



March Resident Newsletter



February 25, 2021

Rent is due on March 1st. Late fees will be assessed at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Upcoming Meetings

The Big Rapids Housing Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 9 a.m. with meeting details to be determined. Agendas will be posted at the main office, Housing Commission Facebook page, and laundry rooms when available.

The Resident Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. via conference call. Call-in information for the meeting is **1-701-802-5178, access number is 727375**. All Neighborhood Watch Meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

Annual Rent Recertification - Parkview & Evergreen SENIOR Apartments

Senior residents living at Parkview and Evergreen will soon be receiving their Annual Rent Recertification paperwork. Due to COVID-19, we will be mailing the checklists and authorizations to each apartment, along with instructions on how to return this paperwork to the office. Please watch your mail for this important information.

COVID-19 Operations Update

Big Rapids Housing Commission continues to take extra precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Community rooms and the lobby will remain closed for the safety of all residents. Please make sure you continue to call in all repairs (work orders), however, work orders will be completed as necessary only.

Before a maintenance person enters your apartment to complete a work order, we will ask if you or anyone in your household is sick. As a precaution we are asking residents to leave your apartment if possible or move to another room during the completion of the work order.

Rent is still due and payable by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2021, however if you have a loss of income and cannot pay rent due to this crisis you must contact the office for additional instructions. If you are signed up for electronic rent the rent will transfer on March 5, 2021 as normal. Residents can put their rent and other items in the tenant drop box which will continue to be checked on a daily basis.

The laundry rooms **will** be open to residents only during normal hours.

Resident Council News

The terms for Resident Council Executive Officers and Board Members expire March 31, 2021. If you are interested in running or re-running for any position, please contact Linda at 231-796-8689. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 26, and election ballots will go out with the April Newsletter. Ballots will be due by Monday, April 12, 2021 and the results will be announced at the April Resident Council meeting at 3:30 on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Spring Clean Up

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021 we will be having Spring Clean-Up. On this day you may place any large items out for pick up & we will pick them up free of charge. It is your responsibility to transport items to the curb by noon.

Annual Inspections

Annual Inspections will NOT take place in April, however, please be prepared to have your apartment inspected sometime this year. As a reminder, your lease states:

V. RESIDENT OBLIGATIONS - Resident shall be obligated:

5. To keep the dwelling unit and other such areas as may be assigned to Resident for exclusive use in a clean and safe condition.

Please make sure that you keep your refrigerator and stove clean, including your oven. Please make sure that you keep your floors and other fixtures in your apartment clean, including your bathtub, toilet, and sinks. Please be reminded it is your responsibility to call the office if you need a work order completed. It is also important that the areas in front of and behind your unit are clean, including your shed.

Daylight Savings Time

Remember to spring clocks ahead on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 2:00 a.m.

Free Tax Preparation - UPDATE

At this time it is still unknown whether the AARP Foundation Volunteer Tax Program will be able to prepare taxes, however, RSVP has closed their waiting list. If the program opens the information will be in the local newspaper and we will post it on our Facebook page. Residents may want to explore other options for preparing their tax return. Mid Michigan Community Action Agency is offering a tax preparation service via phone/mail/fax. Contact 231-660-0271 for more information.

Reporting Income Changes

Reminder to all residents to report **ALL** income changes within 10 days of the change. Please don't wait until your first paycheck to report the change.

Bed Bugs

Eliminate Clutter - Clutter is a bed bug's best friend and a pest management professional's worst enemy. Clutter provides an infinite number of areas for bed bugs to hide and creates areas that cannot be effectively treated by your pest management professional. These areas are a safe haven for bed bugs. Cluttered areas can cause the complete failure of a bed bug control program. Do your best to eliminate clutter. Contact the office immediately if you suspect you may have bed bugs. **Please clean out your bed bug monitors and make sure they are free of dirt and lint on a regular basis. Call the office immediately if any bed bugs are visible.**

Springtime Reminders

Please do not allow your children to climb any fences, including the fences at North Parkview Village and Evergreen Village, as this is damaging the fences and your children could get seriously injured.

Please keep the areas around your unit debris/clutter free, and remind your children to throw away wrappers, trash, papers etc. into the garbage.

DO NOT feed the animals!! It attracts all kinds of critters, including skunks. One tenant may call to complain of skunks while the neighbor next door is throwing out all kinds of food for them. Please work together to keep the wild animals away!

Security Cameras

For your protection, we have security cameras throughout the Big Rapids Housing Commission complexes.

The Revised Schedule of Routine Maintenance Charges is attached for your review effective 4/1/2021.

Do you have moisture in your home?

Moisture issues can become a major concern for everyone. There are many reasons why moisture can be a problem, which is why controlling moisture is key. Please review the following “moisture control tips”:

- When water leaks or spills occur indoors, ACT QUICKLY and clean up wet or damp areas immediately.
- If you see condensation or moisture collecting on windows, walls or pipes ACT QUICKLY to dry the wet surface and reduce the moisture/water source. Condensation can be a sign of high humidity.
- Run the bathroom fan when showering and run it for 20-30 minutes after showering.
- Use the range hood exhaust fan whenever cooking.
- Do not block heat registers and vents as this may restrict proper air flow in your unit.

Laundry Room Reminders

Remember when doing your laundry to always clean out your pockets prior to washing your clothing, clean washers after use and empty dryer lint traps after each use. Also, a reminder of laundry room hours are as follows, please note Evergreen Laundry Room is now open until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday:

South Parkview Village Laundry Room Hours:

Monday – Friday	7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays/Sundays	8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

North Parkview Village Laundry Room Hours:

Monday – Saturdays	7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Evergreen Village Laundry Room Hours:

Monday – Friday	7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays/Sundays	8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The doors will be locked at closing time – so make sure you are done with your laundry according to the closing times.

COVID-19 Regulatory Waivers

The Big Rapids Housing Commission adopted the following waivers in accordance with HUD regulations:

PH-5: Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Requirement (CSSR). Effective March 1, 2020 the Big Rapids Housing Commission is waving the CSSR requirement until the family’s next annual reexamination after June 30, 2021.

PH-6: Energy Audits. Effective March 1, 2021 the energy audit due March, 2021 will be delayed and completed no later than December 31, 2021.

PH-12: Public Housing Agency Annual Self-Inspections. Effective March 1, 2020 the Big Rapids Housing Commission is waving the requirement that the PHA must inspect each project during CY 2020. Big Rapids Housing Commission will complete an inspection of every public housing property during CY 2021.