

# VISTA VOICE

September 2011

**Sun Prairie Apartments**  
515-226-0000

**Monday - Friday**  
9am-6pm

**Saturday**  
10am-4pm

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## *Des Moines: A Great Place to Call Home*

Having trouble finding a job? Not happy where you're at and think another city might offer something better? Well, consider this: despite the national trend of increasing unemployment, Des Moines is one of the few places in the nation where jobs are actually available.

Iowa's unemployment rate is only 6% as opposed to the national 9%. And considering the rate at which Des Moines is expanding, it actually makes the area one of the top spots in the nation for jobs. So

before you fly off to find that dream job of yours, consider that you may have already found it!

But don't just take our word for it: according to Forbes Magazine, Des Moines is ranked the 3rd most livable city in the country! Those results were based on quality of life, jobs, the crime rate, and the cost of living. It was also ranked the #1 place for businesses and careers. You've already found the best in Des Moines - what more could you ask for?



Considering moving out of the area? Hold your horses, and look no further - Des Moines is the place to be!

**THE OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD  
THROUGH  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH**

**IN OBSERVANCE  
OF LABOR DAY!**

## *Back-to-School: Bus Stop Behavior*

For 22 million students across the nation, the school day begins and ends with a trip on the school bus. There is no safer way to transport a child to school than in a school bus. Fatal crashes involving occupants are extremely rare despite the fact that school buses make 8.8 billion student trips annually! However, 35 children die each year as passengers or as a result of school bus-related pedestrian accidents.

We know that schedules can get hectic and it may not be feasible

for you to wait with your child at their assigned bus stops, but if you are able, please do so! Roughhousing and other careless behavior is less likely to occur when there is an adult present, which will keep all students waiting for the bus safer.

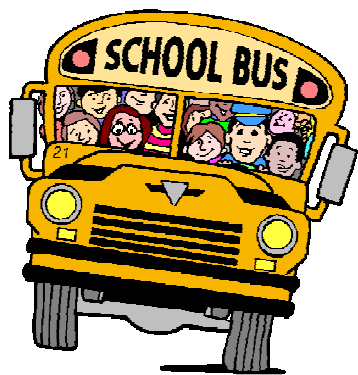
Please remind your children of the following rules and safety guidelines while they are waiting for the bus:

- While waiting for the bus, please remain on the side-

walks, away from traffic.

- Do not move towards the bus until the driver signals you to proceed.
- Use the handrails when entering and exiting the bus.
- Do not throw rocks at any of the buildings or garages. This includes putting rocks in the parking lots with the intention of having the buses run over them.

Thank you for your cooperation!



**HAVE A GREAT  
SCHOOL YEAR!**

**Reminder: The pools will be closing on Tuesday, September 6th.**

(The pool located behind the rental office will remain open during business hours as weather permits.)

# Safety: It's Everyone's Business!



We are all responsible for our own personal safety as well as the security of our belongings. The best safety measures are the ones we perform as a matter of common sense and habit. Here are some helpful hints provided by Sun Prairie management for your consideration:

1. Always lock your doors and windows, even while you are inside.
2. Before opening the door, see who is there by looking through a window or peephole. Do not open the door if the person is unknown to you or if you have any doubts about the individual.
3. Do not put your name, address or phone number on your key ring.
4. Close curtains, blinds and window shades at night.
5. Mark or engrave identification on valuable personal property.
6. Immediately contact the management if you are in need of any repairs to locks, latches, doors, windows or smoke detectors.
7. Leave a radio or TV playing softly when you are not at home.
8. Tell your roommate, or neighbor where you are going and when you will return.
9. Do not walk alone at night.
10. Do not hide a key under the doormat or a nearby flowerpot. These are the first places a burglar will look.
11. Do not give keys to anyone. Management will only release keys with your written permission.
12. Let management, friends or neighbors know when you will be gone for an extended period of time. Ask someone to watch your dwelling in your absence.
13. Use lamp timers when you go out in the evening or when going on vacation. These can be purchased at most hardware stores for a minimal expense.
14. While on vacation, have your mail and newspapers temporarily stopped or picked up regularly by a friend.
15. Have your door key out and ready when walking to your door.

**Everyone has the right to feel safe in and around their homes! If you have any questions or safety concerns, please call the rental office.**

## SAVE THE DATE!

Sun Prairie's Annual Safety Social will be held on Wednesday, October 5th from 5:00 - 7:00.

See Page 4 for Details - Reminders will be posted on the entry bulletin boards as the date approaches.

## Take Pride In YOUR Community!

It takes very little effort to keep a community litter-free, and the payoffs are great! By setting a good example yourself, you will encourage your neighbors to live a litter-free lifestyle, too. If you notice an unsanitary situation on the property that requires attention from management, contact the leasing office to report it. Furthermore, a clean community shows outsiders that the residents care about their neighborhood, which often discourages troublesome behavior and individuals.

