



Neighborhood News

Issue 13 Spring 2024

Spring Cleaning Tips for your Home



As spring arrives, it's time to freshen up your home with these simple cleaning tips.

- 1. Wash your pillows.** Don't spend your nights with dust mites! Wash pillow covers every three weeks. Wash pillows every three months and replace pillows every three years.
- 2. Ditch the vinyl shower curtain.** Vinyl shower curtains exude harmful chemicals in humidity and heat. They also attract mold and mildew, so replace vinyl curtains with nylon ones.
- 3. Clean closet floor and bookshelf clutter.** Vacuum closet floors to clean out the fabric, hair, and skin that settles there. Collect books? Remove them from your shelves and donate the books you don't want. Wipe away the dust on the ones you want to keep. Then, wipe down the bookshelf.
- 4. Clean your refrigerator.** Check expiration dates and toss food older than a few months. Pull out drawers and wash them with hot, soapy water, then wipe everything down. Wipe the exterior and check front grill to make sure it's free of dust and lint.
- 5. Dust away.** To avoid spreading more dust in the air with traditional dusters, try dampening a microfiber cloth. They grab and trap dust, leaving little behind.

To see the full list please visit: <https://journal.firsttuesday.us/farm-10-tips-for-spring->

Annual Recertification—quick tip!

For our residents who receive a rental assistance subsidy, providing information about your income and assets is required **each** year. One document we will need is your Social Security, SSI, and/or SSD award letters.

If you aren't sure where you have placed your copy, did you know that you can request a new one? Contact the Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213. The message is automated; at the end of the automated message, say, "Proof of income," and you will be asked additional identifying questions.

As always, please feel free to bring your award letter to the office as soon as you receive it. We can keep a copy in your file for when the time comes for your recertification.

If you need help with this process, please reach out to the Housing Office to schedule a time when we can assist you. Keep an eye out for more tips on the recertification process in the next newsletter!

Important Reminders

- All of Tioga Opportunities, Inc.'s properties (including the apartment buildings) are **NON-SMOKING** facilities. Please do not smoke in your apartment **or** anywhere on the building grounds.
- Please **DO NOT** prop open the exterior doors to the apartment buildings under any circumstances. Your neighbors expect to live in a secured building. When you prop open the exterior doors, you are compromising the safety of everyone in the building (and pests or other wildlife could get into the building).
- If something in your unit is broken or requires the attention of the Maintenance staff (such as problems with plumbing, light fixtures, or appliances), please call the Housing Office at 607-687-0707 to submit a work order.



Tioga Opportunities, Inc. | 1023 State Route 38, Owego, NY 13827



Call us at
607-687-0707
TDD 607-687-5905



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www.tiogaopp.org



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Total Solar Eclipse 2024

New York State (and across North America) will be at the center of the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024!

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon completely covers the face of the sun. This is a once in a lifetime experience that only occurs in the same place every 400 years. If you want to watch, it's important to get eclipse glasses. If you haven't done so already, make sure to get ISO-12312-2 compliant eclipse glasses.

Viewing the eclipse without proper eye protection is safe **only** when the moon completely obscures the sun. This brief period is called "totality." As soon as you see even a little bit of the sun, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on. The best practice would be to wear your eclipse glasses for the duration.

We hope you all safely enjoy this experience!



Our 2023 Impact Report is available online!

Read the report at tiogaopp.org or scan the QR code!



- Open the camera on your smartphone
- Point your phone at the QR code
- Once it is focused, a link will appear
- Tap on the link to open and read the report



SCAM ALERT

Watch out! Scammers target everyone.



Recognize scammers. They may:

- **PRETEND** to be from an agency or organization you know.
- Say there's a **PROBLEM** or promise a prize.
- **PRESSURE** you to act immediately.
- Tell you to **PAY** in a specific way.



Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore them!

How to avoid a scam:

- **Remain calm.** Talk to someone you trust.
- **Hang up or ignore** the message. **DO NOT** click on links or attachments.
- **Protect your money.** Criminals will insist that you pay in a hard-to-trace manner, such as with a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash.
- **Protect your personal information.** Be skeptical of a contact you didn't initiate.
- **Spread the word.** Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit ssa.gov/scam for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.



Has your phone # or email address changed?

Please be sure to let the Housing Office know if your phone # or email address has changed. We use the One Call Now system to quickly let our Housing residents know critical information (via phone, email, and texts!), so it's important to let us know how to reach you. Please call the Housing Office at 607-687-0707 with any changes in your contact information.



After Hours Help

Line for Tenants

1-800-233-3605

If you have an emergency, our after hours help line is here to assist you!

You can call the help line if you have concerns such as:

- No heat.
- Electrical problem-ex. the elevator doesn't work.
- Water problem – ex. a clogged toilet