



Winchester Housing Community News

Chestnut Grove • Greenwoods Garden • Laurel Commons

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Here we go again... They say that you can't keep a good thing down. This new version of Winchester Housing's newsletter will be published on a bi-monthly basis, with special additions as necessary.

As we recover from Thanksgiving, everyone's thoughts, I am sure, are on Christmas. The staff hopes you had a Happy Thanksgiving and wishes you a blessed Christmas. My advisors have suggested that I keep my wording direct and to the point. So here it goes...

Winter Parking... We are informed that B&D Landscaping will be offering a new service this winter. For a set price, they will clear and move your car for you following a storm. In order for this to work best for you, I am told that Mr. Bentley will require a copy of your car key. The agreement will be between yourself and B&D Landscaping. It sounds like this could offer a bit more sleep for you on those cold mornings.



Lawn Items... If you have not already, please remove your summer furniture and lawn ornaments for proper winter storage. Snow blowers can make quite a mess if they hit one of your items. In addition, it slows greatly the snow removal process and adds costs to our already tight snow removal budget.

Just In Case You Didn't Know... The Housing Authority has a web site: www.WinHouseAuth.org - If you have a computer, or know someone who does, you might see a picture of yourself??

How To Reach Us

Phone: (860) 379-4573

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Executive Director

Lynn Hayes Ext. 4
Office Manager

Jayne Martigneni.... Ext. 3
Section 8 Coordinator

Donna Veneziano ... Ext. 3
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Carol Franz 379-6525
Chestnut Grove After Hours Super

Fay Wainman 379-7619
*Greenwoods Garden
After Hours Super*

John Navin 379-3716
Laurel Commons After Hours Super

From the Desk of the Executive Director (Continued from Page 1)

Waiting Lists Soar... Those waiting for apartments at Chestnut, Laurel and Greenwoods soared to 125 applicants. Just eight years ago, there was a mere five applicants waiting. Tell me there is no Baby Boomer crisis. Winchester Housing has plans in the works. A preliminary drawing of where an addition onto Chestnut may be made, is on display in the Lobby of Chestnut. Also, the Authority's affiliate "The Winchester Housing Authority Development Corporation", is investigating the construction of a new facility. It is tentatively planned for the West End of Gay Street and will be called "Carriage Maker Place - at Winsted"; where thirty to forty units are planned for. In total we hope to provide 50 to 60 one-bedroom apartments...Stay Tuned.



Quarterly Meetings Update... Small Cities Grant update concerning \$560,000 applied for through the State for betterment at Greenwoods and Chestnut. After four years of trying our best, an application was finally forwarded to the State. Representatives from the State visited these sites and toured with the Executive Director. They saw first-hand how in need Greenwoods is of ADA apartments and a larger community room.

Also, drives and parking lots, at both sites, are in need of replacement / repair.

- Fred Newman

News for Chestnut Grove

Roof Repairs

Have been scheduled for mid to late November and should be completed by the time you read this news.

Bathroom Modifications

All baths yet requiring easier access to tubs will be completed during November and December.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Thursday, December 13th 2007
at 6:00 p.m.

Come and join your neighbors for a
SUPER Holiday Celebration!!!



News for Laurel Commons

A "Stinky" Success

We have captured 26 skunks to date. I hope the critters are gone for the season and will not invade us next year.



Crowded Parking

At the North end of Laurel Commons causes inconvenience for some. Because the design of our new community was made so that there are more apartments at the North end, parking becomes crowded from time to time. We suggest that if you have health workers or family visiting on a regular basis, please suggest to them that they park further South in our larger parking area.

- Please Remember -

If your dog poops...you must scoop!

News for Greenwoods Garden

Sprucing Things Up

Has everyone noticed the new plantings at both the Perkins Street and Gay Street sides of your community? It certainly looks quite dressed up.

Tub Access

It's possible, if the small cities grant goes through, we will request that all tubs at Greenwoods be notched for easier access getting in and out of your tub.

Keeping An Eye On Things

We are still looking at funding sources for locating security cameras at Greenwoods...Stay Tuned.



Friendly Reminders & Notices For All

Special Announcement By Order of the Fire Marshall

Recently, the Fire Marshall visited the Housing office and has laid out certain warnings. This new alert is in addition to the recent meetings held concerning reducing cooking smoke. His alert listed:

- *1) "Keep portable heaters away from flammable materials such as curtains, papers and furniture."
- 2) "Make sure all electric cords are kept away from radiators and do not touch them creating a fire hazard."
- 3) "Do not burn candles, instead get battery operated lights."
- *4) "Check your smoke detectors and replace batteries if needed."
- 5) "If you have questions please feel free to contact Fire Marshall Bill Baldwin at [860-601-8940](tel:860-601-8940)."

* See the following Executive Directors note.

* Note from the Executive Director...

Residents of all communities are reminded that portable heaters, candles, kerosene lamps or heaters are **FORBIDDEN** in any apartment owned or operated by the Housing Authority...It's in your lease. Also, all apartment's smoke detectors are centrally wired and **Do Not** require batteries.

Maintenance Calls

For maintenance needs at Greenwoods and Chestnut it's: [379-4573 # 2](tel:379-4573)

- During working hours call this above number
- During off hours call Carol or Faith

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

For all Laurel Common maintenance needs it's: [\(800\) 411-3397](tel:800-411-3397)

- During off hours you may call John if the matter cannot wait until the next day.



New Phone System

Please know that the Housing Office has a new phone system. Listen carefully to Lynn's message and select the correct number.

**REMEMBER: IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS
OR HAVE A TRUE EMERGENCY IT'S 911**

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Friendly Reminders & Notices For All

(Continued from page 3)

Oxygen Usage

Remember to tell the office if you should start using oxygen. The fire department requires that signs are placed in your window or hung on your door.

Cleaning Filters

This is the responsibility of the last user of clothes dryers. Please be considerate of the next user. Should you use a Homemaker Service, please let them know too.



Falling Down

If you come upon someone who has fallen **do not** attempt to help him or her up. **Call for help.** More damage can be inflicted should you try to help them up!



Recent Quarterly Meetings & Special Smoke Meetings Bring Out Large Numbers

Forty-five residents attended the recent Quarterly Meetings. If you did not attend here is an important topic discussed:

- Too much smoke when cooking has brought out our Fire Department over thirty times, in recent months, to our three communities. At recent "Smoke Meetings", a recipe booklet was distributed. For those of you who did not attend, extra copies have been printed and have been distributed. The recipes were formulated by a group of residents from all three communities. Please take a moment and see if you don't think there are some good ideas in these booklets.



There are many new faces in all our Communities. Please take the time to say "Hello!".

The Winter Season...

Is upon us and that means snow, snow removal operations, and removing your autos from your respective parking lots. Generally, B&D Landscaping starts snow removal at Greenwoods at 9:00 AM on the morning following a storm. They then move on to Laurel and then Chestnut. This changes though if it is still snowing at 9:00 AM. This is where it gets complicated. If it continues to snow during the day, then it means a later start. This means that auto moving will be required later in the day. Some resident's work, and that means they want to be the first ones out in the morning. B&D Landscaping does all it can to accommodate these residents by clearing main traffic areas. For those not relishing the thought of bundling up and cleaning their cars, then finding a place to park...help could be on the way. See Fred's message to you in his "From the Desk of the Executive Director" section on the front cover of this newsletter, of the notice of an offer by B&D Landscaping to clean and relocate your cars for you. We're told a notice will be delivered to all drivers with an offer for this service.