

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

a bulletin for Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority residents

## Smoking ban approved

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced on Nov. 20, 2016 approval of a nationwide ban on smoking in public housing.

The rule prohibiting lit tobacco products in units, common areas, administrative offices and all areas within 25 feet of buildings becomes effective Feb. 3, 2017. All public housing agencies have 18 months from then to fully implement the policy. The rule aims to improve the health and safety of public housing residents and staff, reduce risk of catastrophic fire and lower overall maintenance costs.



CPRHA Executive Director Keith Viers said an exact date for the policy to take effect at Cumberland Plateau properties has not yet been set. However, CPRHA will provide adequate notice to all residents of when the ban will begin, said Viers.

Viers added that for residents who want to quit smoking, CPRHA can connect them to resources, including the Virginia Department of Health's QUIT NOW Virginia program, to help with the transition.

## Recertifications underway

Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority property managers have started the annual recertification process for all residents, during which tenants' income and family composition are reverified.

Because public housing eligibility is based on income, changes in income or family composition can affect a tenant's eligibility and rent amount.

CPRHA's recertification process will continue through July. Tenants will receive written notices with information about the recertification process.

## Holiday closing

Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 20 in observance of President's Day. Offices will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21 and resume normal business hours.

## AT FOX MEADOW

### Got a suggestion?

The Association of Concerned Tenants (ACT) of Fox Meadow wants to hear ideas about ways to improve the community or suggestions for resident-related activities or events.

ACT now has a suggestion box in the front lobby of the Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority office at Fox Meadow. Residents can submit in writing – anonymously if they choose – their suggestions during regular office hours.

ACT meets the first Friday of every month in the Fox Meadow community room. Membership is open to all Fox Meadow residents at least 18 years old.

# Residents can help with pest control

Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority provides regular pest control services at all its properties, but residents can also do their part to help prevent pest infestations.

Cockroaches are among common pest problems and can affect your family's health. Cockroaches are easier to prevent than get rid of, and keeping your unit clean is key to keeping them at bay. CPRHA management and maintenance staff offer the following tips to help fight the problem:

- Do not leave cooked food or dirty dishes on the

counter, sink or stove.

- Mop floors with bleach at least weekly.
- Do not leave trash piled up in your apartment or on the porch.
- Limit pests' food and water sources. For example, do not leave pet food out all the time.
- Clean and change litter boxes frequently.
- Do not bring boxes from the food pantry into your apartment, as this is a way to transport roaches and other insects into your unit. Unload the box outside before bringing items inside.

## In need of a ride?

Four County Transit is a public transit system serving Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell and Buchanan counties. Operated by Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, Four County runs a deviated fixed route service. Regular stops include Centennial Heights in Dickenson County, Fox Meadow in Russell County and Fairfax Court in Tazewell County. For complete schedules and fares, visit [fourcountytransit.org](http://fourcountytransit.org), call the transit service at 1 (888) 656-2272 or contact CPRHA resident services coordinator Paula Culbertson at (276) 889-4910 ext 17.

### AT CENTENNIAL HEIGHTS

## CHAT members sought

After being inactive for several years, the Centennial Heights Assembly of Tenants is trying to reorganize.

Through a tenants association, residents can join together to improve their community and identify and solve common problems.

Former CHAT president Sandra Coleman, who is among residents focused on getting the organization up and running again, said CHAT has potential to accomplish several positive things in the community – such as planning activities for Centennial Heights' children, hosting events like game and movie nights, organizing a women's group and many other activities. However, tenant participation is required to make such things happen.

A meeting for those interested in reorganizing CHAT is planned for Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Centennial Heights Community Room. All residents are encouraged to attend.

## Connect with us

- Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority  
35 Fox Meadow Drive  
Lebanon, VA 24266
- PHONE: (276) 889-4910
- ONLINE: [www.cprha.org](http://www.cprha.org)
- ON FACEBOOK:  
Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority