

WINTER/SPRING 2020
VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1



**HOUSING
AUTHORITY
OF THE
COUNTY OF
ARMSTRONG**

350 South Jefferson Street,
Kittanning, PA 16201

724.548.7671 (Voice)
1.800.762.8291 (Toll Free)
1.800.654.5984 (TTY Relay)
www.hacarmstrong.org



NEWSLETTER



**THE BOARD AND STAFF OF THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY WOULD
LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR GOOD
WISHES TO ALL OF YOU FOR
HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND
PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 1st - **New Year's Day**
January 20th - **Martin Luther King Jr Day**
February 2nd - **Groundhog Day**
February 14th - **Valentines's Day**
February 17th - **President's Day**
March 8th - **Daylight Savings Time
Begins (turn your clocks ahead)**
March 17th - **St. Patrick's Day**
March 19th - **First Day of Spring**
April 1st - **April Fool's Day**
April 10th - **Good Friday**
April 12th - **Easter**

HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICES CLOSED:

January 1, 2020
January 20, 2020
February 17, 2020
April 10, 2020

MESSAGES AND NEWS TO USE

UTILITY ALLOWANCES

The monthly gas allowances applied to the gross rents of Allegheny Manor and Luxemburg Manor residents have been revised.

The new allowances will be effective January 1, 2020. Utility allowances are not applicable if the Flat Rent Option is selected.

FLAT RENT SCHEDULE

The Flat Rent Schedule has been revised and will be effective January 1, 2020.

The Flat Rent Option may only be selected once each year at your annual recertification.

AGENCY PLANS

The 2020 Annual and 5-Year Agency Plans have been approved by HUD.

Copies are available for review at the property management offices and the Administration Office.

PEST CONTROL

The Housing Authority contracts with Ehrlich/Rentokil to provide preventative pest control services to all apartments and common areas. The 2020 Service Schedule is posted on the Message Board and Calendar located on the Authority's website at: www.hacarmstrong.org.

Maintenance Issues

If you have a maintenance problem, you **MUST** call the office at 724-548-7671 or 1-800-762-8291 and request a work order. **DO NOT REPORT IT TO YOUR BUILDING MECHANIC, PROPERTY MANAGER, OR MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR.** Remember that routine work order requests will be completed within 3 business days barring any emergencies, seasonal, or vacant unit fix-up priorities...please be patient.





SENIOR FOOD BOX PROGRAM

The Senior Food Box Program is available to individuals through the Pittsburgh Food Bank in partnership with the Armstrong County Community Action Agency as the local distributor of the boxes.

The boxes include juice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats and stews, milk, cereal, peanut butter, cheese, and more!

If you are at least 60 years of age and meet the income guidelines, you are eligible to sign up for the program. Proof of age and income will be required.

If you are interested in applying for the program, please contact the building representative listed here:

Armstrong Court, Virginia Shaner
Parkview Apartments, Helen Myers
Lee Haven Towers, Violet Stivason

Warren Manor, Donna Bernat
Garden Towers, Rusty Hackett
Friendship Apartments, Robert Vogt
Freeport Towers, Barb Lavenets
Balcony Towers, Sherry Kutch

2020 distribution schedule for the boxes are:

January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17 and December 15. For your convenience, these dates will be included on the Housing Authority calendar located at www.hacarmstrong.org.

If you should have any questions or need an application, please contact your building representative. You may also contact Community Action Agency at 724.548.5764 for additional information.



Management Offices

Armstrong Court

100 North Grant Avenue
Kittanning, PA 16201
724.545.6002
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Dianna Craig, Property Manager

Warren Manor

120 North Railroad Avenue
Apollo, Pa 15613
724.478.4531
Monday and Wednesday
Darlene Beyer, Property Manager

Garden Towers

280 South McKean Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
724.543.2136
1.877.280.7284 (Toll-Free)
Monday through Friday
Denise Ashbaugh, Property Manager

Friendship Apartments

330 Main Street
Leechburg, PA 15656
724.845.6386
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Darlene Beyer, Property Manager

Balcony Towers

301 South McKean Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
724.543.2067
Thursday and Friday
Dianna Craig, Property Manager

Office Hours: 8:30AM - 4:00PM



The **Rent Rebate Program**, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, is available to eligible claimants, with reimbursements up to \$650 for the amount of rent paid in the previous year.

