



THE VOICE OF CHOICE

PSO TRANSFORMATION NEWSLETTER

PERKINS COMMUNITY MEETING

A MESSAGE FROM JANET ABRAHAMS PRESIDENT/CEO OF HABC

On Tuesday, September 10th HABC Leadership attended the Perkins Community Meeting and addressed the Perkins Homes residents' concerns regarding relocation benefits and the PSO redevelopment. We emphasized that it is of the utmost importance that all Perkins Homes residents remain in good standing with HABC during the redevelopment of Perkins so that they can return and be a part of the newly developed PSO. Staying in good standing means:

1. Keeping current on your rent
2. Not receiving lease violations that will cause termination of your lease
3. Being responsive to HABC staff and Diversified Properties when relocation occurs in your unit

If you have any questions about relocation, Diversified Properties can be reached at **410-252-5075** or by visiting them at 337 S. Mason Court between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have any other inquiries or concerns, please contact Urban Strategies at **443-470-8983** or visit them at 329 and 337 S. Mason Court between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Diversified Properties and Urban Strategies are both resources that are available to all Perkins Homes residents. Again, we recommend that you reach out to them if you have any questions or concerns regarding relocation or other matters.

USI HIRES PERKINS RESIDENTS AS OUTREACH WORKERS

Please join us in welcoming fellow Perkins Residents and our newest Outreach Specialists for USI. Zahara Pajouhandeh and Renee Reid. Ms. Zahara has extensive experience in customer service, outreach, and family engagement. She will be a liaison within the Perkins community to ensure that the families of Perkins remain at the forefront and have access to services based on the needs and wants of the families in Perkins. Please congratulate them!



Funding provided by:





A NOTE FROM YOUR CN MANAGER, ARLISA W. ANDERSON

Dear Friends,
As we enter into the Fall season, we are seeing progress in the PSO project. Somerset I is under construction; HABC has applied for CORE Funding to assist with the demolition of Perkins 1, we are hopeful to receive approvals

sometime in November.

Team members will be heading to New Orleans in November to learn more about how the CHOICE grant can be used to make Perkins Homes a better development for the residents and neighbors.

PSO PUBLIC ART & NEIGHBORHOOD GATEWAY MARKERS WORKING GROUP FORMING SOON! PLEASE JOIN US!

Neighborhood Gateway Markers are Public Art & beautiful, creative elements that will brand your new community, and will be vital components of the PSO Transformation Plan! Public Art & Neighborhood Gateway Markers will be woven throughout the PSO footprint. So, there are so many opportunities to incorporate Public

Art into the concept and design throughout the entire neighborhood. If you are interested in participating in the PSO Public Art & Neighborhood Gateway Markers Working Group, we'd love to have you! Please contact Jaye Matthews, Neighborhoods Coordinator, at Jaye.Matthews@baltimorecity.gov, or at 443-984-5760.

USI CORNER - PERKINS HOMEOWNERS ON THE RISE

Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) & Consumer Credit Counseling of Maryland (CCCSMD) launched its first Homeowners Cohort on September 24th, 2019. Twenty-four Perkins residents attended with the intention of making their CHOICE to improve their credit and the possibilities of homeownership. The families will have the opportunity to engage with a HUD Certified Financial Counselor, a debt manager, a therapist, and a myriad of homeowner programs, financial institutions and more.

The Housing Authority's Office of Residence Services, Above All Odds LLC., the Maryland CASH Campaign and PNC Bank are but a

few of the partners spearheading this project to make the opportunity of homeownership possible for Perkins families. These families are the first of many eager to learn more about and taking advantage of \$7,200 of relocation assistance in the form of closing costs or down payment assistance for anyone eligible for relocation services. In addition to the HABC assistance, individuals may be eligible for up to \$30,000 in additional funding through grants, Live Where You Work credits and more. Over the next eight months, be on the lookout for your fellow residents who maybe closing on their own home. If you are interested in upcoming cohorts, visit 337 S. Mason Court to see your case manager today!



HOT JOBS HIGHLIGHT

Construction- Somerset Phase I construction is underway and USI is looking for individuals interested in working in the construction industry! No experience? We can enroll you in training to strengthen your employment skills. This opportunity is open to ALL Baltimore City residents! *Priority given to qualified public housing residents.

Note from Contractor: Hiring and training residents, especially young adults, is and remains, a top priority for Commercial Construction. To support local workforce development, the company hosted a networking session on Thursday, September 12, at the construction site with key decision-makers. In attendance were subcontractors, job training providers and the Mayor's Office of Employment Development staff. The group met for several hours pooling resources and combining strategies to exceed goals for recruiting, hiring, and training. Commercial Construction will host another networking session in November 2019.

