



CUMBERLAND HOUSING GROUP

Monthly Newsletter for February 2020



*All Housing Authority Offices
Will Be Closed February 17th
for Presidents' Day*

Rent and Utility Allowance Rate Schedule Effective April 1, 2020

The Housing Authority is required by HUD to annually review and adjust the flat rents and ceiling rents. Flat rents are designed to mirror the HUD Fair Market Rents (FMR's) for this area which are established annually by HUD based upon local rental amounts charged. HUD does provide us an exemption which allows us to set our rates at 80% of HUD's FMR's for this area

The Rent and Utility Allowance Rate Schedule was approved by the Board on January 15, 2020. The Rate Schedule is posted in each development and on the website for review.

You will be advised at your next Annual Re-Certification of what your new rent will be.

Exterminator Schedule

February 13 th	Jane Frazier Village, Buildings 7 – 17
February 14 th	Jane Frazier Village, Buildings 1 – 6 & Banneker Gardens
February 20 th	Fort Cumberland Homes

Attention Fort Cumberland Homes Residents

We are moving along with the RAD conversion program and expect a real estate closing date sometime in April. After the closing, we will begin construction and the relocation of tenants. We are planning to notify tenants in February with additional information.

We have hired Dakota Vaughn as our Special Projects and Relocation Coordinator. Ms. Vaughn will be the person contacting you for the one on one meeting about your move to another apartment and coordinating the relocation process. She will be meeting with you at various points leading up to your scheduled move date. There is no need to move until Ms. Vaughn has met with you and provided further information. All costs involved in moving will be covered.

If there is a current tenant at Fort Cumberland Homes with a disability who believes that they would benefit from a physically modified **ADA Compliant Handicapped Accessible Unit**, please contact Carole Moreland, Director of Property Management no later than February 20, 2020.

In order to qualify for a Handicapped Accessible Unit, the tenant must meet the **definition of a person with a disability which includes:** (1) individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) individual with a record of such impairment; or (3) individual who is regarded as having such an impairment. Our office will be required to contact your physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other mental health professional that can verify that you qualify under the above federal definition of disability and will benefit from the specialized features found in the unit.

Fort Cumberland Homes

Please note the new day and join us for the next meeting of the Fort Cumberland Homes/River Bend Court Resident Council on *Wednesday February 12th* at 1:30 in Apt 4 A. Your voice is important!

Banneker Gardens

The Banneker Gardens Resident Council has voted to meet every 3 months since there has been very little new business to discuss. Mark your calendars for the next meeting on March 3rd at 1:30.

Family Literacy Night

Thursday 2/20/2020 from 4:30-5:30

Please note the new time

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

LADIES: CHECK THIS OUT!

The all-volunteer Allegany County Commission for Women will be hosting their listening tour at **Banneker Gardens**. They will be in the community room (weather permitting) on **Tuesday February 18th from 1-3**.

These women want to hear your thoughts and concerns about living in Allegany County, who you think might help with those concerns, your ideas for solutions and how you, yourself might help.

Light refreshment 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!

Make-up date is 2/24 if needed due to inclement weather

Jane Frazier Village

Free Family Literacy Night

Thursday February 13th
from 4:30-5:30

Join us for a meal, story time, craft and free books.



Support Animal Owners and Pet Owners

As a reminder:

1. All animals must be registered with the Housing Authority before bringing the dog or cat on the property.
2. After approved, you will be given a permit so that you can bring the dog or cat on the property.
3. When you have your dog or cat outside your apartment, the animal must be on a leash at all times.
4. Animals shall not be left outside unattended, even if they are on a leash or chained outside.
5. All feces must be removed immediately and disposed of in properly sealed containers.
6. Make sure to clean the litter box daily to prevent an odor in your apartment.

