



A Community Partner,  
Helping People to Help Themselves

# The Scoop

Serving Families in Walla Walla and Columbia Counties

October - November - December 2005

## Walla Walla Housing Authority

501 Cayuse Street  
Walla Walla WA 99362  
509-527-4542 \* Fax 509-527-4574  
Hearing-impaired, use relay service  
wwha@wallawallaha.org  
www.wallawallaha.org

## October is Fire Safety Month

Fire is the most devastating threat to any structure, but particularly to multi-unit dwellings. The risk is ever present. It can occur without warning and as a result of innocent, though perhaps negligent, acts.

The big variable in fire risk is what the tenant decides to do in the privacy of their rental unit. It is taken for granted that the areas controlled by the owner are up to code, free of debris and with flammable materials properly stored, and that such fire prevention detection and fighting appliances are located in common areas are in working order.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help minimize your fire risk:

- Equip your units with smoke detectors, properly placed and maintained. Make sure to provide tenant education of how they operate and how to identify when, and how, to replace the battery. A suggestion is to send the tenant a six-month reminder to change the battery, even if it is not "chirping".
- If your rental property is equipped with a fireplace or wood stove, make time to talk about it and show your tenant how it works. Show them how to work the damper in the fireplace and the features of the wood stove. Supply the tenant with the proper tools, rather than assume they know what tools are to be used. Don't forget the chimney. You may decide to have it cleaned yourself

on a regular schedule.

- Supply a fire extinguisher for the kitchen. So many residential fires start there. Show the tenant how to check it out and how it works.
- Point out the danger of overloading electrical outlets. During the move-in inspection, point out all the outlets and encourage the tenant to use them in preference to extension cords.
- Encourage all tenants to report apparent fire hazards in the common areas. You are not able to be present all the time and a fire hazard does not have to be present long before it turns into a fire.
- Recommend tenants buy renters insurance for their personal items in the unit. Consider including a clause in your rental agreement that informs the tenant that you are not responsible for their personal property in the event of a fire.
- Provide tenants with friendly fire safety reminders. A simple note with their rent receipt, in your tenant newsletter, or other mailings you may have.

Having taken these simple steps, the final step is to keep your eyes open. When you make visits to the rental property, look at it with an eye for fire safety. In this way, you may be able to avoid a fire catastrophe.

**AUTOMATIC  
Housing Assistance  
Payment Deposits  
are deposited by the 5th  
of each month**

### Rental Assistance Division

#### Jason Hahn

Rental Assistance Manager  
527-4606

Families participating in REACH,  
TBRA, or Welfare to Work

#### Nina Hill

Rental Specialist  
Participant last names A-K  
527-4607

#### David Mitchell

Rental Specialist  
Participant last names L-Z  
522-7813

#### Donna Larsen

Eligibility Coordinator  
Waiting List  
527-4608

#### Gaby Aguilar

Information Coordinator  
527-4542 extension 100

### Up-coming Office Closures

**November 24th & 25th**  
Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 26th**  
Observance - Christmas Day

Celebrate the holidays  
Responsibly!



# Tell your story.

## Do you have a MANUFACTURED/ MOBILE HOME PARK COMPLAINT?

- Unfair Practices
- Unreasonable Rules
- Unrestricted Rent Increases
- Unequal Bargaining Position after Occupancy



### The 2005 Washington

**Legislature** passed a law requiring the Office of Manufactured Housing (OMH) to keep track of mobile home park complaints. OMH will use this information to recommend to the Legislature in 2006 what changes are necessary to resolve park disputes and unfair treatment by park managers/owners.

We need your help to fight for a **FAIR DEAL** for ALL Mobile Home Owners

Tell your story.

**Call 1-800-964-0852**

Or visit

[www.cted.wa.gov/omh](http://www.cted.wa.gov/omh)

After you call OMH, you will be sent a complaint form. Send the complaint form back to OMH at:

Office of Manufactured Housing  
PO Box 42525  
Olympia WA 98504-2525

It is very important that OMH hears about the mobile home problems you are facing – they must collect sufficient data before the legislative session of 2006. Examples of violations include: unreasonable park rules; problems with carports/sheds; failure to maintain common areas; rent increases more than once a year; arbitrarily enforced rules; failure to repair utilities in a timely manner; and failure to automatically renew rental agreements. By sharing your story you can help us get a **FAIR DEAL** for mobile home owners in Washington.

For More Information contact:

Mobile Home Owners of America, Inc. (MHOA) at 1-360-377-4004  
Mobile Home Tenants Association (MTA) at 1-253-840-4194.



### Walla Walla Housing Authority

Board of Commissioners

Bob Adams  
Chair

Brian Jones  
Vice Chair

Jude Noland  
Commissioner

Jill Zagelow  
Commissioner

Kathryn Farrell Guizar  
Commissioner

Cathie Antle  
Resident Commissioner

Dominick Elia  
Ex-Officio

Renée Rooker  
Executive Director

Daylight Savings  
Sunday, October 30th



Set clocks  
BACK one-hour

**3-DAY FLU CLINIC**  
Walla Walla County  
Fairgrounds  
Community Building  
October 18th, 19th, & 20th  
7:00 - 5:00 pm

Valley Transit to provide free bus service to the clinic site.

For more information contact the  
Walla Walla County  
Health Department  
Nancy Wenzel at 524-2662