## It's YOUR Newsletter!

What do you want to read about? We typically print stories that are seasonally appropriate or if we have issues that seem to be of confusion for residents, but we can expand our topics, too.

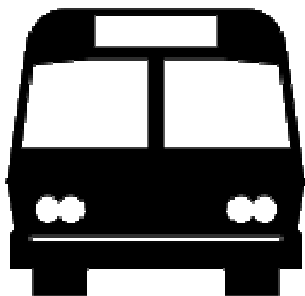
We'd appreciate any ideas or suggestions about what you would like to see covered in our newsletter (Resident Recipe Corner, for example). Please email any suggestions to Casey@ppm-inc.com.



## Got a Sweet New Ride?

*Register it!* If you recently got a new car or a new license plate number, stop by the office and let us know the make, model, year, color, and license number so that we can update our vehicle database. This is a benefit to you for several reasons: from time to time, we may need to ask you to move your vehicle for parking lot repair or snow removal and we'd rather get a hold of you than have it towed. Also, residents sometimes call in if they notice that a vehicle's lights have been left on. Our staff can easily look up who the car belongs to and give them a quick call to avoid a dead battery in the morning!

## “Getting you from point A to point B”

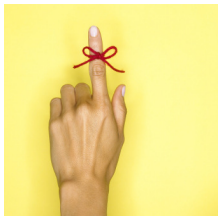
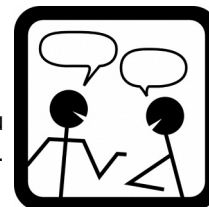


Whether you are without a vehicle or are just looking to save yourself some gas money, public transportation is a wonderful way to get you where you need to go! The Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) is the largest public transit agency in Iowa, serving 19 cities in and around Polk county and making stops at shopping malls, major business districts, residential areas, and schools. Luckily for Sun Prairie residents, we are located right along the Vista Express bus route giving you easy access to wherever you need to go - just look for the DART signs located along Vista Drive clearly marked by purple and orange bus stop signs.

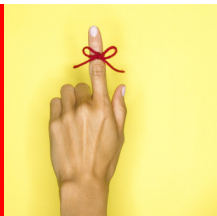
For full bus schedules and fares,  
visit [www.ridedart.com](http://www.ridedart.com) or call 515-283-8100.

## Tell A Friend!

Do you know someone who is looking for a place to live? If you tell a friend, relative or co-worker how much you enjoy living here, and they decide to rent an apartment at Sun Prairie, you may deduct \$50 from your rent. Please note that your account will not be credited the \$50 until the month after the new resident moves in.



**REMINDER:**  
**Are you planning on moving? Your lease must be up and written notice is due no later than noon on the last day of the month prior to the month you are moving. Late notices are not accepted! Please call the office with questions!**



## Kids Corner



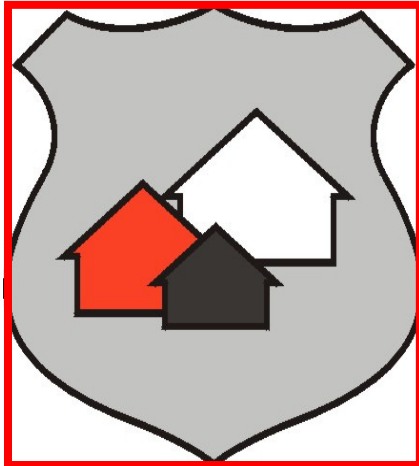
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H	I	M	Y	Y	A	H	A	P	W	U	J	I	A	D
O	R	T	M	B	J	L	B	P	R	K	K	W	S	S
Q	C	R	V	U	V	P	C	Y	P	P	D	M	F	D
I	I	O	M	C	A	W	S	F	M	L	A	V	A	Q
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N	X	E	O	N	L	X	P	U	Y	D	D	S	L	S
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C	Z	F	Z	D	D	F	M	Z	R	K	F	W	N	E
R	I	T	T	J	H	Q	Y	E	K	R	U	T	S	S
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LEAVES  
FALL  
ACORNS  
WIND  
TREES  
APPLES  
PUMPKINS  
MAPLESYRUP  
SCARECROW  
CORN  
RAKE  
SQUIRREL  
HAY  
TURKEY

# Annual Safety Social

***The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was designed to help tenants, owners, and the managers of rental property keep drugs and other illegal activity off their property.***

**Door Prizes**



**Pancake Supper  
including sausage, juice, and coffee**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011  
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**5901 Vista Drive - Pool  
(Behind Office)**

- **Learn about crime prevention.**
- **Enjoy a free pancake supper!**
- **Meet Officers from the West Des Moines Police Department; Roni from the Canine unit.**
- **Have your picture taken with Roni.**
- **Sign up for a chance to win a door prize.**

**Free Food**