



Petra Community Housing

Petra Community Housing The Community Connector



October 2020

HOME ALONE



Home Alone

I don't know about you but when I hear the words, Home Alone, I instantly think of the 1990 Christmas comedy starring Macaulay Culkin. The story of a young boy whose family goes away for Christmas and unintentionally forgets him at home. It's the story of how he creatively defends his home and keeps himself safe.

Well sometimes living by yourself can almost make us feel like that little boy left alone to fend for himself, especially after a traumatic event such as a hospitalization or a nasty fall.

What do we do when the professionals say we're okay to go home alone and we're just not as confident as they seem to be? Here's some helpful suggestions to consider:

1. Don't be too proud to ask for assistance. Consider asking your doctor to authorize a **Visiting Nurse** to check on you while you're home recuperating.
2. Recruit family, friends or neighbors as a **buddy system for reassurance and assistance**. Don't forget to ask your church or other groups you may belong to. You be surprised how willing many are to lend a hand or a heartfelt visit.
3. Look into a PERS system. These are **Personal Emergency Response Systems** similar to medical alerts that respond whenever you need them. They are surprisingly affordable starting at around \$20 a month and are answered by real people. One such system I highly recommend is the Great Call Lively. Once you purchase the unit for less than \$50, it is around \$25 a month depending on your plan choice. It is GPS enabled and functional wherever you go. It provides assistance calls with a real operator along with 911 if needed.
4. Take advantage of **local delivery services for groceries and medications**. That will help free up time for your friends and family to assist you in areas where you need it most of all.
5. **Use your RSC!** Your Resident Services Coordinator is here to connect you with information and resources that can help make your life easier. Your Services Coordinator does exactly that, coordinates services that can benefit you. Call Beverly (Flag/Bard) 484.933.4955 or Sheree (Freedom) 484.933.4954
6. If you do one through five above you will be able to do the most important thing, rest and allow your body and mind to restore itself to your personal best. Keep this article handy next time you find



Medicare Open Enrollment is Here!

Free "No Strings" Open Enrollment Counseling is Available

*Medicare health plans change annually. Plan premiums have dropped an average of 34% over the last 3 years, and in some states up to 60%. Did you know there are free plans? If you would like to evaluate your plan and see what else is available **NOW IS THE TIME!***

The Annual Election Period (AEP) for 2020 has started and ends December 7th

Be Cautious of Insurance AGENTS & BROKERS that give biased advice!!

Take the opportunity to review your health and drug plan options with **NO SALES INVOLVED!!**

(See Apprise on page 3)

VOTING INFORMATION Tuesday November 3rd 2020

With November 3rd fast approaching people have quite a few questions about how, when and where to vote. Hopefully we can offer some information that will help the residents of Petra.

Polling Places: Please be advised that voting **will not take place at Bard Complex** this year but instead will take place at the United Church of Christ on Chestnut Street in Spring City. Flag House voting will occur at the Spring City Library on Broad St. and Freedom House polling place is at the Royersford Elementary School 450 Spring St.

Mail In Dropboxes: If you have already applied for mail in ballots your voting ballot will be mailed to you directly. You can send it via the post office or through secure Dropboxes located at the Spring City Free library on 245 Broad Street for Flag and Bard. Royersford has a Dropbox behind Borough Hall 300 Main St. for Freedom House residents.

Deadlines for the November 3 General Election:

October 27 at 5 pm - APPLICATIONS for a mail-in or absentee ballot must be received by your county election board.

November 3 - Deadline for returning your voted mail-in or absentee ballot.

By mail: **Your mail-in ballot must be postmarked by 8 p.m. on election day and received by your county election office by 5 p.m. on Friday, November 6 to be counted.**

In-person: **You must return your mail-in ballot to your county election office or Drop Box by 8 p.m. on election day.**

Mail-in ballots (postmarked by 8 p.m. on election day) must be received to be counted.

Updates for PETRA ON THE GO Bus Program

The bus program will be temporarily canceled due to lack of participation. Management is considering offering bus trips to the Pottstown shopping centers twice per month and combining Flag, Freedom and Bard residents as we used to.

If you are interested in riding the bus, Please call **Beverly** at **484-933-4955** asap.

Petra will determine if the bus will run based on resident interest. Thank you for your help!

Notables

Social Security announced a 1.3% increase in benefits for 2021.

