

APRIL 2020

# Windy Mines

Monthly Newsletter of the Housing Authority of the City of Frostburg  
101 Meshach Frost Village  
Frostburg, MD 21532

## COVID-19 Impact on Daily Business- Updates

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### *Office Hours*

The office remains closed to the public. Appointments available on an as needed basis. The office staff will begin on-site hours on Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-2pm, weekly. Staff will continue to tele-work Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and are available via e-mail. The voicemails will continue to be checked regularly and return calls will be made as necessary.

### *Maintenance*

Maintenance staff will continue to meet the needs of the Emergency Work Orders. Maintenance staff will be on the grounds Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-2pm, weekly. Their job focus will be groundskeeping and working on vacant units. **Please continue to social distance, DO NOT approach maintenance staff while working. If you have a concern to report, please phone the office or send an e-mail.** Also, their cell phones are for EMERGENCIES ONLY. Continue to call the office and leave a message so a Work Order can be created.

### *Income Changes*

If your household is experiencing an income loss please report immediately. If you have reported an income change, please continue to update the office with changes in unemployment benefits and/or return to work. This is **VERY IMPORTANT** to communicate to the office so rent can be adjusted timely and correctly. If you fail to report any changes, rent cannot be updated. Additionally, any income not reported can leave you in a negative and owe additional rent. Changes can be reported to [admin@frostburghousing.org](mailto:admin@frostburghousing.org), drop a note in the drop box. Rent is to be paid via check, money order or cash through the drop box at the main office. More information to come for **online payments**.

### *Rent Responsibility*

Although the courts are closed and under the Governor's State of Emergency evictions cannot take place for unpaid rent, **you still remain responsible for the rent due**. If you fail to pay the rent owed, once the State of Emergency is lifted, filings for unpaid rent will occur, then you will be responsible to pay the total balance due or face eviction. HUD has waived some things during this pandemic; however, rent is not waived. There are provisions in place for interim-re-exams to re-evaluate income and adjust rent as needed.

***The tenant is responsible to report the changes.*** If you do not report the changes, there cannot be any correction to the rent to assist during this difficult time. We are here to help as needed but you must communicate the need. Please see above regarding *Income Changes*. Late fees are not being assessed at this time.

### *Annual Recertifications and Inspections*

Required documents are being mailed, please complete and return. Ashley will call to conduct a phone interview if there are questions. No inspections will take place during this State of Emergency. Paperwork may be returned through the drop-box.

## Lawncare Responsibilities

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*Households remain responsible for their lawns.* Grass should be mowed and weed eaten as usual. Mowers and weed eaters will remain available for use on Tuesday and Thursday 9am-2pm. The rental fee will be waived at this time. Please call the office to notify that you will be borrowing a mower and/or weed eater. The equipment will be outside the maintenance shop for pick-up and return. YOU WILL NOT need to have contact with Maintenance employees. PLEASE be honorable, borrow and return the equipment in the shape it is found in. Maintenance will be sure the equipment is gassed up and ready for use each morning. Please be sure to sanitize the item (handles, grips) upon return. Towels and a sanitizing bleach spray will be available with the equipment.

**Bryson will be back on Thursdays, 9am-2pm, to mow lawns as requested, beginning Thursday, 4/16/2020.** \$10 per lawn. Please contact the office if you would like to sign-up for weekly lawncare. You can phone and leave a message or e-mail, [admin@frostburghousing.org](mailto:admin@frostburghousing.org), and then leave the \$10 in drop box for payment weekly, or attach to mailbox outside door for Bryson to pick-up. You may also pay in advance, just leave a note with the payment. CASH ONLY.

## Online Rent Payments NOW AVAILABLE

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Beginning May 1, 2020, residents will be able to pay for rent, workorder charges, water charges (for those with washers in units) and internet services online. Go to [www.frostburghousingauthority.com](http://www.frostburghousingauthority.com)

Click on the link for PAY ONLINE. This will direct you to the online payment link hosted by GovCard. There is a convenience fee if you choose to pay online. Credit and Debit card fee is \$1.75 if less than \$60, if greater than \$60 it is a flat 3% fee. It is highly encouraged to set-up payment with ACH or checking account information. All ACH payments regardless of cost is a standard \$1.75. When making a payment, you can pay your full amount due in one payment. (Example: rent + water + internet). This will only incur a fee one time.