You are eligible to file for a rebate if you are 65 or older, a widow/widower 50 or older, or a person with disabilities 18 or older. The household eligibility income limit for renters is \$15,000.

The PA-1000 booklet to claim the rebate is available in February and usually has a filing deadline of June 30th, with rebate checks mailed beginning July 1st.

Your property manager will provide you with a statement showing the amount of rent you paid in 2019. This statement will be available for distribution by the end of February 2020.

Application forms and assistance are available at no cost from the Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agency on Aging office, and state legislator offices.

For more information or assistance completing the form, please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue at 1.800.222.9190 or visit the website at www.revenue.pa.gov.

Applications

The Housing Authority was selected to receive funds from the **Capital Fund Emergency Safety and Security Grant**. Funds from this grant will be used to install security cameras at our properties that do not currently have cameras; install additional devices or upgrade existing equipment as necessary at properties that currently have cameras; and, upgrade exterior lighting Authority-wide.

The Authority submitted another application for a **Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency Grant** for funds to hire a Resident Services Coordinator who could link residents with local service providers for wellness & health education to promote aging in place; job training; and, employment opportunities. The Coordinator would also work with the property managers & residents as a resource to ensure lease compliance & assist in the resolution of any compliance issues that may arise.

Are you bored with the same old crosswords?

Are you ready for a new challenge?

Are you ready for something different?

Then give this **SUDOKU** puzzle a try!!

The goal of Sudoku is to fill in every empty box with one of 9 numbers. Each number can only appear once in each horizontal row, vertical column, and 3x3 grid. There will be some numbers in each grid to get you started. The numbers you have to use to solve the puzzle are:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

(Answers on page 10)

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

		2	3					
			6					5
1				8		4		7
2								9
			5		6			
4		8						
						8	2	6
	7							
9				1				4



The Housing Authority provides an after-hours service that will take calls from residents for the purpose of reporting **EMERGENCY** situations only.

Residents are placing after-hours calls to the answering service, then telling the operator that it's not an emergency, or stating that the issue can wait until the next business day. This causes confusion for both the answering service staff and Authority staff, as well as taking staff time away from situations that are real emergencies and need immediate attention. Remember, if it can wait...PLEASE don't call. An **emergency** is a situation that **threatens the health or safety of a person, or has the potential to cause property damage**, such as gas leaks, no heat, major water leaks, smoke detector not working, fires (911), etc.

All non-emergency calls, such as issuing complaints, asking for information, requests to change light bulbs, or other routine business should be made during regular business hours. Also, since we are billed per call, unnecessary after-hours calls increases the cost of this service.

We "Thank You" for your cooperation.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The Housing Authority Newsletter is published every four months and we welcome resident news and picture contributions.

Resident Advisory Board

Representatives needed for the Following communities:

Armstrong Court, Allegheny Manor, Parkview Apartments & Garden Towers

Candidates must be willing to participate in meetings with Authority staff at the Administrative Office, May through July, and act as an objective liaison between the Authority and fellow residents of their housing community.

Interested persons should contact:

Marty Sutton at
724.548.7671 or 1.800.762.8291

The current Resident Advisory Board consists of representatives from the following housing communities:

Susan Ashcraft - Luxemburg Manor
Barb Antoniono - Lee Haven Towers
Donna Bernat - Warren Manor
Mary Laird - South McKean Way
Michael Smith - Friendship Apartments
Debra Schall - Freeport Towers
Roxanna Dunn - Section 8 Voucher

Please do NOT flush ANY PRODUCT except for toilet paper down the toilet!! This includes, but is not limited to: sanitary/incontinence products, paper towels, wipes of any kind even if they are supposed to be "flushable", food, pet litter, etc. These types of items will clog the drains and may cause backups into the units. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



