

The Richfield Apartment Manager's Association (RAMA) is a collaborative effort between the City of Richfield and rental housing management and owners to create and maintain quality rental communities. The RAMA Reporter is published quarterly to provide information and resources for furthering this mission.

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## Rental Rehab Loans and Grants

Funds are available to make improvements to your building using the City's Apartment Remodeling Loan and Grant programs. Duplexes that participate in a rent assistance program (e.g., Section 8) are also eligible for the grant program. Check out our [website](#) or contact Julie Urban, Housing Manager, ([jurban@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:jurban@richfieldmn.gov) or 612.861.9777) for more information.

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## Zero Balance Project

Landlords can apply to the [Zero Balance Project](#) for rental assistance on behalf of renters who are behind on rent. The Zero Balance Project will stop accepting applications after **Friday, November 19**, so apply today! Renters may also apply on their own through [RentHelpMN](#). RentHelpMN will continue to provide assistance after November 19.

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## New Snow Emergency Rules

*Information for your Renters:* The City has increased the amount of snowfall needed to declare a snow

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emergency from two to four inches. In addition, two areas of the city have been designated as winter weather parking areas. Now, during snow emergencies, residents who do not have access to off-street parking can park along Cedar Avenue and 78th Street. Signs indicate where it's okay to park up to 24 hours after a snow emergency has been declared. Learn more about the snow emergency changes for this winter: [www.richfieldmn.gov/WinterParking](http://www.richfieldmn.gov/WinterParking)

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## Energy Efficiency Audits

CenterPoint Energy and Excel Energy offer free energy-efficiency audits to multi-family buildings. The audit provides a report suggesting ways to improve your building's energy efficiency, along with no-cost installation of energy-saving equipment throughout the building and information about financing larger projects. Call 844-545-7455 to learn more and schedule a visit.

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## HousingLink

Have openings? Consider listing your rental property with HousingLink, a free listing site with 60,000+ searches a month. Visit [HousingLink's website](#) to create an account.

HousingLink's mission is "to improve people's lives through information expanding their affordable rental choices." When you post on HousingLink it is more than just a property listing; it is a contribution to the community, making sure everyone, no matter their income, knows what housing options are available. If you have handicapped-accessible units, this is an especially important site to list your units.

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## House an Afghan Refugee

*A message from the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services: Rent to our Afghan Allies!* Minnesota is welcoming more than 800 individuals evacuated from Afghanistan this fall and winter, and resettlement agencies are in need of apartments of all sizes and single-family homes. All arriving Afghan families have access to 6 months of rent support, are authorized to work in the US, and all of them have been vetted by the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and other government agencies. They have no adverse records and they want to be good tenants! To learn more and share unit availability, please contact: Evgeniia Kulgina, MCC Housing Specialist: [evgeniia.kulgina@mnchurches.org](mailto:evgeniia.kulgina@mnchurches.org), 612-230-3267. (See attached flyer)

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## Rental Inspections

2022 License renewals were mailed the first week in November. Be sure to return the completed form and fee by the end of the year. The City's rental licensing program helps to ensure safe, quality housing. Thank you for doing your part!

**Share this tip with your renters:**

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Leave the bathroom door open after taking a shower. If there is an exhaust fan, leave it running for 10 to 15 minutes after taking a shower to reduce humidity.

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## Crime Prevention

Share these crime prevention tips with your renters:

- Don't prop doors open or allow strangers into your building.
  - Don't leave valuables in your vehicle (apartment parking lots are often an easy target for thieves).
  - Close your blinds/shades after dusk to prevent window peeping.
  - Don't leave valuables unattended in the laundry room.
  - Get renters insurance.
  - Get to know your neighbors, and report all suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1.
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## Park & Rec Programs and Scholarships

The Fall Recreation Program Guide is available online ([www.richfieldmn.gov/recbrochure](http://www.richfieldmn.gov/recbrochure)) and registration is open for activities and events! Check out what's going on in town from September through December, for all ages and interests. Register for programs at [www.richfieldmn.gov/onlineregistration](http://www.richfieldmn.gov/onlineregistration).

Richfield Recreation offers different options for helping to alleviate the cost of the programs and services through its Recreation Passport Program and other scholarships.

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## Section 8 and Kids@Home Waiting Lists

The City's Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list (aka, Section 8) will open for the first time in six years this coming January. Information on how and when people can apply will be available on the City's website in December and through [HousingLink](#).

Our local Kids@Home rent assistance program, for people with kids in a Richfield school, will also have openings. Contact Lynnette Chambers ([lchambers@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:lchambers@richfieldmn.gov)) for more information about this program.

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Contact Lynnette Chambers ([lchambers@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:lchambers@richfieldmn.gov)) or Julie Urban ([jurban@richfieldmn.gov](mailto:jurban@richfieldmn.gov)) with questions or ideas for newsletter topics.