



CUMBERLAND HOUSING GROUP

Tower Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for June 2020



Exterminator Schedule

June 4th Queen City Towers – Morning
John F. Kennedy – Afternoon

June 17th Grande View – Apts. 101-217

COVID19

There is a phone line that anyone is free to call to talk to a nurse and understand what they should do if they have concerns about the virus. That number is 301-759-5000. They can help evaluate if someone needs testing, where to go for that testing, give information about the virus, and give guidelines for what to do at home to stay safe/healthy. Feel free to refer folks to this phone line.



Reminder to fill out your Census!

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.

Fort Cumberland Homes – RAD Update

We are happy to report that both HUD and the Maryland Community Development Administration have both approved all facets of the renovation design, tenant relocation, construction and financing as part of the \$19.3 million RAD conversion from Public Housing to Section 8 Project Based Rental Assistance. This has been in the development stages for several years and will provide much needed improvements to the interior and exterior of the development. Our official conversion/closing date is scheduled for July 9, 2020 at which time the development will be officially renamed "River Bend Court". Relocation of certain tenants and construction will begin immediately. All residents of Fort Cumberland Homes have or will be receiving a separate notice with more details.

Non-Emergency Work Orders to be Scheduled

If you have called in a non-emergency work order that was placed on hold due to the COVID19, those work orders will be scheduled for some time in June. If you have not called in something that needs fixed, please call the Maintenance Department by June 5th, 301-724-2055.

When a maintenance man comes to your apartment, you will need to have a mask on. The maintenance man will also be wearing a mask as well as a protective covering.

Attention SSI Recipients

A representative from the Social Security Administration said the Stimulus money can't be counted as income the month that it is received in, but can be counted towards resources the next month. Resource limit for one person receiving SSI is \$2000 and for a couple is \$3000. If you go over your limit in resources, you can lose your SSI check.



Farmer's Market Open – Downtown Mall

The farmers market is now open on Thursdays, from 9:30 am to 1 pm on the Downtown Cumberland Mall. There are certain guidelines set into place that patrons must follow. They are as follows:

- Patrons must wear a face covering.
- All people are to stay at least 6 feet apart. If selecting food and paying requires people to be closer, face coverings will help provide protection.
- No booth is to have more than 10 people present, including staff and patrons.
- No one is to touch food that they are not purchasing.
- Shoppers should not attend if they are sick.

Please support your local farmers and enjoy some fresh healthy produce.



Try This

When "fear" comes knocking at your door, send **FAITH** to answer!



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.



Thoughts

We have made it this far. Things have not been easy. We pulled together as a community and followed the protocol set forth by the President, Governor, and the Housing Authority. We have had time to step back and reflect on what is really important in our lives. Some of us have totally different perspectives. We have had to handle challenges that we did not know we could handle. We have grown in our spirits and souls. We have worked together to protect ourselves and others. We have survived an unseen entity that has changed our world and has never been experienced by our ancestors. We are alive! Hopefully, we have learned to be thankful!

Happy Father's Day

A Dad is a person
who is loving and kind,
And often he knows
what you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends.
A dad can be one
of your very best friends!
He's proud of your triumphs,
but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient
and helpful and strong
In all that you do,
a dad's love plays a part.
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart.
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your dad!
Thank you, Dad...
for listening and caring,
for giving and sharing,
but, especially, for just
being you!
Happy Father's Day.
Author Not Known



Governor Hogan Announces Caregiver Services Corps To Help Maryland's Seniors

Maryland Continues To Take Aggressive Action to Support Older and Vulnerable Citizens

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan announced the launch of the Caregiver Services Corps, a program to support Maryland seniors who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Caregiver Services Corps is able to quickly deploy volunteers and other resources to the homes of seniors who need urgent assistance with everyday tasks when their typical caregiver becomes unable to help them due to COVID-19 exposure, illness, or other challenges.

“Since the beginning of the public health crisis, we have been focused on the impact of COVID-19 on older Marylanders, and we are pursuing every course of action to protect their health, safety, and quality of life,” said Governor Hogan. “This program is just another way that Maryland is leading the charge to support our most vulnerable residents, now more than ever.”

This announcement is yet another step in Governor Hogan’s ongoing [actions to protect older Marylanders](#). He has directed the Maryland Department of Health to order increasingly stringent health and safety protocols for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and established statewide strike teams that are deployed to facilities in need of support. He has also expanded the Maryland Department of Aging’s free [Senior Call Check program](#), which places a daily check-in call to enrolled seniors.

Seniors or their loved ones may request assistance from the Caregiver Services Corps if a friend or family member who typically provides care becomes temporarily unavailable. Volunteers can be deployed to seniors’ homes to provide assistance, including with maintaining daily hygiene routines, preparing meals, picking up groceries or medications, or connecting virtually with health care providers.

Those in need of assistance should call 2-1-1 to be connected with the Caregiver Services Corps help center. Trained staff at the call center will triage the caller’s needs and help match them with a volunteer. The call center is available 7 days a week and is capable of taking calls in many languages.

The Caregiver Services Corps is not intended to replace long-term arrangements for ongoing needs. Seniors and their loved ones should always work directly with their primary care physician or insurance company to arrange for such services.

“We are delighted to be able to provide the Caregiver Services Corps program to give older Marylanders reassurance they have support at this time,” said Department of Aging Secretary Rona Kramer. “I would also like to urge Marylanders to volunteer to be a part of this effort. You can help your neighbors in the community who need assistance.”

Interested volunteers are encouraged to sign up at the [Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps website](#). They do not need to work in the healthcare or medical field to volunteer, and there are opportunities to provide support with in-home care or in non-contact roles.

The State of Maryland provides a range of essential services to support older Marylanders, including the [Senior Call Check Program](#), which places a daily check-in call to enrolled seniors. Other programs include nutrition and meal services, elder abuse prevention, and advocacy for older adults. Learn more about these programs from the [Maryland Department of Aging](#).

Crime Solvers Tip Line

301-722-4300

www.allegany-mineralcountycrimesolvers.com



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.

