



Ripley's Housing MHC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Hi Ripley's Housing Community Residents!

We're excited to launch our first quarterly newsletter, designed to bring a little extra joy and connection to our community. Each issue will be packed with helpful tips, important updates, and fun activities that are sure to make life in our community even better. From home maintenance advice and local events to easy recipes, lighthearted jokes, we hope this newsletter will become a staple you look forward to every season.

As we roll out our first edition, we want to create a space that celebrates the unique and vibrant spirit of our community. Whether you're new here or have been a resident for years, there's always something new to learn, share, and enjoy together. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and any contributions you'd like to share—this is YOUR newsletter!

Stay tuned for tips on home upkeep, energy-saving strategies, and ways to get involved in our upcoming community activities. And don't forget to check out the fun games and jokes we've included—perfect for sharing with family, friends, and neighbors. We're looking forward to making this newsletter a bright and engaging part of your mailbox every quarter.

[Want to hear a joke?](#)

What do you call a penguin with no eye?

Check the bottom of the next page for the answer!



Local Activities at the Muscatine Art Center

- **2/22/2025 1:30PM-2:30PM - Grant Wood: Lilies of the Alley**

Iowa artist Grant Wood grew up near Cedar Rapids, IA, and spent most of his life in the area. In the early 1920s he often produced 3D objects that were whimsical and clever in nature. Join Miss Julie for a free Artist Workshop for kids aged 7-14 and explore a different side of Grant Wood's imagination by creating your own "planted" artwork. Please register by February 21.

- **3/15/2025 1:30PM-4:30PM - Choose Your Theme Acrylic Painting Workshop**

Choose a theme for your painting that fits your taste and artist Kay Flanders will give examples and share techniques to start. You'll take home a large completed canvas at the end. No experience necessary. \$25 class fee. Please register by March 14.

Community Action of Eastern Iowa

CAE Iowa provides services to 25,000+ people every year. They are the Community Action Agency for Cedar, Clinton, Muscatine, and Scott Counties in Iowa, and have been in business since 1965. If you need help paying your bills, make an appointment with them and see if you qualify for aid.



Management Corner: What's Underneath Your Home?

Q. What is **Heat Tape** and what does it do?

A. Heat tape is an electrical cable that prevents pipes and other devices from freezing. It is wrapped around the pipe nearest to the water source in the ground. It is insulated and then plugged into an electrical kit and power from underneath the home. The plug kit has a thermometer element inside, so the heat is only being used when temperatures go below 32 degrees.



A. A penguin

What is the heat tape installation process?

1. **Inspect and Measure:** Check the length of the pipe to determine the amount of heat tape needed.
2. **Secure Tape to Pipe:** Wrap heat tape around the pipe.
3. **Insulate:** Cover the pipe and heat tape with pipe insulation to ensure it stays warm when needed.
4. **Plug In:** Connect the heat tape to a power source under the home.

Recipe of the Month: Hearty Chili!

Warm up with a classic hearty chili!

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 50 minutes

Total Time: 60 minutes

Servings: 6

INGREDIENTS

- 5 strips uncooked bacon chopped
- 1 large yellow onion diced (~1 cup)
- 1 red bell pepper diced
- 3 cloves garlic minced (~1 Tablespoon)
- 1 lb ground beef (455g)
- 1 Tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ¾ teaspoons ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 ¼ cup beef broth (295ml)
- 15 oz can dark red kidney beans rinsed and drained (425g)
- 15 oz can black beans lightly rinsed and drained (425)
- 14.5 oz can diced fire roasted tomatoes undrained (411g)
- 7- oz can fire roasted green chilis (198g)
- ¼ cup tomato paste (66g)
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Preferred toppings (sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, and corn chips)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place chopped (uncooked) bacon in a large pot or Dutch oven and cook over medium heat until crisp and cooked through. Remove bacon to a paper towel lined plate and drain all but 1 ½ Tablespoons of grease.
2. Add onion and pepper and cook until softened, about 3-5 minutes.
3. Add garlic and cook until fragrant (about 30 seconds).
4. Add beef, breaking apart with a spatula as you cook. Once meat is partially (about 50%) browned, add sugar and all spices (chili powder, paprika, cumin, onion powder, black pepper, salt, cayenne pepper) and stir well.
5. Add all remaining ingredients (beef broth, beans, tomatoes, tomato paste, chilis, and Worcestershire sauce) and your cooked bacon and stir well.
6. Bring to a boil and cook 1-2 minutes, stirring frequently.
7. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
8. Serve with your preferred toppings (sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese, and corn chips are a must!)



WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden forward, backward, or diagonally in our search below!

P	R	H	R	X	W	H	F	Y	S	Z	O	J	P	E
K	I	L	T	A	N	H	T	C	F	R	O	S	T	Y
U	P	N	I	H	Q	I	W	C	U	C	A	H	Z	E
T	L	C	U	V	N	V	L	N	H	N	E	P	V	K
J	E	H	N	U	E	T	C	I	A	A	R	A	R	W
B	Y	S	M	A	Z	S	L	B	R	W	W	U	L	A
N	S	M	R	V	M	L	T	T	D	O	A	T	I	H
M	O	K	D	O	Y	W	L	O	I	M	N	S	I	Z
C	B	G	W	J	B	A	O	O	C	S	R	N	S	S
E	O	Y	Z	D	N	H	L	N	Y	K	E	O	J	N
K	E	S	Y	D	N	W	G	D	S	T	T	W	U	V
D	P	L	A	Y	F	U	L	I	O	O	N	F	K	Z
M	U	M	I	A	O	C	M	A	E	H	I	A	Y	T
P	L	L	A	B	W	O	N	S	N	N	W	L	T	I
M	F	M	U	S	C	A	T	I	N	E	W	L	G	G

RIPLEYS
MUSCATINE
IOWA

HEARTLAND
HAWKEYE
LIVESTOCK

WINTER
CHILLY
FROST

SNOWMAN
PLAYFUL
SNOWBALL

COMMUNITY
NEIGHBORS
SNOWFALL