

Summer 2020

Green Ridge House Gazette

Prince George's County Enters Phase Two of Reopening

On Monday, June 29, 2020, at 5:00 PM, Prince George's County entered a full phase two reopening. All businesses open under previous orders, including grocery stores, banks, medical care facilities, gas stations, restaurants, and farmer's markets, remain open. In addition, retail stores and malls, houses of worship, personal services, and some recreational establishments may now open up to 50% capacity with safety protocols in place, such as maintaining social distancing and frequently cleaning high-contact surfaces. Large gatherings are limited to 100 people.

Establishments that remain closed include senior centers, county government buildings, theaters, and bars. Under these guidelines, both Green Ridge House and Greenbelt's city buildings remain closed to the public until further notice.

Despite the reopening, it is best to be cautious and stay home as much as possible to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Continue to wash your hands frequently, practice social distancing, and wear a mask in public!



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July is Energy Assistance Month!

Do you need help paying for energy bills? The Office of Home Energy Programs provides bill assistance for low income households!

Energy Assistance is a year-round program that you can apply for at any time but must renew every June/July. If you are interested in receiving Energy Assistance for the first time **OR** if you received Energy Assistance in the previous year and want to renew, you can apply now for benefits that will be issued in July 2020. We will be having multiple **Energy Assistance Application workshops** this month on the following dates: Monday, July 6 and Monday, July 20. Additional workshops will be scheduled based on demand.

Please see the flyer and sign-up sheets in the lobby for more information, including time slots and income requirements.

The Maryland Department of Aging presents: The Medication Disposal Pouch Initiative



Medication disposal pouches are a safe and convenient way to discard medications. They are better for the environment and prevent medication misuse, which can happen even to medication that is thrown in the trash. This July, the Maryland Department of Aging is giving out free medication disposal pouches to Greenbelt residents.

Three pouches will be delivered to each Green Ridge House resident's door at the beginning of this month. Each pouch holds up to 45 pills or 6 patches. Follow the instructions that come with the pouch to neutralize any medications you discard.

Each pouch will come with instructions and a survey to provide feedback on the use of the pouches to the Maryland Department of Aging. Please fill out one survey and return to the box in front of the Service Coordinator office by 7/30/2020.

The Greenbelt Farmer's Market is OPEN

The Greenbelt Farmers Market is open from 10 AM to 2 PM every Sunday.

The market is located in the parking lot next to the City Municipal building on 25 Crescent Road. It has one entrance, near the New Deal Café, and one exit, near the Aquatic Center with a U-shaped aisle.

Please observe safety protocols set by the county and the Governor of Maryland:

- Visitors must wear a mask throughout their visit and practice social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is provided and must be used at the entrance.
- Shoppers may not consume products in the market area (including carryout and drinks)
- Preferably one person per family group should enter the market
- If children enter the market, they must stay with an adult at all times
- Visitors who leave the market must redo the entry process to return
- Products will be pre-wrapped, pre-ordered, or selected and packaged by the vendor. If reusable bags are brought, they must be kept off vendor surfaces.
- Some vendors will have contactless payment methods available.

Eligible GRH residents can now apply to receive voucher booklets to use at any participating Farmer's Market, including the Greenbelt Farmer's Market!



To receive vouchers, you must be at least 60 years old and your household income must fall under the eligibility requirements.

Please see the flyer in the lobby for more information, including the income requirements. Call, text, or email Flora, the Service Coordinator, to get an application (contact info on pg. 4).

Vouchers will be handed out in late July/early August. **You cannot receive vouchers if you do not turn in an application.**

Service Coordinator Office Hours Update

The Service Coordinator, Flora, will continue to telework from home and from the City Municipal Building until further notice. **She will also be in the Service Coordinator Office regularly *every second and fourth Monday beginning July 13, from 2 PM – 5 PM.***

As before, Flora will always be available through phone and email **every Monday – Friday from 9 AM – 5 PM.**

Please call or text **301-412-2480** or email fli@greenbeltmd.gov if you need assistance or would like to set an appointment during in-person office hours.

Further details and a calendar are posted on the Service Coordinator Office door. You must wear a mask if you come in for in-person office hours.

Ongoing Events at Green Ridge House

Giant Grocery Distribution: Every Monday only in the Dining Room starting at 1 PM. If you are interested in picking up items, you must sign up for a time slot if you have not already. See more guidelines posted in the Terrace level hallway. To sign up please call, text, or email Flora (contact info above).

Congregate Meal Program: Every Friday in the Dining Room. Please contact Ms. Marvel Brown at **301-474-1113** for more details.

Beginning July, the Service Coordinator will begin scheduling monthly check-in calls with each resident. This is to ensure everyone in the building has adequate access to food, is engaging socially with others, and is receiving or applying for benefits and assistance if applicable.

If you are in need of food, please call the St. Hugh Food Pantry at **301-474-4322**.

All other regular activities remain canceled until further notice.