

# 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*

## Employee of the Quarter – Brittany Brode

February 2022



Congratulations to our Employee of the Quarter - Brittany Brode, Housing Administrator. Brittany was hired in February 2020 from a background in financial investments but realized she had a higher desire to work in the low/moderate income realm and to help others.

Even though COVID-19 had disrupted her training and comprehension of the Authority services, she continued her affordable housing training at an accelerated rate and was a primary asset with the lease-up at McCleary Hill.

She has also taken on the responsibilities of lease-up of the Market Rate units and has been a valuable member of the Authority.

## Meet the Newest staff

### Alia Kramer



Alia Kramer joined the Authority on January 3, 2022, as an Occupancy Specialist, and brings a wealth of knowledge from the banking and customer service arena.

Alia also has a degree in Communications and is excited to utilize her skills to assist in the many aspects of affordable housing leasing. She has been quickly learning about our communities and the processes of leasing. Alia's upbeat personality and enthusiasm is a welcome addition to the Housing Authority. Please say "Hello" to Alia as you see her travelling between our many properties.

### Roberta Oden



We welcome Roberta Oden to the Authority Team, as our newest Housing Choice Specialist.

Her employment experience includes insurance adjuster duties, appraisal processing and customer service in the banking field.

### Brittany Peppers

Ms. Brittany Peppers was hired as Security Officer and began on January 3, 2022.

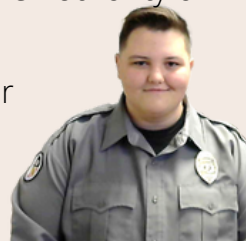


She has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, has interned with Morgan County Sheriff's department, and has experience in law enforcement as prior Military Police in the Army.

### Taylor Severt

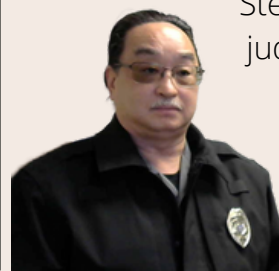
Ms. Taylor Severt began her career with the Authority on December 6, 2021 as Security Officer.

She brings experience as a Security Officer for the Frederick Memorial Hospital, as well as a loss prevention officer and bank protection.



### Steven Ross

Mr. Steven Ross was hired as Security Officer and began on December 15, 2021.



Steven has experience in Security in the judicial setting and in private Security.

He is a military veteran of the US Army with a background in communications. Steven has an Associates in electrical engineering.

## Our Family Self-Sufficiency Program

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is a voluntary program designed to help individuals and families increase their earnings and achieve financial stability. Services are provided by FSS Coordinators to assist you in identifying realistic goals, connecting you to local resources, and providing supportive services to assist you in accomplishing your goals. For eligible participants, as employment is obtained or earned income increases, FSS Participants may have the opportunity to build an escrow savings account held by the Hagerstown Housing Authority. The FSS program is available to families that reside in Public Housing or families that receive the Housing Choice Voucher and are in good standing with the Housing Authority. For more information or if you are interested in participating in the FSS Program, please contact the FSS team at 301-733-6911 Tacy Myers (ext. 157), Kelly Mills (ext. 158), or Pam Schnebly (ext. 167).

### Please Join Us For Our Informational Series: Creating Community Connections

Please join us on Thursday, February 17, 2022, @ 2 pm for information and programs in our community regarding your **HEART** health.

We hope that you can join us and receive some useful information about these programs.

This even will be provided through Facebook Live on the HHA Facebook page!

Interested in learning about a specific topic or hearing from your favorite agency? Let us know! We are here to serve you!

## Community Input Work Sessions

- Looking for 10 – 12 individuals for each session
- Location: Washington County Free Library  
100 S. Potomac Street, Room 309
- All sessions will take place from 12 pm – 2:30 pm and include lunch
- Neighborhood residents will receive a \$25 stipend for their time
- Register: <https://forms.gle/gmi3mV4VpnjBifgj7>  
or email [jbalbuena@besterhope.org](mailto:jbalbuena@besterhope.org)



**FAMILIES**

**February 15**

**NEIGHBORHOOD**

**February 22**

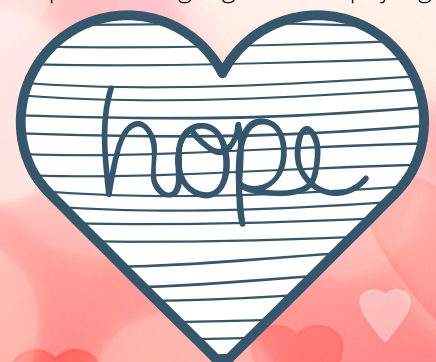
**SCHOOLS**

**March 1**

### Bester Community of Hope

would like for you to be a part of making the hopes and dreams of the South End a reality! Join the upcoming work sessions to be a part of the master plan of HOPE!

<https://forms.gle/gmi3mV4VpnjBifgj7>





HHA has partnered with the Health Department to provide COVID Testing.

Walk up and drive-thru is available behind the C.W. Brooks Building,

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am-2 pm**

**Get free at-home COVID-19 tests! Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.**

**Order your tests now so you have them when you need them. Go to [COVIDtest.gov](https://COVIDtest.gov)**

*Boys and Girls Club of Washington County offers clubs at the following sites:*

- Pennsylvania Avenue
- Noland Village
- Frederick Manor
- Elgin Station
- Transportation from McCleary Hill to nearby club.



