

December 2008

Winchester Housing Community News

Chestnut Grove • Greenwoods Garden • Laurel Commons

**We wish every one of you a
Happy, Healthy, Safe Holiday
Season and Happy New Year!**

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



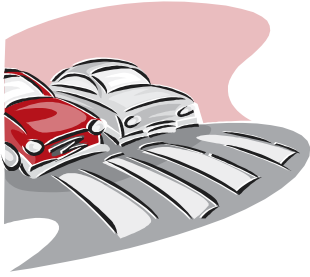
As you read this newsletter, the renovation of three apartments at Greenwoods Garden and the upgrade of four baths at Chestnut Grove has been placed under contract with a contractor, and quite possibly construction has started. All of these changes are in support of providing apartments for disable residents and/or for applicants who might apply to live at these communities in the future.

At nearly the same time: a contract has been signed to begin the long awaited enlargement of the Community Room at Greenwoods Garden. Our dining/party area will nearly be doubled by this project. Since work will be taking place during the month of December, a place for social gatherings may make use of the Chestnut Grove Community Room. We have met with Marguerite and Fay and arrangements were made to provide for changes to the serving area of the kitchen, along with a larger stove and storage area. All of this will make it much more convenient during lunches and other activities.

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



Parking Lots Has anyone anything to complain about our new parking lots? We realize it may have been a bit of an inconvenience to some, but it must be acknowledged that we certainly have properties to be proud of. Some of our newer residents may not realize it, but it took well over four (4) years of prodding our local leaders and about as long preparing documents for the State.

Carriage Maker Place Is Moving Forward

Having already received financial commitments from TDBanknorth and the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA), we are now in the process of gathering financial commitments from the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), and the Dept. of Economic and Community Development (DECD). All of this takes time and I have to remind myself to have patience. We certainly will keep you informed.

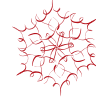
If you have any friends who might be interested in renting an apartment at Carriage Maker Place, please let them know to contact Lynn at our office to let us know their interest. We all know how long waiting lists can get. So let them know to contact us as soon as possible. Carriage Maker is planned to start as a small community of 12 to 18 apartments, but will grow to 30 to 35 apartments in later phases.

Snow...Moving Cars

We understand that Mr. Bentley of B&D Landscaping, who does plowing at all our Communities, is offering to move autos for our residents. We understand that he charges a fee for this service. The Housing Authority is in no way connected with this private service. However, it certainly makes sense to not have to go out early in the slippery, cold winter mornings to move your car.

For those residents who decide not to have B&D Landscaping move your car on your behalf, you must move cars in a timely manner when it snows, to allow B&D

Landscaping to remove the snow between the cars and in the driveway, parking lots. At Chestnut Grove look for the sign next to the glass door by the mailboxes - if it says "**Move Cars Today**" you know that you must remove your car for cleanup. If it snows only a little and there's no change in the sign you're all set. Please be careful when walking outside when it snows or when it is icy. If you do not need to go anywhere stay inside until the walkways are clear. We don't want anyone to get hurt.



For The First Time Ever,

the Winchester Housing Authority was the site for Regional Training in support of HUD required training. Executive Directors and



inspectors from many Housing Authorities and other agencies from all over Southern New England came here to learn inspection

requirements for Section 8 apartments. The three days of training and subsequent testing, qualified the students to inspect Section 8 apartments.

**It is winter...
and it always snows.
For the residents
of Chestnut Grove,
please keep your
eye on the sign
in the lobby
instructing you
if autos must
be moved.**

Lease Renewal Time is fast approaching. Social Security will be mailing your paperwork soon. Please take care and set this information in a special place. Lynn will be mailing out renewal notices in the coming months to the residents who will be renewing their leases. Please start preparing.

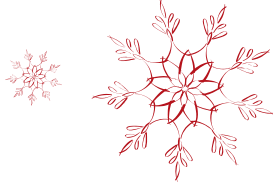
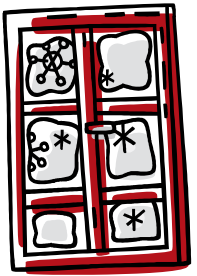


~ Fred Newman



Welcome, Welcome!!

