, staff have observed the use of household cleaning products in ways that may create dangerous chemical reactions and cause damage to apartments, appliances, and flooring. This notice is to provide important safety information and guidance on proper cleaning practices.

DANGERS OF MIXING CLEANING CHEMICALS

Many common household cleaners are safe when used **alone and as directed**, but combining them can produce **toxic gases and harmful fumes** that can seriously injure you, your family, neighbors, and DHA staff.

NEVER MIX:

- **Bleach + Ammonia** → Produces chloramine gas (can cause breathing failure and lung injury)
- **Bleach + Vinegar** → Produces chlorine gas (can burn eyes, throat, and lungs)
- **Bleach + Alcohol** → Produces chloroform vapors (can cause dizziness, unconsciousness, and serious illness)
- **Multiple cleaners together** (even if they smell clean)

Exposure to these gases may cause:

- Burning eyes or skin
- Severe coughing
- Headaches or dizziness
- Vomiting
- Breathing problems
- Emergency hospitalization

If strong fumes occur, **leave the unit immediately and call 911 if symptoms are severe.**

PROHIBITED CLEANING PRACTICES

To protect resident safety and DHA property, the following practices are **NOT permitted** inside the unit:

- **Mixing any cleaning chemicals together**
- **Using baking soda and bleach together**
- **Using baking soda or bleach mixtures on floors, counters, or appliances**

RECOMMENDED SAFE CLEANING SUPPLIES

You only need **one cleaner at a time**. Mild products clean effectively without damaging surfaces.

Good general cleaners:

- Mild dish soap + warm water
- All-purpose household cleaner (non-abrasive)
- Disinfecting wipes (store-bought)
- Non-abrasive bathroom cleaner

What to use on appliances:

- **Refrigerator (inside & outside):** warm water with a small amount of dish soap and a soft cloth
- **Stove top:** dish soap or a gentle kitchen degreaser labeled “safe for stovetops”
- **Microwave:** warm water and dish soap; wipe dry
- **Countertops:** all-purpose cleaner or dish soap solution

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Your lease requires you to maintain your unit in a **safe and sanitary condition**. Unsafe cleaning practices that create health hazards or property damage may result in lease violations or repair charges.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping maintain a safe community for everyone.

Pest Control Tips

Hoarding/Clutter – German roaches live in tight cracks and inside clutter near kitchens and bathrooms. When clutter is present, roaches hide inside it, lay eggs there, and avoid the areas being treated. Removing clutter takes away their hiding places and lets the treatment reach them, which makes the service work faster and prevents reinfestation.

Unsanitary conditions – Unsanitary conditions in a home can greatly increase German roach populations because they provide the food and moisture roaches need to survive and reproduce. When there are dirty dishes, food debris, grease, overflowing trash, or spills roaches have constant access to food and water. Crumbs and grease build up in cracks where they can feed unnoticed. Trash and unwashed areas create ideal breeding sites. Sanitation problems often go hand-in-hand with clutter, giving them more hiding places. In short, unsanitary conditions remove the natural limits on roach survival — instead of starving, they thrive, breed faster, and spread throughout the home.

Excessive or old food debris – Removing excessive or old food debris is one of the most important steps in controlling German cockroaches. Roaches don't need much food to survive, and crumbs, grease, and leftover spills give them everything they need to keep breeding. When food is left out, even in small amounts, baits and treatments become less effective because roaches will choose the easy food source instead. By keeping kitchens and eating areas clean, wiping up spills, taking out trash regularly, and reducing food buildup under appliances, you remove their main food supply—making treatments work faster and helping prevent the roaches from coming back.

Skip/ refused – Skipping services can significantly slow down or reverse progress in German cockroach control. These roaches reproduce quickly, and their eggs keep hatching even after a treatment. Regular, on-schedule services are designed to break the life cycle by targeting adults and the newly hatched nymphs. When services are skipped, surviving roaches have time to rebuild their population, and infestations can return to previous levels or worse. Staying consistent with scheduled treatments is the best way to get control faster and keep the problem from coming back.

