



## Resident Newsletter

April 29, 2021

**We will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day.**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The Resident Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 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.

The Big Rapids Housing Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 9 a.m. in the Highrise Conference Room. All residents are invited to attend. If you prefer to attend via zoom you may do so. Zoom instructions will be posted at the main office, Housing Commission Facebook page, and laundry rooms when available.

**Rent is due on May 1, 2021. Late fees will be assessed at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021.**

### **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 wear a mask and 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 Saturday, May 1, 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 May 5, 2021. 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.

**Security Cameras** For your protection we have security cameras throughout the Big Rapids Housing Commission complexes

### **Extermination Notice – Ants, spiders, etc. – May 19, 2021**

On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, Rose Pest Solutions will be spraying around the perimeter of EVERY building. In case of rain Wednesday, May 26, 2021 will be the make-up date. Please clean up the area around your unit and remove all lawn furniture, toys, plants, lawn ornaments, etc. from the outside perimeter of your apartment, (about 3ft. from the building). Toys and other items should be placed in the sheds. On Monday, May 17, 2021 we will be checking to make sure the areas around your apartment are clear and anyone in non-compliance will receive a notice. Pets should not be outside during the application. The exterminator recommends having all windows shut during the application.

### **Laundry Rooms Closed for Cleaning**

All laundry rooms will be closed on Thursday, May 6, 2021, for cleaning.

### **Spring Reminders**

Please move patio furniture, tables, toys, etc. when you see the mowers around the complex. In addition, please remember to monitor your children at all times when they are on the playground and outside. Please prevent them from leaving items on the lawn, littering, and writing with chalk on buildings. Also, remember to respect your neighbors' property and belongings.

### **Speed Limit 10 MPH**

Please slow down & remind your visitors of the 10 MPH speed limit within the complex.

**THANK YOU** – The Resident Council would like to thank all residents who voted in the recent elections. Election results are as follows:

President:	Lori Butler	Board Member:	Doug Hacko
Vice President:	Nora Sisson	Board Member:	Doug White
Secretary/Treasurer:	STILL AVAILABLE	Board Member:	STILL AVAILABLE

### **Playground Policy Rules!**

To avoid injuries on the playground children are required to follow the playground rules. Children below the age of thirteen (13) must be supervised at all times, including while they are on the playground. The playground area is open for play during daylight hours. To avoid injuries this area is prohibited at 9:00 p.m. or dark, whichever comes first. The following rules are posted on the playground:

1. Use of playground equipment is at your own risk.
2. Play area reserved for residents only.
3. Young residents under the age of thirteen (13) must be accompanied by an adult.
4. No rough playing or yelling permitted.
5. Only 1 person per swing at a time.
6. No jumping off sliding board.
7. No glass bottles in play area.
8. No one over the age of sixteen (16) permitted to use equipment.



**Pools are to be emptied after use. Residents are prohibited from leaving pools up overnight due to safety issues.** IN ADDITION, RUNNING TOILETS, DRIPPING SINKS, AND TUB FAUCETS NEED TO BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE OFFICE FOR REPAIR.

**Water keys are available in the office for the outside faucets. The cost is \$4.00.**

To avoid high water bills, we continue to limit water use.

1. Sprinklers (for children to play in) can be used for 1 hour every day.
2. Kiddy pools can be filled once every day. Pools are limited to 20 gallons.
3. Watering (plants, flowers, etc.) is limited to 15 minutes.

### **Bed Bug Monitors**

The monitors that are installed in your apartment must be kept in place at all times. You will be charged \$5.00 per monitor for any damaged or removed monitors. Upon move out if all the monitors we installed are not left in the unit you will be charged \$5.00 for each monitor.

Example: 20 monitors x \$5.00 = \$100.00. **ALSO**, if your mattress is not on a bed frame it will be necessary for you to acquire a bed frame within 30 days so the monitors can be installed.

### **Bed Bug Prevention**

Bed bugs are hard to prevent because of their small size, night habits, and ability to hitchhike.

Here are some prevention tips:

- Be on the lookout for signs of infestations such as: waking up with bites; seeing live bugs, or dark red or black spots on bedding, carpets, walls, and furniture. Finding bed bugs early is the key to preventing their spread.

- Inspect used furniture closely before bringing into your home. Look for signs of infestations in cushions, zippers, seams, and underneath including springs and frames. Use a magnifying glass if possible. Beware of items in alleys and dumpsters.
- If you have carpet vacuum your home regularly. If you do have bed bugs, make sure you close the vacuum bag tightly and dispose of it outside your home.
- Contact Big Rapids Housing Commission immediately for a free inspection and treatment if you think you may have bed bugs.

### **Maintenance Treatment for Bed Bugs**

We will begin to start up our weekly preventative maintenance treatments as of Thursday, May 13, 2021. Please look for a notice a week prior to your scheduled service date.

