



**CREATIVE  
HOUSING**  
**CREATIVE  
RENOVATIONS**

# Summer Newsletter 2020

July 1, 2020

## In This Issue

- Letter from CEO 1
- Leasing 2
- Rent Subsidy 2
- Newsletter participation 2
- Creative Renovations 3
- Maintenance 3
- New Employees 3
- Fire Safety/Alarms 4

## Board of Trustees

Jerry Saunders

Chairperson

Ashley Cook

Vice Chairperson

Tom Giusti

Treasurer

Jaime Bystrek

Secretary

Kevin Aldridge

Blaine Brockman

Rylie McHam

Dan Overmyer

\*\*\*

Crittty Buenconsejo

President|CEO

## A NOTE FROM OUR CEO...

Winston Churchill once said, “Never let a good crisis go to waste.” I’m not sure there is such a thing as a “good” crisis, but good things can definitely emerge and grow from crisis. We are watching our community, our nation and the world unite in an unprecedented way. We are innovating. We are adapting. We are finding ways to be meaningfully connected while physically distanced. We are being responsive with a shared sense of urgency unseen before this pandemic and cultural shift.

Individually and collectively, you are creating opportunities for yourselves and for others. You are taking on challenges that may have seemed inconceivable, even hopeless in the past. At Creative Housing | Creative Renovations, we continue to transform our operations to support our tenants and accessibility renovation clients. The partnerships with Direct Support Providers (DSPs) serving in our homes, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, guardians and families are fundamental to our success. To all of you, thank you. And, the incredible service and dedication of the DSPs should be applauded and I ask that given the opportunity, you take a moment to recognize their efforts personally.

I hope each of you take a moment to recognize each other and your own contributions and successes. As we long for things to go back to “normal,” I hope one thing doesn’t get lost in a new normal. May our heightened sense of empathy continue to motivate our decisions and actions.

Be safe. Be intentional. Be Joyful.

Crittty B.  
President|CEO

## We want to hear from YOU!

We would love to hear from you and share your news.

Please submit any news or photos you would like to share (a pet, new home décor, anniversary story, vacation photo, or room-mates just hanging out) to: [maintenance@creativehousing.org](mailto:maintenance@creativehousing.org).

We will consider including it in our next newsletter!

Subscribe to our electronic newsletter [here](#), or at [www.creativehousing.org](http://www.creativehousing.org)

## Thinking of planting a garden?

A garden is a great idea. We usually recommend the first year or two you try doing a container garden. If a container garden works for a few years, then we can talk about a location and type of garden for the future.



## LEASING

As part of our COVID-19 safe business practices, Creative Housing is suspending face-to-face rent payment processing and key pick-ups/returns. Please mail rent checks or money orders to our office at **2233 Citygate Dr. Columbus, OH 43219**. Be sure to include tenant name and address with the payment. If you require special accommodations or you/your client are moving, email Jennifer Sisouphanh at [jsisouphanh@creativehousing.org](mailto:jsisouphanh@creativehousing.org) to coordinate returning the house key.

We have a new drive-up drop box for your convenience. It's located in the parking island close to the postal box. Feel free to drop rent and other small items being returned to Creative Housing. If dropping off anything other than rent, we recommend you notify us to ensure the item(s) are handled appropriately.

As a reminder from our Creative Housing Team, please don't forget to fill out your 2020 Census. Please remember this can help determine how much money Franklin County receives for programs like:

- Housing
- Medicare & Medicaid
- Disabilities
- Health Services for families, older adults and children



## RENT SUBSIDY DEPARTMENT

With the warm weather coming Traci, Katie, & Penney would like to share a fun easy, inexpensive recipe with you.

Homemade Popsicles:

1. Gather your supplies:  
You will need toothpicks, ice cube tray, fruit juice, and plastic wrap
2. Pour the fruit juice into the ice cube tray molds.
3. Slowly pour fruit juice into each ice cube tray mold.
4. Place a piece of plastic wrap over the ice cube tray.
5. In each mold of fruit juice, place a toothpick in the middle.
6. Freeze the juice pops for about 2 hours or until fully solid
7. Enjoy!



## MEET OUR NEW EMPLOYEES

**Ceiera** Gillespie will be happy to help with all your front desk needs.

PS- Jennifer is still with us just behind the scenes a bit more these days.



**Pat O'Neil** is our newest field tech. Be sure to say hi (at a safe social distance) if you see him out and about.



**Paula Jones** joined the projects team in June to provide vital support to our renovation customers.



## CREATIVE RENOVATIONS

Have a summer trip that was cancelled? Visit some of the world's most famous Museums and National Parks, right from your home!

We are in some interesting times right now. But even after we are all allowed to travel, how many of you have the ability to travel the world and take in the sights and sounds? I know I don't. What if you could travel, online, and take a tour of some of the most famous museums around the world? Really, you can!! Jump online and search Google Arts & Culture Museums and pick a museum you have always wanted to see. Why choose one, view all of the museums and feel like a world traveler! Maybe you are not into the Art scene and would rather be outside. No problem! Jump online and search Google Arts & Culture National Parks.

