

Community Insider

Editor's Welcome

Welcome to this issue!

Its summer and that means warm weather and outdoor fun. Maybe go to a park for a picnic or visit an outdoor festival. See a movie under the stars or visit the animals at the zoo.

This is our shortest season (or at least it seems that way) and we should make the most of it.

In this issue you'll find many ideas for summer fun in the cities. You'll also find helpful information and interesting photos.

Carpe Diem!

Melissa Pappas, Editor



"If we learn our limitations too soon we never learn our power."- Hannibal Lecter, "Hannibal"

Hi-Rise Spotlight



This month: Wabasha
By Ruby Steward

On our tour of hi-rises, Wabasha hi-rise is the next in line. Wabasha hi-rise is located in downtown St. Paul. It is a six story brick building constructed in 1969 with efficiency as well as one bedroom apartments. The community room was remodeled in 1996.

Wabasha hi-rise is located near the World Trade Center, multiple churches, shopping facilities, banks, hospitals, and the new light rail system, as well as major city buses.

There is also a diversity of restaurants for the taste buds close by. Residents have access to Senior dining, and the NAPS food programs at the Exchange hi-rise nearby. During the late spring and summer months, the Farmer's Market is open on Seventh Place, next to the Walgreen's and across from Brueggers Bagel Shop.

If you think nothing is going on and you want to see some action, the holiday fireworks are right up the street at the State Capital. There are parades yet to come this season, and music in the park all

summer. The public library and the Children's Museums are also fun and relaxing spots. Let us not forget the Ordway Theatre with the many shows they host, and the Xcel Energy Center and Rivercentre.

You see, there are a lot of sites to see in the downtown area.

I hope you will come visit us.

Information provided by the front office of the PHA

Rent Changes and You

As you hopefully know by now, there have been some major changes made to how you can pay your rent each month. This article will explain what's new and how it will affect you.

What is going to be different as of June 1st?

The major difference is that you will no longer be able to pay rent in person at 555 Wabasha.

There is also a change in the address where you send rent payments.

Why were these changes made?

A large number of people were paying rent in person each month. This caused congestion on certain days and was getting to be a problem. There also wasn't enough staff to handle people needing assistance paying rent along with their regular duties.

What does this mean for me?

It means you will either have to pay your rent by mail or use the new online payment system. In person payments will only be accepted at the McDonough management office and then only if it is to prevent an eviction.

I don't trust that my rent will be on time if I pay by mail

Mailed payments now go directly to US Bank. They are credited to your account the day they are received. This should speed up the process and make late payments less likely. You still should make sure you don't wait to the last minute to send in your payment though.

You also can pay online if you don't trust mail payments.

How do I do that?

Starting in June there will be a big 'Pay Rent' button on the main page of the PHA website, stpha.org. You click on that and you will be taken to the US Bank online payment page.

The first time you pay online you will need to set up an account. This should be a simple process and you shouldn't need to give much personal information. You will need to choose a username and password which you will use each time you pay your rent online.

Once the system goes live a tutorial will be made up and will be available on the Presidents Council website.

What do I need to make an online payment?

You will need to have a bank account to use the online payment system. (Credit and debit cards will not be accepted.) You also should have your rent statement handy when making the payment.

"Nothing is impossible. Even the word itself says 'I'm possible.'" - Audrey Hepburn

Know Your Manager

Every issue we ask the hard hitting questions and the Housing Managers answer.

This issue: Brenda Hibbard

Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask.

What was your first job? Cashier at Hardees

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Veterinarian

What's the best part of your job? Joking around with residents

What's your favorite food? Pizza

Who is your idol/mentor/hero? Ghandi

Who is your secret movie crush? Jason Statham

What is your favorite movie or TV show?

Scandal

What do you like to do on your time off? Video Games

Any advice for Resident Councils/President Councils? Resident Council members often feel like they are not appreciated. There are many residents who appreciate what you do, but the negative residents are the most vocal. Remember this the next time someone complains about how you have decided to run something. Those negative people will not be happy no matter what you do.