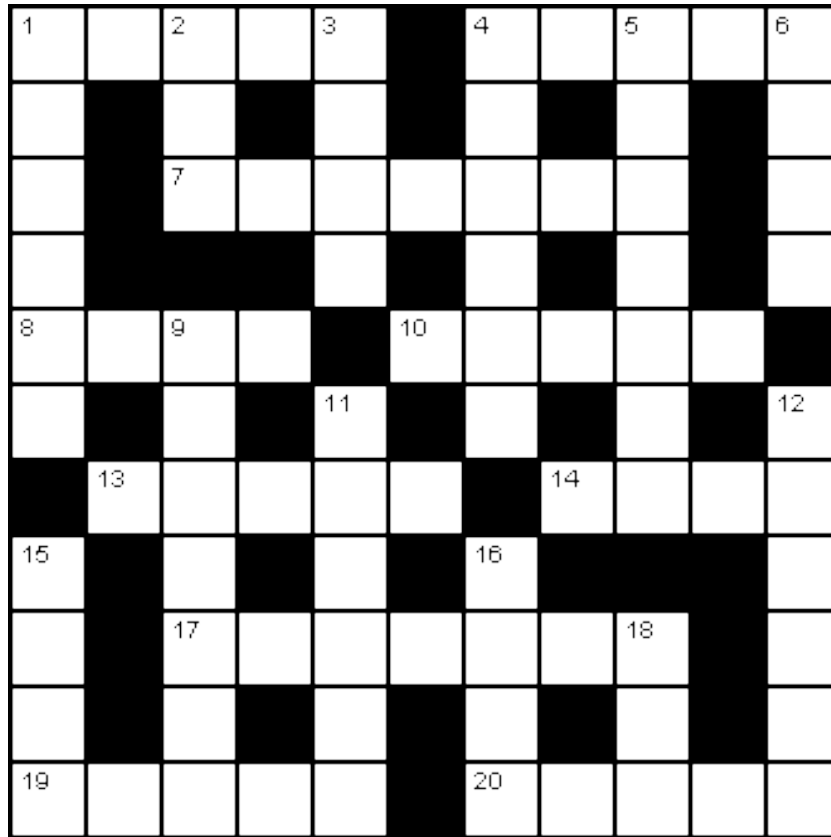
CROSSWORD PUZZLE TIME

Across:

1. Obscure
4. Nimble
7. Monumental
8. Fencing sword
10. Test
13. Woodwind instrument
14. Celestial body
17. Innovator
19. Carapace
20. Raucous

Down:

1. Smooth fabric
2. Precious stone
3. Simple
4. Bee house
5. Imprecise
6. Reverberation
9. Oval
11. Saunter
12. Blood Vessel
15. Optical device
16. Ursine mammal
18. Uncooked



Answers on page 10

MINT CHOCOLATE PUDDING COOKIES

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup butter softened (1 stick)
- 1 egg
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 box (3.4 oz) instant vanilla pudding mix
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp mint extract
- Food coloring: 3 drops of blue & 10-15 drops green coloring
- 1 ½ cups chocolate chips

Cream together sugar & butter. Add egg, sour cream & pudding mix. In a small bowl, combine flour, salt & baking soda. Incorporate flour mixture into the pudding mixture & mix until well combined. Add mint extract & food coloring until desired color is achieved.

Add in chocolate chips. (Add ½ cup of Andes baking bits for an infusion of incredible flavor!)

Drop by rounded tablespoon onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for about 10 minutes. Transfer to a cooling rack ... ENJOY!!



UNIT INSPECTION SCHEDULE

(Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances)

- Balcony Towers - January 6th through 10th**
- Armstrong Court - February 3rd through 7th**
- Garden Towers - March 9th through 13th**
- Lee Haven Towers - April 6th through 9th**



Residents in good standing with the Housing Authority are eligible for entry in a monthly drawing. Prizes include gift bags & baskets, merchant gift cards, gift certificates, etc. To be eligible, residents must have no record of late payments, terminations, failed housekeeping reports, warnings, etc. within the most recent six month period. Congratulations winners!!

September:

Grace T.

Armstrong
Court

October:

Nancy D.

Balcony
Towers

November:

Alston K.

Freeport
Towers

December:

Jean O.

Freeport
Towers

Resident Activities

Housing Authority staff member, Laura Toy, has been busy coordinating resident activities and events at various highrises. All the materials for these activities were donated by local businesses and agencies. Check out some of the activities and events residents were invited to:

A pancake breakfast was hosted at Garden Towers and residents were invited to enjoy yummy pancakes, sausage, assorted beverages, fellowship, and fun!



Supplies were donated by McDonald's in Franklin Village Mall.

Ice cream socials were hosted at Warren Manor, Lee Haven Towers & Friendship Apartments for the residents to meet, eat & mingle!! Ice cream, toppings & ice cream dishes donated by: Held's Shop-n-Save and Lackey's Dairy Queen, North Apollo.

Margaret L. (Warren), Michael M. (Lee Haven), and Beverly S (Friendship) were the winners of a \$25 gift card.



Jim Seyler of Seyler's Flowers & Gifts in West Kittanning provided flowers and helped residents of Balcony Towers create beautiful fresh flower arrangements just in time for Fall!