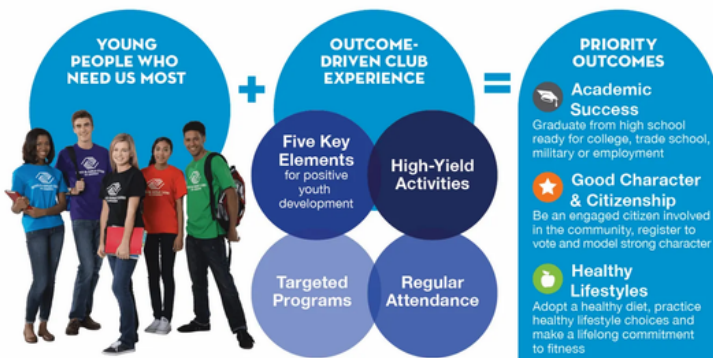
*To learn more about the Boys and Girls Club, call 301.733.5422*

## What does Housing mean to you?

We have been told by many residents that they have created great memories in our communities and that Housing has provided them the opportunity to move forward. From fond memories of loving grandparents to accomplishing goals and becoming self-sufficient, we are interested in knowing what Housing means to you. Would you mind telling us how Housing has helped or added value to your life? If you have a story or a positive experience, we would love to hear it! We may use it in a featured video of how residents have overcome obstacles, made a positive change, gained a best friend, had fond memories, etc.

To schedule an interview or tell your story, please get in touch with one of the Resident Services team members.

### Our Formula for Impact



### 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**



Community Foundation  
of Washington County MD, Inc.  
*Looking forward...giving back*

**MOST DEADLINES ARE:**  
**APRIL 1ST**  
**11:59 PM**

**APPLYING  
MADE  
EASY**  
**CFWCMD.ORG**

**STUDENTS PURSUING  
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

**OVER 50 APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE**  
**APPLY AT CFWCMD.ORG**

The Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc. works with families, friends and organizations to create lasting legacies through endowed scholarship funds that students can now apply for. Qualifications vary and some scholarships may require certain materials (like transcripts, or other specifics) and the deadlines will be here before you know it!

**SHARE THIS WITH ANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS YOU KNOW!**

The Community Foundation of Washington County MD offers more than 100 scholarships. Each scholarship has its own criteria and deadline, so please check each individual scholarship for specifics. Please contact Sarah Burge, director of grants and donor relations, at (301) 745-5210 for any questions



## Scholarship 2022 CHARACTER COUNTS! Washington County Coalition



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 began to be 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





## FROM MAINTENANCE



### Heating Season

Heating levels that will be maintained in the family communities are from 66 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 the thermostat. 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. Also, keep your windows locked as this provides a much better seal and reduces air leakage.

*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, which you will be charged.*



### 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, steps, and porches 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.

This means any and all sidewalks to your unit except for 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 does 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.

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.



## February Pest Control Schedule

02/09/2022: Parkside Homes & Community Building  
02/16/2022: Douglas Court  
02/23/2022: Scattered Sites



## BULK TRASH PICKUP 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 Douglas Court

3rd Thursday: Noland Village

4th Thursday: Frederick Manor

Please set your items out after 8:00 pm the night before your scheduled day and have them on the curb prior to 8:30 am 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.

## Common Bed Bug 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?

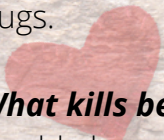
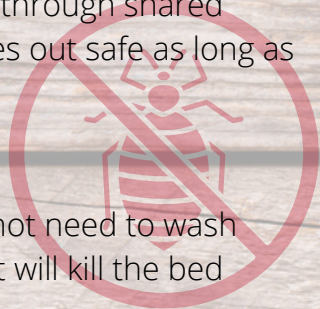
Drying will kill the bugs but not clean the clothes. If you want to only kill bed bugs and do not need to wash your clothes, simply put infested items in the dryer for 30 plus minutes on high heat and it will kill the bed bugs.

### What kills bed bugs fast?

Double bag your bedding, then 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 the 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.



# Black History Month

## Word List

BOYCOTT      MARCHES  
 CHANGE      ORGANIZED  
 DOUGLASS    PASSIVE  
 DREAM       PEACE  
 EQUALITY     POLITICAL  
 JUSTICE      RESISTANCE  
 KING         RIGHTS

F	P	B	T	M	Q	W	T	U	D	V	U	F	O	N
W	A	P	W	N	A	S	L	J	H	I	A	W	K	J
P	S	S	O	F	Y	R	T	N	B	R	U	K	U	R
B	S	W	R	E	T	Q	C	H	S	E	F	S	E	M
U	I	H	C	N	I	J	B	H	G	J	T	S	X	A
N	V	A	U	L	L	V	N	X	E	I	I	O	H	E
D	E	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	C	S	R	K	S	R
P	A	N	A	F	U	C	Q	E	T	K	S	I	B	D
X	W	F	F	M	Q	J	I	A	F	S	K	I	N	G
F	S	F	E	Y	E	Z	N	T	A	D	S	S	P	V
E	G	N	A	H	C	C	F	L	I	Y	G	F	K	M
J	Q	W	A	E	E	J	G	K	N	L	Q	J	Q	J
T	I	C	I	G	X	U	B	O	Y	C	O	T	T	H
A	J	H	J	N	O	W	W	P	I	M	I	P	K	I
K	Z	P	L	D	C	C	W	A	M	V	I	X	D	D

Hagerstown is full of rich history, especially black history. From visits of celebrities to stops of the underground railroad. Learn more about our local heritage by going to:  
<https://www.visithagerstown.com/things-to-do/recreation/african-american-heritage>

## FREE online CLASSES!

Financial Education Partnership-Washington County offers FREE monthly online classes to help members in our community to take charge of their finances

**February 17, 2022: "Taxes and Beyond"**

**6:00-7:00pm**

To register or for more information, contact Ladetra Robinson at 301-733-2371 x105

[ladetra@reachofwc.org](mailto:ladetra@reachofwc.org)

Financial Education Partnership-Washington County is a collaboration of