How long have you been with PHA? 20 years
If you could go anywhere, where would you like to go on a vacation? Fiji

What food do you absolutely hate? Any kind of seafood

What superhero would you like most to be?
Wonder Woman

And last but not least, any comments you would like to share? Being in charge is not easy. Take on the responsibility for the right reasons.

Thank you so much for sharing with us!

Community Events

Here are events and holidays coming up in the next three months

Holidays:

Flag Day- June 14

Father's Day- June 21

Summer Solstice- June 21

Independence Day- July 4

Bastille Day- July 14

Events:

Grand Old Day- June 7

This year marks the 42nd annual event and will feature events along St. Paul's Grand Avenue, including beer gardens with live music, a morning parade, BMX bike demos, and an appearance by figure skater Ashley

Wagner. grandave.com/grand-old-day.

Music in Mears- Thursdays starting in

June: This free 12-week concert series features local musicians, food, beer and wine, movies and much more on Thursday nights throughout the summer in Mears Park

Twin Cities Jazz Festival- June 25-

27: Recognized as one of the region's premier music festivals, the Twin Cities Jazz Festival is a free three-day festival held in and around Mears Park, Rice Park, as well as at dozens of local clubs throughout St. Paul. This year stands to be the biggest year yet with the addition of CHS Field as a venue with Dr. John and the Nite Trippers. hotsummerjazz.com.

Nine Nights of Music Series- Tuesdays starting

June 30: This popular series presents the sounds of Minnesota's multi-cultural community at free outdoor performances at the Minnesota History Center. <http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/events-programs/nine-nights-of-music>

Rondo Days Festival- July 18th

Minneapolis Aquatennial- July 22-25

Community Notice Board

In this section you'll find information about things going on at the different hi-rises.

Please feel free to submit information about any events you think people would be interested in.

Hamline hi-rise is having a meeting with public officials about the bus routes near the hi-rise. The meeting will take place on June 16th at 5:30PM. Submitted by Jerline Clark

Just For Laughs

For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG

bucks.

Watch for these consolidations in 2015:

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush Co., and W.R. Grace Co. will merge and become Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: Poly, Warner, Cracker.
3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become MMMGood
4. FedEx is expected to join its competitor UPS and become FedUp.
5. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild
6. Grey Poupon and Docker pants are expected to become: PouponPants
7. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW!



A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Here are some pictures from the Officers Recognition Event that took place on May 26th.



Mark Your Calendar

Here are the upcoming meeting dates

Presidents Council: September 28th

Community Building: September 4th

Computer Team: June 18, July 16, August 20

“Human emotions are a gift from our animal ancestors; cruelty is a gift humanity gave itself.”- Hannibal Lector, *Hanibal*

Commissioner's Corner

By Mary Puente

This month I'd like to introduce Missy Thompson. Missy represents the real estate side of the housing business. Hope you enjoy reading about her extensive experience.



Background information about schooling and work experience.

I 'm a graduate of Macalester College, was a Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota, and have attended post-graduate classes at University of Saint Thomas and Harvard University. I have held a Minnesota real estate broker's license for over twenty-five years.

My career has been in the field of community development and has ranged from owning several real estate consulting firms. to heading the Minnesota office of a Fortune 100 financial services company, to revamping a signature early childhood education program for a major Twin Cities funder. I also have served as a board member of numerous nonprofit organizations in Minnesota, including those that support affordable housing, the arts, education, and workforce development.

What brought you to become a PHA commissioner?

The PHA was one of my clients many years ago, and since that time I have watched with great pride the work of the organization and its wonderful staff. I believe that safe and affordable housing is critical to strong families and communities, and that the Saint Paul PHA delivers both to residents and to the city consistently. When I was asked to become a commissioner I was honored, and believed my

background in affordable housing, finance, and board governance aligned with PHA board service.

Share one or two notable events, conversations, or proud moments you have participated in.

