



Dickson Housing Authority Newsletter ~ Summer Edition

June, July & August 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.

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

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

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 SUMMER EVENTS 2026

JUNE – SUMMER CAMP

Every Weekday • 10 AM – 2 PM
Fun, friends, activities, games, crafts, and more!
Pre-Register Today!

JULY – COMMUNITY EVENTS

Watermelon Social

Cool treats, lawn games & family fun! **August 14th at all 3 locations**

Back to School Event

Free supplies & giveaways!
July 24th • 9-11am and 1-3pm

AUGUST – PET DAYS AT THE PAVILION

Bring your furry best friend for:

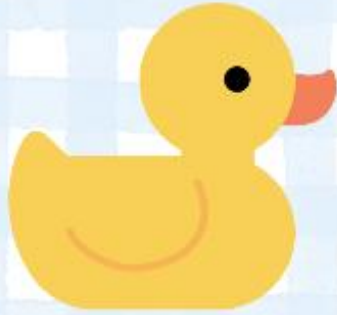
- Free doggie treats
- Outdoor fun
- Photos with you and your pet

August 21st at 4pm

JOIN US ALL SUMMER LONG!

Reed Community Center • Dickson County, TN
Call 615-446-9371 for details.

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



11th Annual Dickson County Community Baby Shower

- Door Prizes
- Vendor Booths
- Community Services
- Speakers
- WIC Representative
- Breast Feeding Support
- Daddy Bootcamp
- and MORE!!!

Sat. June 13th
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dickson County High School
509 Henslee Dr

**Free to all Expecting Moms,
Dads, & “New” Parents (of babies
up to one year of age)!
Grandparents are also Welcome!**



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.



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



Just a quick reminder
that we are now
accepting

CARD PAYMENTS
IN-OFFICE
AS WELL AS
ONLINE PAYMENTS



SUMMER MAINTENANCE BULLETIN

*TRASH CANS: clean your trash cans, make sure bags are tied. If your trash doesn't fit in the can, don't set it on the ground. Cumberland Disposal will NOT pick it up. Don't store your trash on the porch. Take excess trash to Dickson County Landfill.

*OUTSIDE OF UNITS: there should be nothing stored outside your unit other than lawn furniture and grills.

*MATTRESSES, OLD TIRES, BIKES, TOYS, OR WAGONS should all be stored in your storage room.

*PLANTS: any plants, potted or planted, must be weeded and kept up by the resident. Before planting, check with management first. Solar lights must be maintained; they shouldn't be placed in an area that requires mowing, as they will be removed.

*PETS/LEASHES: DHA is having major issues with pet waste in the yards. If you have a pet, you are responsible for cleaning up after your pet. Our staff doesn't want to step in waste and then track it into your unit, our office, etc. If this continues, pet fees will increase and you will be charged when we pick up the waste. When your pet is outside, they're to be on a leash at all times. They ARE NOT to be tethered or tied and then left outside. You're to stay with them. The leash must be tethered so neither the leash nor the pet will block sidewalks, stairs, or walkways. When finished, don't leave the leash on the ground; this is a serious hazard for mowers and weed eaters. Leashes and anchors left on the ground will be removed and discarded.

*STORM DOORS: must be closed at all times. Do not prop open. If the door is damaged by wind, etc., you will be charged for the repairs.

*KIDDIE POOLS/DROWNING: are for day use only! Pools must be supervised at all times, emptied, and properly stored when finished for the day. Please don't leave a pool or tarp on the ground; it kills the grass. Remove after use.

Remember: a child can drown in as little as 2 inches of water in baby pools, bathtubs, even buckets. 2 minutes following submersion they lose consciousness. After 6 minutes, permanent brain damage results. Half of drownings for those under 1 yr old in a bathtub occur when left unsupervised.

*HEALTH/SAFETY: food scraps, grease, etc., are NOT to be thrown on the ground. This is a Health & Safety failure for the unit. It attracts unwanted pests, skunks, rodents, etc. Grease kills the grass, which you will be charged for repairing.

*LEAKS: Any water leak must be reported immediately.

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 outside of any unit.

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!

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

Housing Specialist: Savannah Lowhorne

Occupancy Specialist: Megahn Vest

Resident Services 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.

FUN FOR SUMMER!



SUMMER JOKE

What did the ocean say to the lifeguard?

Nothing, it just waved!



LEMONADE RECIPE

1 cup fresh lemon juice
(about 4-6 lemons)

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar

4 cups cold water

Dissolve the sugar in the lemon juice by stirrd, Add the cold water and mix well,

Serve over ice and enjoy!

WORD SCRAMBLE

NPCEI _____

PICDIN _____

SSNUYHIE _____

NAOBEMACH _____

WIMMSNIG _____