

Family Neighbors

The Hagerstown Housing Authority is committed to providing quality, affordable housing in a safe environment. Through partnership with our residents and other groups we will provide opportunities for those we serve to become Neighbors self-sufficient.



To associate on neighborly terms To be friendly Persons who live near others

December 2021

Employee of the Quarter

The Authority is happy to announce the Employee of the Quarter Award for November 2021 - January 2022 is awarded to, Special Operations Officer, Dan Woodruff.

Dan is our Special Operations Officer for the Security Department and has been recognized and nominated by Gerry Kendle, Director of Security. Dan is always taking the extra steps to ensure the Security Department operates smoothly and is an asset to our department and residents.

Recently while the Director was out of town, Dan responded to a fire of his own accord to be the conduit of information between the Authority, the fire department, and ATF investigators.



Dan has been employed with the Authority for 3-years and his diligence in his job duties reflects great pride in his job and his willingness to fulfill the commitment of his position. His dedication is evident, and the Authority relies on dedicated employees like Dan and appreciates everything he does for our residents and communities.

As Employee of the Quarter, he is awarded one paid day off work, lunch on the Authority, and a Star Award. Congratulations and thank you Dan for going the extra mile in making a difference in our team and community!



Happy Holidays from the Housing Staff and Board of Commissioners

Holiday Office Closings

Wednesday, December 22, 2021 - close at noon for a staff meeting

Thursday, December 23, 2021 - Closed

Friday, December 24, 2021 - Closed

Thursday, December 30, 2021 - Closed

Friday, December 31, 2021 - Closed



Scan to visit our website

The Importance Of Smoke Detectors

As many begin to decorate for the holiday, the Hagerstown Housing Authority would like to remind you of some of the rules-of-thumb for keeping your family safe:



- **NEVER** overload your outlets with extension cords and plugs. The electrical system, if overloaded, can be a potential for creating a fire.
- **NEVER** unplug or remove your smoke detectors. Not only is disabling your smoke detector a risk to your family, but it is a serious lease infraction that will result in the termination of your lease.

If you have any questions regarding your electric outlets or if you are having problems with your smoke detectors (activating for unknown reasons or beeping noises), please contact maintenance immediately. We at The Authority want your family to have a safe and happy holiday; so please follow our lease requirements, so that we all can have a great holiday.

Cellphones continue to work with the 911 system even after they have been disconnected. Not only is this important to know in case of an emergency, it's also good to know if you are planning to give your child a "playphone." Hang ups and children playing with non-serviced phones cause the emergency system undue calls.

What is the FSS Program?

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is a program designed to provide individual case management services to residents of public housing and Housing Choice Voucher recipients for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency. The participants identify specific goals in which they agree to pursue accomplishing with the assistance of a case manager. These goals are concentrated in areas of education, job training and placement, budgeting and finance, credit repair, the purchase of a vehicle and/or home and much more. Goals will vary based on each individual's needs.

Community Action Council Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The Hagerstown Housing Authority and Community Action Council (CAC) received notification from Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D) regarding prospective payments from ERAP. While the program is designed to assist those affected by COVID, causing a loss in income and/or hardship, H.U.D does not permit payments that will cause credit to accounts. If you have had a change in your income, your rent will be adjusted. Please contact the Housing Authority immediately. Unless you have suffered a hardship due to COVID, CAC is required to deny your application.

Delicious
**KRUMPE'S
DO-NUTS**

**Krumpe's Donut Drop -
December 31, 2021 5-7 pm**

The Maryland Theatre welcomes people to the Public Square to celebrate the coming of the New Year! Watch the giant donut descend, enjoy some Krumpe's Donuts, and dance in the streets!



Scholarships for high school seniors living in public or assisted housing at a PHADA member agency

Stephen J. Bollinger Memorial Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$7,000)

Steve Bollinger (April 11, 1948–June 18, 1984) was a taskmaster to himself, a human dynamo to those who knew him. He was a natural leader, a person who could rally people around him with wit, satire, and vocal exercises. Steve's knowledge of and dedication to housing those in need was never absent, especially after he was appointed Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at HUD. His experience at the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and the associations he had with colleagues, mayors, and others afforded him the opportunity to deal with the bureaucracy in a style that we strive to attain. To the members of PHADA, he was a friend. His belief in the housing profession motivated him to become a founding member of PHADA, for which he served as Vice President. He accomplished much in a short time and we are all thankful for his achievements. PHADA created this scholarship to memorialize Stephen J. Bollinger.

This scholarship will be formally presented at PHADA's Annual Convention & Exhibition (May 19–22, 2022, San Antonio, TX). The winner will receive a trip for him/herself and one parent/guardian to attend the convention.

Freedom & Civil Rights Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$5,000)

Additional Essay Required (see below)

In 2005, PHADA's Board of Trustees met in Montgomery, AL. Inspired by historical sites they chose to give personal donations for the inception of a PHADA scholarship to honor the work of Rosa Parks and the achievements of the civil rights movement.