I 've enjoyed the recent groundbreaking at Roosevelt and Mount Airy Homes, because they are fun festive occasions representing partnerships and creative staff work coming to fruition. I also look forward to the annual all staff breakfast, where hard work and innovation are celebrated. But, it's the monthly board meetings that I most enjoy, because I learn so much from staff and from fellow commissioners. The PHA is a complex organization, with many parts, and I love the continual learning process I experience.

What do you see as the future of PHA via your involvement with PHA?

The Saint Paul PHA is strong and innovative. I hope to continue using my skillset to help maintain its excellence.

Any additional comments are welcomed. Thank you, Mary Puente

Name: **Missy Staples Thompson**

Numbers to Know

Presidents Council

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St. Paul, MN 55102

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Email:

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Editorial Policy

All submissions are welcome. Items may be edited for length or clarity. Publication is subject to approval of the committee and Residents Council Coordinator. We have a policy of non-discrimination and non-censorship.

Questions and comments can be sent to

editor@stphapresidentscouncil.org

Article submissions can be sent to insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org

What's All The Buzz About?

Did you know that there are now beehives on top of the PHA building at 555 Wabasha St. N?

Well, there are. These hives are part of a new green initiative PHA is taking part in. They are tended to by a master urban beekeeper and the honey produced will eventually be sold and shared with residents.

There is no risk to building visitors from these bees. (They are not an aggressive or dangerous variety.)

Here is what the hives look like: (Because of liability concerns no one can go up to the roof and actually see them.)



From The Resident Council Coordinator

By Eileen Tittle

MOVING FORWARD!

End of our Council year is fast approaching. Resident Council elections are well on their way to being completed; treasurers are checking and rechecking all their paperwork making sure that the books look great!

Soon a summer break, and thanks to the generosity of PHA, hopefully every Council has a picnic planned for their Hi-Rise. Be sure and flier the building so as many residents as possible can participate. Melissa is always glad to put pictures of events on the Presidents Council website. However, please make sure you have the permission of any resident in the picture before posting it.

Please everyone welcome Melissa Pappas as the new PC/RPC treasurer. She is super skilled and I know will do a great job. Everyone please say welcome back to Ruby Steward our Financial Documents Manager, which translates into “better get the copies of your required reports in” or you’ll hear from Ruby! The goal is that Ruby will have all your reports on a flashdrive that can be easily sent to our accountant for the audit. Getting those 16 huge books to him was a daunting task!

We are “Moving Forward” with a team we are calling the QuickBooks Peer Team. Going forward every Council will have their elected resident treasurer who will be responsible for holding the checkbook, writing the necessary checks for the month and completing the disbursement and deposit documents. Each building will have QB Peer that will come out once a month and reconcile the bank statement, complete all the QB reports and distribute them. At that time the QB Peer will review all the prior months work done by the Hi-Rise treasurer. This new system will find the small problems we have had, assuring that every Hi-Rise have the best books possible. Also, I anticipate that many more residents would be willing to serve as the treasurer in their building. We are lucky to have a few treasures that are very skilled in QuickBooks, that hand full will continue to do all the treasurer responsibilities at their site but will be audited quarterly to make sure their work is accurate. The Presidents Council will be paying the stipends for the QB Peer Team. The entire QB team will be designing the treasurer training. Mary Rivet, Iowa Hi-Rise treasurer will be the lead for the Hi-Rise treasurers and Connie Lyndon, Neill Hi-Rise will be the lead for the QB Peer Team.

The headache called budgets! We are “Moving Forward” on this also. Hopefully soon each Council computer will have Ex-Cel and Word on them. The QB Peer Team will start meeting with Councils in August to have a budget done to present to their Councils in September, for approval in October!! How great is that!!

Also, I am moving forward. This was not an easy decision. I feel tremendous pride in the work we have done together. We foraged some great friendships together, and we put on the best yearly party at PHA! (Please get me invited next year). I will miss it all but sometimes it is simply time to move on. Alicia Huckley is there to support you. Don’t forget about Jeanie and Dispute Resolution, a great resource. Please

“Moving Forward” means keep doing the great job you’ve done in the past. Support one another, resolve small issues before they become big and please welcome the new Coordinator.

Sincerely, Eileen



