



CREATIVE HOUSING CREATIVE RENOVATIONS



Bidding a Fond Farewell to Lynda...

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If you been with us for the last 18 years then you've probably talked to or been lucky enough to meet Lynda Bell, one of our most tenured employees. In the beginning Lynda did a little of everything. Tenants could have caught up with her when they dropped off their rent, or maybe met her while she was at their home completing a home inspection. "One of the most amazing qualities Lynda possessed is that you could never really tell if she was talking to a tenant or to one of her own family members. She had this way of making everyone comfortable and feel special," says Christie Stouffer, current Creative Housing Project Manager and longtime co-worker.

Recently we sat down with Lynda to ask her about her time at Creative Housing. "When

I started here we only had 4 employees and about 100 houses. To have had the opportunity to be a part of the growth has been amazing. I did everything when I started, when I transitioned away from the office to night calls only they had to split my position into 2 separate positions. Now we have five times the number of homes as my first day. I am so proud," she added. When asked about her favorite memory over the 18 years she speaks of a time of celebration for the company. "We were celebrating our 300th house and we threw this huge party for the tenants, staff, and FCBDD. There was dancing, food, door prizes. We even had a band playing. Planning and executing that celebration was so much fun!"

After all these years of never having a holiday off Lynda is looking forward to traveling, leisurely shopping estate sales, and most importantly not being tied to a phone. Surprisingly she doesn't even own a cell phone! All of us here at Creative Housing wish Lynda the best and thank her for her many years of service!

Lynda's Maintenance Tip

"Always unplug your hose in the winter or you'll end up with a sprinkler in the summer."



CREATIVE HOUSING CREATIVE RENOVATIONS



Trugreen Lawn Treatments

Spring is underway and Trugreen has completed at least 1 application to the yards at all of our properties. Please stay off the yard for 24 hours after application. You will see yard signs like this to let you know they have treated the yard that day.



James Tuthil and Brian Roberts outside of their north Columbus home



A Few Words from *Groundskeeping...*

Easy Planting = Beautiful Summer Flowers

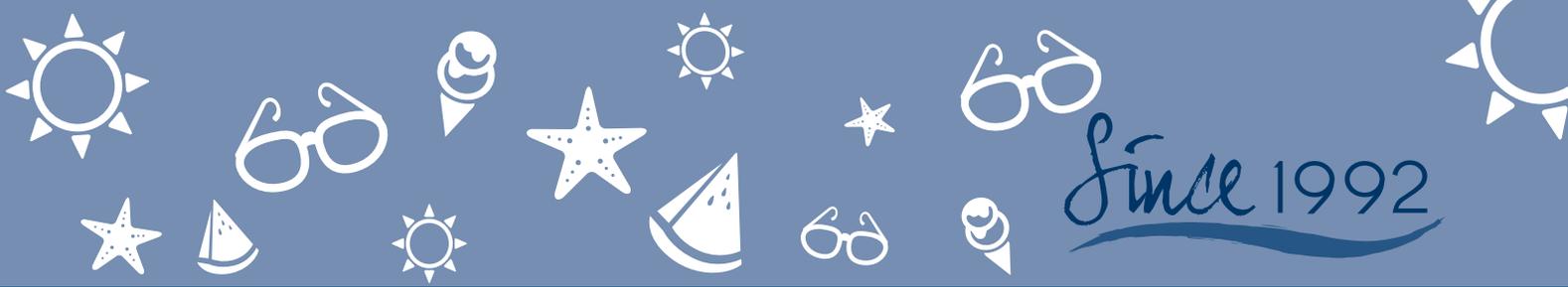
One way to beautify and personalize your home is to add a few easy to care for potted or bedding plants to your yard. The best flowers for containers can be found in the "annual" or "bedding plants" section of your local garden center. These flowers live only one summer, but they will bloom the entire season. You'll need enough plants to fill the container, with a couple of inches between them. Plants come in different sizes, but any size is fine. Some things to consider when designing your container:

- **Single accent** – Filling a container with the same type of flower for a bright pop of solid color, or choose just one large plant for a more formal look. An added bonus to a larger plant...they often come pre-planted and ready to enjoy.
- **Multicolor** – Putting several different varieties and colors of the same plant together. Gives you more color while keeping a fairly uniform shape and texture. Be sure you can tell what colors you're getting so you can distribute them evenly in the container.
- **Mixed** – Feel adventurous? Try a mixed container. A well-planned mixed container had varieties of height and color. Use tall plants for height, bushy ones for width and trailing plants that spill over the edges. Most annual flowers can be planted together in the same pot, so be creative and see what you can create!



Creative Housing Useless Trivia

- Average person falls asleep in 7 minutes
- ¼ of the bones in your body are in your feet
- Nearly 80% of all animals on earth have 6 legs
- Women blink twice as much as men
- Coca-Cola was originally green



From the Maintenance Department...

