MAIL OVER BREAK
Headed out of town? The United States Post Office can hold your mail safely at the local Post Office until you return. Sign up for USPS Hold Mail Service at https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail. You can also have a friend pick up your mail. If you leave for an extended amount of time, the Post Office may assume you moved out and will stop delivering your mail. Don’t let that happen!

SAFETY REMINDER: LIVE TREES PROHIBITED INDOORS
If you wish to decorate a tree in your apartment this holiday season, please purchase an artificial tree. It is against University Housing policy to have a live tree inside your apartment. Live trees can be a safety hazard and are not permitted in any of the apartment buildings. Celebrate safely!

WINTER WINDOW KITS
Winter Window Kits are now available at the Family & Graduate Housing office. These kits contain plastic sheeting that can be used to cover the inside of your windows and reduce the amount of cold air that can enter your apartment. Kits are distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

DECEMBER GRADUATES: EARLY LEASE TERMINATION FORMS ARE DUE!
Residents who are graduating or losing their University affiliation for any other reason must submit an Early Lease Termination form to the Family & Graduate office immediately. Forms are available online at the University Housing website (HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/TOOLS/FORMS-DOCUMENTS) or at the Family & Graduate Housing office. Residents are billed for rent a minimum of 45 days from the day their completed Early Lease Termination form is returned to the Family & Graduate Housing office.

NO SOLICITATION ALLOWED ON UNIVERSITY PROPERTY
If someone visits your apartment to sell a service of any kind, tell them that solicitation is not permitted on University property, including University-owned apartments. Every year we have problems with energy companies that come to resident’s doors about switching energy providers. These ask to see a copy of a resident’s latest Ameren bill with promises of lower energy rates.

Follow these steps should anyone other than a University Housing staff member, Comcast service technician, friend, or family member knock on your door:

• Inform the person at your door (you don’t even need to open the door) that they are not allowed to go door-to-door as they are on University property where no solicitation of any kind is allowed.

• Do not give the person any personal information including your name, telephone number, or family information. Do not show them any of your personal documents, including your Ameren bill where they can see your account number.

• Contact the University of Illinois Police Department at (217) 332-1216 immediately to report the solicitation incident. It is very helpful if you can provide a description of the solicitors so they can be located by the police.

• Contact Family & Graduate Housing at (217) 333-5656 or email apartments@illinois.edu immediately to report the solicitation incident.

Pest Management will be performing inspections and monitoring for Orchard Downs apartments 2201, 2202, 2203, and 2205 in December. Treatment (e.g., exclusion, baiting) performed only as needed. To request treatment, please visit GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/MAINTENANCE.
DECEMBER PROGRAMS

SLEDDING SEASON ON THE ORCHARD DOWNS HILL
The Neighborhood 5 Community Aides have several sleds available for residents to borrow. Anyone who wants to borrow one for a couple of hours of sledding can e-mail floessharmon@gmail.com to make arrangements.

FREE NUTRITION AND COOKING CLASS WITH THE U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE
Thursdays from 3–4:30 p.m. (NO CLASS ON DECEMBER 27)
Family Resource Center (1834-A Orchard Place)
If you are interested in learning how to plan healthy meals on a budget and new cooking techniques, then this is the program for you! There are opportunities to earn prizes that will aid you in cooking at home and bigger prizes if you graduate from the program. Contact kmohamed@illinois.edu with questions.

DONATION OPPORTUNITY
There will be a box at the Family & Graduate Housing office at Orchard Downs from November 26 to December 10 to collect donations for Crisis Nursery and Courage Connection. The wish lists for their needs are: crissnursery.net/needs-wish-list and courageconnection.org/wish-list.

AROUND THE WORLD WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY AND CELEBRATION OF GIVING
Saturday, December 1 from 6–8 p.m.
The Family Housing Council invites you to join us in learning about holiday traditions from around the world and giving back to the community! We will serve holiday food from around the world, have crafts, learn how to make sticky rice balls, and have presentations from two local organizations, Crisis Nursery and Courage Connection. We will also collect donations for these groups. Email floessharmon@gmail.com if you have any questions.

COLD, SNOWY, AND HAPPY!
Sunday, December 2 at 11 a.m.
Winter is a time to have fun. You get snowfall, cold weather, and you can put all your favorite coats on. But the cold weather can also be sad, dark, and gloomy. Join our friends from the Counseling Center to talk about how to spend the winter happily. Finish off with some indoor exercises and great, warm pizza. Who says you can’t be happy in winter?

