



Tower Gazette

Monthly Newsletter for November 2022

**CUMBERLAND HOUSING
GROUP**



Exterminator Schedule

November 3rd Queen City Towers – Morning
November 3rd John F. Kennedy – Afternoon
November 16th Grande View 218 -335

Preventive Maintenance Inspections

November 3rd John F. Kennedy – 9th Floor
November 8th Grande View 102, 325, 327, 329, 330
and 333

*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. Entry is **MANDATORY** in order to do Inspections as well as repairs. Please continue to call the Maintenance Department (301) 724-2055 with any deficiencies even if your inspection is scheduled in the near future.*

COLA Increase for 2023

Social Security, SSI, Railroad, Veterans and Civil Service Pension Recipients

The federal government announced on October 13, 2022, that the Social Security Cost of Live Adjustment (COLA) for 2023 will be **8.7%**. You will receive a notice in the mail in early December showing your new benefit amount. Recipients will see an increase in their January 2023 payment. Those receiving SSI will see the increase on December 31, 2022. **Please submit your award letter showing your increase to your property manager as soon as you get your statement.**

Leave Clogs to Maintenance

For tenants in both high rises:
Do NOT use any Liquid Plummer, Drano, or ANY type of unclogging liquid as these chemicals do harm to our pipes!



The Cumberland Housing Group will be **CLOSED** on Friday, November 11th for Veterans Day. We would like to thank all of our Veterans for your service to our Country. We will also be **CLOSED** on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Reminder of the of Public Hearing

The Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland is required to annually hold a public hearing regarding any changes to the goals, objectives, and policies of the public housing agency and its Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan. Information related to any proposed changes as well as the Action Plan is available for review at the Central Office of the Cumberland Housing Group located at 635 E. First Street, Cumberland during the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, (except Holidays) or at www.cumberlandhousing.org. A public hearing will be held on November 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM, at the Jane Frazier Village Community Room connected to the Central Office. Public comments can be submitted to our office prior to the hearing or voiced at the hearing.



COVID – 19 Information

To get the latest on the COVID-19 Vaccine, call the COVID-19 call the Allegany County Health Department at 240-650-3999.

Queen City Tower Prayer Group

The QCT **Prayer Group** will be held every Tuesday from 2 pm to 3 pm in the community room. All residents are invited to attend. Jeff Steele is in charge of the group.

Game Night

Due to popular demand, **Game Night** at QCT will be held every Sunday from 6 pm to 8 pm in the community room. All residents are invited. Jeff Steele is in charge of Game Night.

Bible Study

Roy Bible will be conducting the Bible Studies.

JFK – Saturday, November 5th and 19th

QCT – Saturday, November 12th and 26th

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Community Room

All Residents Welcome!

Resident Council Meetings

Queen City Tower – Thursday, November 10th at 3 pm

John F. Kennedy – Wednesday, November 16th 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!**

You Can Change Your Medicare Coverage Once a Year. Open Enrollment is from October 15 to December 7

If you have Medicare coverage, **October 15th through December 7th** is the time to:

1. **Review** your Medicare plan for its coverage, cost, convenience, and customer service.
2. **Compare** your current plans with new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans for added benefits to you.
3. **Decide** if a change will improve your coverage. If not, keep your current coverage and do nothing.
4. **Call** the [State Health Insurance Assistance Program \(SHIP\)](#) for free, unbiased information and support at 301-783-1710. You can call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 also.

Get your Medicare Questions Answered

Do you have questions about your Medicare coverage? 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) can help. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. What should I have ready when I call 1-800-MEDICARE? Have your Medicare number from your red, white, and blue Medicare card available. The automated system will ask for your Medicare number at the beginning of the call.

My Groceries to Go

Those who participate in the “My Groceries to Go” program need to be home on Thursday, November 3, 2022. 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 301-783-1755.

FOOD GIVEAWAY!

Third Thursday of every month
in the parking lot.

(Next one will be on November 17, 2022).

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!

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

Crime Solvers Tip Line

301-722-4300

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

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

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

Hope Station Wellness & Recovery

**Fresh Produce
Friday, November 18th –
Tentatively!**

11 am – until supplies last.

Sponsored by

The Western Maryland Food Bank

632 N. Center Street

Cumberland Maryland

For more information call

240-362-3152

(Fresh Produce /Bring a bag!)



