

**Special points of interest:**

- **Rent is still required to be paid.** Please provide documentation if your income has been affected by the Corona virus so we can change your rent. Use the drop box to pay rent.
- The main office is closed to the public . We are still available by phone.
- Maintenance is only completing emergency service requests

Quarterly Edition  
April 2020



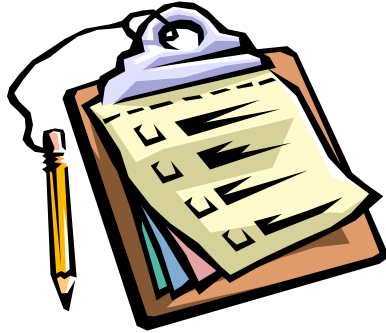
## Recertification process put on hold until further notice

Due to the Corona Virus outbreak, our office is closed indefinitely. Appointments will be made and notices mailed later to residents who haven't already completed their annual review. Unfortunately, some residents **fail to keep their appointment** or to call and reschedule for another time. We realize that some people have time obligations such as work, doctor's appointments, and other responsibilities that may make it difficult to come in at the time the recertification is scheduled. For those people, we are more than happy to reschedule the appointment for a more convenient time.

For those who don't come in for their scheduled appointment, we normally send second notices and reschedule the appointment. Most of our residents are cooperative and understand the necessity of the process, whereas some refuse to come in, or fail to provide necessary documentation such as changes in household members and income.

**The annual recertification process is required by HUD, and is part of your lease.** We are required to verify income and household members on all residents every year. In accepting federal housing assistance, **you agreed** to provide up-

dated information on an annual basis. **It is your responsibility** to ensure that we have your correct income and household information so that your rent is calculated properly. **We will not try to "chase residents down";** but will instead **begin the eviction process** and ultimately terminate privileges of federal housing assistance.



Remember, **living in public housing is not a right, but a privilege** and there are obligations in the lease that you must perform in order to enjoy that privilege. As of today, we have 350 families on our waiting list who are waiting on the availability of an apartment. I am sure these people would be more than happy to provide all necessary information in order to receive federally assisted housing. **If you fail to keep your appointment for recertification or to provide necessary documentation, you will be providing a home for one of the families on the waiting list.**

ALSO, as an effort to improve the quality of life, for our residents in the housing authority, we host and make available workshops, site meetings and offer a variety of educational programs that are FREE TO ATTEND.

**Please note that Rent is still required to be paid.**

**It is the responsibility of tenants whose income has been affected by the Corona virus to provide proper documentation so we can change your rent. Also please use the GRAY DROPBOX when making payments.**

**Make sure your check or money order is filled out completely and your name is on it because without this we have no way of knowing who the payment belongs to.**

### Inside this issue:

Corona virus update

Partnerships to feed local children

Free WIFI made available

Palmer Home purchase

Homeownership information

Grounds/ trash problems

World Mental Health Day Info

Programs/ events

## CORONAVIRUS NEWS

Since the Covid19 Virus (Corona) outbreak, the entire country has been affected. To ensure safety and prevent the spread of the virus, we have made the following changes in operations:

- The administrative office is closed indefinitely
- We are only available via phone until further actions are taken by either the federal, state or local government.
- **Maintenance is only completing service calls that are emergencies pertaining to appliances, heating/cooling, electrical and plumbing.**
- Only receiving payments by mail or drop box. Please use the drop box to turn in paperwork
- All resident programs have been cancelled
- No longer allowing centers to be rented for any functions– Refunds are being made to residents who have booked the centers. This is being done to comply with local government ordinances.
- **No recertifications or applications will be completed while the office is closed**

**We are making payment arrangements with tenants who are suffering financial hardships because of the Corona virus.**

## WAYS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

- Avoid making contact with others-no hugging, shaking hands, or attending social functions or gatherings
- Limit visitors in your home (HUD recommended visitor ban)
- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue and throw it away
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer, wear gloves and a mask
- Stay home or inside away from others as required by local authorities
- Avoid sick people and isolate yourself if you feel ill.
- Drink plenty of water
- Use Lysol to disinfect the air and to clean surfaces
- Contact the doctor if you or a relative experience the following symptoms:

\*Fever, cough, shortness of breath





S.H.A.R.E. (*Sisters Helping and Reviving Each-other*), Family Resource Center of North Mississippi, Columbus Lowndes County Alumnae and Omicron Epsilon Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority sponsored a Mental Health Awareness Forum “I AM OK” to commemorate World Mental Health Day on October 10, 2019 for residents in the Columbus Housing Authority. World Mental Health Day highlights mental health education, awareness, and advocacy against the social stigma. Seeing the need for support, the partnering agencies’ primary objective was to open the door for the conversation to begin in efforts to raise awareness of the mental health stigma. The theme selected for this year’s World Mental Health Day was suicide prevention, and the role that everyone can play to prevent it. According to World Health Organization, “every 40 seconds, someone loses their life to suicide.”

