

Will You Be My Valentine?



Winchester Housing Community News

Chestnut Grove • Greenwoods Garden • Laurel Commons

From the Desk of the Executive Director

I like to think that by February 1st we've passed the halfway mark of winter. February can bring on the Winter blah's though, so take a look at our upcoming social activities, get a Senior Center newsletter to find more Winter things to do, or start to plan on taking one of their upcoming trips.

Hats off to...our Tenant Services Committees at Chestnut Grove, Laurel Commons and Greenwoods Garden. They do a grand job of planning our many social events. Members of these Committees include Pat McIntyre, Faith Wainman, Marguerite Zaccara, Al Garrison, Lydia Rollins, Carol Grant, John Nannery, Jeannette Coon, Ann Brochue, Lynn Hayes, Jennie Poucher, Celia Rovero, and Alternates, Irene Cappabianca, Gilda Bongiovanni and Helen Dzurilla. The next time you see one of these people, why don't you say thanks.

The office has received...an outpouring of gratitude, positive phone calls, and many comments of thanks from residents on the splendid job B&D Landscaping does in taking care of our walks and drives. Snow removal conditions are never the same, storm to storm, so your grand understanding goes a long way in keeping these crews working as efficiently as they can. However, there are those couple of complainers that we must deal with from time to time who complain about having to relocate their autos. To those drivers I say, "I only wish that was all I had to do to get my driveway cleared of snow"! I don't think very many residents of our communities have had to use their own snow shovels. The clean-up is being done for us.



How To Reach Us

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

Crime... Chestnut Grove has a good many security cameras, and because of that, pictures of the intruders who committed the recent arson crime here in our parking lot, were in the hands of the police the very next morning. We hope our pictures will assist the Police in bringing the criminals to justice.



Windows... Quite a number of windows at Chestnut Grove, and at Laurel Commons, in several apartments, have been discovered to be left open from the summer months. We ask that all residents, of all Communities, check that both the lower half and upper halves of the windows are fully closed and that they are fully engaged. If any resident has a problem, we ask that you call the window locks office. We'd be more than happy to assist you.

Mail Deliveries... are again becoming a problem at Chestnut Grove. Gangs of residents are crowding the postal delivery person. The Post Office has once again reminded us that they have instructed the delivery person to suspend delivery of mail if he / she feels encroached upon. Please stay out of the lobby during mail delivery.



Smoking and Oxygen Tanks

As many of you may know, smoking in residents' apartments has been a concern of both myself, the staff and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for some time. Seniors have a tendency to doze off while smoking. Whether it is due to medicines they may be taking, or just a normal, over due nap. Combine this with oxygen being in the apartment and there is the making of a bomb. We feel so strongly about this danger we have included an article of a recent fire in Canaan, in which the same ingredients existed...a senior, smoking, and oxygen. Please note the photo of the apartment. The Senior Housing in Canaan is the same as our own Greenwoods Garden Community. For all our residents who have the same concern that we do, please take heart in the fact that the Winsted Fire Department is reviewing this case and will be contacting the Authority about smoking in our apartments. Stand by...

Fred Newman



Closed for the Holidays

Speaking of offices being closed - both offices will be closed on **Tuesday, February 12th & Monday, February 18th, 2008;** in honor of Lincoln and Washington's birthdays.



Identity Theft Has Struck Once Again...

A resident of Chestnut Grove has lost a great deal of money as a result of an illegitimate call. The resident was told that he had won a substantial monetary prize. All he had to do was send \$650 to Jamaica to release the prize money. The caller sounded sincere, the thought of winning lots of money sounded great to the resident. After sending the money, the caller was nowhere to be found.

**DO NOT GIVE
ANY CALLER ANY
PERSONAL OR
BANK ACCOUNT
INFORMATION**



Hang up immediately and call the Police at:
(860) 379-2721

Quality Quite Time

Some of you may have noticed the signs on the office doors regarding being closed on Wednesday afternoons. We have begun this procedure to ensure the staff of some quality quiet time to do some of the tasks that must be done with our full, undivided attention. We appreciate your understanding.

Friendly Reminders & Notices For All

Recycling

Please do not leave your empty laundry detergent bottles in the laundry rooms. You should be recycling them along with your other plastics.



