



NEWSLETTER

Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County

“HOUSING CHOICES AND AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES”

www.hcaac.com

REMEMBER THE GREATEST GIFTS

The Christmas season is upon us again. Did you know that December and January are usually the months where the Housing Commission files the most Judgments in court for non-payment of rent? One employee can vividly recall an incident years ago when she worked for another, smaller housing agency in Maryland. She was the person who met the sheriff at the site when it was time to set out residents who hadn't paid their rent. She, along with the sheriff and the maintenance staff, went to this door to do a set out. The mother hadn't done anything to try to raise the money for rent. It was as if she didn't believe it would happen. So while the mother didn't seem to have a care in the world, her 12-year old son, disabled by a malformed foot and deaf, was upstairs in his room, crying, as he tried to pack his most prized possessions – his Game



Boy, his games, his boom box, and his tennis shoes. The child's grief saddened and angered this employee. Why had his mother not paid her rent? Since she only paid a small amount, based upon her household income, she could afford to pay the rent. Fortunately, the mother was able to avoid eviction that day because someone paid her rent at the last minute. Unfortunately, she and her son were eventually set out because she had so many judgments for non-payment of rent in a year's time. The point being made is to remind all our residents – don't sacrifice

your home for a few Christmas presents that your children will enjoy for a short time, then discard as they move into another phase in their lives. The spirit of home – and family – are much more important in the lives of children. Expensive toys and electronics devices lose their significance in a few years. The foundation and security of home are treasures that will stay with your children forever. And, because of your loving home, your children will pass these values along to their children – your grandchildren. So to all our residents, we, the staff, wish you Happy Holidays. And, whatever your beliefs for this season may be, remember that the greatest gifts that you can give your family are a warm, loving home and the security of being loved and treasured.



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Community Safety Spotlight



Toni Jordon

Community Safety Coordinator
Freetown Village, Pinewood Vil-
lage, Pinewood East & Glen
Square.

AN AIR OF CHANGE

I must admit to feeling a re-
newed sense of hope this holiday
season. The feeling of anticipa-
tion and the smell of change in
the air is inspiring. However,
there are those who value cus-
tom and tradition and for whom
change represents an erosion of
the safe and familiar. They see
peril instead of possibility. The
impulse to preserve what one
has and holds dear is under-

standable. And, while familiarity
may not breed contempt, at the
very least it gives rise to lethargy
and complacency.

Change, like the passing of time,
is inevitable and needn't be
viewed with dread and reluc-
tance. Instead, one should wel-
come change with open arms.
Embrace the opportunity for dis-
covery and savor the promise of
tomorrow. Our only limitation is
our imagination. So, in keeping
with my holiday tradition for
these pages, I offer the following:
*"Imagine there's no heaven. It's
easy if you try. No hell below us;
above us only sky. Imagine all the
people, Living for today... Imag-*

*ine there's no countries. It isn't
hard to do. Nothing to kill or die
for; and no religion too. Imagine
all the people, Living life in
peace... You may say I'm a
dreamer. But I'm not the only
one. I hope someday you'll join
us. And the world will be as one.
Imagine no possessions. I won-
der if you can. No need for greed
or hunger. A brotherhood of
man. Imagine all the people,
sharing all the world... You may
say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not
the only one. I hope someday
you'll join us. And the world will
live as one."* John Lennon

Have a Joyous Winter Solstice!!

Maurice Price

Community Safety Coordinator
Meade Village, Stoney Hill &
Burwood Gardens

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

For a while now there has been a
Verizon commercial where a man
moves from location to location,
talking on a cell phone asking the
other party if he can be heard.
The point of the advertisement is
to prove that no matter where
the person is calling from he can
be heard. Does this example
sound familiar to any one? Every
single day we hear this question,
only in different voices, manners
and displays.

The person who repeats the
same problem time after time,

after time. Though the problem
may seem small or insignificant
to others, they repeat it, hoping
to be heard.

The child or teenager who gets
no positive communication from
home, he/she engages in detri-
mental behavior just to hear the
voice of those who are suppose
to care for them. (The quiet pose
on the street corner or sitting on
the BOX is a scream, "Hey Mom/
Dad, I need you. I need you to be
mom and dad and save me". The
world (your competition), is tak-
ing me away and trying to cause
me harm, convincing me I have
no other future").