Heat Start Up

HACC has implemented a large amount of energy conservation measures in order to provide utilities at an affordable rate and in an efficient manner. All thermostats are set to operate in a 68 – 75 degree range and that is considered a properly operating heating system degree range. Heat is controlled by the outside temperature sensors and will only turn on when the temperature limit is reached, usually when it is in the low to mid-50's outside.

If the temperature in your rental unit is below 68 degrees or warmer than desired, notify the Maintenance Department at **301-724-2055** and your temperature control will be checked to see if it is operating correctly and adjusted as needed.

DO NOT, under any circumstance, attempt to force the temperature control higher than the stop is set. This action will break the temperature control and you will get no heat until a new temperature control is installed. If you cause this to happen, you will be charged for the new temperature control and labor for installation.

Tenants can also help conserve energy by following some of the procedures listed below:

1. Keep drapes and blinds open during the day on windows facing the sun so that any available sunshine will be absorbed indoors.
2. At night, keep drapes and blinds closed and they will act as an insulator to keep heat inside and keep chilly drafts off the occupants.
3. Do not open windows in cold weather.
4. Do not block air registers with furniture and/or curtains.
5. Kerosene heaters are **prohibited** by the HACC and the State Fire Marshal.
6. Electric heaters will be permitted which have a safety control for tipping, a cut off when a certain temperature is reached, a control for the amount of time it stays on and are currently UL certified.

Note: Any call received by HACC after normal working hours for the lack of heat in an apartment below 68 degrees, where it is determined by the maintenance staff person by using a temperature measuring device that the temperature is at or above the 68 degrees, the Tenant will be charged for the service call. The charge will be for the amount of time spent on the service call at the current maintenance overtime rate per hour including travel time.

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.

**[Check Out our Facebook page
Cumberland Housing Group](#)**

**[This page will share local events,
activities, resources, jobs and more.](#)**



*Daylight Savings Time Ends at
2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6th
Turn your clocks back an hour
before you go to bed.*



**Don't forget to Thank those
men and women who
previously served and are
currently serving
and protecting our Country!**



Protect Yourself from Electronic Transfer Benefits Fraud

The Maryland Department of Human Services wants to ensure that you are aware of recent telephone calls, email, and text message scams targeting families receiving public benefits and employees, and ways to protect yourself from fraud.

The SMS messages suggest that the EBT recipient's card is blocked, and that the recipient should call a fraudulent toll-free number to verify their account. An interactive message on the fraud line instructs callers to enter their EBT card number and other personal information.

Example Scam Message:

[number@dhs.maryland.gov](#)

"(Call 1-888-973-2884)" "(Call -1-888-502-0670)"

#EBT Blocked.

#MSG ID 639890"

Example of a Scam Call



Call claiming that your EBT card has been locked, and in order to unlock the EBT card, you must press 1, then enter the EBT card number and then, to confirm your identity, you must enter their PIN. We urge you to ignore those text messages and refrain from providing any personal information via unverified phone lines. Doing so may result in severe consequences including, but not limited to stolen identity, benefit theft, and other financial losses.

If you have already called an unverified number and entered Personal Identifiable Information (PII), please do the following:

- Immediately change your EBT or P-EBT card PIN by calling the number on the back of your EBT or P-EBT card or online at <http://www.connectebt.com/mdebtclient>.
- Report the incident to the police department as well as the Local Department of Social Services.
- Click this [link](#) to learn additional steps that you can take to protect your EBT or P-EBT cards.

The official Maryland EBT/P-EBT customer service phone line is 1-800-997-2222. This is the only number that should be used for inquiries related to your card. The customer service call center can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days to order a new card, balance inquiries, or PIN change. Your EBT information can also be accessed via a secure website at <https://www.connectebt.com/mdebtclient/>. TTY (Deaf/Hard of Hearing): 1-800-735-2258

This was an EBT Fraud alert that was put out on September 30, 2022!

[Thanksgiving Covered Dish Dinner at Queen City Tower](#)

Dinner will be on Sunday, November 20th at noon.

It was voted on in the Queen City Tower October Resident Council Meeting to have a covered dish dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving. The tenants are asked to sign up on the sheet on the first-floor bulletin board if you will be attending and what covered dish you will be bringing. The turkey is being provided by a tenant. Tenants are asked to bring your own drink. The President of the Resident Council will be taking the sheet down a week before the dinner. Tenants who sign up and bring a dish will eat first. Any food leftover will be shared with those who did not sign up. (Note: if there is not enough who sign up, the dinner will be canceled.)

The sign-up sheet will be taken down on Monday, November 14, 2022. See Joseph Miller, President of your Resident Council, if you have any questions.