**"THANK YOU" TO ALL THE
RESIDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED
IN THESE ACTIVITIES**

Many THANKS to Laura for sharing her time off with our residents!

WINTER HEATING AND TEMPERATURE CONTROL

During the winter months, the Housing Authority receives calls from residents reporting that they have no heat and/or they are cold. When responding to these reports, we find, in a lot of instances, that there is not a problem with the heating system. We are finding the following resident-controlled situations:

- windows are opened or not tightly closed
- air conditioner vents have been left open
- air conditioners have not been covered
- register/heating louvers are closed
- registers are blocked, restricting heat flow
- residents are not wearing appropriate winter clothing to provide warmth

Building temperatures are maintained at about 72-74 degrees, which can fluctuate a few degrees with the outside air temperature. The Authority can only heat “space”, not “people”, as individuals may be comfortable at different temperatures. Building “space” that is heated between 72 & 74 degrees is considered to be sufficiently heated.

We will respond to reports of no heat or not enough heat; however, we ask that you check to be sure none of the situations listed above could be the cause for the lack of heat before you call to report it.

Please be reminded that you will be assessed a charge for a call-out for no heat or not enough heat if any of the above situations are found; or, if the inside temperature of your apartment reads at 72 degrees or above.



Pet Policy Reminders For Dog Owners

Pets must be kept on a leash at all times when outside the unit, and are to be held and carried through the building even when on a leash, except if they are in a pet carrier.

With the exception of assistance animals, pets are not allowed in any common area, including but not limited to, community room, laundry room, public restroom, lobby, hallway, or management office. Pet owners must use the nearest accessible exit when taking their pet outside.

Pets are only permitted on the first floor and their own unit floor. Pets are not permitted in other residents' units for any reason. These rules are necessary to accommodate residents who have allergic or phobic reactions to pets.

Pet waste must be properly disposed of and at no time shall pet waste be placed in the trash chute, in any wastebasket inside the building, or flushed down the commode.

If the pet deposits hair, mud, snow, water, animal waste, etc. in the building, the resident must immediately clean it up.

Not properly depositing of pet waste or cleaning up after pets as outlined above will result in clean-up fees being charged to the pet owner.

Please do not walk pets near entrances, sitting areas, or any other areas where persons may congregate. Be aware that dog waste, particularly urine, will turn grass brown. Several areas that were newly seeded with grass have been ruined by residents curbing their dogs in those areas. The Authority requests that pet owners be considerate where they walk pets to do their business and appreciates everyone's cooperation in this matter.



During the winter snow season, please remember not to park your vehicles too close to the sidewalks so that maintenance staff will be able to clear the walkways more effectively.

We respectfully request your patience during the time when parking lots and sidewalks need cleared of snow and treated.

Please remember that our staff has to travel to your sites, sometimes on treacherous roadways, in order to perform their snow removal duties. They work very hard to keep all sites as clear and safe as possible, sometimes attending to multiple sites.

We also clear snow from around/between your vehicles as a courtesy. If your vehicle needs moved in order to perform snow removal, be reminded that staff is not permitted to move your vehicle.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PATIENCE DURING WINTER GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

**BE THE LABOR
GREAT OR SMALL,
DO IT WELL
OR NOT AT ALL.**



U. S. PRESIDENTS WORD FIND

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

Words To Find:

Adams
Arthur
Buchanan
Cleveland
Coolidge
Fillmore
Garfield
Grant
Hayes
Johnson
Lincoln
Madison
Polk
Truman
Van Buren
Washington



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Why get vaccinated? Influenza (flu) is a contagious disease that is usually spread between October and May each year. Anyone can get the flu, but is more dangerous for infants, young children, people 65 or older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or with a compromised immune system.

Flu can cause fever & chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, runny or stuffy nose, vomiting, and diarrhea. Many people who get the flu are hospitalized for treatment and the flu can even cause death.

Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor visits each year & does not cause flu. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends persons 6 months of age & older get vaccinated every flu season. It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination.

Talk to your healthcare provider. Be sure to inform your vaccine provider if the person getting the flu shot has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of flu vaccine; has any other severe or life-threatening allergies; or, has ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS). In some cases, your provider may want to postpone the vaccination.