The neighbor who sadly looks at
you hoping you will ask, "What's
wrong?" or "Do you need some-

one to talk too?"

We tend to think that in order to
talk to people we need the an-
swers to go along with the con-
versation. Often times people
need the thing we use the least,
OUR EARS! It requires sacrifice to
set aside your time or your issues
to hear those of another but how
else will they learn to lend you
their ear?

We are Blessed with two ears
and one mouth. We should listen
twice as much as we speak. Every
one wants to know CAN WE
HEAR THEM NOW!

PINEWOOD VILLAGE & PINEWOOD EAST

Diana Flynn
Property Manager

REMEMBER PAY YOUR RENT
It's that time of year again where people are scurrying around to prepare for the holidays; buying gifts, decorating, and preparing holiday meals. Please don't forget that your rent is still due on time. As a

reminder, the rent is due on the 1st of the month and late charges are added after the 10th. So while you are making your holiday plans budget for your rent, food and medicines first and then if your budget allows, splurge on a few holiday items.

BE KIND TO NEIGHBORS

Living here is not a prerequisite for having to like your neighbors, but getting to know their names and being cordial can make life a lot easier and maybe even more pleasant. You never know when you might need your neighbor's assistance. You

all agreed to be a part of this community, so why not make it the best community it can be? Get to know your neighbors' name, check on them periodically (especially if you haven't seen them in a couple of days). Being kind to others always makes you feel better, especially this time of year.

WELCOME NEW CASEWORKER

We are welcoming Allen Henderson, our new Human Services Caseworker to Pinewood. Mr. Henderson will be here at Pinewood working with residents on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

each week. Please stop by and introduce yourself and make him feel welcome.

DON'T FORGET

December 3rd "Silvia Sings" Christmas Carols and Gospel Music at 1 p.m. in the Pinewood Village Multipurpose Room. Refreshments will be served.

RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 11th Resident Council meetings for Pinewood east at 2:00pm and Pinewood Village at 2:30pm.

The Pinewood Village Staff would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

FREETOWN VILLAGE

Lisa Hahn
Property Manager

RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETING to be announced. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

REMINDER LAUNDRY ROOM HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. PLEASE REMEMBER, when using the laundry room there are limited machines. Please do not use them all at once or leave your laundry unattended.

REMINDER – YARDS AND PATIOS

*Residents in townhouses cannot store anything

other than patio furniture on your patios.

*Grills must have a grill cover.

*No bikes stored in yards.

*Please keep your yard clean, you could be charged for trash in your yard.

THE RENT IS DUE

For every person in life's broad view, There comes a time, when the rent is due. Pay now or later, it's all the same, we all must pay to stay in the game.

Much is expected from he who gains, Much too, is accepted from he who wanes.

Life is free, or so they say, Stop paying the rent, and you will pay.

The cost of living is not in the rent, like unfinished mail, never sent.

It builds up a mount of cost, Pay a little or a lot,

before all is lost.

So before all your time has come and went, Please, be sure, to pay the rent.

In accordance with your Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County Residential Lease Agreement, RENT is due and payable in advance on the 1st day of each month.

LATE CHARGES

A charge equal to five (5) percent of the late rental payment not to exceed \$10.00, for rent paid after the tenth (10TH) calendar day of the month.

COURT FILING

A Failure to Pay Landlord Complaint is filed on all residents whose rental payments are not received by the 15th of the month. Upon receiving judgment on the Failure to Pay Landlord Complaint, a Warrant of Restitution is filed re-

questing possession of the property five (5) business days later. EVICTION is scheduled three (3) business days after the Warrant of Restitution is filed. All fees accrued, as a result of not paying rent when it's due, must be included when submitting payment of the delinquent rent. The fees are as follows:

Late Charge – five (5) percent of the late rental payment not to exceed \$10.00.

Court Cost – Failure to Pay Landlord Complaint: \$14.00 for one head of household; \$19.00 for head of household and spouse/co-tenant
Warrant of Restitution: \$40.00

REPEATED LATE PAYMENTS ARE A VIOLATION OF THE LEASE. PAY YOUR RENT ON TIME!

