



Monthly Newsletter

for December 2019

**CUMBERLAND HOUSING
GROUP**



*Merry Christmas from the
Cumberland Housing Group Board,
Administration, Property
Management, Maintenance & Security*



*The Cumberland Housing Group Offices
Will be Closed December 19th after 12:00
PM and December 25th for the
Christmas Holiday.*

Exterminator Schedule

December 12 th	Jane Frazier Village, Buildings 7 – 17
December 13 th	Jane Frazier Village, Buildings 1 – 6 & Banneker Gardens
December 19 th	Fort Cumberland Homes

Fort Cumberland Homes Tenants

Now that the fences are being removed from your yard, the yard areas in front and in the back of your units are now considered common space and not your own personal space.

This area will now be maintained by our Maintenance Department during the mowing season. Therefore, you no longer will need a lawn mower or weed eater.

Any leaves that are piled up around your apartment or storage shed, needs to be removed.

Any lawn furniture, grills, toys, etc., will need to be removed from the yard areas and stored either on the concrete patios, in the storage shed if you have one or at the rear of your unit or stacked close to the rear of the building. Staff will not be responsible for damage to any personal belongings in the yards or outside of the unit.

Late Fees

To avoid getting charged a late fee, you **MUST pay your rent in full**. The late fee is assessed on the full amount of rent you are charged. Not the amount you failed to pay.

If your rent is \$161 and you only pay \$160, then you are charged a late fee of \$8.05 because you were short that \$1 of rent.

Cigarette Butts

As a reminder, anyone smoking on the streets, you need to take your cigarette butts back to your apartment to dispose of. Placing the cigarette butts in the street is littering and if caught by the Code Compliance Officer for the City of Cumberland, you will be fined and charged for littering.

SNOW REMOVAL

A major concern during winter is the **clearing of ice and snow**. Residents of Jane Frazier Village, Fort Cumberland Homes & Banneker Gardens are responsible for clearing ice and snow from the front and rear sidewalks leading to their units within 24 hours of the end of precipitation as per City of Cumberland ordinance. Residents who fail to promptly clear their walks within that time will be charged when the Maintenance Department has to perform the work. Residents should exercise good judgment in placing snow that they remove from the walks. Never throw it out into the streets or other areas where your neighbors or the Maintenance Department will have to move it again. Do not place shoveled snow against the building or foundation. Please do not use salt or other chemicals on your walks as they damage the concrete, grass and plants.



Fort Cumberland Homes

Please join us for the next meeting of the Fort Cumberland Homes/River Bend Court Resident Council on *Thursday December 12th* at 1:30 in Apt 4 A. You don't want to miss this meeting. We have RAD updates for you! Your voice is important!

Also, if you have an outstanding gas bill with Columbia Gas, you need to contact them at 1-888-460-4332 to get the debt paid in full. Residents will have control of their heat and air conditioning, and will be responsible for paying the Gas and Electric bills. New Utility Allowances have been calculated based upon the new equipment. Any tenant having unpaid Columbia Gas accounts will need to get them paid or you will not be able to get the gas hooked up.

Jane Frazier Village

Family Literacy Night

Thursday 12/12/2019 from 4:30-5:30

Please note the new time

All are welcome for a meal, story time, craft and free books!

LADIES: CHECK THIS OUT

The all-volunteer **Allegany County Commission for Women** is having its first event of its local listening tour at **Jane Frazier!** The date is **12/16**, and the times are **10am-12pm, 1-3 pm, 4-6 pm and 7-9 pm**. Come any of those times. They want to hear your thoughts on concerns you have about living in Allegany County, who you think might help with those concerns, your idea for solutions, and how you might help. **Light refreshments will be served, and a free raffle of fun items will be held. Please come and share your thoughts. Bring your children if you need to; they are welcome!**

Banneker Gardens

Please join us for the next meeting of the Banneker Gardens Resident Council on *Tuesday December 3rd* at 1:30 in the Community Room. Your voice is important!

Family Literacy Night

Thursday 12/19/2019 from 4:30-5:30

Please note the new time

All are welcome for an after-school snack, story time, craft and free books!

