

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



April 2022



Meet Our Newest Employees



We welcome **James (Jamie) Phillips** as Maintenance Mechanic. Jamie will be beneficial to our operations as he brings his appliance trouble shooting experience and repair knowledge to the department. Hope you are able to see him around our communities and welcome him!

The Authority welcomes **Greg Small** to the Properties Department. Greg was hired as a Housing Inspector and has experience in maintenance, grounds and facilities and has provided supervision in maintenance and housekeeping while employed at assisted living facilities. Greg will be working part-time, and we hope you are able to catch up to welcome him to our team!



Please help us welcome to the Authority **David Norris** as a Maintenance Mechanic. David will be valuable to our operations as he brings his experience in residential maintenance at Star Community, fabricating, and installing kitchen countertops. Please help us welcome him to the Authority in his new position!

Paperless Rent Statements

We are now finalizing the process for paperless rent statements. Here's what you can expect:

- You will be provided a **"Coupon Book"** consisting of 12 cards (one for each month). The cards will include your name, address, community, and **WIPS** (Walk-In Payment System) number.
- **If you PAY AT THE BANK** – provide the card to the teller and pay the amount you choose.
- **If you pay your rent by MAIL or DROPBOX** instead of a rent statement, you will include a card with your payment.
- **If you pay your rent via Tenant Portal** – you do not need anything further.
- The 12 cards will be provided to you at your recertification, annually.

We will implement the paperless statements based on the following schedule:

June 1st - C.W.Brooks, Parkside Homes, Douglass Court, and Gateway Crossing will no longer receive rent statements.

August 1st - Noland Village, Frederick Manor, Potomac Towers, Walnut Towers, McCleary Hill, and Scattered Sites.

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Are you ready for fun?

Join us on April 14, 2022!

Along with some of our community partners, we are hosting a Scavenger Hunt that will include a fun activity, lunch, and then the scavenger hunt!

We will have staff and partners at McCleary Hill, Noland Village, Frederick Manor, and Parkside Homes beginning at 11:00 am on April 14, 2022 to kick off the fun activities.

To register online:

<https://tinyurl.com/hhascavengerhunt>

First-Ever Mother/Daughter Tea Party

Tea
PARTY

May 7, 2022

11 am - 1:30

Elgin Station

You don't want to miss this first-ever Mother/Daughter Tea Party. In addition to tasty teas and food, we have planned fun stations where you can create body scrubs, treat yourself to freshly painted nails, create fun nail designs, enjoy the photo booth, and more.

The special door prizes include surprises that will extend your much-deserved pampering to continue your relaxation journey.

Don't have a daughter? That's ok, you still deserve to be pampered! Dress up if you'd like, come and enjoy.

Seats are limited

Cost \$2.00 per person

The cost gives you 1 ticket for the spa and pampering-related door prizes.

To register online, go to
<https://tinyurl.com/hhamothersdaytea>

Upcoming events

The following activities are offered by HHA or community partners.

April 1, 2022, 4-6 pm Boys and Girls Club night at McCleary Hill

April 2, 2022 - 9 am - 2 pm Baby Palooza (BCOH) at Bester Elementary

April 14, 2022, 11 am Spring Fling Activity - Join us for lunch and a scavenger hunt!

April 26, 2022, 4-6 pm Boys and Girls Club night at McCleary Hill

April 29, 2022, 6 pm to midnight Ending Needless Violence with our Youth Partnership (ENVY) - -

Teen activities are held throughout the night at various sites with collaborating agencies. Reach out to the Boys and Girls Club to learn more.

May 7, 2022 - 11 am Mother/Daughter Tea - watch for the sign-up for this special event that will include relaxing activities and great door prizes - seats will be limited so watch for the registration.

June 16, 2022 - Evening with Dad with the movie "Daddy Daycare" This fun event will include hotdogs, popcorn, and your favorite movie candies.



We are seeking Family Self Sufficiency participants to share their journey of the FSS Program. We are creating a video that will explain the program by sharing various participants and the goals that they are either working on or have accomplished. If you would like to be featured in the video, please contact Dianne Rudisill at drudisill@hagerstownha.com or call 301.733.6911 ext. 125.

