



CUMBERLAND HOUSING GROUP

Tower Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for February 2020



Exterminator Schedule

- February 6th Queen City Towers – Morning
John F. Kennedy – Afternoon
- February 19th Grande View – Apts. 101 – 217

Preventive Maintenance Inspections

- February 4th Grande View – 103, 215, 216, 221, 322, 324, 332, 334, 335
- February 4th 541 A National Highway
- February 6th John F. Kennedy – 11th Floor

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.

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](#)

*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.

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.



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.

Tenants at John F. Kennedy and Queen City Tower...

Please remind your workers and visitors they are **NOT** allowed to smoke in their cars on our parking lot. We are a **No Smoking Property** and you are responsible for the guests that visit your apartment.

Please do not come to the 1st floor dressed in your PJ's, housecoat, or sleeping attire. Please make sure that when you are on the first floor to check your mail, sit in the community room, do your laundry, or attend a meeting, that you are dressed appropriately and are wearing undergarments (bra and underpants). Too many ladies are going without undergarments in the common areas. This is not appropriate. Also, please make sure you have slippers or shoes on your feet when you walk around the common areas. Thank you.

Guest Speaker for February Allegany County Transit

Queen City Tower – Thursday, February 13th
John F. Kennedy – Wednesday, February 19th
Time – 2:00 pm

Elizabeth Harper with Allegany County Transit will be giving a short presentation on

*"How to ride the bus." &
"How to become an Alltran's customer."*

Alltrans is a curb to curb service for seniors and the disabled community who cannot use the bus to get where they need to go.

Also included:

- Fares and available bus passes.
- How to read the transit schedule.
- How to transfer from one bus to another.
- Safety on our vehicles.

Ms. Harper will be available for questions after.

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.

Resident Council Meetings

Queen City Tower – February 13th at 3 pm
John F. Kennedy – February 19th at 3 pm

Resident Councils serve as the voice of the residents at each public housing development. As a resident, you are automatically a member of your Resident Council. Your Resident Council needs your participation. The most important person in the Resident Council is you!

Partnership for Affordable Foods (PAF) *(A lot of food for a small price!)*

Queen City Tower will be collecting for the PAF program on **Friday, February 7, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and on Monday, February 10, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the community room. There is a \$7 donation in order to receive the food and it must be paid on the dates above. Distribution will be on Thursday, **February 13, 2020**, at approximately 11:15 a.m. Residents who donate the \$7 must be in the community room by **11:45 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020**, to pick up the PAF order or the items will be forfeited.

TEFAP – Free Government Foods

The food will be available for pick up on Wednesday, February 5th after 12 pm. The sooner you pick the food up after 12 pm on the 5th the better chance you have of being able to get the food. This food is need based. You can pick up the TEFAP at the sites listed below. **Call first before going to make sure they still have food.**

Interfaith Food Pantry
(HRDC Head Start Building)
301 Cumberland Street – Phone 301-777-7882
Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

Salvation Army - Karen Wells
701 East First Street – Phone 301-777-7600
Monday through Thursday, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm,
and on Fridays, 9:00 am to noon

You need to take your photo identification card or driver's license with you. Please note you will be asked to sign a self-declaration verifying your income and stating you will only get the food once a month from one agency. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact, Pama Wilson, Resident Service Coordinator.



Queen City Tower Activities

Blood Pressure Check

Thursday, February 13, 2020 and Thursday, February 27, 2020 @ 2:30 pm.

Game Night – Every Monday at 6 pm

All residents are welcome to participate in game night that will be held every Monday at 6 pm in the community room. We look forward to an evening of fun, so please join us.

Bible Study provided by Cumberland Community Church

Saturday, February 1, 2020, Saturday, February 15, 2020, & Saturday, February 29, 2020 @ 6:00 pm.

Prayer Group

Every Tuesday, at 2 pm

(Prayer Group will not be held on Feb. 11th)

The prayer group, which is open to all residents, is an opportunity for people to share concerns, encourage each other, and to lift our needs to a higher power.

We invite all residents to attend this group every

Tuesday at 2 pm for fellowship and light refreshments. Bonnie Stott will facilitate the group.

We hope to see you there.

Faith Based Music

Tuesday, February 11th at 2 pm

Please come to the community room and enjoy one hour of Faith Based Music with Buster Jackson and Paul Powers. They will be playing their guitars and singing! All residents and resident workers are welcome to attend.

Attention My Groceries to Go Participants Delivery: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Time 2:00 pm

Linda Conner and Pamela Sulser will be giving out the food boxes in the community room to those that are already on the program. Participating residents will need to be in the community room on the time posted above unless you receive a notice telling you different. Those receiving the box will sign for the box and take their own food box to their own apartments. Those who do not show up to receive the box will forfeit receiving the box.

QCT Valentine Party, February 14th at 3 pm

We voted at the Resident Council Meeting to have the residents bring a food item to the party. So, whatever you sign up to bring is what we will be having at the party. Please sign up on the sheet on the first-floor bulletin board and let us know what you will be bringing to the party.

John F. Kennedy Activities

Blood Pressure Check

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 @ 2:30 pm and Wednesday, February 19, 2020 @ 2:30 pm.

Bible Study provided by Cumberland Community Church

Friday, February 14, 2020, Friday, January 17, 2020, and Friday, February 28, 2020 @ 6:30 pm.



Every 2nd and 4th Monday at 5 pm

All residents are welcome to join us for Bingo every 2nd and 4th Monday @ 5 pm in the community room. We are changing the time to 5 pm in hopes that you will join us. The Bingo Caller is John Evans and he is in charge of Bingo. Looking forward to an evening of fun every 2nd and 4th Monday! Bring your pennies.

Game Night – Every 3rd Saturday at 5 pm

February 15, 2020 in the Community Room

All residents are welcome to participate in game night. It will be held the 3rd Saturday of each month at 5 pm. The new game leaders are Christine Maffley and Samantha Steinmetz. There will be a variety of games available. Please come to the community room and join us. (Uno and Yahtzee too!)

Attention My Groceries to Go Participants Delivery: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Time: 9:15 am

Margaret Petruccy and James Robertson will be giving out the food boxes in the community room to those that are already on the program. Participating residents will need to be in the community room on the time posted above unless you receive a notice telling you different. Those receiving the box will sign for the box and take their own food box to their own apartments. Those who do not show up to receive the box will forfeit receiving the box.

John F Kennedy Snack Bar Hours

Yes, our snack bar is open again. You are welcome to come to the community room and purchase items to support your Resident Council!

2nd and 4th Monday – 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Every Tuesdays – 4 pm to 5 pm

Every Saturdays – 4 pm to 5 pm





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.

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