Citizen Input Survey for City of Cumberland's 5-Year Consolidated Plan Update

The City of Cumberland is preparing its FY2020 – FY2024 Consolidated Plan, a document that guides the use of approximately \$1 million in federal funds for meeting community development needs in Cumberland. We are conducting a survey to find out what housing and economic development issues are most important to Cumberland residents. The survey is confidential and responses to this survey will be critical for shaping how the City prioritizes this federal funding over the next five years. We encourage you to forward this invitation to participate in the survey to anyone you think needs to have his or her voice heard. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

The link to the City of Cumberland survey is available here: [Citizen Input Survey for Cumberland's 5-Year Consolidated Plan Update](https://www.cumberlandhousing.org/citizen-input-survey)





Does tax time **STRESS** you out?
 Let the trained staff at HRDC prepare
 your taxes for **FREE** & KEEP YOUR
 ENTIRE REFUND FOR YOURSELF!

If you worked in 2019 and earned up to the amounts listed below for your household type, you are eligible for an **EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT**.

Children raised by worker:	Earned up to:	Married Filing Jointly:	Earned Income Credit up to:
3 or more children	\$50,162	\$55,952	\$6,557
2 children	\$46,703	\$52,493	\$5,828
1 child	\$41,094	\$46,884	\$3,526
No children in household*	\$15,570	\$21,370	\$529

*Workers who are not raising children must be between the ages of 25 and 64 to be eligible for the EITC.

*Investment income of less than \$3,600 for the year

HRDC's trained staff will ensure all eligible households receive this credit while preparing their tax returns for **FREE!!! CALL 301-783-1800 for more**

information.  

ATTENTION: According to a new tax law change, the IRS cannot issue refunds before mid-February for tax returns that claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit.

This applies to the entire refund, even the portion not associated with these credits.

The IRS will begin to release EITC/ACTC refunds starting mid-February. However, the IRS cautions taxpayers that these refunds likely won't arrive in bank accounts or on debit cards until around the first week in March.

Are You a Victim of Domestic Violence?

If you or someone you know is in a Domestic Violence situation and needs help, please call the Family Crisis Resource Center Hotline 301-759-9244 for assistance.

Need Help to Quit Smoking?

Are you or someone you know trying to quit smoking? Did you know there are 2 FREE ways to quit? Just call the Allegany County Health Department at 301-759-5050 or Maryland's Quit line at 1-800-784-8669.

Put your Tax Refund to Good Use

Join many other residents and pay your rent ahead by one month to avoid late charges and court costs and pay off any repayment agreements for maintenance charges or back rent that you owe to the Housing Authority. This will save you money in the future. **OR**, contact Jaime Thomas, the Resident Service Coordinator. Ms. Thomas can assist you with finding a job or budgeting your money.

FREE TAXPREPARATION!!

Online filing –
 Federal and State returns!

Yes, it's hard to wait on a federal refund but huge interest & big fees from paid prepare products can take a big bite out of YOUR hard earn money. Why not **KEEP** that money IN YOUR pocket instead?

Location:

HRDC Building
 125 Virginia Avenue


Tuesdays & Thursdays
 6 – 9 pm

Saturdays
 10am – 2pm



Activities and Events Calender

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Ground Hog Day	3	4 <i>Inspect JFV Bldg 1</i>	5 <i>Inspect JFV Bldg 13</i>	6	7 Rent Due	8
9	10	11 <i>Inspect JFV Bldg 2</i>	12 FCH RC at 1:30	13 Exterminator JFV - Bldgs 7-17 Book Night at JFV 4:30-5:30	14 Exterminator JFV 1-6 7 BG 	15
16	17 President's Day All Cumberland Housing Group Offices Are Closed	18 Unpaid Rents to be Filed in Court Womans Commission at BG 1 to 3	19	20 Exterminator - FCH Book Night at BG 4:30-5:30	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Notes Make up day in case of snow for the Womans Commission at Banneker Gardens is 2/24 at 1:30				

As a reminder, a copy of the Inspection will be left in your unit for your information. If any repairs need to be done, maintenance will be returning within 20 days to complete the repairs.

JFV - Jane Frazier Village FCH - Fort Cumberland Homes JFK - John F. Kennedy QCT - Queen City Towers Inspect - Preventive Maintenance Ins