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Mt. Lake Apartments are now 'smoke-free'

*Assisted in move by
'Start Noticing'
anti-tobacco coalition*

As of this past Saturday, October 1, the Mt. Lake Apartments on the west edge of the city have implemented a smoke-free policy for all units for the health of its residents.

Betty Lou Ratzloff, manager for the multi-unit housing, says the company chose to put the smoke-free policy into effect as a way to prevent secondhand smoke exposure in the building. "The health and well-being of residents is our top priority. We want Mt. Lake Apartments to be a home all residents will enjoy. A smoke-free building is safer and contributes to a better living environment," says Ratzloff.

"They are doing a great

thing for their residents by offering a completely smoke-free living environment because the only way to fully protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke-free environments," said Dannielle Peters, Health Educator for *Start Noticing* — a coalition working to eliminate the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure, especially among vulnerable youth, through community engagement, education and policy implementation in Cottonwood, Jackson and Redwood Counties.

"Residents of multi-unit housing deserve to have a choice to live in completely smoke-free buildings because even non-smoking residents can be exposed to secondhand smoke through spaces between walls, floors and ceilings, gaps around pipes, electrical outlets and other

structural devices. Air — and secondhand smoke — can travel through these openings and into other units in the building," said Peters.

Starting this year, *Start Noticing* has switched gears and is working with local retail stores and in local schools to focus on eliminating the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure in day care, foster care and multi-unit housing.

Start Noticing assists building owners and managers with creating and promoting a smoke-free policy for their property. The program also assists tenants in finding solutions to secondhand smoke problems. Tenants can learn how to talk to their landlord about creating a smoke-free policy. Visit www.startnoticing.org for more information.

Public School Board approves transportation contract with MLC

Master Contract with MLEA given nod

By KRIS LANGLAND
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The Mt. Lake Public School Board unanimously approved the Transportation Contract between the school, and Mt. Lake Christian (MLC), at their Monday, September 19 meeting.

MLEA contract approved

Board members also unanimously approved the 2011-2013 Master Contract with the Mountain Lake Education Association (MLEA).

In other business

◆ Approved the proposed Levy Limitation and Certification 2011 Payable 2012 for the 2012-2013 school year at the maximum level.

◆ Approved the leave of absence request from Crystal Fast from January 30, 2012

SCHOOL BOARD

through May 1, 2012.

◆ Approved the resignation of Dusty Pfeiffer as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach.

◆ Approved the following open enrollments:

* Son of Wilford Boyd (grade 12) to Virtual Academy of Houston, beginning September 8, 2011.

* Daughter of Charlene Wolle (grade 11) to Virtual Academy of Houston, beginning September 6, 2011.

* Daughter of Karla Ertz (grade 11) to Jackson County Central Public Schools, beginning August 30, 2011.

* Child of Khounthong Southivong (grade 3) to Mt. Lake Public School, beginning August 22, 2011.

* Children of Telesforo Tema-Coronado (grades 3,5,8) to Mt. Lake Public School, beginning September 6, 2011.

* Children of Rosalinda Lozoya (grades K, 3, 4) to Mt. Lake Public School, beginning September 13, 2011.

'Family Fair' slated for October 12

A "Family Fair" will be held Wednesday, October 12, from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., at the Mt. Lake Fire Station.

The event is for families with children up to 10 years of age. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

A free light supper will be served at 5 p.m., with a program at 5:45 p.m.

Families can visit the fire station and get an up-close look at fire-fighting equipment, as well as county and community agencies for information, activities, crafts and door prizes.

The Mt. Lake Fire Department, Mt. Lake ECCE (Early Childhood Family Education) and Mt. Lake ECI (Early Childhood Initiative) are joining together to sponsor the event.

It is funded through the local ECI in partnership with the McKnight Foundation.