

# Senior 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



L to R: Dan Woodruff,  
Gerry Kendle, Sean Griffith

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**

**Friday, December 24, 2021**

**Thursday, December 30, 2021**

**Friday, December 31, 2021**



**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.

## 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.

## SLIPPERY WHEN "COLD"

Please use caution when traveling outside of the building during the extreme cold days of winter. Periods of sun cause the snow/ice to melt and then refreeze later creating instant patches of ice. Take the extra time to avoid such areas for your safety.

**WCHS Meals for Paws  
Pet Food Drop will be on  
Friday December 31st  
between 9-9:30 am at  
Potomac Towers, CW Brooks,  
and Walnut Towers**

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.

*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!



## 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.

## BALCONY REMINDER

Per Exhibit G, Section IC of your lease, "Nothing is to be hungover or attached to the railing, with the exception of approved satellite dishes". This includes lights, decorations, etc.

We would also like to ask residents not to throw things off their balconies. Cigarette butts, bottles and bread seem to be the items most commonly found on the ground. Many people spend a great deal of time and effort making their balconies an outdoor space to enjoy; they do not appreciate having garbage thrown into their space. The Maintenance Department would also appreciate not having to pick up the garbage that accumulates on the ground.

## December Pest Control Schedule

12/01/21 PT: 401-424, 528-531

12/02/21 WTA: 505-516

12/08/21 PT: 501-527

12/09/21 WTA: 601-616

12/16/21 PT: 605-632

12/16/21 WTA: 701-710

12/22/21 PT: 601-604, 709-731

12/22/21 WTA: 711-716, 810-816

## 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	301.733.6911ext. 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



## 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*

### Booster Vaccines

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

### COVID Testing

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

**Monday and Wednesday - 10-2**

## 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.

## 2022 Annual Enrollment Period Dates

Dates and deadlines you need to know

**MED D**