A video was shown prior to the discussion debuting various artists and professionals discussing the impact of mental health for this generation. Following the video, the conversation began with questions from the moderators to a panelist of dedicated and experienced community leaders from various organizations who willingly shared their expertise and passion. The panelist consisted of Nickie Gillespie, Children Coordinator/Outreach



Educator of Safe Haven, a domestic violence shelter; Katrina Sunnieville, Executive Director of Contact Helpline, crisis intervention organization; Edward Yeates, a Licensed Professional Counselor of Yeates Consulting and Founder and Director of Father’s Child Ministry; and Pastor Jerome Wilson, Registered Nurse and pastor of Rock Hill Church. Participants were afforded the opportunity to ask questions to the panelists. Concerns stemmed from depression, suicide, grief support, how to seek help and how to help others. In addition, Omicron Epsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from Mississippi University for Women campus set up an information table displaying mental health brochures, panelists information and other pertinent information available to those who were present. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. At the end of the forum’s discussion, the panelists were available for one on one conversations with participants. The reviews and responses after the event were very favorable. Many of the participants voiced a need for more conversations to help bring more awareness and support.

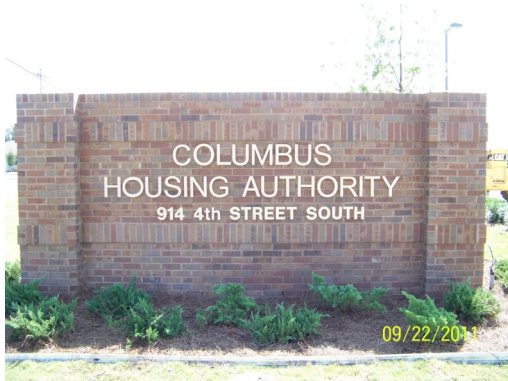
Consequently, leading up to the World Mental Health Day Event, FCRC ROSS Program collaborated with community professionals to conduct workshops on self-awareness, healthy relationships and goal setting. The theme for the three-day workshop was “Who Am I? On Day 1, Dr. Diane Prude, psychologist of Human Resource Unlimited brought a dynamic presentation engaging the participants to explore who they really are. The next workshop’s presenter was Antoinette Lott, minister and author of two books about her life, *Butterfly Dream Journal and Butterfly Journey – Blessings, Battles and Breakthroughs*. Ms. Lott spoke of her journey and how writing became a safe haven for her. Her presentation brought much encouragement to participants; and on Day 3, Shatyra Frazier, Certified Life Coach of Cultivating Greatness 360 engaged the participants in beginning a vision board and setting goals. She too was transparent with the participants and what led her to pursue helping others. These three powerful women shared their experiences, their expertise, and warmth

which truly helped those in attendance to be encouraged and revived. Family Resource Center of North Mississippi who is also housed in the Shield Sims building where the ROSS program is located also partnered on all four events by providing information. Jim Sutherland, Field Educator of FRCNMS also donated a special basket of goodies to Ms. Vickie Harris, resident of Columbus Housing Authority who participated in the all four workshops. Ms. Harris stated that she enjoyed the workshops, learned a lot and will be attending more of them. Upcoming empowerment activities will include Home Ownership Class, Creative Ways to Earn Money and Beating the Holiday Stress.

FCRC ROSS Program’s goal is to continue the much-needed conversations for residents in the Columbus Housing Authority, referring them for supportive services and to continue offering empowerment activities such as the Who Am I Workshop series. This will lead families to healthier lifestyles as well as increase wages moving toward achieving economic independence and housing self-sufficiency, eliminating the need for welfare assistance; and to help improve living conditions and enable the elderly or disabled to age-in-place.

**For more information about the Friendly City Resident Council ROSS program, Columbus Housing Authority, please contact Jacklyn Weir, ROSS Service Coordinator at 662-251-7426.**





## Resident Services

There are numerous programs that are of no cost being made available to our residents. The purpose of these programs is to improve the quality of life for our tenants.

Listed below are programs and staff who coordinate them. Please call for more information.

**Glendoria O'Neal-328-4236 extension 14-seniors ages 62 and older.**

**Jacklyn Weir-251-7426-ROSS Program-self sufficiency, educational classes, healthy initiatives, community resources- for individuals and residents ages 18 and up.**

**Shandrika Gunter-328-4236-extension 15-Youth educational and recreational programs for children ages 5-17.**

**All resident Programs are cancelled until further notice**

## Maintenance Update

At the present time we are only responding to emergency maintenance requests such as problems with appliances, plumbing, and electrical. Please be patient with us during this time. When we arrive please be prepared to go into another room or stay at least 6 feet away from us. Doing so helps keep everyone protected from any germs. We will also be wearing masks, gloves and a protective suits.

We encourage you to continue calling in service requests

because we will eventually address them when we are instructed to do so by local government.

We would like to ask you as tenants to keep in mind the following:

- Only put trash out on the days it is picked up to avoid children and stray animals from getting into it and spreading it all over the grounds.
- All wheeled carts are to be placed behind the unit after trash pick up.
- Please use plastic trash bags before placing trash into carts
- Please do not throw food or grease out kitchen windows or behind units—residents found doing so will be fined \$25.00
- Only outdoor furniture is allowed on front porches

