



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



Let's Talk Housekeeping

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I visit an average of 20 Creative Housing properties a month and complete a maintenance inspection. It helps me do my job when I see first-hand the condition of our properties and how our maintenance programs are working. Whenever I see a home that is well taken care of I send a note to the tenants and their support staff thanking them for their care of the home. Sometimes I visit properties that need help in basic cleaning which is being neglected. This really shouldn't be happening. If you are a tenant or an involved family member contact your provider or service coordinator for housekeeping assistance if it is needed.

In this month's newsletter we are providing some pointers on how to take care of your house. Additional information can always be found in the Tenant Information section of the Creative Housing web site (www.creativehousing.org).

We have been given a tremendous gift of housing resources by the tax payers of our community. We should all work together to take care of that gift.

Patrick Rafter
CEO



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Mosquito Facts:

- 3,000 species
- Only (3) species are mostly responsible for spread of diseases
- Only females have ability to bite humans



A Few Words from *Groundskeeping...*

Tips to keep the mosquitoes away!

- Add a pot of catnip or rosemary to your container garden. These herbs contain oils that repel mosquitos.
- Marigolds are an easy to grow flower which ward off a number of flying insects.
- Dump out water that collects in the saucers of outdoor containers. Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant water.
- If you keep empty pots outside place them upside down so water doesn't collect in them.
- Notify us if you have an outdoor faucet that drips or leaks.
- Mow the lawn regularly (Creative Housing will take care of this one!)



CHI Employees Joe & Michael with tenant Tommy Marlow





From the *Maintenance Department*...

Run out of things to clean? Don't forget about these frequently missed areas!

- **Refrigerator Coils:** The condenser coils on a refrigerator remove heat from inside the unit; and if they get dusty and dirty, it can cost up to \$100 more a year to run your fridge! The coil is located either on the bottom behind the kick plate, or on the back of the refrigerator. To clean refrigerator coils, turn off the power to the fridge, then vacuum the coils using a homemade wand from a cardboard gift wrap tube or a vacuum cleaner brush attachment.
- **Refrigerator Door Gasket:** The flexible magnetic rubber gaskets on your refrigerator doors can wear out and reduce the efficiency of your fridge. Start by inspecting the seals for cracks or tears (let us know if you find any issues), then clean the gaskets with soap and water.
- **Range Hood and Filter:** Allowing grease to buildup on range hoods and over the stove microwave fans can reduce their efficiency and shorten the life of the fan. In addition to cleaning the outer and inner surfaces of a range hood or microwave with a citrus-based cleaner, it's important to remove and clean the range hood grease filter regularly by washing it in the sink in hot, soapy water or running the filter in the dishwasher.
- **Bathroom Fans:** Bathroom ceiling fans can collect quite a bit of dust, which can makes them noisy and inefficient. Don't forget to vacuum the fan when doing your routine bathroom cleaning.
- **Baseboards:** Baseboards need to be routinely cleaned as well. It's best to move furniture away from the walls, vacuum along the baseboards and then wipe down with a damp cloth.
- **Register Vents:** A buildup of dust anywhere can harbor allergens. Dirty vents can also make the furnace and A/C work harder, therefore costing you more money. To clean vents, first try vacuuming them with a crevice or brush tool. If the dust and dirt don't come off with vacuuming, remove them with a screwdriver, wash with dish soap in the sink, let dry and reinstall.
- **Windows:** Dirt and dust can build up on the inside of your windows. Vacuum or dust windows making sure to pay attention to the frames and corners. If you use a wet cleaner don't forget to wipe the windows dry when you are done.





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Meet Orlando

Our newest field technician Orlando has been with us since January. If you see him at your house, please

say hello and welcome him to the Creative Housing Family.



Did you know that Creative Housing will cost share 30% of the cost of a professional steam cleaning? Up to one bathroom a year with Stanley Steemer. Please contact us for details prior to scheduling.

A conversation with Kurt

Our Field Tech Kurt has been a dedicated Creative Housing employee for 14 years (6 years as part of the lawn care crew and 8 years in the maintenance department).

Recently, we asked him a few questions about his time at Creative Housing.