BURWOOD GARDENS

Taliea Pack

Property Manager

THE HOLIDAY CRUNCH... ARE YOU READY??

The holidays can be hectic and stressful. But honestly, they don't have to be. If you put an organized plan in place to help you get through the holidays you will find that you are less stressed out than you ever imagined.

For children the holidays seem to take forever to arrive. The time between Thanksgiving and all the holidays in December goes by at a snails pace. But as the parents, the adults, we know full well that the time between Thanksgiving and the December holidays flies by at the speed of sound.

So, with the holidays beating down on our doors how are we to get through the

entire season calmly and with a holiday spring in our step? The answer is organization.

If you haven't already sat down right after Thanksgiving to make up your plan of attack for the holiday season then you need to do so now. It's not too late.

What you need to do is write down all the things that still need to be done. List all the presents that still need to be bought, and put a date next to each one for when you need to buy them and wrap them by. Some gifts will be given on the exact holiday, some will need to be given out before, or even after the holiday itself.

After you've listed all the gifts that still need to be bought, and the time they need to be bought by, be sure to put down the store you need to go to.

Next list all the activities that still need to be attended to this holiday sea-

son. All the cards that still need to be sent out. All the parties that still need to be enjoyed.

After you have your entire holiday list written out sit down with a calendar...your planner, your wall calendar, even the month of December that you print out on your computer will work for this. Start filling up the calendar with all the things from your list. Group activities together based on free time and location. If you still need to do gift shopping group all the stores together that are near one another and tackle them together.

Be sure to schedule any food shopping you may have for the holidays, and schedule it early enough to be sure you can get all of the needed items for your dishes, in case you have to go to a few different stores. A lot of stores will run out of certain key holiday ingredients this time of year,

forcing you to search for them. So schedule your food shopping early.

By having your holiday activities, chores and items all scheduled out down to the minute detail you will be assured that not only will your holiday season run smoothly, not only will you NOT forget to do something this year, but you will also find that you sail through the holiday season without all the usual stress and headache. You will have a better holiday attitude in general. One last tip...you can still shop online for your holiday gift giving. Many places will not only ship the items directly to your recipient, but many will also wrap the present and include a card with whatever you want to have printed in it.

Happy Holidays to everyone...and may you have a healthy and organized New Year.

GLEN SQUARE

Mary Wilgis

Property Manager

RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETING :Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7 p.m.

A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday season upon us, we may find ourselves preoccupied with holiday planning and shopping. Unfortunately, the safety precautions we normally follow are often for-

gotten as we enjoy the season's festivities. Everyone wants this holiday season to be SAFE for all. So we remind you to follow these practical safety tips so that your holiday will truly be an enjoyable one!

HOLIDAY SAFETY AT HOME

- Be sure to extinguish holiday candles before going to bed.
- Make sure you know where your fire extinguisher is and that you know how to use it.
- Check holiday lights and

extension cords for fraying or bare wires. Replace those that are damaged.

- Keep your tree watered so that the needles stay moist and green. Water additives are available that will assist in keeping your tree fresh. Never use real candles on trees, even on artificial trees.
- Do not run extension cords or other wires under carpets. Avoid overloading electrical outlets.
- Unplug inside holiday lighting when away from

home or when pets and small children will be nearby and unsupervised. Pets and small children may chew wires which poses a risk for electrocution.

HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTS

Again this year we distributed candles for the windows of the apartment homes that face Crain Hwy. Please remember to return them by Monday, January 5th, 2009 to the management office.

MEADE VILLAGE & STONEY HILL

Gina Dyer
Property Manager

MAINTENANCE

Report maintenance requests to 410-553-9675. This number is for regular calls Monday - Friday 8:00 am TO 4:30 pm and after hours weekends and holidays for emergencies only.

EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE

What is an emergency? An emergency maintenance request is something that could result in considerable property damage, threatens the health and/or safety of someone. Some examples are as follows:

Gas leak or toxic fumes

- Sparkling or downed wires
 - Inoperable smoke detector
 - No heat (seasonal)
 - Inoperable elevators
 - Damaged entrance doors
 - Power outage
 - Lockouts/lock changes
 - Loss of refrigeration
 - Severe water leaks.
- If in doubt as to whether your situation is an emergency call 410-553-9675.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

The Housing Commission has a maintenance staff to respond to your requests for repairs that are normal wear and tear. Any repairs necessary beyond normal wear and tear will be charged to the resident. If you have a request for maintenance that is not normal wear and tear it is still your responsibility to inform them, delayed repairs can result in further damage and additional

costs to you.