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).

ERAP Funding

Community Action Council continues to wait for the 2nd round of Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) funding and is not accepting applications at this time.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has advised that housing authorities are not permitted to accept funding that will cause credit to residents' accounts. Therefore, when the funding is available and you apply, it will only be for the month(s) that is past due. You are required to pay your rent following the application submission. Failure to pay rent will result in eviction for non-payment. If your income has changed, make sure that you report the change so we can adjust your rent accordingly. Do not stop paying your rent. If you are unsure of what you owe or the status of an ERAP application, please contact our office.

If you were affected by the ERAP Overpayments and have signed the application for the back rent, we have received payments and are in the process of crediting accounts.



We began an archive newsletter file to make it easier to find information you may have missed.

You can find the newsletters on our website at:

www.hagerstownha.com/calendar-and-events/

Diabetes Prevention Program

Meritus Health has been awarded a grant to prevent diabetes in our county. The goal is to offer this program throughout the community to whoever is interested and meets the eligibility requirements.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible you must:

- Be at least 18 years old AND
- Be overweight (Body Mass Index ≥ 25 ; ≥ 23 if Asian) AND
- Not be pregnant AND
- Have no previous diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes AND
- Have a blood test result in the prediabetes range within the past year:
Hemoglobin A1C: 5.7–6.4% or
Fasting plasma glucose: 100–125 mg/dL or
Two-hour plasma glucose (after a 75 gm glucose load): 140–199 mg/dL OR
- Have a previous clinical diagnosis of gestational diabetes OR
- Have a positive risk test

Note: Medicare beneficiaries require a blood test, clinically administered within the last year, to qualify for eligibility; self-reporting is not allowed for Medicare beneficiaries

If Interested Please Contact: Heather Nutter
@ 301-733-6911 ext. 170 or
hnutter@hagerstownha.com

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

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

April 21, 2022: "Pump Up Your Piggy Bank" 6:00 - 7:00 pm

To register or for more information, contact Ladetra Robinson at 301-733-2371 x105 or ladetra@reachofwc.org

Financial Education Partnership-Washington County is a collaboration of



Orrstown Bank hours

Please note the change in drive-thru and lobby hours for Orrstown Bank.

The new opening hours for the lobby and drive-thru is 9 AM.



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.

Maintenance Phone Number: 301.733.6916

Installing Window Air Conditioners

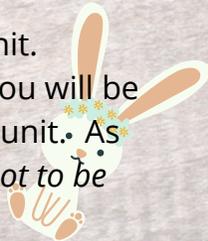
When installing window air conditioners, be sure to install them in a safe and secure manner. Air conditioner units should be tilted away from the building. This allows the condensate to run away from the wall and will help to prevent mold/mildew on the walls. The window air conditioner needs to be installed properly to prevent outside air from entering your unit. If the extendable panels are missing or damaged, the air coming in from the outside will cause the room temperature to rise, keeping the air conditioner running. This can cause high electric bills. It is best to seal the openings with foam panels. Cardboard, pillows and blankets are inefficient and they can fall out, leaving the window open,

Mowing Season

The mowing season is upon us again. Please be aware of the contractors as they mow the grass in your community. The contractor is responsible for performing their work in a safe manner. They have a difficult task to accomplish and need your help to keep track of the small children. Please, for the safety of your children, help keep them away from the workers doing the mowing. All communities will be mowed on **THURSDAY** unless it's raining. **FRIDAY WILL BE USED AS A RAIN DAY.**

Trash Containers

Effective April 1, 2022, all trash cans and totes must be placed and kept in the rear of your unit. Containers must be moved after they are emptied on the day of pick up to avoid a charge. You will be charged a minimum of \$32.36 if maintenance has to move your container to the rear of your unit. As always, we appreciate your help in keeping our communities beautiful. *Trash containers are not to be placed out before 4:00 pm on trash pick-up night at your community.*



