

The Courtyards Connection

Monthly Publication of the Courtyards at the University of Maryland
ISSUE 12 November 2011

Clubhouse Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am—6:00 pm

Clubhouse After Hours Desk

Monday—Thursday 5:00pm—10:00pm
Friday No Desk Services
Saturday 10:00 am—8:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm—10:00 pm

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Thinking About Releasing for Spring 2012?

Graduating this semester? Studying abroad this spring? Accepting an internship out of state?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then releasing is for you! Re-leasing gives you the opportunity to find a qualified student to take over your lease. We do not sub-lease, so if you need to end your lease prior to the end of July 2012, this is the process that must be followed. There are multiple steps that must be completed before you are released from the financial obligation of your lease, so now is the time to get started.

- Step 1: Find a Re-Lessor: someone to take your lease
- Step 2: Complete the online re-leasing process
- Step 3: Determine your relessor's eligibility



- Step 4: Sign and return your re-leasing paperwork @ a re-leasing appointment

There is a financial cost associated with this process. A \$100 lease transfer fee is required, and only certified funds are an acceptable form of payment. By "certified funds", we mean that the payment should be made by cashiers check or

money order. No personal checks will be accepted. All funds should be made payable to The Courtyards and should contain the appropriate student's name (current or new resident) and apartment number.

If you are interested in re-leasing, please visit the Courtyards website:

www.umdcourtyards.com/residents and follow the "Spring 2012 Re-leasing" link. *An added incentive:* Remind your potential re-lessors that they will be given priority consideration for renewing their lease for the coming 2012-2013 lease year.

Please direct specific questions and concerns to our Leasing Agent: La Tonya Wallace at 301-314-9141 or office@umdcourtyards.com.

The Last Day to submit a request for Spring 2011 releasing is Friday, December 16, 2011.

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On Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 2:00 a.m., Daylight Saving Time ends in the United States.

Every Spring we move our clocks one hour ahead and "lose" an hour during the night and each Fall we move our clocks back one hour and "gain" an extra hour. But Daylight Saving Time (and not Daylight Savings Time with an "s") wasn't just created to confuse our schedules.

The phrase "**Spring forward, Fall back**" helps people remember how Daylight Saving Time affects their clocks. At 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, we set our clocks forward one hour ahead of Standard Time ("Spring forward"). We "Fall back" at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November by setting our clock back one hour

and thus returning to Standard Time.

The change to Daylight Saving Time allows us to use less energy in lighting our homes by taking advantage of the longer and later daylight hours.

Daylight Saving Time was instituted in the United States during World War I in order to save energy for war production by taking advantage of the later hours of daylight between April and October. During World War II the federal government again required the states to observe the time change. Between the wars and after World War II states and communities chose whether or not to observe Daylight Saving Time. In 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act, which



standardized the length of Daylight Saving Time.

Arizona (except some Indian Reservations), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have chosen not to observe Daylight Saving Time. This choice does make sense for the areas closer to the equator because the days are more consistent in length throughout the year.

Be Involved!



From Our Heart to Yours

Let's Show We Care!

Each year, the Department of Resident Life and the Panhellenic Association team up with College Park's Youth and Family Services to fill gift bags for children in the College Park area. This year, the Courtyards is joining them!

This project involves students, staff and faculty who agree to fill a gift bag with small items that children need to make their holiday season a little brighter. Each bag will be labeled with the age and gender for the intended child along with a list of suggested gift items.

You can drop off bag(s) at the main office or after hours desk. We

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nov. 7:
Sign up to fill a gift bag

Nov. 10:
Receive an empty gift bag

Nov. 28 - Dec. 7:
Gift bag collection dates

also have a box for general donations if you prefer to participate in that way.

If you are interested in filling a bag, please stop by any the main office or after hours desk to sign today or [sign up to submit an online Gift donation](#). You can also contact FOHTY by email at fohty@umd.edu or call (301) 314-7350.

Week Winners

From October 17 –21, The Courtyards staff recognized Resident Appreciation Week. Many residents came by the Clubhouse to spin our prize wheel for a chance to win one of our awesome prizes; congratulations to our winners!

Gift Card Raffle:

Jessica Liu
Jeevan Mammen

Gift Basket Raffle:

Nathan Wroten	Tiffany Brooks
Jacquelin Anjorin	Deanne Green
Daniel Nolan	Brian Holley

Vacuum:

Toby Mathews Mary Wilkinson

Rent Concession:

John Crotty

Safety & Security During the Holidays

As we draw near to the holidays, we love to walk around the Courtyards and see apartments looking festive. Here are a few guidelines that we have adopted to ensure a safe and happy holiday season for you and your neighbors!