To be considered for the Freedom & Civil Rights Scholarship, include an additional personal essay (350–500 words) demonstrating your efforts and achievements in furthering the values of the civil rights movement. Explain why the cause is still relevant in communities today and how they relate to your educational goals. Include any relevant volunteer experiences and community involvement activities relating to advancing the cause of civil rights.

Nan McKay Pathway to Achievement Scholarship (One scholarship available: \$5,000)

Nan McKay has offered significant financial support to PHADA's scholarship program and has elected to reward one deserving youth with a \$5,000 scholarship. PHADA appreciates their commitment to serving the needs of public housing residents and the community.

Applications are due to PHADA by January 28, 2022.

*An application can be obtained at
<https://www.phada.org/Conferences-Education/PHADA-Scholarship-Program>
Please contact Dianne Rudisill at 301-733-6911 ext. 125 with questions.*





FROM MAINTENANCE

BEDBUG CONCERNS

We've recently seen a rise in the number of bed bugs cases throughout our communities. During the preliminary inspection, we've found a common trend of bed bugs cases that are linked to tenants accepting used furniture and other items. This means that individuals are finding bed bugs on items, such as sofa's, chairs, etc. after it's been in their unit long enough for the bugs to spread to other places. Spending little money or no money on furniture seems like a great idea, but the reality is this will only cause a bigger burden because used furniture is commonly infested with bed bugs. Most times you can't even see where they are hiding inside the furniture until it's too late. Please be aware that any used furniture, even if it's from a second-hand store, does not always mean it is bed bug free. The best way to ensure your furniture is bed bug free is to buy new. We ask that you do not accept any old/used furniture unless you know for sure it has been inspected and cleared of bedbugs. Below are some good tips to go by.

Used furniture bed bug tips

- Don't be afraid to ask the owners of the furniture directly if they currently have or have ever had a bed bug infestation.
- Place any smaller used furniture items in a black plastic trash bag, and leave it in the sun for a few hours. The heat should kill any bed bugs.
- Do not take furniture from dumps or furniture left on the roadside. Furniture like this is generally thrown away for good reason, and bed bugs are often why.
- Avoid bringing used furniture into your home from high-risk bed bug areas or neighbors you know have had bedbugs in the past.
- Avoid used mattresses and box springs altogether. They just aren't worth the risk!
- Avoid purchasing fabric-covered or wooden furniture from yard sales, flea markets, etc., Bed bugs will hide deep inside these items and not come out until later when you are relaxing on the furniture.

And of course if at all possible just avoid used furniture altogether.

Heating Season

Before you call Maintenance for service on your heat this season, make sure the room temperature is below 66 degrees. The room temperature must drop to 66 or below for the heat to come on. If the temperature in your unit is 66 degrees or above and you call for service, you will be charged for the call. Overtime callouts are very expensive, and you can avoid these charges (\$97.08) by checking the temperature before you call. Do not force the thermostat beyond the limit on the dial. Broken thermostats are charged to the resident. Keep your windows locked. This provides a much better seal & reduces air leakage at windows.

Remember, using your oven or stove as a heat source is dangerous and a lease violation. This not only poses a serious health risk to you but will also result in damage to your appliance (melted knobs) for which you will be charged.

December Pest Control Schedule

12/01/21 Noland Village:

Ct 4 & 6 (remaining units)

Ct 8 1053-1064

12/08/21 Noland Village:

Ct 3 1020-1032

Ct 5 1036-1040

12/15/21 Noland Village:

Ct 5 1044, Ct 7 1052-1068

12/22/21 McCleary Hill:

Buildings 1-8

Granite Drive & Calcite Drive 17526-17576



A/C Units and Tape Residue

Now that all the air conditioning units have been removed from the windows, there is one more item that needs to be checked and corrected. When the A/C units are installed, it is common practice to use tape to seal up the opening around the A/C unit, unfortunately when the A/C unit is removed; there is tape and tape residue left on the windows and frames. The tape and the tape residue need to be removed when the A/C unit is removed. Please take some time to check the windows and frames and remove any tape or tape residue that may exist.

Community Key Holders

Noland Village:

Pam Felton 1064 H Noland 240-310-8446

Frederick Manor:

Jennifer Colvin 626 Adams Ave 240-520-4047

Parkside Homes:

Monique Broadus 406 Suman Ave 301-991-0476

Due to COVID, we continue to offer the community building on a limited basis. The building is available for community partners and Tenant Association functions. Should you have any questions, please contact Dianne Rudisill at 301.733.6911 ext. 125

Numbers To Know

Hagerstown Housing Main 301-733-6911
Maintenance Department 301-733-6916
Security Supervisor 301-730-2096

Resident Services Department

Dianne Rudisill 301.733.6911 ext. 125
Deena Holder 301.733.6911 ext. 163
Heather Nutter 301.733.6911 ext. 170
Treyvon King 301.733.6911 ext. 171
Tacy Myers 301.733.6911 ext. 157
Kelly Mills 301.733.6911 ext. 158
Pam Schnebly 301.733.6911 ext. 167

Bulk Trash Pick Up Schedule

You may have your bulk items picked up on the following days of each month:

1st Thursday: McCleary Hill
2nd Thursday: Parkside Homes and
Douglass Court
3rd Thursday: Noland Village
4th Thursday: Frederick Manor

Please set your items out after 8:00pm the night before your scheduled day and have them on the curb prior to 8:30am on your scheduled pickup day. This schedule will be strictly followed. Any bulk items set on the curb on days other than those listed for your community will result in a charge (\$60.00) to the resident.