April Pest Control Schedule

04/06/2022 McCleary Hill:	Buildings 9-18 (Flourite Dr, Gneiss Dr, Calcite Dr 17506-17520)
04/13/2022 Frederick Manor:	600-635 Adams Ave, 633-657 Frederick St, 600-612 Hayes Ave
04/20/2022 Frederick Manor:	614-681 Hayes Ave, Gym
04/27/2022 Frederick Manor:	200-207 Hayes Ct, 201-203 Rowland Ave, 200-236 Taylor Ave, Community Building
04/27/2022 HRC Units:	212-214 & 441-443 N. Jonathan Street



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.

Don't Let The Bed Bugs Bite

"Can the Pest Control or Maintenance Technicians carry bedbugs from one unit to another?"

It is possible, but not necessarily likely. Bed bugs are nocturnal, preferring to spend the daytime hiding in cracks and crevices. Bed bugs are not usually out and about in the middle of nowhere. They do not go after a moving target and they lack the speed to catch up to a moving person. Our Pest Control Contractor is experienced in providing pest control service for bed bugs and they have been professionally trained to avoid spreading bed bugs to other areas. Our Maintenance staff are always informed of "active bed bug treatments" taking place in our units and continue to be trained on how to prevent them from spreading to other units. If you have any questions, please contact the Pest Control Coordinator, Wendy Leggett at 301-733-6911 ext. 132.



Grass Seed

You can pick up free grass seed at the Maintenance Office to spot seed your yard. Seed and watering (from a watering can) will improve the appearance of your lawn.

Clean Yard Program

To help improve the appearance of our communities, the Authority began a Clean Yard Program in 1999 to encourage residents to actively participate in properly maintaining their yards and property. As part of the lease, each resident agreed to maintain a clean and uncluttered yard. Many residents have honored this agreement, some even going the extra mile to plant flowers and make other positive improvements. The Clean Yard Program is working and the communities continue to improve in appearance. Unfortunately, some residents do not clean their yards of litter and debris, do not store trash in the proper containers, do not remove graffiti from walls and walks, or allow junk to accumulate. Residents failing to maintain clean yards face certain consequences.

Here's how the CLEAN YARD PROGRAM works:

- A "Citation" will be written up by the inspector and hung on the door of any unit having an unacceptable yard.
- If the cited trash has not been removed by the resident **within two days**, Maintenance will remove the trash and the resident will be charged. If the yard has been cleaned, the citation will be destroyed and no charge made to the resident and no record of the citation will appear in the resident's file.
- Residents who receive repeated charges for failure to clean their yards may be issued a "Notice to Quit"

NOTE: The Authority reserves the right to clean any yard without notice to the resident if such yards are extremely unsightly, or the contents of the yard present a health or safety hazard to others in the community. Bags not in trash cans will be picked up without notice and the resident will be charged.

Spring Clean Up

As we experience warmer weather and spend more time outdoors, we need to focus on cleaning up the yards for spring. Please check your yard for the following:

- Rake up all leaves and seed pods
- Pick up all cigarettes and dispose of them properly
- Remove all trash from your yard. This includes litter of any kind including bags, glass, cups, cans, rags, clothing, bottles, boxes, etc.
- Clean under and around your shrubbery
- Organize toys and bikes
- Remove tape, tape residue, and plastic hanging hooks, etc. from the exterior of your unit
- For safety reasons: **ALL gas cans, must be stored in a storage shed**
- Keep throw rugs/mats off the grass (it will kill the grass)
- Large toys (slides, playhouses, etc.) are to be kept in the rear of your unit
- Promptly remove pet waste
- Do not throw food in your yard. These scraps attract vermin and other pests. Also please do not dump cooking grease or oil on your lawn or patio. You will be charged for the power washing required to remove it and to replant grass.
- Trash totes **MUST** be stored in the rear of your unit
- **ANY** trash bags or bags of cans must be in a trash toter/can. They are not allowed to be in the yard or on the porch, if so, it will be called in for a Direct Pick-Up and a minimum charge of \$32.36!