When you have contacted the maintenance department this is authorizing them to enter your apartment to make the repair. Please understand it is not possible for them to schedule appointments. They also will enter your apartment by request from the Property Manager to address items noted during the inspection of your apartment. The technician will leave a door hanger in your apartment to inform you of the status of the work.

THE LAUNDRY ROOM is for all of our residents. Please be respectful of your neighbors and their property.

► If you are leaving the vicinity, *set a timer* wherever you go so you know exactly when to come back.

► If your laundry is finished and left unattended, *it may be removed* by another resident.

Don't *monopolize* machines. ► If you need more than two or three, come at a time when it isn't busy.

► Laundry taken out of a machine should be placed on folding tables provided. Please do not fold your clothes one piece at a time from the dryer.

► *Measure detergent carefully* to avoid a soap overload and potential hazard.

► *Do not dye* your clothes in the washing machines.

► Do not put *rubber or plastic* in the dryers.

► Remember to *check your pockets* and remove any paper, gum money, make-up or tissues.

► The laundry room is for *residents only*. Please report any suspicious non-residents to the UFPD.

DECEMBER 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Rent Due	2	3	4 Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm Glen Square	5 Resident Council Meeting 4:00 pm Stoney Hill	6
7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11 Resident Council Meetings Pinewood East 2:00pm & Pinewood Village 2:30pm	12	13
14	15 8am Court Filings on late rent payments	16	17 Resident Council Meeting 7:00 pm Meade Village	18	19	20
21  Hanukkah begins at sundown	22 Hanukkah	23 NOTE: December 24 th thru January 2 nd - Public Schools Closed	24  Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day	26  Kwanzaa Begins Offices Closed	27
28	29	30	31  New Years Eve			



CASEWORKERS CORNER



Tina Sellman

Human Services Caseworker: Meade Village & Burwood Gardens

GIFT GIVING MADE (A LITTLE) EASIER

So, you dread the thought of having to buy gifts for Christmas. Friend or family member has a birthday or anniversary coming up, and you still don't have a gift? Well, we've all been there and done that. None of us want to do it again. Yet we always seem to be in the same sorry spot each year. As Mark Twain said: "Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow. That may be great advice for yard work, but it's terrible advice for gift giving. Waiting too late to buy gifts can cause several problems, including stress, choosing less than stellar gifts and experiencing holiday shopping misery. Let's look at several ways to avoid those problems.

1: Start thinking of gift giving as a regular part of your day-to-day life. Once you get in that frame of mind, there are several things you should do to make gift giving fun for you and great for the recipient:

2: Make a list of the people you exchange gifts with and a calendar of the dates you expect to give them gifts. When you receive an invitation to a wedding or party, mark that date on your gift calendar.

3: Keep that list in a handy, convenient place in your home or carry it with you. That way you can easily access it when you need it.

4: Listen year-round for that friend or family member to say or do something that tips you off to the perfect gift! When you pick up on it, you'll have a place to write it down. This will help you buy that just-right gift and prevent gift panic, or worse, the dreaded Christmas rush.

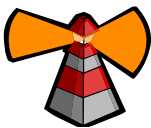
5: Buy the great gift you just wrote down! There is absolutely no reason to wait to buy a gift for any occasion if you have an inspirational (or just good) idea, unless you think it may later go on sale. Otherwise, buy that gift as soon as you can! To make gift buying even easier, buy your gifts online and have them shipped to

you. In many cases you can even have them wrapped for you by the merchant.

6: Buy a generous gift WITHIN YOUR BUDGET! Two things you want to avoid, in decreasing order of importance: being seen as a cheapskate (or worse, having no gift); or going overboard on a gift, which usually means spending more than you can afford and probably making the recipient uncomfortable. It's also easy to spend too much on someone (like your spouse or kids) and then find that you have little or nothing for other important people in your life (like your parents, siblings or friends). So set a budget for your gift buying and stick with it.