Scattered Site locations will be expected to observe the bulk pickup days published by the City of Hagerstown. Check the newspaper or call the City for dates.

***Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday normal Thursday and Friday trash collections will be delayed one day.**

Important ERAP Information

Slippery Sidewalks

Residents are responsible to remove snow and ice from walks, steps and porches leading to the unit. This means any and all sidewalks to your unit with the exception of the front public sidewalk, which is the sidewalk that runs parallel to the front streets, is the responsibility of each resident. The Hagerstown Housing Authority does NOT remove snow and/or ice or treat for snow and/or ice on any walkways in the rear of the units and do NOT remove snow and/or ice or treat for snow and/or ice in the front of your unit except for the public sidewalk that runs parallel to the front streets.

Important Notice To All Residents

NATURAL GAS, like all forms of energy must be used properly.

Here are some facts everyone should know about GAS AND GAS OPERATED equipment from a safety point of view.

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, fluids, etc.) away from open flame.**
- 3. IF LIGHTING IS REQUIRED always light match first and hold it at the point of lighting before you turn on the gas.**
- 4. REPAIR AND INSTALLATION is a job for experts – NEVER attempt to do it yourself.**
- 5. USE EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB it was designed to do – for example – an oven must not be used to heat a room.**

Gas appliances, equipment, and transmission lines are safe and are constantly being tested and improved. However, it is possible, to have a GAS LEAK. Your senses can help you discover a gas leak...

- 1. SMELL – A distinctive odor has been added to natural gas so that less than 1% of gas in the air can be detected.**
- 2. SIGHT – In some appliances you can SEE the flame so you know it is working.**
- 3. TOUCH – With some appliances, you can feel overheating or cold in the burner area which would indicate trouble.**
- 4. HEARING – If the flame sounds unusually noisy it may not be burning properly.**

IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK...

- 1. AVOID FLAME and operating of electrical equipment. Never light a gas appliance if an odor of gas is present.**
- 2. If the odor is EXTREMELY STRONG evacuate the building ... call for help from a neighbor's home.**
- 3. HAVE A QUALIFIED PERSON turn the gas back on and relight appliances.**

REMEMBER... Natural gas is not dangerous but its misuse is.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN... to respect gas...to play it safe...to know what to do in an emergency.

KNOWLEDGE plus CARE equals SAFETY.

**THE PLACE TO CALL: HAGERSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY MAINTENANCE OFFICE
(301) 733-6916. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**



Free Medical Appointment Transportation

Are you a Washington County resident who needs transportation to a medical appointment in Washington County?

- **Your scheduled medical appointment must be Monday-Friday between 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**
- **You must call at least 3 days prior to your scheduled appointment**
- **You are not required to complete an application or provide photo ID to be transported**
- **You are not required to provide proof of income**
- **Mental Health appointments are approved on a case by case basis**

To schedule transportation, call CAC at 301-797-4161 ext. 107 at least 3 days prior to your appointment!

**This service is provided through a partnership between
COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC & COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL**



Washington County
Health Department
On site services for HHA

COVID Testing

Testing is now available behind the CW Brooks Building, both walk up and drive through.

Monday and Wednesday - 10-2

Booster Vaccines

We are currently working with the Health Department to establish a vaccine clinic in the senior buildings. We will have information regarding the clinics available by December 1st.

CHARACTER COUNTS! Washington County Coalition



Scholarship 2022

The goal of the scholarship is to promote character building traits throughout the tri-state region adjacent to Washington County, Maryland. Scholarship awards will be based on individuals who demonstrate the best representation of the Six Pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS! The six pillars are – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The scholarship recipient must be pursuing post-high school education-at a 2 yr. or 4 yr. college or technical school.

Applicants must attend a public high school with a CHARACTER COUNTS! program within Washington County, Maryland.

A selection committee from the Washington County Character Counts! coalition will make the awards at their discretion. Award will be for a one-time \$500 scholarship. Winners will be notified by May 2, 2022.

Criteria for Selection:

1. Personal merit and personification of the pillars of CHARACTER COUNTS!
2. Commitment to further education

Timeline:

1. November 22, 2021– Applications available at high schools through school counselors.
2. March 3, 2022– Applications are due by 4 pm. Late applications will not be reviewed.
3. April 14, 2022 – Applications reviewed by the selection committee. Award decisions made.
4. May 2, 2022 – Scholarship winners and high school principals notified.
5. August 15, 2022 - Scholarship checks will be mailed to the institutions

Scholarships can be picked up at your high school. For more information regarding the Character Counts Scholarship, contact Dianne Rudisill at 301.733.6911 ext. 125 or drudisill@hagerstownha.com