Freedom House Reminder, RSC, Sheree Hawk is available Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm. 484.933.4949



Listen & Watch for "ResidentConnect" Community Announcements

As of August 2020, Petra has incorporated a new telephone announcement service that can relay important information to our residents in an instant!!

Watch for these numbers on your caller ID

**Flag House 484-549-9685
Bard Complex & Freedom House
484-549-9794**

Reminders From Maintenance

Work Orders



Work Orders can be submitted in several ways:

Via telephone by dialing 610-948-1797 and choosing option #4.

By email at workorders@petrach.org.

Writing up a work order sheet and depositing it in the box by the front office
Emergency work orders can be directed to the Main Office/Answering Service
at 610-948-1797

Building, Apartment number. And phone number must be included.

DO NOT give your request to any staff member including maintenance. It needs to be submitted as above. There is no guarantee that your work order will be received by maintenance if you contact maintenance any other way. Thank you

General Housekeeping



Please help us keep our buildings safe and sanitary.

If you spill something on the floor, please try to wipe it up, if you need assistance, please call the main office at 610-948-1797 and request maintenance. If you notice anything that is dirty, slippery, etc. Please call maintenance at the above number and choose option #4. Thank you for helping Petra in maintaining our facilities.

Laundry Rooms



The Laundry rooms are for our resident's convenience. Please be mindful of the person who will be using the machines after you. Wipe out the machine and rubber seals when you are finished. Clean the lint filters in the dryers before and after each use. Drop coins slowly and avoid bent coins and foreign currency, these all contribute to machine failures. We strive to keep the cost of doing your laundry as low as possible, repairs are costly so please be mindful of these precautions. If your aide is doing your laundry, please pass on this information to them, remember, they are your responsibility.

Pets



Please be sure to clean up after your pets. Remember that no pet waste is to be put down the trash chute, this includes used litter. Be mindful of your pet while walking through the buildings and clean up any accidents immediately.

APPRISE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) APPRISE is a free health insurance counseling program provided by the Chester County Department of AGING designed to help Pennsylvanians age 60 and over and those with disabilities with health insurance concerns.

Contact APPRISE 610-344-5004, or the Senior Center at 610-935-1515 to speak with an unbiased APPRISE Volunteer Medicare Insurance Counselor who will assist you in making an informed decision or call your RSC 484-933-4955/484-933-4949 for additional advice and resources.

You can visit **Medicare.gov** to preview plans. When comparing plans, **look at the estimated "Yearly Drug & Premium Cost."** A plan with the lowest premium may not always provide the lowest total cost.

Christmas Shopping??

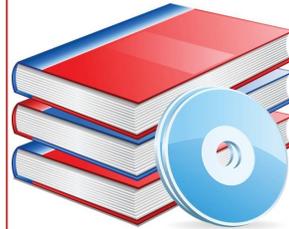
Oh no, not already?? Yes, the holidays are coming up again and Petra is once again offering Giant “Cash for Causes” Gift Cards. Each purchase of these gift cards benefits our Petra on the Go bus program and provides the face value of the card to the purchaser. These cards come in \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$10 cards are available by pre-order through the office. Who can't use a little extra food this season? What a great way to say “thank you” to those who help us all year long!



Meet Our New Comcast Sales Rep, Fred

Our Sales Rep, Ginger has officially retired. Our new Comcast Representative is Fred D'Alfonso. Fred has already assisted us in restoring our weekly Comcast Tech 2 You Program! Fred is available to help with your program needs.

Fred D'Alfonso
Xfinity Sales Professional
610-577-5722 267-344-7047
Ferdinand_D'Alfonso@cable.comcast.com



Don't forget that each building has a library of donated books and DVD's available to help entertain you during the chilly months ahead. Feel free to stop by and browse!

Phone Scams Are Rising!

With the holidays coming up and most people being home, phone scam thieves have been working overtime. Don't let your guard down! If it doesn't sound right it's probably not.

Many of your neighbors have been getting calls claiming to be Social Security and demanding repayment of stolen funds in order to continue receiving your social security benefits. This is a scam! **Do not give them any personal information or entertain their explanations. Hang up!**

Please remember that organizations such as the IRS, Social Security, and PECO will never call you and ask for your account information. First, they will not call you, they will send a letter. Second, they will not ask for your personal information. They already have your information, remember they called you not the other way around.

Remember if it just so happens to be legitimate and you do hang up, they will follow up with a letter in the mail. **So if you are unsure just hang up.**