Self treating - Self-treating for German cockroaches can actually make professional control harder. Many over-the-counter sprays only kill the roaches you see and can drive others deeper into walls and cabinets, spreading the infestation. Some products can also repel roaches away from professional baits, making the baits less effective. In addition, incorrect placement or overuse of chemicals can be unsafe and won't address egg cases that are still hatching. Sticking with the professional treatment plan ensures the right products are used the right way to eliminate the entire population and prevent it from coming back.

Pest Prevention Class



We will be hosting a **Pest Prevention class** at the Reed Community Center on **April 28th at 6:00 PM**. The class will be taught by Alysso Harmon from UT Extension.

**TRIP TO
WALMART
FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH**

Walmart 

4 – 6 PEOPLE

**YOU MUST BE MOBILE
AS WE DO NOT HAVE
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY**

MEET AT THE DHA OFFICE

9:00 A.M.

**RESPOND TO TERRY WILCOX BY MARCH 7
PHONE 615-446-9371**



**DICKSON COUNTY
HEALTH
FAIR**

Saturday, April 25th
9am - 2pm
AT HORIZON MEDICAL CENTER

FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

-  **Health Screenings**
-  **Vaccines**
-  **Wellness Info**
-  **Prizes & More!**

**GOOD NEWS!
TENANTS CAN NOW
MAKE PAYMENTS
BY CREDIT OR DEBIT
CARD**



**A SMALL CARD PROCESSING FEE APPLIES
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

**TENANTS CAN NOW REGISTER AND MAKE
PAYMENTS ONLINE AT www.dicksonhousing.gov**



LIHEAP

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

Tennessee Housing
Development Agency

WHAT IS LIHEAP?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded grant program that helps income eligible households in meeting their immediate home energy needs.

LIHEAP can help you stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer through a program that reduces the risk of health and safety problems that arise from unsafe heating and cooling practices.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Households that are within 60% of State Median Income guidelines can receive assistance. The LIHEAP program in your county determines if your household's income qualifies for the program.

THINGS TO NOTE:

- You don't need to have a past due energy bill
- You don't have to be on public assistance
- You can rent or own your home

WHEN TO APPLY:

- You can submit an application beginning Oct. 1st.
- Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30th (pending available funding.)
- Households can be served one time during the application period.

2024 INCOME GUIDELINES

Please use the table below to see if you potentially qualify for LIHEAP services.

| Household Size | Max Gross Annual Income |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | \$28,141 |
| 2 | \$36,800 |
| 3 | \$45,459 |
| 4 | \$54,118 |
| 5 | \$62,776 |
| 6 | \$71,435 |
| 7 | \$80,094 |
| 8 | \$88,753 |

* Updated Annually

* Contact local agency for more info about what is included as income.



WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES LIHEAP PROVIDE?

→ REGULAR ASSISTANCE

Regular Assistance helps families pay their heating and cooling bills. The one-time payment is sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider, and will be credited on your bill. Assistance is based on your household size, income, and fuel type.

→ CRISIS ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Crisis Assistance applicants receive the same benefit as Regular Assistance applicants. However, the Crisis component will be based on uncontrollable circumstances. Please check with your local LIHEAP agency regarding crisis eligibility.

LIHEAP helps you pay your main heating and cooling bills. These include:

- Electric • Gas • Propane • Coal • Oil • Kerosene • Wood

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all children grades K-12 residing in affordable housing assisted directly or supported under community development and affordable housing programs administered by a NAHRO Member authority (i.e. public housing, Section 8/HCV-assisted housing, CDBG, HOME, LIHTC.)

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Theme: "What Home Means to Me"
- Posters must be in landscape/horizontal orientation and at least 8.5" x 11" (letter size). Larger posters will be accepted, up to 22" by 28".
- Artists may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced.
- The artist's name, grade level, and housing authority must be written on the back of each poster entry.
- Entries must be created by only one person. Entries created by two or more people will not be accepted.

SELECTION CATEGORIES:

Elementary School: K-5th Grade
Middle School: 6th-8th Grade
High School: 9th-12th Grade

Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (TAHRA) in partnership with the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) present:

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME POSTER CONTEST

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2026



PRIZES FOR EACH SELECTION CATEGORY:

1ST PLACE: \$100
2ND PLACE: \$75
3RD PLACE: \$50

Winners from each Selection Category will be selected based on how well the artwork reflects "What Home Means to Me" and will move on for the regional-level competition.

