



CUMBERLAND HOUSING

Unlocking the Doors for Your Future



Tower Gazette Monthly Newsletter for December 2018

From the Desk of the Chief Executive Officer

We Are Growing!

Prior to July, 2017, Cumberland Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., was planning to dissolve their agency due to decreased funding. HACC believed that there were several services which were important to continue and would be compatible with our overall objectives. We officially took over that agency on July 1, 2017, and merged it into our operations. At that point we now had three separate agencies operating from one location, providing different types of housing services. In an effort to improve the delivery of our agencies services and daily operations, we developed a simple "doing business as" name of The Cumberland Housing Group to encompass all of the services that we offer or provide.

Now we are growing again. We have been in the planning stage for several months to transfer the operations of the Housing Authority of Allegany County into our Housing Authority operations. That transfer is scheduled to be effective April 1, 2019. They primarily operate public housing at Willow Valley Apartments in Cumberland and Grande View Apartments in Westernport. The Willow Valley location also provides Congregate Housing Services to the elderly and is one of two such programs in the county. We welcome the staff members of the Allegany County Agency as well as its residents into our group of agencies and the delivery of housing services and opportunities.

RAD Update

Since January, 2017, residents have received information about a planned HUD RAD conversion program involving our Fort Cumberland Homes and John F. Kennedy Homes developments. The RAD program converts the public housing program to a new nonprofit based program which allows us to obtain the extensive funding needed to perform major renovations to buildings, support systems, grounds and residential units. Our original intent was to have construction starting prior to November, 2017.

In the spring of 2018, we terminated our contracts with some of our out of town partners due to numerous delays, funding constraints and other difficulties. We paused temporarily to re-evaluate if these two projects were viable to continue. With the assistance of HUD, our new consulting firm and our staff team, it has been determined that both developments are viable for the conversion and HUD has extended our timeline to complete it.

During the past couple of months, we have been concentrating on rebuilding our RAD program foundation and gathering information on a variety of issues. We are hoping to submit our financial package early in 2019, with the earliest possible construction date of late summer 2019. When we have further information, we will provide that to you.

Change in Grievance Procedure Policy - HUD has advised Housing Authorities of changes which were made to the HUD Model for Grievance Procedures. Since the Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland utilizes the HUD Model, the current Grievance Procedure Policy has been updated to incorporate the changes authorized by HUD. The Grievance Procedure Policy will be under a 30 day public comment period beginning December 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2018. Any comments must be presented in writing prior to January 10, 2019, and must be addressed to the President/CEO of the Cumberland Housing Group. The revised Grievance Procedure Policy is available for review at the Central Office located at 635 E. First Street, the JFK Rental Office or the QCT Rental Office during the hours of 8:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, (except Holidays).

Exterminator Schedule -- Dec. 6th
Queen City Towers – Morning and John F. Kennedy – Afternoon



Oscar's Catered Christmas Dinner
John F. Kennedy, Monday, December 10th
Queen City Tower, Wednesday, December 12th
Time - 3 pm

Residents must sign up on the sheet posted on the first floor bulletin board by Monday, December 3, 2018, by noon, if you would like to receive a Christmas meal. You will need to choose between Ham or Turkey. The meal will be catered in the community room. Residents must come to the community room to receive your meal.

The meal will be as follows:

Turkey or Ham and Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Corn or Green Beans
Sweet Potato Casserole
Bread and Butter
Assorted Pies
Iced Tea or Lemonade

The meal will be paid for by the Resident Council.

Vice President Needed at Queen City Tower

Please sign up on the sheet on the first floor bulletin board by Wednesday, December 5th if you are interested. Duties are as follows:
It should be the duty of the Vice President to
Serve as an alternate to the President.
Perform other duties that may be assigned.

The Council will choose the Vice President by ballot at the next Queen City Tower Resident Council Meeting, on Thursday, December 13, at 3 p.m.

Sergeant at Arms Needed at John F. Kennedy

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the first floor bulletin board by Monday, December 17th if you are interested. Duties are as follows: The Sergeant At Arms shall set up the community room for meetings and events. The Sergeant At Arms shall keep order in the meetings and shall ask any unruly resident to please leave the room. The Sergeant At Arms shall not touch or use force on a resident. If this is needed security or the police must be called.

The Council will choose the Sergeant at Arms by ballot at the next JFK Resident Council Meeting, on Wednesday, December 19, at 3 p.m.

Resident Council Meetings

Queen City Tower – December 13 at 3 pm
John F. Kennedy – December 19 at 3 pm

Resident Councils serve as the voice of the residents at each public housing development. As a resident, you are automatically a member of your Resident Council. Your Resident Council needs your participation. The most important person in the Resident Council is you!

Partnership For Affordable Foods (PAF)
(A lot of food for a small price!)

Queen City Tower will be collecting for the PAF program on **Saturday, December 8, 2018, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Monday, December 10, 2018, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the community room. There is a \$7 donation in order to receive the food and it must be paid on the dates above. Distribution will be on Thursday, **December 13, 2018**, at approximately 11:15 a.m. Residents who donate the \$7 must be in the community room by **11:45 A.M. on Thursday, December 13, 2018**, to pick up the PAF order or the items will be forfeited.

TEFAP – Free Government Foods

The food will be available for pick up on Wednesday, December 5th after noon. The sooner you pick the food up after noon on the 5th the better chance you have of being able to get the food. You can pick up the TEFAP at the sites listed below. Call first before going to make sure they still have food available

Dan Snyder, Hope Station, 632 N. Centre Street ...
240-362-7168 ... Monday through Friday,
Noon - 5 pm

Interfaith Food Pantry (HRDC Head Start Building),
301 Cumberland Street ...
301-777-7882 ... Monday through Friday,
10 am to 3 pm

Karen Wells, Salvation Army, 701 East First Street...
301-777-7600 ... Monday through Thursday 1:00 pm
to 3:00 pm and Friday 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

You need to take your photo identification card or driver's license with you. Please note you will be asked to sign a self declaration verifying your income and stating you will only get the food once a month from one agency. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact, Pama Wilson, Resident Service Coordinator.



Queen City Tower Activities

Blood Pressure Check

December 13 and December 27 @ 2:30 PM

Crochet & Quilting Group

Fridays at 3 pm. Patricia Bane will be teaching any resident who would like to learn how to crochet and quilt. Please come down and join us.

Game Night -- Every Monday at 6 p.m.

All residents are welcome to participate in game night that will be held every Monday at 6 pm in the community room. We look forward to an evening of fun, so please join us! Patricia Bane – Game Leader

Bible Study provided by Cumberland Community Church

Saturday, December 8 and Saturday, December 22 @ 6:00 PM

Prayer Group

Every Tuesday, at 2:00 PM

The prayer group, which is open to all residents, is an opportunity for people to share concerns, encourage each other, and to lift our needs to a higher power. We invite all residents to attend this group every Tuesday at 2:00 pm for fellowship and light refreshments. Jennifer Lewis and/or Bonnie Stott will facilitate the group. We hope to see you there.



Penny Bingo Every Wednesday at 6 pm
You read it right. Residents are invited to come to the community room at 6 pm every Wednesday to enjoy an evening of Bingo. The **Caller** will be Brandy Ritchey. Assisting will be Jackie Dively. We are looking forward to an evening of fun. Bring your pennies!

Hot Dog & Hamburger on the Grill

Friday, December 7, 2018 at 4 pm

If you signed up, please come to the community room on Friday, December 7, 2018 by 4:15 pm.

West Side 5th Graders Caroling @ QCT Tuesday, December 18th at 1:30 PM

Please open your door and listen to the 5th grade children sing Christmas Carols on the dates and times above. Residents are asked to donate cookies so we can give the children cookies and punch after they sing on each floor. (Give cookies to Jackie by 12/14/18.)

Trim-A-Tree Party @ QCT Sunday, December 2, at 2 pm

Residents need to sign up on the sheet posted on the first floor bulletin board if you will be attending the trim-a-tree party. Sign up by Saturday, December 1.

John F. Kennedy Activities

Blood Pressure Check

December 5th and December 19 @ 2:30 pm

Bible Study provided by Cumberland Community Church

Friday, December 7, and Friday, December 21 @ 6:30 pm



Every Monday at 6 pm

All residents are welcome to join us for Bingo every Monday in the community room. The **Bingo Caller** is John Evans. He will be in charge of Bingo. The rules of Bingo need to be followed. Looking forward to a night of fun every Monday! Bring your pennies.

Movie Night

Thursday, November 20, 2018 ... 6PM

All residents are welcome to attend the "Movie Night". Judy Musgrove will be in charge of movie night.

Game Night -- Every Saturday at 6 p.m.

All residents are welcome to participate in game night. We look forward to an evening of fun, so please join us! Bonnie Hoban – Game Leader.

Christmas Party for JFK Resident's Children/Grandchildren Saturday, December 22, 2018, at 5 pm

We would like to invite any JFK resident to bring any children or grandchildren, 13 years or younger, to a child's Christmas Party sponsored by Judy Musgrove. I am asking each person to buy a present, wrap it, and put a name tag on it, with the child's first and last name. Give the present to Judy in apt. 607 prior to the party. This gift will be presented to your child/grandchild by Santa's Helper. We will have games, crafts and refreshments for the children. Please sign up on the sheet on the first floor bulletin board by Saturday, December 15th, so I know how many children will be coming. Let's make this a fun event for the little ones in our lives.

Trim-A-Tree Party @ JFK Sunday, December 2, at 2 pm

Residents need to sign up on the sheet posted on the first floor bulletin board if you will be attending the trim-a-tree party. Sign up by Saturday, December 1.

JFK New Year's Eve Party 5 pm in the Community Room

It was voted in the resident meeting to have the Resident Council supply the pork and kraut. Residents are to sign up to bring a covered dish or a food item. You must sign up on the sign in sheet on the first floor bulletin board so we know how many to prepare for. Let's party!



*Merry Christmas from the
Cumberland Housing Group Board,
Administration, Property Management,
Maintenance & Security Staff.*



*The Cumberland Housing Group Offices
Will be Closed December 20th after
12:00 PM and
December 24th and 25th for the
Christmas Holiday.*

Allegany College Scholarship

If you are attending Allegany College, live in one of our communities AND qualify for financial aid, the Housing Authority scholarship may be just for you.

The scholarship picks up transportation, lunches and any expenses not covered by your Pell Grant.

Applications can be picked up at the Housing Authority Office. Deadline to apply for the Spring Semester is Friday, December 7, 2018.

Do you need Health insurance? Open Enrollment continues until December 15th. Find your plan at marylandhealthconnection.gov or by calling AHEC West at 301-777-9150.

Holiday Safety Tips

- Remember, you are only allowed to use Artificial Trees.
- No live trees.
- Keep tree away from heating vents.
- Use only lights that have been tested for safety.
- Don't use more than 3 sets of lights per extension cord.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpet.
- No lights or decorations are allowed on the outside of homes or units unless they are solar or battery powered.



Public Hearing

The Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland has updated its 5 Year Capital Fund Plan. It is available for review at the Central Office located at 635 E. First Street, Cumberland during the hours of 8:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday, (except Holidays). A public hearing to cover the new work items proposed for the FFY 2018 grant will be held on December 13, 2018 at 10:00 AM, at the Jane Frazier Village Community Room connected to the Central Office.

Need Help to Quit Smoking?

Are you or someone you know trying to quit smoking? Did you know there are 2 FREE ways to quit? Just call the Allegany County Health Department at 301-759-5050 or Maryland's Quit line at 1-800-784-8669.

Are You a Victim of Domestic Violence?

If you or someone you know is in a Domestic Violence situation and needs help, please call the Family Crisis Resource Center Hotline 301-759-9244 for assistance.

**Ring in the New Year –Downtown.
Cumberland's Annual New Year's
Eve Celebration is Sunday,
December 31st from 10:30 to
12Midnight and will be followed by
fireworks.**



Notice to Cumberland Housing Residents

Public Awareness Program Message Natural Gas Safety Instructions

Natural gas for your appliances is delivered through a jurisdictional natural gas pipeline system. The system is a safe, reliable and efficient way to deliver natural gas for your heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying needs. Although safe, tested and regulated, the system's most common hazard is from 3rd party damage from excavation. Before digging or excavations are done, contact Miss Utility at 1-800-257-7777 or 811 and call Cumberland Housing at 301-724-2055. Please read the following safety information:

*Natural gas, like all forms of energy and like many other products found in the home, is capable of doing damage and **MUST** be used properly. Here are some facts everyone should know about gas and gas operated equipment:*

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, and fluids) away from any open flames.
3. If lighting is required - always light match first and hold it at point of lighting before you turn on gas.
4. Keep burning surface clean of dirt, match ends, grease, etc.
5. Repair and installation is a job for experts. Never attempt to do it yourself.
6. Use equipment for the job it was intended to do - for example, an oven should NOT be used to heat a room.

Your senses can help you to discover a gas leak....

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

If you smell gas:

1. NO FLAMES OR SPARKS! – Immediately put out all smoking materials and pre-existing open flames. Do not operate lights, appliances, telephones or cell phones. Flames or sparks from these sources can trigger an explosion or fire.
2. LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY – Get everyone out of the building or area where you suspect gas is leaking.
3. REPORT THE LEAK – From a neighbor's home or other nearby building away from the gas leak, call your natural gas supplier right away. If you are unable to reach your natural gas supplier, call 911 or your local fire department.
4. DO NOT RETURN TO THE BUILDING OR AREA - Until your natural gas supplier determines that it is safe to do so.
5. GET YOUR SYSTEM CHECKED - Before you attempt to use any of your natural gas appliances, your natural gas supplier or a qualified service technician must check your entire system to ensure that it is leak free.



Cumberland Housing Event and Activity Schedule

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Game Night @ JFK 6 pm
2 Trim-a-Tree Party at JFK & QCT 2 pm Community Room	3 Game Night @ QCT 6 pm Bingo @ JFK 6 pm	4 Prayer Group @ QCT 2 pm	5 TEFAP Free Govt. Food Available @ noon Blood Pressure @ JFK 2:30 pm Bingo @ QCT 6 pm	6 Exterminator QCT (AM) - JFK (PM) Yoga Wellness @ JFK 2 pm	7 Rent Due Crochet Group @ QCT 3 pm Bible Study @ JFK 6:30 pm Hot Dog & Hamburger @ QCT 4 pm	8 QCT PAF Collection 3 pm Bible Study @ QCT 6 pm Game Night @ JFK 6 pm
9	10 QCT PAF Collection 2 pm JFK Christmas Dinner 3 pm Game Night @ QCT 6 pm Bingo @ JFK 6 pm	11 Prayer Group @ QCT 2 pm	12 QCT Christmas Dinner 3 pm Bingo @ QCT 6 pm	13 QCT PAF Dist. 11:15 QCT Blood Pressure 2:30 pm QCT Resident Mtg 3 pm Yoga Wellness @ JFK 2 pm	14 Crochet Group @ QCT 3 pm	15 Game Night @ JFK 6 pm
16	17 Game Night @ QCT 6 pm Bingo @ JFK 6 pm	18 West Side 5th Graders Caroling at QCT 1:30 pm Prayer Group @ QCT 3 pm	19 Blood Pressure @ JFK 2:30 pm JFK Resident Mtg - 3 pm Bingo @ QCT 6 pm	20 Unpaid RENTS will be filed in Court Movie Night @ JFK 6 pm All Housing Offices are Closing at Noon	21 Crochet Group @ QCT 3 pm Bible Study @ JFK 6:30 pm	22 Bible Study @ QCT 6 pm Game Night @ JFK 6 pm Children Christmas Party @ JFK 5 pm
23	24 Christmas Eve All Housing Offices Closed	25 Christmas Day All Housing Offices Closed	26 Bingo @ QCT 6 pm	27 QCT Blood Pressure 2:30 pm	28 Crochet Group @ QCT 3 pm	29 Game Night @ JFK 6 pm
30	31 New Year's Eve JFK New Year's Eve Party @ 5 pm All Housing Offices Closed	Notes				

As a reminder, a copy of the Inspection will be left in your unit for your information. If any repairs need to be done, maintenance will be returning within 20 days to complete the repairs.

JFV - Jane Frazier Village FCH - Fort Cumberland Homes JFK - John F. Kennedy QCT - Queen City Towers Inspect - Preventive Maintenance Insp