Here's what he had to say:

- What is the favorite part about your job? *Being around the tenants*
- What is your fondest memory since starting at CHI? *I have too many fond memories to name just one*
- What is it about CHI that has kept you here for so long? *Working with the people. When I walk in the house and understand the situations they are in and they tell me to have a good day, all of my problems just go away.*
- What's 1 tip for our tenants that you would give? *Live every day to the fullest and watch what you put down the disposal.*



Grout Cleaning 101

Soap, mold, and mildew make it difficult to maintain clean grout in bathrooms. Fortunately, cleaning grout effectively is possible using only common household products and a bit of elbow grease. Regular tile cleanliness is important because dirt and grime can be absorbed by the tile and grout, resulting in permanent stains.

The following suggestions for cleaning grout are ranked from the mildest to the strongest:

- The best way to begin is with plain water and a stiff-bristled brush; simply spray warm water on the grout lines and scrub in a circular motion, then let dry.
- For heavier dirt and mild stains, turn to that trusty old standby, vinegar. Fill a spray bottle with a half-and-half solution of vinegar and warm water. Spray on the grout, let it stand for five minutes, then scrub with a stiff brush.
- To bring even more cleaning power to the party, make a paste of baking soda and water, cover the grout lines with the paste, and then spray on the vinegar solution. Once the mixture stops foaming, scrub with a brush and rinse with plain water.
- For tougher stains and really grimy grout, we have had good success with a product such as Clorox Clean-Up. When done, always rinse with clean water so that the dirt doesn't resettle into the grout lines.
- Keep your grout clean and stain-free, it's a good idea to spray it with vinegar and wipe it down once a week. Just a few spritzes and wipes a week can save you a lot of time and effort cleaning.





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

Creative Housing has succeeded in achieving 500 consumers in the rent subsidy program thus far this year. This is a huge mile marker for this program. The Rent Subsidy program continues to flourish as we welcome new consumers and landlords. We continue to strive to find the most desirable housing to meet our consumers' needs and wants. We look forward serving each person as we continue to grow.

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.

Third Party Services

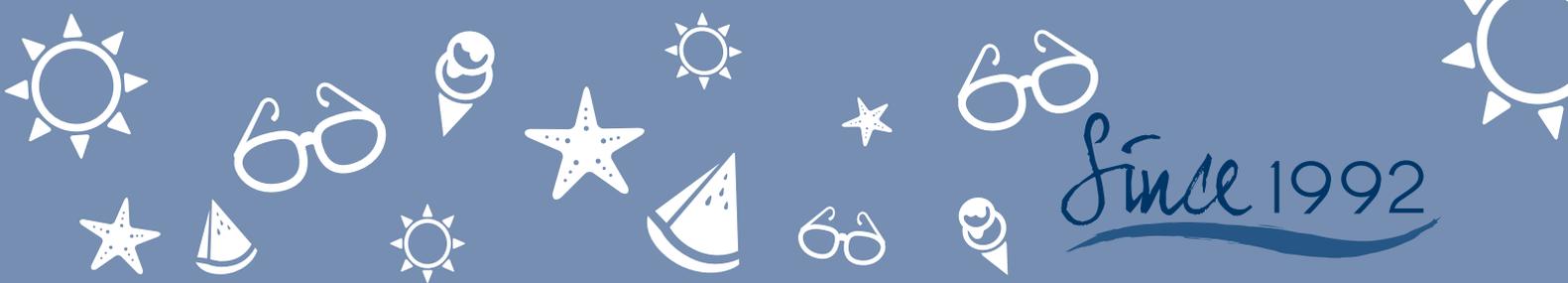
CHI provides routine maintenance and repairs for our tenants. Many of our residents already know we are also happy to provide services such as installing curtain rods. We understand third-party contractors may be hired directly by our tenants and/or their families/guardians for services including, but not limited to: phone/cable/satellite TV service, pest control, alarms and waiver mods.

CHI is committed to partnering with FCBDD and Providers in efforts to ensure those we jointly serve can enjoy the benefit of safe services. We require tenants and/or providers notify us of desired services and obtain landlord approval for these services prior to them being completed. Contractors performing work in CHI homes must comply with specific requirements, and be approved by CHI prior to providing work/services in CHI homes. These requirements are aimed at ensuring the safety of both property and tenants.

Please contact us for details and requirements related to direct hire third-party services in CHI homes.

What's Happening in Creative Renovations - 2016

For the 2nd year in a row Creative Renovations as a community service created a month long Home Safety community awareness campaign. Our goal was again 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 again with ThisWeek Community News to share important tips and information throughout the month of March. More recently, Creative Renovations provided support to Little Hercules Foundation and their annual Duchenne Dash 5k/10k run. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for groundbreaking research happening right here in Columbus at Nationwide Children's Hospital for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. To date over \$16,000.00 was raised this year!



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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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