

Family Neighbors

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



February 2021



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



Harriet Tubman was born around 1820 on a plantation in Dorchester County, Maryland. She had eight brothers and sisters; due to the realities of slavery they were eventually forced apart. At the age of 12 her desire for justice became apparent. She stepped between an enslaved person and the overseer who threw a weight that struck Harriet in the head. This good deed left her with headaches and narcolepsy for the rest of her life. In 1840 her father was set free by his previous owner. The new owner refused to recognize this and kept Harriet, her mother, and the rest of her siblings in bondage. In 1844, Harriet married John Tubman who was a free black man and changed her last name. This marriage was not good and with the knowledge of two of her brothers about to be sold provoked Harriet to plan an escape. September 17, 1849, Harriet and her two brothers escaped from the Maryland plantation. Although her brothers changed their minds and went back. With the help of the Underground Railroad Harriet persevered and traveled 90 miles north to Pennsylvania and freedom. Harriet was not satisfied living free on her own and she wanted freedom for her loved ones and friends, too. She returned to the south to lead her niece and her niece's children to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad. The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act allowed fugitive and freed workers in the north to be captured and enslaved, which in turn made Harriet's job with the Underground Railroad much harder. Over the next ten years, Harriett befriended other abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Thomas Garrett, and Martha Coffin Wright, and was able to establish her own Underground Railroad Network. Harriet personally led at least 70 people to freedom including her elderly parents and instructed dozens of others how to escape on their own. She claimed, "I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger". In 1863, Harriet became head of an espionage and scout network for the Union Army. She provided crucial intelligence to Union commanders about Confederate Army supply routes and troops and helped liberate enslaved people to form Black Union regiments. On March 10, 1913 Harriet lost her life to pneumonia, but her legacy lives on with schools and museums that bear her name and her story has been revisited in books, movies, and documentaries.

11 SOUTH WALNUT STREET, WALNUT TOWERS. A stop on the Underground Railroad in Hagerstown, MD

Former site of Cumberland Valley Railroad depot. In November 1851, the county sheriff arrested Otho Snyder for helping an enslaved man who had escaped from David and Hezekiah Clagett, in nearby Funkstown. Snyder had been trying to put a trunk onto a train to Chambersburg at the railroad depot (which stood on this corner, diagonally across from the Catholic church). The train did not leave that night, so Snyder took the trunk home. The authorities followed him home and searched the trunk, finding clothes that belonged to the escaped man. Born in Washington County as a free man of color, Snyder was described as having red or sandy hair, freckles, and a light complexion. Working as a carter, he had ready access to transport. His white neighbors suspected him of helping enslaved people escape. He was described as a "well known mulatto citizen" of Hagerstown and was a trustee of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. (This story is continued at Stop #3.)



To learn more about the Underground Railroad in Hagerstown, Md visit: http://www.visit-hagerstown.com/files/FINAL%20UndergroundRailroad_Brochure_proof.pdf

Family Self-Sufficiency Program

The Hagerstown Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program offers employment and other case management services designed to promote economic self-sufficiency for families and individuals participating in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Public Housing (PH) Programs. The voluntary FSS Program assists participants to develop specific economic goals via their individual goal plan, and work with an FSS Coordinator to identify activities and services to help achieve these goals over a five-year period.

One of the benefits of the FSS program is an interest-bearing escrow account that is established by the Housing Authority in the name of each participating family. An escrow credit is based on increases in earned income that is credited to this account by the housing authority during the term of the FSS contract. Upon fulfillment of the five-year program and completion of the goals listed on the goal plan, families receive the funds in the escrow account.

FSS Coordinators are available to help families access a host of other career, training and community services as well. FSS program services may include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance in identifying and reaching goals within a specific time frame
- Referrals to community supportive services
- Informational and educational workshops
- Support and encouragement with the transition from government assistance to being financially independent
- Provide referrals to substance/alcohol abuse treatment or counseling
- Explore homeownership

If you are interested in learning more about the FSS Program please contact one of the FSS Coordinators at 301-733-6911 (ext. 157) Tacy Myers, (ext. 158) Kelly Mills-Thompson or (ext. 167) Pam Schnebly.



Openings For The Resident Advisory Board

Want to take part in your Community? Hagerstown Housing Authority is looking for Community Representatives for the Resident Advisory Board. Reps needed for:

Noland Village
Gateway Crossing
Section 8 (HCV)

Please contact Dianne Rudisill at 3-1-733-6911 x 125 or via email at drudisill@hagerstownha.com if you are interested or want to learn more about the position.

IMPORTANT

Notice Regarding February Rent

Orrstown Bank will be closing at 2:30 PM on Tuesday, February 2nd. If you pay your rent at the bank please make note of the early closing.



Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women.

You can make healthy changes to lower your risk of developing heart disease.

To lower your risk:

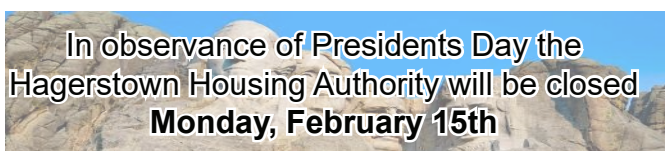
Watch your weight.

Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.

Control your cholesterol and blood pressure.

If you drink alcohol, drink only in moderation.

Get active and eat healthy.



Numbers to Know

Key Holders

Noland Village

Pam Felton
1064H Noland Dr.
240-310-8446

Frederick Manor

Jennifer Colvin
624 Adams Ave.
240-452-6155

Parkside/Douglass/Scattered Sites

Monique Broadus
406 Suman Ave.
240-291-4684

Please remember Community Buildings are still closed at this time

Hagerstown Housing Central

301.733.6911

Maintenance Department

301.733.6916

Security Supervisor

301.730.2096

Resident Services

Department

Dianne Rudisill ext. 125

Deena Holder ext. 163

Heather Nutter ext. 170

Tacy Myers ext. 157

Kelly Mills-Thompson ext. 158

Pam Schnebly ext. 167

Trey King ext. 171

Resources

Child Protective Services

240.420.2100

Narcotic Task Force

301.791.3205

Non-Emergency Police

240.313.4345

Poison Control Center

800.222.1222

USDA Hotline

888.674.6854

Adult Protective Services

240.420.2155

HUD: Fair Housing

1.800.669.9777

Which precautions do we still need to follow after COVID-19 vaccination?

We need to follow all of the same requirements regarding wearing face masks, socially distancing, and washing hands often. Receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine will not change this.

Why do we still need to follow those precautions?

Although you might not get sick from COVID-19 after vaccination, it still may be possible for you to be infected and spread the virus to others.

What if I have had COVID-19 and fully recovered?

You likely will not be excluded from vaccination if you have had COVID-19. We do not know how long natural immunity will last, so vaccination may still help keep you safe. In fact, some scientists think that vaccination may be more effective than natural immunity in preventing you from contracting COVID-19.

And even if you have had COVID-19, those same precautions—masking, social distancing, and handwashing—still are important.

Additionally, most of the general population will not receive the vaccine as soon as others. Health care workers and nursing home residents will receive the vaccine early, but that still leaves many in the community susceptible to infection. Given these factors, we must maintain our well-established precautions to protect the most vulnerable people until we can all be vaccinated.

Washington County Health Department is offering Hagerstown Residents:

FREE COVID-19 TESTING



Washington County
Health Department
1302 Pennsylvania Ave,
Hagerstown, Md 21742
Washcohealth.org
Facebook.com/WashHealth
Email:
wash.health@maryland.gov



Hagerstown Housing
Authority
35 W. Baltimore Street
Hagerstown, Md 21740
hagerstownha.com
Phone: 301.733.6911

Washington County Health Department and the Hagerstown Housing Authority are working together to hold a **FREE DRIVE-THRU & WALK-UP COVID-19 TESTING CLINIC** for area residents. The tests used are the quick nasal swab that takes about 15 seconds to administer. You do not need to have a doctor's referral to be tested.

Testing Site: Potomac Towers
(Maintenance Lot-next to the CW Brooks Building)
35 W. Baltimore Street
Hagerstown, Md 21740

Date: Every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (no appointment needed)

Questions: wash.health@maryland.gov

**PLEASE FOLLOW SOCIAL
DISTANCING & MASK
GUIDELINES WHEN
PARTICIPATING AT THIS TESTING
SITE**

FROM MAINTENANCE

HEATING SEASON

Heating levels that will be maintained in the family communities are from 66degrees to 68 degrees. Your thermostat has a built-in thermometer that will tell you if the proper heating levels are being maintained in your home. Before you call Maintenance for service on your heating system, take a minute to look at your thermostat. The bottom portion is the thermometer. If the temperature in your home 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 source of heat is dangerous and a lease violation. The misuse not only poses a serious health risk to you and your family but will result in damage to your appliance 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.

DO NOT USE STOVE FOR HEAT

Do not use your stove as a heater! This is extremely dangerous and is also a lease violation. Violators will be reported to Housing. If the heat is not working in your unit, contact the Maintenance Department for repair.

BULK TRASH PICKUP SCHEDULE

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

- 1st Thursday: Noland Village, Courts 1, 3, 5 & 7
- 2nd Thursday: Parkside Homes and Douglas Court
- 3rd Thursday: Noland Village, Courts 2, 4, 6 & 8
- 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.

ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL

A major concern during winter is the clearing of ice and snow. Residents in the family communities are responsible for promptly clearing ice and snow from the front and rear sidewalks leading to their units. Residents who fail to promptly clear their walks will be charged when the Maintenance Department must perform the work. The maintenance crews get to the public walks as soon as possible. Any help residents can provide is greatly appreciated.

Ice scrapers are a much cheaper method of removing ice from walks than are chemicals. In addition, the extensive use of chemicals such as salt may damage the concrete making repairs necessary. Salt will damage next spring's grass and flowers as the melting ice carries it to the root systems. If you must use salt, clean it up once it has done its' job. Residents should exercise good judgment in placing the snow that they remove from the walks. Never throw it out into the streets or courts. Never place it where your neighbors or the Maintenance Department will have to move it again. Please do not allow your children to cover up cleared walks. The better you fulfill your responsibilities, the better we will be able to perform ours.