Think Spring

Our weather recently made it feel like Spring is around the corner. Personally, I can't wait until we can plant the flowers again around the building. They were so beautiful last summer and that gives us something to look forward to this Spring / Summer. I have spoken with the Winsted Journal and they told us to call them directly this coming Summer. They will plan to do a human interest story on our gardens that the residents and staff take part in planting and maintaining. That, in itself, is something to look forward to.



Candles Can Be Dangerous

Yes, they look nice and smell nice but they can be extremely dangerous. Candles are the leading cause of house fires. A family member of one of our residents, bought a battery operated push button light to have in case the power goes out again! What a wonderful idea! At least you would have some light in your apartment until the power comes back on!



Rising Costs of...Everything

I don't know if any of you saw the article in the Republican American Newspaper regarding tenants in low-income State units being hit with rental increases. Our Greenwoods Garden residents recently experienced this and as we mentioned to them, at that time, they are not alone. The State continues to look the other way when it comes to our elderly housing units and their care. We work diligently to try to make ends meet with income and expenses. We are experiencing rising costs daily, as I'm sure you are too, with electricity, gas, insurance, maintenance, and more. Let's all hope 2008 will bring some positive changes in our country.



Recertifications Are Here

It's that time of year again! When I get to meet with most of you on a one on one basis and go over your income and expenses again to determine your rent figure for the upcoming year. At this time it only affects the people who are renewals for April, May and June. All of you will receive notices under your door and when you call I will let you know if you must come in or not. The newer residents that came in since last July do not have to be recertified at this time.

Please call Lynn at 379-4573 option 4 and I can let you know if you need to make an appointment now or when.



Remembering Us

Thanks to all of our residents who remembered us this Christmas with good wishes, cards, candy, cookies and breads. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Planning On Moving?

If you are planning on moving please note that the office requires a 30 days written notice to vacate. You must be in good standing with the WHA to move on. Also remember to remove all items from the apartment and **do not** place furniture, microwaves, toaster ovens, or televisions in our dumpster. *Dispose of these items elsewhere.*

The Light Corner

Three Things That Cannot Be Long Hidden

- The Sun
- The Moon
- The Truth

The Constitution

They keep talking about drafting a Constitution for Iraq. Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it has worked for over 200 years, and we're not using it anymore.....

The 10 Commandments

The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse is this:

You cannot post "**Thou Shall Not Steal**", "**Thou Shall Not Commit Adultery**", and "**Thou Shall Not Lie**" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians.....It creates a hostile work environment.

Question: What is Irish and sits outside in the summer time?

Answer: Patty O'Furniture!

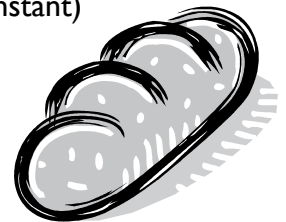


Did You Know...
That a SMILE
increases your face value!?

Blarney Stone Bread

Ingredients

- 8 oz Regular Oatmeal (not instant)
- 1 1/2 Cups Buttermilk
- 2 Tsp. Baking Powder
- 1/4 Tsp. Salt
- 1/2 to 1 Cup Flour
- 2 Tbls. Melted Butter



In a cool place, soak oatmeal overnight in buttermilk, making sure milk covers oatmeal. On the next day, add baking powder, salt and some of the flour. Mix well with wooden spoon or fork, continually adding flour until dough is sticky. Place dough on greased baking sheet or in round bread pan, forming a round loaf.

Brush with melted butter. Bake 30 minutes at 325 to 350. When inserted toothpick comes out clean, the bread is done. If needed, bake 10 minutes longer or until toothpick comes out clean. Enjoy!

The Tale of St. Patrick

St. Patrick, was born in 385 A.D. and considered himself a Pagan. At the age of 16 he was sold into slavery when his village was raided. During this time, he became closer to God and realized that his calling was to convert Pagans into Christians. After his 6th year in slavery, he escaped and studied in the monastery for 10 years. After studying, St. Patrick traveled throughout Ireland successfully converting many into Christians which upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission lasted 30 years and he died on March 17, 461. Since that day, the 17th of March has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day. He used the shamrock in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his hat.