ABE & GED – Make more money with education! Have you thought about returning to school? Please call or visit the POWER House at **667-210-2950** for more information on upcoming testing and orientation sessions.

Computer Training – Free computer and tech training for adults. Want to increase your computer knowledge or grow within your career? Contact Living Classrooms at **443-835-1316 x 653** for more

information and registration instructions. No experience? We can enroll you in training to strengthen your employment skills. This opportunity is open to ALL Baltimore City residents! *Priority will be given to qualified public housing residents.

PERKINS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

USI is looking for residents who would like to provide input to the development team on the new PSO community. These residents will give suggestions on parks, amenities, and other important expectations that the families of Perkins want to see in the new PSO community. You could earn a stipend up to \$200.00 per month. If you are interested in serving on the Perkins Development Committee, call **443-470-8983** or visit 337 S. Mason Court, for more details.

For the monthly events calendar please visit, www.urbanstrategiesinc.org and/or www.habc.org.



URBAN STRATEGIES INC. PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



Above All Odds (AAO) is a behavioral health clinic located in downtown Baltimore, that strives to be the premier program in the state of Maryland. We utilize evidence-based practices to treat the individual along with the whole family. AAO is a committed partner to Perkins families and provides on-site & off-site therapeutic services, individual and group counseling, family counseling, substance use workshops, behavioral and education support services, supported employment, and rehabilitation. AAO is also able to provide transportation & rental assistance.

Work late? We offer services Monday-Friday until 7 p.m. and are open on Saturdays! For more information visit the Urban Strategies office at 337 S. Mason Court, contact us directly at **443-708-5699** or visit our website at www.abovealloodsmd.com.



Mentoring Mentors' (MM) mission is to inspire confidence and a positive outlook in African American youth

about the trajectory of their future, the passion for improving their communities and creating within them a desire to mentor others. MM accomplishes this mission by focusing and serving students ages 12 to 18 in Baltimore who want to become positive African-American role models, while receiving socio-emotional learning, and improved literacy skills.

To learn more please visit www.Mentoring-Mentors.org Email: MentorInfo@mentoring-mentors.org



Charm City Companions (CCC) is a pet wellness organization committed to assisting Perkins families with pets throughout their relocation process. We offer a number of services to help your and your pet's relocation go smoothly and safely. If you are a Perkins resident with a dog or cat, please contact us at **443-863-8117**.

HABC DEPLOYS EFFORTS TO MAKE 2020 CENSUS A SUCCESS!

Resident Services, Inc. (RSI) has been awarded a grant of \$163,000 to assist with the 2020 Census to provide outreach for hard to count populations. Hard to count Populations include residents of public housing developments.

RSI now has three outreach workers who will be responsible for supporting and assisting residents with computer-aided census counting. Two of the three outreach workers are residents in our developments. Their role is to assist with getting an accurate count, which assures that our communities have access to the additional federal resources they need and, increases the potential for increased representation.

One of the main reasons that an accurate count is so unattainable is because of the concern for reporting to management offices the actual number of people residing in the household. Monitoring activities in the developments, however, is not the role or responsibility of the outreach workers.

The outreach workers will also assist in promoting the nationwide campaigns in our developments to assure that people participate in the census including Census Day on April 1st. RSI also has onsite voter registration so that our residents are counted, and their voices heard! The Census enumeration will continue through December, 2020.



PSO EVENT CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Food & Nutrition Management

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
1731 Chase Street

Free Legal Representation

Every Thursday
Call 410-685-6589, ext. 20

Free Construction Training

Project Jump Start, Every Friday, 9 a.m.
725 Fallsway Road

Food & Nutrition Management

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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Project Jump Start
Every Friday, 9 a.m.
725 Fallsway Road

NOVEMBER

Board of Commissioner's Meeting

Nov. 19th @ 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
1102 Druid Hill Avenue

Perkins Homes Tenant Council Meeting

Nov. 21st @ 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
1411 Gough Street

DECEMBER

Construction Open House

Dec. 3rd @ 10:00 a.m.
1411 Gough Street

Board of Commissioner's Meeting

Dec. 17th @ 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
417 E. Fayette Street, 3rd Floor

Perkins Homes Tenant Council Meeting

Dec. 19th @ 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
1411 Gough Street

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Send story ideas and calendar events to Arlisa Anderson at Arlisa.Anderson@habc.org