7: Once you've purchased your gift (s), you need to have a place to put it (or them). So, make room in your apartment, and create a gift closet. Keep it stocked with the great gifts that you wrote down on your handy gift list and then purchased (within your budget).

Have a great Holiday Season!



BONNIE'S BEACON

Health Guidance

Bonnie Woodall

CHSP Manager

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are desperately needed in every community. Why? Because vol-

unteering is usually done by a handful of dedicated people year in and year out. Most people think, "Well let someone else do it", or "I don't know what to do". Volunteering is easy but it takes a little time and a small commitment.

Many people say they are too busy or they sit back and criticize those who are trying to do the right thing! You must find the time to make a difference. That's what makes a community strong! Start a club, help your Resident Council, check on your

neighbor, set up bingo, serve a lunch meal at the lunch program, plan a shopping trip, etc. This is your community and you will need someone's help someday. No man is an Island! Remember your community is only as good as you are. If everyone did their small part this community would rock!!!

P.S. Don't give up because of a few negative thinking people who say, it does not matter! IT DOES MATTER. We need YOU.

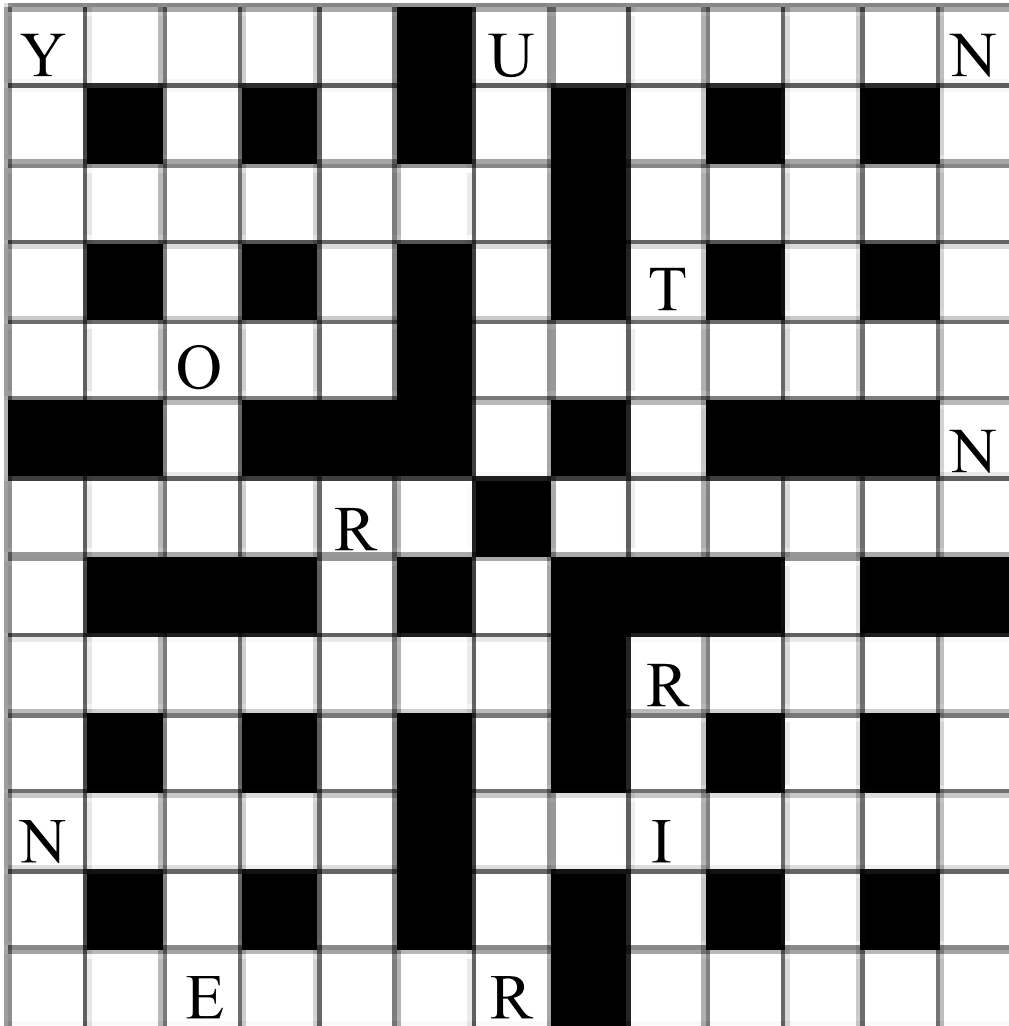


WORD FIT



Can you fit all the words correctly into the grid?
Some letters have already been entered.