Water Leaks

Notice a dripping faucet or a puddle by the hose? Water leaks can add up quickly and there are several places to check for leaks receive a high water bill.

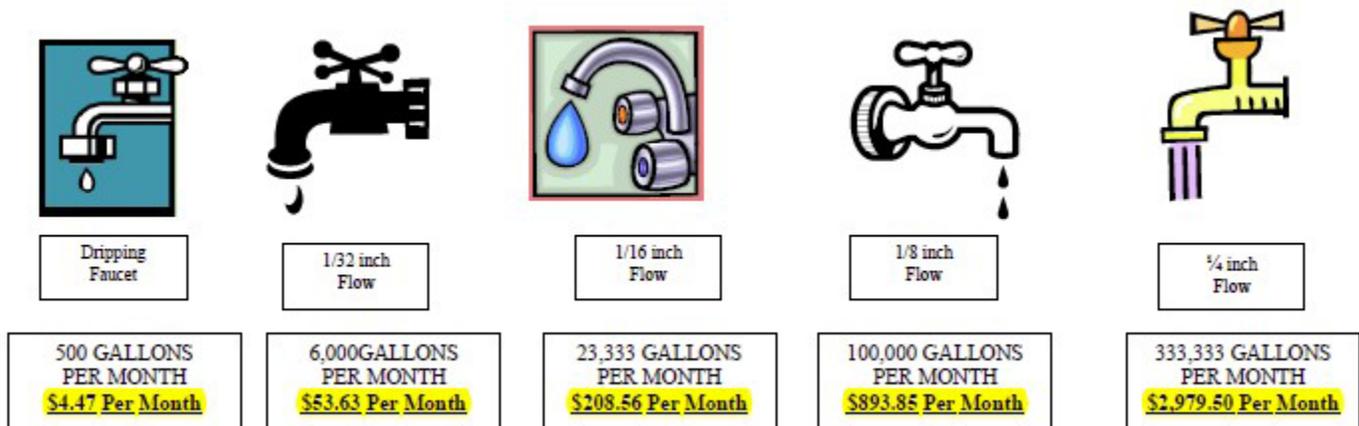
Where to check for leaks:

- **Toilets:** Flush the toilet. Wait for the toilet to stop refilling, then make a visual inspection of the bowl. If water is still running into the bowl, or if water can be heard, your toilet is leaking. Another test is to put some food coloring dye into the tank and wait 15 to 20 minutes without flushing. If the food coloring appears in the bowl, there is a leak.
- **Outdoor hoses**
- **Pipes that provide water to plumbing fixtures**
- **Faucets and spigots:** indoors and outdoors (Don't forget those in basement or storage areas)
- **Shower heads**
- **Water-using appliances such as washers, dishwashers and ice makers**

It is a good idea to do a periodic check of these locations around the house. Please let Creative Housing know if you see anything that may be an issue. Working together, we can prevent unnecessary costs and keep small leaks from becoming bigger problems.

Even a small leak can waste several gallons of water a day and can add up on your water bill. Your water heating costs will also increase if it is a hot water leak. (Source: Columbus Water Department)

How much can a leak cost on the water bill?



We'll see you soon...

Please plan on joining us at our next provider training on July 9th at the Franklin County Board of DD at 1650 Watermark Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43215.



CREATIVE HOUSING CREATIVE RENOVATIONS

Everyday Maintenance Tips

Fire Extinguishers

Your fire extinguisher is good for one year after the date its punched on its tag.

Safety First

Remember to always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places. Don't stand on chairs, desks or other furniture.

Clogged Toilet

Be sure to have a use a plunger before you call Creative Housing for assistance. This helps reduce costs and keep rents as low as possible.



Are you ready if a *Storm Hits?*

Emergencies can happen at a moment's notice. Mobility problems and hearing, learning, or seeing disabilities can add complications. If you plan ahead, you will be better prepared for any urgent situation. If you follow a few basic steps you can ensure your safety and preparedness in case of an emergency.

1. **Create a Personal Support Network** – Your network can help you prepare for a disaster. It should include people you trust and who can check on you to see if you need assistance. They should know your capabilities and needs, and be able to provide help within minutes.
2. **Complete a Personal Assessment** – Determine what you will be able to do for yourself and what assistance you may need before, during and after a disaster.
 - a. **What items do you need in your daily living even in the event of an emergency?** Do you regularly need assistance with personal care (bathing and grooming)? Do you use equipment that you cannot live without (shower chair, tub transfer bench)?
 - b. **How will you get around?** How will you cope with debris in or around your home or along your planned exit route following a disaster? Will you have transportation? What will you do if your caregiver cannot reach you because roads are blocked or the disaster has affected them as well?
 - c. **Plan and practice your evacuation.** Can you reach and activate an alarm? Will you be able to independently evacuate? If not, will someone always be with you to assist? If you have a service animal will you be able to care for them (food, shelter, vet care) during and after a disaster?
3. **Make a Plan** – Meet with your family/personal care support network. Choose an "out-of-town" contact that all of your friends and family members can check-in with. After a disaster it is often easier to make a long distance call than a call to a local shelter. Decide where your family/roommates will meet if you become separated during the emergency. Plan escape routes and safe places and PRACTICE them regularly. Practice for different situations. How you handle a fire and how you handle a tornado will be different.
4. **Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit** – In the event you will need to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you, as you will most likely not have the ability to shop or search for the supplies you will need. This kit should be a collection of basic items a household would probably need to stay safe and be more comfortable during and after a disaster.