WINTER STORY HOUR
Monday, December 3 at 6 p.m.
Children of all ages are welcome to come to the Community Center to listen to a volunteer from Champaign Public Library read stories about animals in the winter time. There will be crafts and snacks, children must be supervised. Contact Edith at ejauci2@illinois.edu with questions.

VOLUNTEER WITH FGH!
Interested in volunteering at events put on by Family & Graduate Housing? This is a great way to meet new people, get involved in the community, boost your resume, and have lots of fun! If interested, let us know at: FORMS.ILLINOIS.EDU/SEC/7689864

BIRTHDAY BINGO
Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Celebrate all December birthdays with cake, prizes, and bingo. Everyone is welcome to come, but children must be supervised.

UNCORKED WINE EVENT AT KRANNERT
Thursday, December 6 at 4:45 p.m.
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (500 S. Goodwin, Urbana)
This is a free event at Krannert Center where you will be able to meet new people and taste wine. We will meet at 4:45 p.m. at Krannert Center outdoor amphitheater (the large steps facing Goodwin). For more information on the event, visit: krannertcenter.com/calendar. The bus stop is “Krannert Center” - for bus routes visit www.cumtd.com/.

PARENTS’ DAY OUT
Sunday, December 9 from 1–3 p.m.
Are you looking for a stress-free day without the kids? Bring your kiddos for Parents’ Day Out! Qualified volunteers will host kid-friendly activities and a story time; this is the perfect time for parents to get out and do some holiday shopping! In order to participate, children MUST BE 3 TO 11 YEARS OLD and be registered for this event; children not registered will not be allowed to attend. Use this link to sign your kids up by December 6: FORMS.ILLINOIS.EDU/SEC/5042828

YOGA & MEDITATION WORKSHOP WITH SKY @ UIUC
Wednesday, December 12 at 6 p.m.
Join us for a time of relaxation and stress reduction through yoga and meditation — just in time before finals and the holidays. All skill levels are welcome from beginners to experienced. This is an excellent way to reduce stress and improve focus. Yoga mats will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own if you would like. This workshop is for adults only.

DIAL-A-CAROL
Call (217) 332-1882 from Thursday, December 13 through Wednesday, December 19
Dial-a-Carol is the longest running tradition in University Housing. For one week only, anyone from anywhere can call 24/7 and request any holiday tune. The student volunteers who answer the phone will sing the requested song. It’s completely FREE and you can call as many times as you like! Find out more at HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/DIALACAROL and share with family and friends.

SANTA SKATE
Saturday, December 15 from 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Ice Arena (406 E Armory Ave, Champaign, IL)
Ice skating is so much fun. We will have hot cocoa and candy canes, and Santa will be there!!
WINTER BREAK SCHOOL CLOSINGS
The Orchard Downs Preschool and after school programs Jr. Club and Kids’ Club will be closed for the winter break. The last day for the semester will be Friday, December 21. The Preschool will reopen January 7. Call (217) 333-3497 with questions.

PARENT-CHILD PLAYGROUP AT THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (1834-A ORCHARD PLACE)
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10–11:30 a.m. (NO GROUP ON DEC. 13, 25, or 27)
Friday, December 14 from 10–11:30 a.m.
Looking for a great way to meet other families and help your children have play time with other kids? Every Tuesday and Thursday we will come together to sing, read, grow, and play while spending time with one another. This is a group for children ages five and under and a parent/guardian must stay with their child. Contact Jessie Heckenmueller at jlmyers2@illinois.edu with questions.

December 4: Meet at Clark Lindsey Village for a special playgroup with the residents

December 6 and December 18: Mother Goose on the Loose program from the Champaign Public Library – every child gets a book

December 20: GREAT Start from Champaign-Urbana Public Health playgroup takeover

WELCOME TO THE WORLD
Babies are a sign of hope and bring much joy to our lives. We want to welcome your newborn to our community with a small gift to say, “Welcome to the World!” If you have recently welcomed a new baby into your family, contact Jessie Heckenmueller at jlmyers2@illinois.edu or call the Family & Graduate Housing office at (217) 333-5656.