Kidz biz
December



5 letter words
 CURVE
 HOIST
 NACRE
 NICHE
 OPERA
 REINS
 RELIC
 SIEGE
 STEPS
 TROUT
 YACHT
 YOUTH

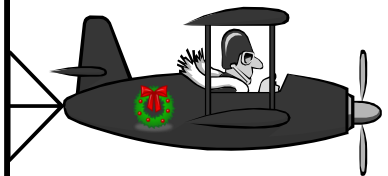
6 letter words
 ADMIRE
 ANSWER
 FLUENT
 URGENT

7 letter words
 ADVANCE
 CEILING
 ECLIPSE
 ELECTOR
 KESTREL
 NARRATE
 NASCENT
 RESPECT
 UNIFORM
 UNKNOWN
 VENISON
 WHISPER

Turn in your completed KIDZ BIZ PUZZLE within the week your name will be entered in a drawing to **WIN \$10!** Three winners will be selected from each family community.

CONGRATULATIONS!

<p>Meade Village No winners</p>	<p>Freetown Village Cheyenne Newman Synde Mondshour Dejah Phelps</p>
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

www.hcaac.org

**Family Self-Sufficiency, Section 8,
Mainstream Housing, H.O.P.W.A.
& Caseworkers.
410-222-6205**

**Facilities Management Office
Work Orders
(Maintenance Request)
410-553-9675**

Burwood Gardens

Property Manager 410-222-6226
Fax 410-761-7944
Human Services Caseworker 410-760-6303

Freetown Village

Property Manager 410-222-6237
Fax 410-360-3225
Community Safety Office 410-222-6252x223
Human Services Caseworker 410-222-6253x217

Meade Village

Property Manager 410-222-6241
Fax 410-551-0430
Community Safety Office 410-222-6644x214
Human Services Caseworker 410-222-6645x215

Glen Square

Property Manager 410-222-6220
Fax 410-768-3889
Human Services Caseworker 410-222-6217x230

Pinewood Village/Pinewood East

Property Manager 410-222-6210
Fax 410-590-6723
Human Services Caseworker
(Pinewood East) 410-222-6304x204
(Pinewood Village) 410-222-6347x217

Stoney Hill

Property Manager 410-222-6232
Human Services Caseworker 410-222-6645x215

DEAR RESIDENTS: Please remember to call and schedule an appointment. Your time is valuable as is ours. It is our sincere desire to serve you well. Our daily schedule includes meetings with residents, completing inspections, re-certifications and general problems within units. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

**Workforce Development
Center — Freetown Village**

7831 Huff Ct.
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-437-3052
9 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday
Located in the PACT Unit

IMPORTANT COUNTY TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR SENIORS

County Information	410-222-7000	Taxi Program	410-222-4222
Department of Aging	410-222-4464	Transportation	410-222-4826
Weekday Nutrition	410-222-6240	Trip Desk	410-222-6682
Pascal Senior Center	410-222-6680	Meals on Wheels	410-431-5257



CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

The following table is used as a guideline. Items and dates listed are subject to change by the Director of Modernization.



BURWOOD GARDENS	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>	FREETOWN VILLAGE	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>
Refurbish Hallways	2008	2008	2009	TBA			
Renovate Entrances	2008	2008	2009	PINEWOOD VILLAGE	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>
				TBA			
MEADE VILLAGE	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>	PINEWOOD EAST	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>
Renovate Kitchens	2007	July 2008	Jan 2009	TBA			
GLEN SQUARE	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>	STONEY HILL	<i>PLAN</i>	<i>BID</i>	<i>START</i>
TBA				TBA			
TBA				TBA			



HCAAC TIPS: HELPING US.....HELPS YOU!

When writing a check or money order for rent or other charges.... PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME CLEARLY AND ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR UNIT NUMBER.