



**CUMBERLAND HOUSING
GROUP**

Tower Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for February 2021



Exterminator Schedule

February 4th Queen City Towers – Morning
John F. Kennedy – Afternoon
February 17th Grande View –
Apts. 101-217

*All Cumberland Housing Group
Offices Will Be Closed **February 15th**
for President's Day!*

News Concerning Coronavirus Vaccinations

Coronavirus vaccinations have begun rolling out to the Marylanders who need them the most. Both coronavirus vaccines approved for use — one made by Pfizer and the other by Moderna — require two doses, with the second dose due a couple of weeks after the first. Maryland is rolling out the vaccine in phases. Maryland is giving vaccines to people in Phase 1A, a group that includes health care workers, nursing home residents and first responders.

Phase 1B will include all Marylanders over 75, educators, special needs group homes, high-risk inmates, individuals with developmental disabilities, individuals needed for the continuity of government. Vaccines are expected to be available for these 860,000 individuals beginning now.

Phase 1C will include Marylanders 65 to 74 years of age and workers in additional critical sectors. Phase 2 will include essential utility workers and Marylanders 16 to 64 years old who are at an increased risk of severe illness.

However, officials have warned that at the current pace of production and distribution, it may be several months before the vaccines are available to the general public.

Paying your rent online is EASY!

Go to cumberlandhousing.org and click on the "Click here to make an online payment" tab. No need to leave home, go to the bank or get a ride to one of our offices. And no need for the hassle of buying money orders, envelopes or stamps.

Rent and Utility Allowance Rate Schedule Effective April 1, 2021

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 20, 2021. 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.



COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments for Allegany County Residents Age 75 and Over

COVID-19 vaccination appointments are now available for Allegany County residents ages 75 and over. Vaccinations are available by appointment only and will be given at the Barton Business Park Shell Building, 17300 Barton Park Drive, Rawlings, Md. The vaccine that will be is a series of two injections separated by 4 weeks. When you receive your first dose at your initial appointment, you will be asked to schedule an appointment for your second dose.

You can register by calling the Allegany County Health Department at 240-650-3999, option 1 or you can register online @ <https://health.maryland.gov/allegany/Pages/COVIDVaccination.aspx> You will need to take with you to the clinic your ID with proof of you age and residency.



All Residents – GV, JFK & QCT

The mask mandate is **STILL IN EFFECT**. This means you must wear a mask when in any common areas; such as: laundry room, elevators, hallways, trash rooms, balconies, stairwells or visiting the mailboxes. Masks must **cover your mouth and nose**. Anyone (this includes your guests) not wearing a mask will receive a lease violation. Also, remember to stay six feet apart from others in all common areas. This means residents are not to congregate by the elevators or mailboxes. Community rooms and TV rooms will remain closed. The main offices at QCT and JFK are not to be entered by any residents or outsiders. Please call the office for any business concerns you may have. Queen City Tower can be reached by calling 301-722-7977 and John F Kennedy can be reached by calling 301-724-1544 and Grande View at 301-759-2880.

Visiting the Office

Please call before visiting any of our offices. You must have an appointment! Most matters can be handled via phone, mail or email. Paperwork can be dropped in the drop boxes at the developments. This is for the protection of everyone. (If paying at the offices, rent must still be put in the drop boxes.)

My Groceries to Go

Those who participate in the "My Groceries to Go" program need to be home on Thursday, February 4, 2021. John F. Kennedy's food box will arrive to your door around 9 AM and Queen City Tower's food box will arrive to your door around 2 pm. You must sign for your food box. If you have any questions you can call 301-783-1752.

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. COVID19 is still active in our community, so continue to take all precautions.

FREE COVID TESTING

The Allegany County Health Department offers ongoing COVID-19 testing at the **Allegany County Fairgrounds**. The hours for this free drive-thru testing are 2 to 7 p.m. on Mondays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Other COVID Testing

Advanced Medical Care on 1050 E. Industrial Blvd. is offering COVID testing on the days not covered above – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 6 pm. They do bill your insurance. For addition information you can call 240-964-9300. It is best to give them a call before you go.

FOOD GIVEAWAY!

Third Wednesday of every month in the parking lot.
(Next one will be on February 17, 2021).
Time: 2 pm to 4 pm.

St. John's Lutheran Church.
Located in the church parking lot.

400 Arch Street, Cumberland
Questions: call 301-724-7250

stjohnscumberland@gmail.com
www.stjohnscumberland.com

All Maryland Residents are Eligible!

Crime Solvers Tip Line

301-722-4300

www.allegany-mineralcountycrimesolvers.com



HELP!



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

If you worked in 2020 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	\$50,594	\$56,844	\$6,660
2 children	\$47,440	\$53,330	\$5,920
1 child	\$41,756	\$47,646	\$3,584
No children in household*	\$15,820	\$21,710	\$538

*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 \$3,650 for the year

HRDC's trained staff will ensure all eligible households receive this credit
while preparing their tax returns for **FREE!!!**

To ensure the safety of our staff and clients during the 2021 tax season, **ALL** of our tax sites will operate on an **APPOINTMENT ONLY** basis and masks will be required; drop-off appointments will be available at HRDC's main office on 125 Virginia Ave, Cumberland.
We will not be able to serve those without an appointment.

CALL 301-783-1800 for more information



Cumberland- 125 Virginia Avenue

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 6-9 pm

Saturdays: 10am-2pm

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.

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.