What are the risks of a vaccine reaction? There may be soreness, redness, & swelling at the injection site. Some people experience fever, muscle aches, & headache after getting the shot. Young children getting a flu shot and certain other vaccinations at the same time may be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Be sure to let your provider know if the child has ever had a seizure. Some people just don't like shots & will feel faint or dizzy...you need to make the provider aware of these feelings. As with any medicine, there is a remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

(Continued on page 11)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS (from page 6)

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

Before you judge others,
make sure you're perfect.

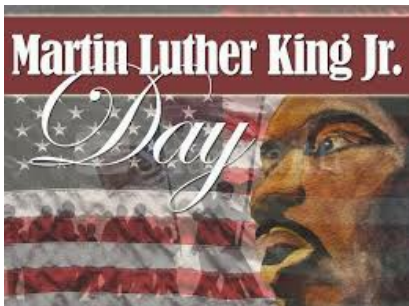


Life's a lunchbox.
You get what
you put in it.

Answer from page 4

S
U
D
O
K
U

6	4	2	3	5	7	9	8	1
7	8	9	6	4	1	2	3	5
1	3	5	9	8	2	4	6	7
2	5	7	4	3	8	6	1	9
3	9	1	5	2	6	7	4	8
4	6	8	1	7	9	3	5	2
5	1	3	7	9	4	8	2	6
8	7	4	2	6	5	1	9	3
9	2	6	8	1	3	5	7	4



In honor of the anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act and in remembrance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April has been designated as National Fair Housing Month.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 resulted from the hard work and leadership of Dr. King, and was an important step toward confronting discrimination against minorities in housing.

The Fair Housing Act protects individuals from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or presence of children.

As we celebrate the anniversary of this historic legislation, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all Americans have equal access to the basic need of housing.



Don't Forget!

Rent payments are due on the first of each month and are to be paid at your property management office either in person or by mail. Payments will not be accepted at the Administrative Office. All payments must be in the form of a check or money order. Please be sure that your name and apartment number are on your check or money order. Cash payments will not be accepted. Payments received after the afforded grace period will incur a late fee and a delinquency notice will be issued. Non-payment and repeated late payment of rent is a lease violation that may result in termination.



(continued from page 10)

If there are signs of an allergic reaction (hives, face/throat swelling, breathing difficulty, fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness) call 9-1-1 & get to the nearest hospital. Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). For more information, visit www.vaers.hhs.gov.

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NICP) is a federal program created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. To learn more about the program or to file a claim, visit the website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

You can learn more about flu vaccines by:

- asking your healthcare provider;
- calling the local or state health dept.;
- contacting the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 or www.dcd.gov/flu.

Information from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): What you need to know Vaccine Information Statement dated 8/15/2019.



Site Improvements Update



Jobs in Progress

Friendship Apartments - Replace hall flooring (2 - 4)

Security Cameras - Armstrong Court, Parkview Apts.,
Luxemburg Manor, Lee Haven Towers, South
McKean Way, Friendship Apts. & Freeport Towers

Garden Towers - Replace interior drains & waterlines

Allegheny Manor - Replace deteriorated concrete (steps,
sidewalks, and curbing)

Parkview Apartments - Replace heating & domestic hot
water boilers

Warren Manor - Replace hallway carpeting with VCT

PHA-Wide - Upgrade exterior lighting

Planned Jobs

Balcony Towers - Upgrade community room kitchen,
replace flooring in sitting rooms, repair parking lot

Completed Jobs

Friendship Apartments - Repair side steps; Add drainage
to divert water from front entrance

Freeport Towers - Exterior renovations (clean, repoint &
waterproof building; A/C sleeves; awnings)

Luxemburg Manor - Drain replacement/repair at unit
#1260



**We appreciate your patience and
cooperation during these renovations.**

Here's a thought to keep in mind:

*"Temporary Inconvenience,
Permanent Improvement"*

Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Larry Ondrizek
Chairperson

Todd Crissman
Vice-Chairperson

Rev. John Snyder
Treasurer

Tyler Heller
Commissioner

Roxanna Dunn
Commissioner

Marty Sutton
Executive Director

Andrew Menchyk, Jr.
Solicitor

*Please submit newsletter suggestions,
articles, community events, etc. to:*

*Housing Authority of the
County of Armstrong
350 South Jefferson Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
ATTN: Marty Sutton
or
E-mail Marty at
msutton@hacarmstrong.org*

Submission Deadlines

Winter/Spring Issue -
December 1st

Summer Issue - April 1st

Fall/Winter Issue -
August 1st