



## CUMBERLAND HOUSING GROUP

# Monthly Newsletter

## For December 2021



### Exterminator Schedule

December 9<sup>th</sup> Jane Frazier Village, Buildings 7 – 17

December 10<sup>th</sup> Jane Frazier Village, Buildings 1 – 6  
& Banneker Gardens

December 16<sup>th</sup> River Bend Court &  
1034 Frederick Street

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



### 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 10, 2021.

The Cumberland Housing Group Offices  
Will be Closed December 22<sup>nd</sup> after  
12:00 PM and December 24<sup>th</sup> for the  
Christmas Holiday. We will also be closed  
on December 31 for the New Year Holiday.

### SNOW REMOVAL

A major concern during winter is the **clearing of ice and snow**. Residents of Jane Frazier Village, River Bend Court & 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.

### Medicare's Open Enrollment Ends December 7<sup>th</sup>

You can enroll in Medicare health and drug plans from October 15 – December 7. Make sure to check your mail because you may get important notices from Medicare or Social Security. If you are in a Medicare plan, you'll get an Annual Notice of Changes telling you of any changes in coverage, costs, or service area. **(Be careful about giving any information out over the phone because this is the time when insurance companies and others start calling. You need to protect yourself from Medicare fraud)**. Think about your Medicare coverage needs for 2022. Review your current Medicare coverage and note any upcoming changes to benefits or costs. If your current coverage meets your needs, you do not need to take any action to keep what you currently have. Make sure you review your 2022 "Medicare and You" handbook because it has information about Medicare coverage and Medicare plans in your area. Preview 2022 health and prescription drug plans by logging into [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). You can do a personalized search and create a Medicare account. You can compare your current Medicare plan to others, and see prices based on any help you get with drug costs. You can also call Medicare for assistance by calling 1 (800) 633-4227. You can get personalized help in your community by calling your State Health Insurance Assistance Program at HRDC, phone 301-783-1710.



## COLA Increase for 2022 for Social Security and SSI

### Award Letter Must Be Given to Managers

Please report your increase to your property managers as soon as you get your statement of increase.

The federal government announced on October 13, 2021, that the Social Security Cost of Live Adjustment (COLA) for 2022 will be 5.9%. Social Security recipients will receive a notice in the mail in early December showing their new benefit amount. Recipients will see an increase in their January 2022 payment. Those receiving SSI will see the increase on December 31, 2021.

### It is your responsibility as part of the lease YOU signed to comply with the following:

To act in a cooperative manner **with neighbors and HACC Staff**. To refrain from and cause members of Tenant's household occupants, guests, Tenant's "family members" and any other persons "related to" or "affiliated with" the Tenant to refrain from acting or speaking in an abusive or threatening manner toward neighbors and HACC staff. Abusive or violent behavior towards HACC staff includes verbal as well as physical abuse or violence. Use of expletives that are generally considered insulting, racial epithets, or other language, written or oral, that is customarily used to insult or intimidate, may be cause for termination or denial. Threatening refers to oral or written threats or physical gestures that communicated intent to abuse or commit violence. Actual abusive or violent behavior will always be cause for termination of your lease.

### Crime Solvers Tip Line

301-722-4300

[www.allegany-mineralcountycrimeslovers.com](http://www.allegany-mineralcountycrimeslovers.com)

To report **suspected Drug Activity**, leave an anonymous tip at 301-759-4660.

### FOOD GIVEAWAY!

Third Wednesday of every month in the parking lot.  
(Next one will be on December 15, 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  
*All Maryland Residents are Eligible*

*Kids...Call Santa and tell him what you want for Christmas!*  
*(951) 262-3062*



**Join the Boys and Girls Club  
FREE  
After School Club!  
Arts, Crafts, Cooking and More!**

**At JFV:  
Monday through Friday  
From 3:30 to 5:30**

### COVID-19 Information

To get the latest on the COVID-19 Vaccine, call the COVID-19 call center at 240-650-3999. There is free drive through COVID-19 testing Mondays, from 2 pm to 7 pm, and Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 2 pm at the Allegany County Fairgrounds, 11400 Moss Avenue, Cumberland, Maryland.

### 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.

### 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.



December 4<sup>th</sup> is National Cookie Day!



### 3-Ingredient Peanut Butter Cookies

1 cup peanut butter                      1 egg  
1 cup white sugar

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Mix peanut butter, sugar, and egg together in a bowl using an electric mixer until smooth and creamy. Roll mixture into small balls and arrange on a baking sheet; flatten each with a fork, making a criss-cross pattern.
3. Bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. Cool cookies on the baking sheet for 2 minutes before moving to a plate.

### Holiday Safety Tips

- Remember, you are only allowed to use Artificial Trees.
- No live trees.
- Keep tree away from heating vents.
- Use only lights that have been tested for safety.
- Don't use more than 3 sets of lights per extension cord.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpet.
- No lights or decorations are allowed on the outside of homes or units unless they are solar or battery powered.



Tickets are available.  
\$12.00 a person

### **A Charlie Brown Christmas featuring The Eric Byrd Trio**

Friday, December 10, 2021, at 6:30PM

2nd floor of 9 N. Centre Street  
in Cumberland.

The heartwarming holiday classic, "**A Charlie Brown Christmas**," will be paired with a live performance of the Vince Guaraldi jazz score by the incredible Eric Byrd Trio. Included in the ticket price is VIP admission to the Allegany Arts Council's 2021 Artist Holiday Market, a gift-giving extravaganza filled with handmade artistry perfect for your loved ones. The Artist Market will be available only to ticketholders from 5:00PM-6:00PM on Friday, December 10, 2021.



#### **RISK CONTROL POLICY**

The Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland and the Cumberland Housing Alliance, Inc. (collectively referred to as Cumberland Housing) considers the safety of its residents, its staffers, and other members of the public who come in contact with its facilities or services to be of utmost importance. Cumberland Housing will not tolerate unsafe acts or conditions created by its staffers or tenants. It is a positive responsibility of Cumberland Housing staffers and tenants to bring any and all unsafe conditions promptly to the attention of Cumberland Housing management. All concerned are expected to adhere to the safety rules and procedures relevant to their employment or residency responsibilities, including such matters as safe driving, proper use of equipment and appliances, and adequate supervision of and concern for small children. Fulfillment of safety responsibilities should be considered in the performance evaluation of each Cumberland Housing staffer. Cumberland Housing commits to make every effort to comply with all local, state and federal safety and health regulations and to enforce the policies and procedures set forth in its own Risk Control Guide and related health and safety plans.



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