Pictures with Santa

Kids Night at
Chick-fil- A Queen City Centre
Tuesday, December 10th from 5-7

Meet Santa and Mrs. Clause at The Book Center downtown

Every Saturday
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Letter to Santa

Write a letter to Santa Clause and tell him what you want for Christmas. Then drop off your letter to Santa at the Downtown Cumberland North Pole mailbox, located by the Town Centre Christmas tree.



Kids....
Call Santa and tell him
what you want for
Christmas.

(951) 262-3062

Allegany College Scholarship

If you are attending Allegany College, live in one of our communities AND qualify for financial aid, the Housing Authority scholarship may be just for you.

The scholarship picks up transportation, lunches and any expenses not covered by your Pell Grant.

Applications can be picked up at the Housing Authority Office. Deadline to apply for the Spring Semester is Friday, December 13, 2019.

A revised **Addendum D, Vacant Unit Charge Schedule** has been approved by the Board with an effective date of January 1, 2020 and is posted in each development and on the website for review.

TIPS TO HELP WITH AN ANXIETY ATTACK

- Look **around** you.
- Find **five** things you can **see**, **four** things you can **touch**, **three** things you can **hear**, **two** things you can **smell**, and **one** thing you can **taste**.

This is called grounding. It can help when you feel like you have lost all control of your surroundings.

PLEASE RE-POST, IT COULD REALLY HELP SOMEONE IN NEED

ummy
chat



Tips for Older Consumers to Stop Illegal Robocalls

Tip Sheet • July 2019

Jeremiah Battle
National Consumer Law Center

Robocalls, the persistent automated telephone calls to cell phones and landlines, are a favorite tool of telemarketers, debt collectors, and scammers. Older adults anticipating important calls from medical providers and others may be reluctant to answer the phone due to excessive or unwanted telephone calls. There is no completely effective method to stop unwanted robocalls, and real solutions require that the Federal Communications Commission use the laws effectively to regulate robocallers and require phone companies to authenticate all calls. Yet, the following tips can help consumers take some control:

1. **File complaints with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC):** Complaint data is the best tool federal agencies have to gauge the extent of the robocall epidemic. While filing a complaint may not prompt an immediate response, complaint data may prompt the FCC to take action. The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) is the only legal defense to robocalls and texts made without your consent, and the FCC is tasked with upholding and strengthening the TCPA's rules and regulations. [File a complaint here.](#)
2. **Add your number to the Do-Not-Call List:** While the Do-Not-Call list does not stop all robocalls, it is a valuable resource for removing your number from the call lists of companies that do not want to violate the law. Sources of robocalls that you do business with, such as banks or loan servicers, and sources of scam calls that ignore the law, will still get through. [Add your number here.](#)
3. **Revoke consent:** If you are receiving robocalls from a bank, lender, or other company you do business with, they likely have your consent (hidden in the fine print) to robocall you. While they like having the option to robocall, it isn't their right, and you can revoke your consent at any time. Tell the caller you "revoke consent." If the calls continue, contact customer service and tell them that you do not consent to receive calls and that you want your number to be added to their "do not call" list. This won't stop illegal scam calls but it will reduce the volume of robocalls you receive.
4. **Don't engage with the caller:** Most autodialed robocalls include a prompt to press a key or give a voice command. DON'T! Pressing a key, even if the recording says it's to remove your number from the list, tells the caller that your number is active and that you'll likely answer future calls. Even worse, the voice commands can be recorded and used against you by scammers to represent consent to purchase products or services.
5. **If possible, block or do not answer calls from unknown numbers on your mobile device:** Easier said than done, taking this action will help avoid robocalls. But important calls can come from unknown numbers and most landline phones don't have call-blocking features. Plus, listening to voicemails left by robocallers can be just as annoying, and costly (if you purchase phone service by the minute), so use this method as a last resort.
6. **Install call-blocking apps:** Various call-blocking apps, like YouMail and NoMoRobo, provide a free or low-cost service to mobile smart phone users that filter out identified scam robocalls and allow users to block specific numbers and report the calls. However, typically these apps don't help landline users.
7. **Let them know they are calling you at a nursing home or other medical facility:** The TCPA prohibits robocalls to a patient or guest room at a nursing home, hospital, or similar health facility.
8. **Find out what type of debt collector is calling:** Collectors can call about debts owed or guaranteed by the federal government without your consent. There are exceptions to this rule in some states. In those states, robocalls to cell phones from debt collectors collecting federal debt can only be made with consent, as is the rule for all other robocalls to cell phones.
9. **Sue the caller:** A lawsuit can be challenging, but the TCPA allows consumers to file a lawsuit to stop the robocalls. If successful, the consumer can receive money, either actual damages or \$500 per violation, whichever is greater. The damages can be tripled for knowing or willful violations.