HOW TO SUBMIT:

All posters, narratives, and applications MUST be postmarked, hand-delivered, or received by 4:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2026.

Mail to:

Lawrenceburg Housing Authority
ATTN: Alex Brewer
P.O. Drawer C
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

If you have any questions, please email Alex at businesshr@lawrenceburgha.org.

IMPORTANT NOTICE



HVAC UNIT REPLACEMENT

Please be advised that beginning April 2, 2026, Modern Mechanical will be on DHA premises to remove and install new HVAC units.

The project will begin with Building 1 and continue throughout the developments.



ACCESS REQUIRED

Access to individual units will be required in order to complete the work.

Residents will be notified in advance regarding specific dates and times.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this improvement project.

Maintenance Emergency

If you have an emergency during office hours please call the office before calling maintenance.

Dutch- 615-417-0813

Todd- 615-607-8639

James- 615-607-8640

Lease Reminders:

Tenant Obligations:

- You should let the housing property management know right away if you see any pests (e.g. insects, rodents, or bugs) inside your apartment.
- Reasonable accommodations for disabled household members are available upon request.
- **Playground:** Children under 10 must be supervised. Residents are responsible for their children's actions.
- **Smoking Policy:** No smoking inside units or within 25 feet of any unit.

MAINTENANCE

Trash If your trash does not fit in your trash can, **DO NOT** set it on the ground. Cumberland Disposal will NOT pick it up. Do not store trash on your porches. If it doesn't fit, take it to one of the city trash receptacles. You are responsible for your trash. If we have to dispose of it for you, a fee will be charged.

Trash Cans There is a Cumberland Disposal trash can issued to every unit. Look on the inside lid to find your unit number. After trash has been picked up, please return YOUR can to your unit.

Outside of Units Nothing should be stored outside of your unit other than lawn furniture and grills (2 small chairs, small table, grill). Mattresses, old tires, bikes, toys, tarps, wagons, trash, etc. should not be stored on the porch or in the yard. Use your storage rooms to store these items.

Plants Potted plants are only allowed on porches. Before planting anything, check with DHA management first.

Pets We are having a major issue with pet waste in the yards. If you have a pet, you signed a pet agreement that states that **you** are responsible for cleaning this up after your pets. Our staff does not want to step in waste and then track it into your apartment, our office, etc. If we have to dispose of it for you, you will be charge a service fee for each **pile**.

Leashes When your pet is outside, they are to be on a leash at all times. They ARE NOT to be leashed and then left outside. You must stay with them. When restrained, the leash must be tied up so that neither the leash, nor the pet, will cross over walkways, stairs, sidewalks, etc. When finished with the leash/chain, do not leave it on the ground. These can cause serious damage to mowers/weed eaters. If we pick it up, it will be discarded.

2026 Holiday Schedule
DHA Office Closures

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| New Year's Day - Thursday, January 1st | Memorial Day - Monday, May 25th |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Monday, January 19th | Juneteenth - Friday, June 19th |
| Presidents Day - Monday, February 16th | Independence Day - Friday, July 3rd |
| Good Friday - Friday, April 3rd | Labor Day - Monday, September 7th |

Thanksgiving Holiday (2) - Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th

Christmas Holiday (2) - Thursday, December 24th & Friday, December 25th

FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS

Your voice matters!
We value your thoughts, ideas, and feedback. Together, we can make our community even better.

We hope you find this information helpful.

Contact us today!
Stay safe and have a great spring!

Staff

Administration:

Executive Director: Bernadette Mekalska
 Financial Officer: Dan Henderson
 Accounts Payable: Averey Barrett
 Receptionist: Estrella Rodriguez

Dickson Housing Programs:

Public Housing Manager: Tosha Curtis
 Section 8 Coordinator: Sarah Leegan
 Resident Service Coordinator: Terry Wilcox

Maintenance:

Maintenance Supervisor: Dutch Denker
 Technicians: Todd Stokes, James Coke

DHA MISSION

The Dickson Housing Authority is committed to building strong communities by providing quality housing and empowering families in partnership with community resource providers.