Maintenance Call *Reminders*

Emergency Repairs: Emergency repairs will be responded to same day as called into our office at 614.418.7725. During non-business hours, an answering service will contact our on-call representative for emergencies. PLEASE DO NOT CALL AFTER HOURS WITH NON-EMERGENCY REQUESTS. ONLY EMERGENCIES WILL BE SERVICED AFTER REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS OR ON HOLIDAYS.



From the Desks of our Rent Subsidy Department....

We have worked over the last few months to solidify several new landlords that are accepting tenants from referrals from our department here at Creative Housing. A few of the more recent ones are:

- Worthington Meadows
- Stellar Holding, LLC
- Polaris Pointe Townhomes
- Sawmill Village Apartments
- RL Properties

We look forward to expanding our property footprint throughout Franklin County even further throughout the rest of the year!

Stay Connected!



There are always new and exciting things going on at Creative Housing|Creative Renovations. Do you want to be the first to know what is going on with our homes and services? Check out our website www.creativehousing.org and subscribe to our newsletter, or send us your information to frontdesk@creativehousing.org – be sure to include your full contact information and whether or not you are a tenant, family member, guardian or provider, and we will sign you up.



Who's that *girl*?

In the next few weeks you'll probably get the opportunity to speak to Liz Dunham, our newest addition to the Creative Housing team. Liz has taken over the Residential Services Coordinator position and is Eric's right hand. If you have the opportunity to speak to Liz, take a moment to introduce yourself.

Are you thinking about *moving*?

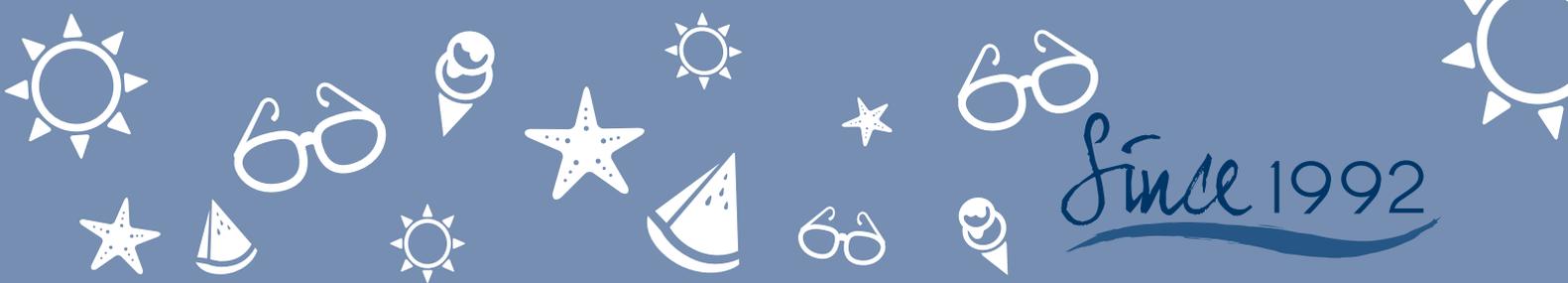
Creative Housing wants to remind you to make sure you give Creative Housing a written 60-day Notice to Vacate letter. We require this notice whether you are moving to another Creative Housing home or moving out to a non-Creative Housing location. This allows us to update our records to prevent the tenant from paying extra rent. Rent is charged until we are notified of the move-out. Help us reduce your costs!



Long time tenant Tony Hoover outside his Creative Housing property where he has lived for 17 years

What's Happening in Creative Renovations - 2015

This past spring, as a community service, Creative Renovations created a month long Home Safety community awareness campaign. Our goal was to reach out to seniors, their families, and caregivers to stress that as we age it is important to make adjustments to our homes to support the desire for continued independence. We partnered with ThisWeek Community News to share important tips and information throughout the month of March. In addition you can find our information on Facebook and at our website www.accessibilityrenovations.org. The end goal was to get this important information out to as many seniors and caregivers as possible.



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Spread the word

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter or be added to our electronic mailing list, please let us know. Also, we welcome articles, advertisements and opinions by Creative Housing tenants. Send items for consideration to:

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