

# For Immediate Release

## Spring Renovations Come to Spencer Towers & Sunset Heights

April and May are bringing big changes to both Sunset Heights and Spencer Towers. Beginning in April, Sunset Heights will undergo 504 and ADA renovations in all common areas plus seven apartments.

Beginning in May, Spencer Towers will undergo 504 and ADA renovations in all common areas and seven apartments – *PLUS* all domestic plumbing in *ALL* apartments and common areas will be updated.

### **Section 504 & ADA**

Section 504 of the HUD Rehabilitation Act states that all existing housing programs take steps as needed to ensure that housing is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All renovations taking place in both the common areas and individual apartments at Sunset Heights and Spencer Towers will be in accordance with 504 and ADA regulations and requirements. These renovations will allow RIHA to more effectively meet the needs of the diverse population it serves.

### **Capital Funds & ARRA Stimulus Package**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, RIHA received \$1,464,200 in additional Capital Funds. RIHA is utilizing a portion of these funds to complete these much needed renovations at Spencer Towers and Sunset Heights.

### **Temporary Relocation & Relocation Assistance for Sunset Heights**

Sunset Heights residents who will be temporarily displaced as a result of required ADA and HUD 504 renovations will be offered the opportunity to temporarily relocate to a different Sunset Heights apartment for a period not to exceed thirty (30) consecutive days. Sunset Heights residents will NOT be relocated off-site during renovations at that property. Residents will receive assistance moving their belongings from their current apartments to their temporary apartments.

Those households that are temporarily displaced as the result of 504 and ADA renovations will be given the option to return to their original apartment upon completion of all renovations or to permanently remain living in their (newly) assigned temporary apartment if the unit is appropriately sized for the household. Temporarily displaced residents will receive moving assistance back to their original apartment, should they elect to return.

### **Temporary Relocation & Relocation Assistance for Spencer Towers**

To carry out the domestic plumbing renovations in *ALL* Spencer Towers apartments and common areas, it will be necessary to temporarily relocate *ALL* Spencer Towers households to the Rock Island Holiday Inn for approximately seven days.

Spencer Towers residents will be relocated utilizing a phased approach. Relocations will begin May 12 and end September 15. The Holiday Inn stay will NOT require residents to pack, relocate or store all of

their household belongings. However, they should pack everything they need for a seven-day stay including clothes and toiletries. Each household will receive a daily food allowance during their Holiday Inn stay. QC Animal Care Center of Milan will provide boarding for RIHA resident pets while renovations occur. Care is available for both cats and dogs and includes meals and pet exercise. All vaccinations must be current for all pets entering the kennel.

### **504 and ADA Renovations**

To carry out the Spencer Towers 504 and ADA renovations, it will be necessary for apartments 208, 308, 408, 508, 608, 708 and 808 to temporarily relocate beginning May 12 and ending September 15.

Displaced 08 households will be temporarily relocated to an alternate Spencer Towers apartment or another RIHA public housing unit for the duration of 504 and ADA renovations. Those households temporarily relocated to another Spencer Towers unit may also be required to relocate off-site to the Holiday Inn during domestic plumbing renovations.

To facilitate the successful temporary relocation to an alternate Spencer Towers apartment or other RIHA public housing unit, RIHA will provide displaced households with assistance to move their belongings to and from their temporary apartments. Each eligible household currently utilizing cable and phone services will receive assistance for the reconnection of those services. All special needs and moving assistance requests can be made to the RIHA Resident Services Coordinator, Adrian Blackwell, at 309.788.0825 ext. 210.

### **Rock Island Housing Authority**

RIHA is committed to pursuing new and creative ways to meet the changing housing needs of the diverse population of the City of Rock Island. We are dedicated to creating safe, viable and vibrant communities for a broad-based market founded on transition and hope. As an organization and as a member of the Rock Island community, we strive to make Rock Island a better, healthier place for *all* people to live.