Each community has new residents. Please say hello and welcome them into our communities, they will appreciate your thoughtfulness.



Keep The Cold Out

Close and lock all windows

properly to keep the draft out of your apartment. The windows at Chestnut Grove should be pushed way down and locked for proper insulation from the cold. If you need help with your windows let me (Lynn) know and I will send someone to help you.

Winter Courtesy

Now that we are buttoned up for the winter months, please remember to be courteous to your fellow residents by keeping the stereo and television at

a reasonable level - not to disturb your neighbors.



Safety First

Always concerned with our resident's safety, we wish that all residents, of all our Communities, would take a moment to read the following news article from the Philadelphia Enquirer. Adults sometimes don't complete their thought processes, we all know that our minds are busy thinking of numerous things all at once. This is when accidents happen. Read article below...

(5b) Blind, Elderly Woman Dies After Microwave Fire

A blind, 80-year-old disabled woman whose meals were usually prepared by a home health aide died in her West Philadelphia kitchen after she put aluminum foil in a microwave, setting off an explosion and fire that consumed her apartment

The Inquirer reported that Nicole Swaayze was pronounced dead in her fourth-floor unit in the Katie B. Jackson Apartments, a Philadelphia Housing Authority senior facility at 400 N. 50th St. The four-story, 59-unit brick building was evacuated, and two other residents were treated for minor injuries.

"This is such a tragedy because normally she has an aide who comes in and cooks for her," said Kirk Dorn, a housing authority spokesman, but "the flames got on her clothing, and the fire spread."

Swaayze put food wrapped in aluminum foil into the microwave, and the resulting arc touched off the blaze, Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers said. The fire was contained to Swaayze's one-bedroom apartment, and the smoke alarm in the apartment alerted residents of the 41-year-old building.

Neighbors said a housekeeper ordinarily visited Swaayze morning, noon and evening to help prepare meals, and it was unclear why the aide did not arrive last night.

Thanksgiving...Missed!!

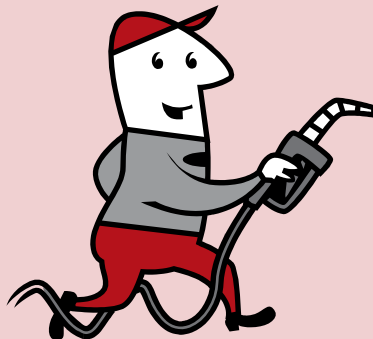
Bulletin boards at Chestnut Grove, Laurel Commons and Greenwoods Garden are the property of the Housing Authority. All notices placed there become the property of the Housing Authority. The only individuals permitted to place, or remove, these notices are the Housing Authority Staff and individuals authorized by the Housing Authority Staff. Because of someone's thoughtlessness a notice was removed and residents did not receive a Thanksgiving dinner. We find it difficult to believe one of our residents would maliciously cause someone to be left without a Thanksgiving dinner. We hope this will not happen again!

Fuel Assistance

Those of you who are eligible for Fuel Assistance don't forget to call

(860) 738-9138

to set up your appointment.
This will come in very handy this year.



Has Anyone Seen An Angel Lately?

The families of deceased residents quite often give photo albums once owned by their departed relative to the Housing Authority staff. Every once and awhile we find ourselves looking through these collection of pictures. Examples of some of these snapshots are seen below. We're struck by all the wonderful people we have come to know and consider part of our family. Some names can be remembered, or faces recognized, and for others, it's just nice seeing them looking so happy just being with their friends. Take a moment and enjoy scanning these photos...Have you seen an Angel lately?



left to right: Mrs. Dessie, Clara Catinelli, any guesses?



left to right - standing: Rita Molitar, Irene Griswold, any guesses?, Mr. & Mrs. Noel, Mrs. Radocchio - sitting: Mrs. Dessie, Clara Catinelli and Emily Dunn



Dorothy Hunt



left to right: Helen Yale, Emily Dunn and Grace Smith



left to right: Lorraine Kompartas, Gladys LaPlante, and any guesses?



left to right: Winnie Newman, any guesses?