The Housing Commission has contracted with Rose Pest Solutions to inspect all apartments for bed bugs, inspect and/or install monitors on all the accessible beds and couches. Residents will receive an additional notification. This is the tentative schedule for this month:

<b>Apt #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Apt #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Apt #</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>10A</b>	5/13/21	<b>12C</b>	5/20/21	<b>15B</b>	5/27/21
<b>10B</b>	5/13/21	<b>13A</b>	5/20/21	<b>15C</b>	5/27/21
<b>10C</b>	5/13/21	<b>13B</b>	5/20/21	<b>16A</b>	5/27/21
<b>11A</b>	5/13/21	<b>13C</b>	5/20/21	<b>16B</b>	5/27/21
<b>11B</b>	5/13/21	<b>14A</b>	5/20/21	<b>16C</b>	5/27/21
<b>11C</b>	5/13/21	<b>14B</b>	5/20/21	<b>17A</b>	5/27/21
<b>12A</b>	5/13/21	<b>14C</b>	5/20/21	<b>17B</b>	5/27/21
<b>12B</b>	5/13/21	<b>15A</b>	5/20/21	<b>17C</b>	5/27/21

You are required to contact the office immediately or within 24 hours if you suspect you see a bed bug or other vermin in your apartment.

### **Downtown Farmer’s Market**

Spring is here, and the Big Rapids Downtown Farmer’s Market is back on **Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021!** The Farmers’ Market, located at 226 N. Michigan Ave., is a showcase for locally grown food and other farm related products, providing an alternative marketing opportunity for local farmers and consumers to interact directly with each other. Hours are as follows: Tuesdays – 12 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & Fridays – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Pocket Park Concert Series**

Every Friday from June through September, there is free live music in Pocket Park from 12:00pm to 2:00pm! Brought to you by the Schuberg Insurance Agency and Auto Owners Insurance **Location:** Pocket Park (just south of 125 N. Michigan Ave.)



### **Job Opportunities**

We have several contractors that will be performing work on Big Rapids Housing property this spring and summer. They are looking for a laborer to assist them with light demolition, cleanup, sanitizing and cleaning. You must be a resident to apply. Applications are available at the Housing Commission Office.

### **Increase in Electric Rate**

Beginning June 1, 2021, peak pricing will go into effect through the end of September. That means from Monday through Friday in the summer, electricity will cost 1.5 times more, during the hours of 2

p.m. to 7 p.m. By shifting when you use energy, and taking advantage of energy efficiency opportunities, will help save energy.

### Annual Inspections

Unit Inspections have been scheduled for all apartments in the senior section on the following dates:

Parkview Highrise (201 – 408)	Monday, May 17, 2021
Parkview South Senior (10-A – 31-C)	Tuesday, May 18, 2021
Parkview North Senior (101-A – 114-D)	Wednesday, May 19, 2021

If this time is not convenient for you, Monday, May 17, 2021, will be the alternate date. You must contact the office by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021 to reschedule your inspection. Friday, May 14, 2021 will be the alternate date for the Highrise residents.

If any needed repairs are identified during the inspection the maintenance staff may be re-entering your apartment on your inspection day to complete the repairs whether you are home or not.

We will be making sure that your stove is clean, including oven and under stovetop. We will also be making sure you are taking proper care of your floors (mopping and waxing when needed) and take an overall look at your general housekeeping. We will be checking for damage to the unit and looking for any work orders that are not being reported to the office in a timely manner. 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. Residents in violation of the Curtain Policy will receive a lease violation notice. If you need curtains, please stop by the Curtain Pantry located in the Highrise, for free curtains.

**BEFORE THE INSPECTION: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE IN QUARANTINE DUE TO COVID-19 EXPOSURE OR POSITIVE TEST. IF YOU ARE SICK OR HAVE EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS: FEVER, COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, SORE THROAT OR VOMITING/DIARRHEA.**

**When the staff enters your apartment for the inspection you MUST wear a mask, leave the apartment/be in a separate room, social distance and remain at least 6 feet from the staff at all times.**

### Landscaping

The Big Rapids Housing Commission has contracted with New Horizons Landscape LLC to provide landscaping services. They will be cleaning the flower beds, trimming the shrubs, spraying the weeds, installing mulch in the front of the apartments, and installing cushion wood on the playgrounds. **Please assist in this process by cleaning up the area around your unit and removing any necessary items from in front of and around your unit.**

### Michigan Works -Young Professionals Program

Michigan Works Young Adult Services Program will help you gain the skills to succeed in tomorrow's workforce. If you are ready to work, they can help. They are looking for young adults ages 16 – 24 who are getting ready to graduate from high school, about to start or finish their GED, teen parents or in foster care, getting ready to enter the workforce, and looking for their next step. They provide the following programs: Young Professionals Program, Training Funding Assistance, On the Job Training, and Work Experience. Give them a call at 231-796-0049 or visit [michworkswc.org/youth](http://michworkswc.org/youth).

