



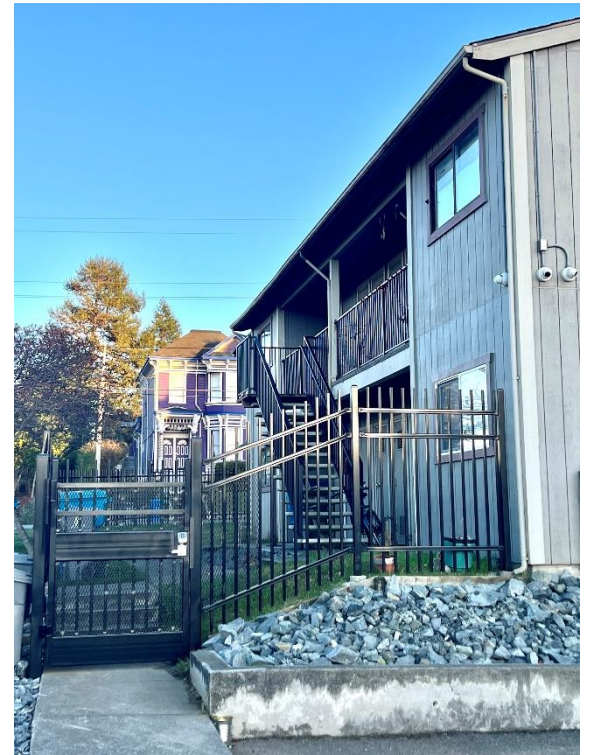
Housing Insider

Issue 2022.4

"Communication leads to community."

Safety and Security Upgrades at 3 Public Housing Sites

Based on increased site-specific incident reports and recommendations from the Eureka Police Department's CPTED Group (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), the Housing Authority of the City of Eureka selected three sites for safety and security upgrades. Funding for the upgrades was made possible by a competitive grant awarded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These improvements included removal of bushes and shrubs that limited visibility on properties, adding security cameras at three sites, and fencing in two of our properties that were experiencing higher than normal foot traffic from non-tenants. The properties that received safety improvements include 330 Grant Street, 131 West Del Norte Street, and the site at the corner of 1830 Albee Street and 514 West Del Norte Street.



New fencing and gate shown at 330 Grant Street.

General Information

Lobby and Dumpster Hours: Open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am – 3 pm at 735 West Everding Street, Eureka, CA 95503.

Business hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:00-5:30; Fridays alternating weeks with closed days and business hours until 4:30. Please call our main line during business hours at (707) 443-4583 if you need assistance.

We have a payment drop box by our front door for easy submission of any amounts payable.

Upcoming Dates to Note

The office is closed December 30th through January 2nd.

Closed January 16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Closed March 31st – Cesar Chavez Day

NEW! Online method for submitting comments, complaints, or concerns:

It's important to us that we hear from you, whether it's what you like or don't like, suggestions for change, or whatever else you think we need to hear. You can complete our feedback form online at any time by going here:

<https://eurekahumboldt.org/PHACustomerSurvey>

EHA Mission Statement: *The mission of the Housing Authority of the City of Eureka is to assist low-income families with safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities as they strive to achieve self-sufficiency and improve the quality of their lives. The Housing Authority is committed to operating in an efficient, ethical, and professional manner, and treating all clients with dignity and respect. The Housing Authority will create and maintain partnerships with its clients and appropriate community agencies in order to accomplish this mission.*

Winter Maintenance Tips for Tenants

While we don't typically have snow in Eureka, the change in seasons brings much cooler temperatures and a lot more moisture along with other potential seasonal hazards. There are certain steps you can take to ensure a safe, comfortable winter in your home.

1. Check in with our maintenance team: If you're having any issues, no matter how small they seem (like that little drip, drip from the bathroom faucet), let us know. We can't address a problem if we aren't aware of it, and in certain situations, small problems can rapidly become big problems, so it's best to communicate any concerns before they spiral out of control.
2. Test your heater: If you haven't already done so, be sure to cycle it on for a short period of time to make sure it's working properly for when you do need it. If it isn't, let us know as soon as possible.
3. Be prepared for emergencies: Our west coast city doesn't have the severe storms the east coast does, but we have had power outages, water turnoffs, and other unexpected events happen in the past. Make sure you're prepared ahead of time by having basic supplies (e.g. bottled water, nonperishable foods, flashlights, and blankets) on hand in case you might need them. Also, sign up for weather and emergency alert systems to stay informed about any potentially threatening weather conditions or natural events.
4. Plan for ant/pest control: Ants may move inside looking for better conditions, moisture, shelter, and food. Be sure to keep surfaces such as counters and floors clean and free of food, crumbs, and debris, as these things attract ants. They will go elsewhere if they have no food to provide life-sustaining energy.
5. Know where your closest fire extinguisher is: With more cooking, holiday lights, and beautiful candle-light comes an increased fire hazard. Know where an extinguisher is before an emergency happens.

Q&A

Q: What is a utility allowance, and how does it affect my rent?

A: A utility allowance is the amount the Housing Authority determines is necessary to cover a tenant's reasonable utility costs that aren't paid by the Authority (we pay for water, sewer, and trash). These allowances are estimates of the expenses associated with different types of utilities, such as electric and gas, and their uses (heat, water heating, refrigeration, lighting, appliances, etc.). A study is done annually by a third-party consultant to determine average consumption rates and the resulting utility allowance. This allowance reduces the amount of rent a household is responsible for paying.

Development & Unit Type	Utility Allowance 2023
25-1	
1-Bedroom Flat	\$ 96
2-Bedroom Flat	\$ 122
2-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 118
3-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 143
4-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 159
25-2	
1-Bedroom Flat	\$ 96
2-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 122
3-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 150
4-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 176
25-4	
2-Bedroom Flat & Walk-Up	\$ 99
3-Bedroom Townhouse	\$ 119
25-5	
2-Bedroom Flat including ADA units	\$ 99

Utility allowances increased for 2023, which means a greater reduction in rents. Public Housing allowances are shown in the table here. These rates are effective January 1, 2023, and will be reflected in your 2023 annual recertification. Amounts are based on actual usage provided in reports by Pacific Gas & Electric Company.



Who to Contact

Call our main line at (707) 443-4583, then:

Work order requests.....x218

Paperwork, certification, rent /income calculation questions.....x214

Accounting for charges, account balance questions, and payments.....x221

Ty for questions, complaints, or concerns about the neighborhood.....x211

Nancy for all other questions regarding Housing Authority services.....x210

Emergency Maintenance phone.....444-1424

In an emergency, please call 911 or the Eureka Police Department at (707) 441-4060

Volunteer opportunity: Are you a Public Housing senior (62+) who is interested in serving on our Board of Commissioners? Please contact Heather at heatherh@eurekahumboldt.org or 443.4583 x219 with any questions and to obtain an application for tenant commissioner.