This Tip Sheet accompanies NCLER's [webcast](#) and [Chapter Summary](#) on Protecting Older Adults Against Abusive Telemarketing Scams. You can also find more information at the National Consumer Law Center's [Robocalls and Telemarketing page](#).



Notice to Cumberland Housing Residents

Public Awareness Program Message Natural Gas Safety Instructions

Natural gas for your appliances is delivered through a jurisdictional natural gas pipeline system. The system is a safe, reliable and efficient way to deliver natural gas for your heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying needs. Although safe, tested and regulated, the system's most common hazard is from 3rd party damage from excavation. Before digging or excavations are done, contact Miss Utility at 1-800-257-7777 or 811 and call Cumberland Housing at 301-724-2055. Please read the following safety information:

Natural gas, like all forms of energy and like many other products found in the home, is capable of doing damage and MUST be used properly. Here are some facts everyone should know about gas and gas operated equipment:

Gas Accidents can be avoided when you follow these safety rules:

1. Teach children that they are not to turn on or light appliances
2. Keep combustibles (curtains, paper, and fluids) away from any open flames.
3. If lighting is required - always light match first and hold it at point of lighting before you turn on gas.
4. Keep burning surface clean of dirt, match ends, grease, etc.
5. Repair and installation is a job for experts. Never attempt to do it yourself.
6. Use equipment for the job it was intended to do - for example, an oven should NOT be used to heat a room.

Your senses can help you to discover a gas leak.....

- >SMELL: A distinctive odor has been added to natural gas so that less than 1% of gas in the air can be detected.
- >SIGHT: In some appliances you can see the flame so you know it is working.
- >TOUCH: With some appliances you can feel overheating or cold in the burner area which would indicate trouble.
- > HEARING: If the flame sounds unusually noisy, it may not be burning properly.

If you smell gas:

1. NO FLAMES OR SPARKS! – Immediately put out all smoking materials and pre-existing open flames. Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones or cell phones. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or fire.
2. LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY – Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.
3. REPORT THE LEAK – From a neighbor's home or other nearby building away from the gas leak, call your natural gas supplier right away. If you are unable to reach your natural gas supplier, call 911 or your local fire department.
4. DO NOT RETURN TO THE BUILDING OR AREA - Until your natural gas supplier determines that it is safe to do so.
5. GET YOUR SYSTEM CHECKED - Before you attempt to use any of your natural gas appliances, your natural gas supplier or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure that it is leak free.



Activities and Events Calendar

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Banneker Gardens Resident Council 1:30	4	5	6	7 Rent Due
8	9	10	11	12 FCH RC at 1:30 Exterminator JFV - Bldgs 7-17 JFV Book Night 4:30 to 5:30	13 Exterminator JFV 1-6 7 BG	14
15	16 Unpaid Rents to be Filed in Court **SEE NOTES SECTION**	17	18	19 Housing Offices Closing at Noon Exterminator - FCH BG Book Night 4:30 to 5:30	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				
<p>Notes: The all-volunteer Allegany County Commission for Women is having its first event of its local listening tour at Jane Frazier! The date is 12/16, and the times are 10am-12pm, 1-3 pm, 4-6 pm and 7-9 pm. Come any of those times. They want to hear your thoughts on concerns you have about living in Allegany County, who you think might help with those concerns, your idea for solutions, and how you might help. Light refreshments will be served, and a free raffle of fun items will be held. Please come and share your thoughts. Bring your children if you need to; they are welcome!</p> <p>© 2011-2017 Vertex42 LLC https://www.vertex42.com/calendars/</p>						