Rent payments will still be accepted via cash, check and money order at the office through the drop box.

If you would like to set-up a recurring (monthly) payments to automatically deduct from your checking account, please call the office and Brenda or Ashley will set this up. Standard \$1.75 fee applies.

# T-Mobile Connect Home Internet Services

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The services remain available for those who have not signed up. A few changes have taken place and are included in the options below:

- Option A:** Tablet with unlimited highspeed internet service and a wi-fi hotspot with 11G limited.  
**Option B:** Hotspot only with unlimited internet

**Cost:** \$20.90/ month (Option B will increase by less than \$10 June 2021, price negotiated next year)

**Payment:** Paid monthly with rent, one month in advance. First payments begin May 2020 for June service.

Contact the office if you would like to sign-up. If you would like to change out your device from tablet to hotspot only, contact the office.

**The BEST method of contact is EMAIL at [admin@frostburghousing.org](mailto:admin@frostburghousing.org)**

## A Press Release from Social Security Administration

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**DO NOT CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH QUESTIONS. THIS IS BEING SHARED AS A REQUEST OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION. PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY AND CONTACT VIA THE METHODS OUTLINED IN THE PRESS RELEASE!**

Friday, April 10, 2020  
 For Immediate Release

### **New Guidance about COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Beneficiaries from Social Security Commissioner Andrew Saul**

“The Treasury Department launched a new web tool allowing quick registration for Economic Impact Payments for eligible individuals who do not normally file a tax return, and also announced that it would begin making automatic payments. However, for some people receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration--specifically those who have dependent children under the age of 17--it is to their advantage to go to this portal to ensure they also get the \$500 per dependent Economic Impact Payment. I encourage them to do this as soon as possible, and want to provide the following details:

People who receive Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability insurance benefits and who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who have qualifying children under age 17 should now go to the IRS’s webpage at [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments) to enter their information instead of waiting for their automatic \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment. By taking proactive steps to enter information on the IRS website about them and their qualifying children, they will also receive the \$500 per dependent child payment in addition to their \$1,200 individual payment. If Social Security beneficiaries in this group do not provide their information to the IRS soon, they will have to wait to receive their \$500 per qualifying child.

The same new guidance also applies to SSI recipients, especially those who have qualifying children under age 17. To receive the full amount of the Economic Impact Payments you and your family are eligible for, go to the IRS's *Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info* page at [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments) and provide information about yourself and your qualifying children.

Additionally, any new beneficiaries since January 1, 2020, of either Social Security or SSI benefits, who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019, will also need to go to the IRS's *Non-Filers* website to enter their information.

Lastly, for Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability beneficiaries who do not have qualifying children under age 17, you do not need to take any action with the IRS. You will automatically receive your \$1,200 economic impact payment directly from the IRS as long as you received an SSA-1099 for 2019.

For SSI recipients who do not have qualifying children under age 17, we continue to work closely with Treasury in our efforts to make these payments automatically. Please note that we will not consider Economic Impact Payments as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months.

The eligibility requirements and other information about the Economic Impact Payments can be found here: [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center). In addition, please continue to visit the IRS at [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information.

We will continue to update Social Security's COVID-19 web page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/) as further details become available."

## Miscellaneous Reminders

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### *Trash Pick-up*

Pick up remains on Monday and Thursday mornings. As a resident of FHA you are responsible to put trash out for pick up and to ensure it is bagged and secured so not to blow away. After pick-up remember to gather up your household can so it does not blow away. **DO NOT PUT TRASH OUT EARLIER THAN THE EVENING PRIOR TO PICK-UP**

### *Medical and Recreational Marijuana Use*

Is NOT ALLOWED on any property at the Frostburg Housing Authority. This is a lease violation and households will be evicted for not following this rule. Medical use has been passed in Maryland; however, Public Housing is a Federal regulated property and falls under Federal guidelines, therefore it is NOT allowed.

### *Long Term Guests*

Any person staying in a household greater than 14 calendar days and not approved otherwise by the Housing Authority is a lease violation.