

SOCIAL SECURITY ALERT FOR SENIORS

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My Favorite Old-Time Poem



“I RECITED this poem 80 years ago in a program at our one-room school in Onawa, Iowa,” writes Loretta Cain of South Sioux City, Nebraska. “I find it amusing, although the message is quite true, even today.”

PEOPLE WILL TALK

You may get through the world, but ‘twill be very slow,
If you listen to all that is said as you go.
You’ll be wearied and fretted and kept in a stew,
For meddlesome tongues will have something to do,
For people will talk!

If quiet and modest, you’ll have it presumed
That your humble position is only assumed.
You’re a wolf in sheep’s clothing, or else you’re a fool,
But don’t get excited, keep perfectly cool!
For people will talk!

If generous and noble, they’ll vent out their spleen;
You’ll hear some loud hints that you’re selfish and mean.
If upright and honest, and fair as the day,
They’ll call you a rogue, in a sly sneaking way,
For people will talk!

And then if you show the least boldness of heart,
Or a slight inclination to take your own part,
They’ll call you an upstart, conceited and vain,
But keep straight ahead. Don’t stop to explain,
For people will talk!

If threadbare your dress or old-fashioned your hat,
Someone will surely take notice of that,
And hint you’re unable to pay your own way,
But don’t get excited, whatever they say
For people will talk!

If you dress in the fashion, don’t think to escape
For they criticize then in a different shape;
You’re a head of your means or your tailor’s unpaid,
But mind your own business and don’t be afraid,
For people will talk!

Now the best way to do is to do as you please!
For your mind, if you have one will then be at ease.
Of course you will meet with all sorts of abuse,
But don’t think to stop them, it’s not any use,
For people will talk!

—Mary E. Harris

Mary E. Harris was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1839, according to her great-grand-daughter, Carol E. Barron of Bluford, Illinois. “Born Mary Elizabeth Fletcher, she graduated from the Kentucky Female Orphan School at age 15 in 1854 and wrote People Will Talk in 1866, when she was 27,” Carol notes. “Keeping a lamp, pen and paper beside her bed, she wrote her poems when she awoke during the night.”

This Poem was submitted by Ola Warren in our Waupun Building.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This last month some of you may have noticed the board members taking a walk through the building where you live during our annual board tours. Each year the board takes a day to visit each of our buildings to review their condition to prepare themselves to face the issues we are facing now and in the future. All of the buildings that the Housing Authority owns were built somewhere between 1979 and 1984, which makes them anywhere from 19 to 24 years old. I don't have to tell any of you that some of the buildings are beginning to show their age due to normal wear and tear. We have begun the process of evaluating the individual building needs and looking at what we can afford to repair or replace now and what will have to wait a little longer.

During the last several years we have tackled several big projects such as new siding on 5 of the 6 buildings in Dodge 1 and 2. We have begun replacing some flooring and appliances as we have had the funds to do so. It is always a balancing act between the immediate costs of the day to day expenses such as increasing utilities and the long term savings it takes to plan ahead to do large purchase items like new water heaters or roofs. I understand that it is frustrating to some of you that would like to see things go faster or when you see things happening in either a neighbor's apartment or another one of our buildings.

Managing these buildings is very much like when you balance your own personal budget. Some months there are a few more bills than other months or some months there may be a little less income so you need to adjust the budget to account for that.

Each month I put a little money away in our reserve account for those big items and try to get the immediate repairs done. If I have a lot of small items that need attending to like visits from the electrician or the plumber then it means less money available for new carpeting or the replacement of an old but still usable stove or refrigerator.

I am sure many of you understand but for those of you who do not know each building or group of buildings operates as a separate business.

This means that funds from one project can not be mingled with funds from another. An example would be that the money that is in the reserve account for our Iron Ridge building can't be used to buy new carpeting for the Lowell building, or vice versa.

I can only use Iron Ridge money for an Iron Ridge project. When we do this annual review we look at what all the needs are and how much money we have to meet those needs and then make decisions as what is the highest priority.

We do our best to evaluate the needs of the buildings both short and long term and try to develop a solid long range plan. Our ultimate goal to make sure that you and the people who choose to live in our building in the future have good safe, decent, and affordable apartments to call home. I am always willing to listen to your suggestions or items that you think need to be addressed as we continue on this plan to continue to keep our buildings places where you want to continue to live. This may sound a bit boring to some of you however it is that basis of all the work that we do so hang in there until we can get to the fun part when we actually see new things happening.

Current Building Vacancies as of 7/01/03:

- *Old Ashippun - 2*
- *Reeseville - 1*
- *Theresa - 2*
- *Burnett - 1*
- *Hustisford - 2*
- *Lowell - 2*
- *Iron Ridge - 0*
- *Juneau - 0*
- *Beaver Dam - 0*
- *Waupun - 0(1st floor) 2(2nd floor)*

INDEPENDENCE DAY!

DODGE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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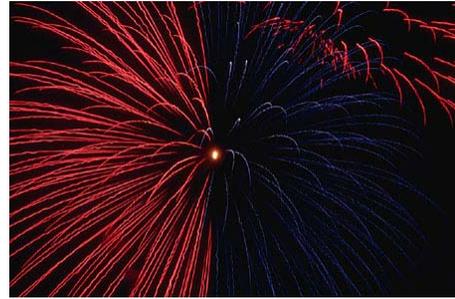
Barbara J. Lubahn-Hagedorn
Executive Director

Carl Bernhard
Board Chairman

Serving the county since 1972



*The Housing Authority office
will be closed on Friday, July 4,
2003 in honor of Independence
Day.*



Tenant News

Ruby & Ken Bassette of
Reeseville will celebrate 15
years in the building 8/1/03.

Building Fire Alarm Test

The fire alarms for each building will be tested
on the following days:

July 3rd	-	Beaver Dam
July 8th	-	Reeseville
July 8th	-	Lowell
July 3rd	-	Theresa
July 3rd	-	Ashippun
July 8th	-	Burnett
July 3rd	-	Hustisford
July 1st	-	Juneau
July 8th	-	Waupun
July 3rd	-	Iron Ridge