Just because we don't have the ability to jump on a plane doesn't mean you can't become a world traveler and enjoy some of life's adventures. Technology at your fingertips.

## MAINTENANCE

### SERVICE DURING THE PANDEMIC

We continue to service our homes while practicing safe social distancing.

If you encounter a maintenance issue where Creative Housing or one of our vendors needs to come to the house, please help us keep everyone safe by practicing these safety measures:

1. **Show us to the closest door to the service need.** For example, if the basement stairs are by the back door, we can come in that door and go straight downstairs to address the issue.
2. **Give the technician space to work.** If we are responding to specific issue, like a clogged kitchen sink, prepare the area prior to our arrival. Get anything you may need out of the work area prior to our start. This could mean clearing counters, under-sink cabinet, laundry etc. out of the way so we can limit interactions with tenants/staff.
3. When answering the door and showing us the issue, maintain the recommended 6ft social distancing space.



The maintenance team talks safety strategy in our parking lot.

## Pandemic Operations

We have been operating throughout the pandemic and continue to serve our customers. Emergency and urgent need service requests are being prioritized in our homes.

Our office is currently closed to the public and we appreciate our customers for accommodating virtual meetings and using technology for paperless operations during these times.

Our field operations, both in our homes and renovation customers' homes, have implemented increased safety practices to protect our employees and customers.

If you have any questions or need to reach us, please call 614.418.7725 or email us.

If you would like to send us a message, email us!

[frontdesk@creativehousing.org](mailto:frontdesk@creativehousing.org)  
for general or leasing inquiries

[maintenance@creativehousing.org](mailto:maintenance@creativehousing.org)  
for service requests or property maintenance inquiries for Creative Housing homes

[projects@creativehousing.org](mailto:projects@creativehousing.org)  
for renovation inquiries



## FIRE SAFETY

Creative Housing monitors fire alarms in all our homes to ensure the safety of our residents.

**IF THE SMOKE DETECTORS GO OFF IN YOUR HOME, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR UNLESS YOU PREVIOUSLY PUT THE ALARMS ON TEST OR IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY SDG THAT THE ALARM IS A FALSE ALARM.**

**THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ISSUES PENALTY FINES FOR UNECESSARY TRIPS TO YOUR HOME.**

**\*\*\*Pressing 1234 1234 resets the panel and silences the alarm, but DOES NOT cancel the fire department.\*\*\***

This sticker is installed above the fire alarm panel in each residence. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with both the location of the panel and the instructions outlined on the sticker.

### Multi-Unit Apartment Buildings.

If you live in a multi-unit apartment building, your alarms impact your neighbors and their alarms impact you. For your safety, alarms in multi-unit buildings are tied together. When one apartment's alarms are triggered, the remaining apartments' alarms go off. This is designed to provide the building with more time to exit, in case of a real fire. The design does require coordination for testing smoke detectors, because when one apartment is testing, the other apartments should be ready to reset their panels during the testing.

### RAFTER LEGACY FUND

If you are looking for way to support persons of the DD community enjoy some of "the good life," please consider donating to a fund honoring our founder, Pat Rafter. If you have any questions about the fund and how to donate, please email: [info@creativehousing.org](mailto:info@creativehousing.org).

## Stay Connected!

No one likes being the last to know.... Check out our website [www.creativehousing.org](http://www.creativehousing.org) and subscribe to our newsletter or email [frontdesk@creativehousing.org](mailto:frontdesk@creativehousing.org) and we will sign you up – be sure to include if you are a tenant, family member, guardian, provider or county board staff.

If you want to be in-the-know of renovation happenings, visit our renovations website at [www.accessibilityrenovations.org](http://www.accessibilityrenovations.org) and subscribe to our newsletter or email your information to [projects@creativehousing.org](mailto:projects@creativehousing.org) and we will sign you up – be sure to include whether or not you are an existing or potential client, tenant, family member, guardian, provider, or county board staff.

### FIRE ALARM INSTRUCTIONS

#### In Case of Fire Alarm

Follow your emergency evacuation plan.

#### In Case of False Alarm

Immediately call **614-236-5900** then dial **1** at the prompt. Provide address & code 1-2-3-4. Tell the operator that the alarm is a **false alarm**. Press 1-2-3-4 twice to reset the alarm.

#### Trouble or Fire Light Stays On

Notify Creative Housing at 614-418-7725.

#### To Test Smoke Detectors

Call **614-236-5900** then dial **1** at the prompt. Provide address & code 1-2-3-4 and request that the alarms be put "ON test." Test each & all smoke detectors. Call **614-236-5900** then dial **1** at the prompt. Provide address & code 1-2-3-4 and request to take the alarms "OFF test."