ORCHARD DOWNS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2018-2019
Orchard Downs Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2018–2019 school year. The Preschool is for children age 3 to 5. Half-day and full-day classes are available. For information and registering or scheduling a tour, contact Debbie Collins at dcollns@illinois.edu or Sara Jenkins at jenkins@illinois.edu.

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!
Kids’ Club after-school care program has a few openings for the winter. Kids’ Club is a free program for residents of University Apartments. The program is for children ages 5 (in kindergarten) to 12. Kids’ Club meets Monday through Friday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Orchard Downs Community Center. Children participate in arts and crafts, games, outdoor play, and have a snack provided daily. For questions or additional information, contact Sara Jenkins at jenkins@illinois.edu.

KIDS’ CORNER
The snow has finally come, and the children at Orchard Downs Preschool are so excited. This month we will be learning about Tool and Machines, Zoo, and Winter! We will have a few class visits from people in our community who work with different tools and machines. Zoo animals will come to life during our Zoo Unit as we learn about the different animals from all over the world. We will end our first semester with a red carpet movie party.

FAMILY HOUSING COUNCIL
The Orchard Downs Family Housing Council (FHC) is an organization created to safeguard the interest of the residents of Orchard Downs. For FHC resources such as meeting minutes, constitution, job descriptions, and more, visit HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/FHC.

All FHC activities are in the Orchard Downs Community Center, 510 George Huff Court unless noted. All residents are welcome!

RESIDENT SOCIAL:
Saturday, December 1 at 6 p.m.

RESIDENT MEETING:
Friday, December 7 at 5:45 p.m.

OFFICERS
President-Muhammad Sohail Khan
mskhan3@illinois.edu

Vice President-Ahmed Elolimy
elolimy2@illinois.edu

Treasurer-Shaojun Li
shaojun@illinois.edu

Executive Secretary-Ademola Akinrinola
ademola2@illinois.edu

Recording Secretary-Noah Samuel
nosamue2@illinois.edu

CLEANING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE
There is a vacuum now available to borrow from the FGH Office. Thanks to the Family Housing Council!

RESIDENT HANDBOOK
The Family & Graduate Housing Handbook for apartment residents is located online at HOUSING.ILLINOIS.EDU/RESOURCES/ POLICIES/HANDBOOK. The handbook contains important information regarding apartment services, programs, resources, and policies.
WINTER BREAK CLOSING
The MCHC will be closed for winter break from Friday, December 14 until Wednesday, January 9. HeRMES Free clinic and office hours will not be held during these dates. Regular hours will resume starting Thursday, January 10.

WINTER IS HERE
Winter came a bit early this year. It is cold, and we have seen snowfall already. Snowfall is fun – if you are well prepared. Wear warm clothes, and get some good socks and gloves. Fun fact: Mittens work better than gloves at keeping your hands warm. When it gets really cold, LAYER UP. Wearing clothes in layers keeps you warmer than one heavy jacket. But jackets are important too: buy a good jacket that can keep wind, water, and snow away. And most importantly, keep yourself dry.

DRIVING IN WINTER
It’s here. Winter, snow, and lots of fun! If you’re traveling in the snow be careful. Make sure to stock up on water in your car. Get your car’s heating system checked. If your tires need replacing, now is the time to do that. Check and recheck to make sure you have towing cables and a set of jumper cables – just in case. And once you’re prepared, be sure to drive very carefully.

SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS
The University of Illinois is a smoke-free campus. Smoking both indoors and outdoors is prohibited (not allowed) on all University property including University apartments. Visit GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/SMOKEFREE for more info about the policy and smoke-free resources.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT!
Fall is when the flu really strikes. Get your flu shot from a nearby health provider - most insurance plans cover flu shots, and several providers even have drive-thru services! McKinley Health Center also offers free flu shots for students - visit MCKINLEY.ILLINOIS.EDU/FLUCLINIC to see the full schedule. For more information, walk into our free clinic every Thursday.

SQUASH IT!
December is the season of squash and we have huge variety to choose from. Pick one, and then mash it, boil it, fry it, grill it, make soup, or make some good old tasty squash curry. So much to do with one vegetable!

SAFETY CORNER: WINTER SAFETY
• Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots.
• Work slowly when doing outside chores.
• When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.
• Be prepared to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk of cold weather hazards.

Source:
www.cdc.gov/features/winterweather/index.html