Exterminator Schedule February 2021

2/10/2021	Parkside Homes
2/16/2021	Douglas Court
2/24/2021	Scattered Sites
3/3/2021	Noland Village Ct 1 1000-1016 & Court 2 1005



Please pick up after your pet!

COMMON BEDBUG QUESTIONS

Can bed bugs survive in the washing machine?

If you wash or dry your clothes at the hottest temperature, your risk of catching bed bugs through shared machines is minimal. "Basically what goes into the dryer at high heat for half an hour comes out safe as long as it is not OVERLOADED. Note that some bugs or eggs could survive a cold water wash.

Can bed bugs survive washing and drying?

Drying will kill the bugs but not clean the clothes. If you want to only kill bed bugs and do not need to wash your clothes, simply putting infested items in the dryer for 30 plus minutes on high health will kill all the bed bugs.

Do Bed Bugs drown in the washing machine?

Agitating the water, such as in a washing machine, also results in drowning which has the potential to kill the bed bugs. It can therefore be said that the survivability of bedbugs in cold water is inconclusive, but they will definitely die when placed in water at a temperature above 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

What kills bed bugs fast?

Double bag your bedding and wash in hot water and dry for at least 30 minutes (discard the inner bag after putting bedding into the washer, as it could have bed bugs). After vacuuming suspected bed bugs from the bed, take your vacuum cleaner outdoors and remove and discard the bag.

How do I store my cleaned clothing/bedding?

It is important to practice some care when you take your clothes and bedding out of the dryer. The best thing is to get a few new plastic bags and put your items in them. This is especially important if you are using a commercial laundry facility. Seal the bags again. Ensure that you do not put your cleaned clothes on any surface that you have not inspected for bed bug infestation. Take those bags home but only get them out once you have cleared bed bug infestation from your home. **It is better to leave your cleaned clothes in the bags and remove clothes as needed. This will help prevent re-infestation of clothes.**



Are you trying to quit smoking?

THE TOBACCO FREE FOR LIFE PROGRAM CAN HELP!



DON'T GO IT ALONE!

Tele-groups – Mondays @ 10am
In-Person Groups – Currently Suspended
Evening Tele-groups – Mon. & Thurs.
5:30pm-6:30pm
For More Information or to Sign Up
Call or Text Paula @ 240-537-9901

FREE Nicotine Replacement Products (NRT)
Patches, Gum & Lozenges Available - While Supplies Last

 NRT Provided by the Cigarette Restitution Fund & Washington County Health Dept.



FREE CLASSES! FINANCIAL EDUCATION SERIES

Financial Education Partnership-Washington County has partnered with Hagerstown Housing Authority to offer FREE on-line classes to help members in our community to take charge of their finances

Topics include:

- January 20, 2021: Conquering Debt
- February 17, 2021: Budgeting
- March 17, 2021: Your Credit Matters!

To register or for more information, contact Kelli at 301-733-2371 ext. 107
 kelli@reachofwc.org



Register Today!

 6:00 - 7:00 pm

 Budgeting

 Improve Your Credit

 Managing & Paying Off Debt

Location:
 Classes will be held via Zoom
 To register, email
 kelli@reachofwc.org



ZOOM CHEAT SHEET FOR BEGINNERS

If you've never used ZOOM before, here are a few easy steps to get you started.

If you don't have a hyperlink:

1. Open up your web browser and log into Zoom.com
2. Click on join a meeting
3. Type in the meeting ID and click join
4. You may need to click on [open.zoom.us], especially the first time
5. Click join with computer audio

If you were given a hyperlink:

1. Click on the link and it should take you directly to the meeting.
2. Follow steps 4 & 5 as stated above.

Helpful Tips:

1. Your microphone and video controls are in the bottom left corner. Please keep on mute unless you are speaking.
2. If you are accessing Zoom from a tablet or your cell phone, you will need to first download the Zoom app.
3. At the top of the page, you will see other participants.
4. Please be respectful of others speaking and wait your turn.

**Please Join Us For Our
New Informational Zoom
Series: **Creating Community
Connections****

Wednesday February 10, 2021 @ 1:30 pm
We welcome Terri Lancaster with the Mental Health Center. Terri will provide us with an overview of their programs and assistance opportunities.

Thursday February 25, 2021 @ 2:00 pm
We welcome Herman Davis Jr (resident of C.W.Brooks). He will be providing information about Black History Month.

Wednesday March 10, 2021 @ 2:00 pm
We welcome Lisa Moran with Priority Partners. Lisa will provide us with information regarding Dental Health.

We hope that you can join us for some **FUN** with the Resident Services Team and receive some useful **INFORMATION** from our community partners!



Hagerstown Housing Authority
35 W. Baltimore Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740



<https://www.facebook.com/hagerstownhousing/>