The following are prohibited:

- Bamboo
- Confetti (loose, in large quantities)
- Corn stalks/ husks and straw/ hay
- Live trees, plants, flowers, garland, etc.
- Cotton batting
- Cloth drapery (non-flame retardant*)
- Crepe paper decorations (non-flame retardant*)
- Dried vines, leaves, and moss
- Flammable powders or liquids
- Foam or plastic materials (ex. packing peanuts)
- Paper streamers
- Plastic sheeting
- Wood bark, mulch, sawdust, or shavings
- Artificial trees, plants, and flowers that are NOT labeled as flame retardant *
- More than 3 strands of

lights connected to each other

***Flame retardant / fire resistant treated materials must have proper written documentation indicating that they meet the requirements of NFPA 701 or equivalent.**

To prevent falls or falling objects:

- Window screens cannot be removed from windows.
- No objects can be hung out of windows or around the exterior of a window or balcony.
- Holiday lights cannot be draped out windows or strung from window to window.

To prevent fires:

- Candles or any other device that creates an open flame cannot be used.
- All electrical decorations must bear the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label. Do not use any item with frayed cords, exposed wires or loose

connections.

- Turn off any decorations when you are not in your room/ unit .
- Lamps should not be placed too close to decorations, nor should fabric be draped over any lamps or lights.
- Only artificial trees are permitted.

To allow for the safe evacuation from a building/ unit and to maintain safety equipment :

- All decorations must be kept away from exits, stairwells, exit signs and fire safety equipment (pull stations, alarm bells, & smoke detectors, etc.).
- Nothing should be placed in a manner that would create a tripping hazard or block one's exit from a unit or building.

Please remember these guidelines when decorating your apartment for the upcoming holidays. If you have any questions please contact your Community Assistant or the Courtyards Office. We appreciate your cooperation!

for that gate!

You may have noticed a change to the back entrance at the Courtyards recently. You'll find that the back gate is now closed in the evenings! This is a safety precaution for our residents, and we want to make sure you know when it affects you. The gate will close automatically at 8pm each evening and will reopen at 6am each morning. Please keep this in mind as you plan to enter and exit the property, since the only evening entrance will be the front entrance from University Blvd.

Experience all the Clubhouse has to offer!

Now that the excitement of the new academic year has quieted, we hope you've settled into your schedules and found some free time. Why not visit the Clubhouse, where you can:

- Watch TV in both the main room and the rec room
- Enjoy video games on the Playstation 3
- Use numerous exercise machines in the gym
- Play a game of pool, foosball, or table tennis with some friends

All of these amenities are available whenever the Clubhouse is open!

Would you like to be

\$25.00 richer?



All you have to do is pay your rent on or before the 1st of every month. All residents with a zero balance will be entered into the drawing! The drawing will be held on the 2nd business day of every month. If you are drawn, you will be given a \$25.00 rent concession! Don't miss out on this simple way to save.

If you have any questions email office@umdcourtyards.com

Courtyards Area Council

Winner of the 2nd Annual Halloween
Deck Decorating Contest:

Apartment 516



The Courtyards Area Council would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the residents who participated in this year's Halloween Deck Decorating contest. The judging for the contest took place on October 30, 2011 and although it was a close call, the residents of apartment 516 took home the prize of a \$25 Chipotle gift card with their spooktacular masterpiece. Congratulations!

Don't forget to come out to the Courtyards Area Council meetings. They are held each Monday at 9pm in the Clubhouse conference room.

Employee Profile:



Meet Santos Henriquez, Maintenance Tech for the Courtyards. Santos is the face behind the scenes making sure your work orders are addressed quickly and efficiently. Take some time to get to know him:

What is your hometown?

Silver Spring, Md.

How long have you been with the Courtyards?

One year

What is your favorite part of working at the Courtyards?

Learning and interacting with the students

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Go to school and get more knowledge.

If you could trade places with any other person for a week, famous or not famous, living or dead, real or fictional, with whom would it be?

DC Mayor Vincent Gray so I could change the parking rules.

Some of you may remember this from your childhood—why not recreate the magic when you're entertaining this season? It's quick, easy, and uses common grocery items!

Ingredients:

- 9 cups Rice Chex®, Corn Chex® or Chocolate Chex® cereal (or combination)
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Preparation:

Into large bowl, measure cereal; set aside.

In 1-quart microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips, peanut butter and butter uncovered on High 1 minute; stir. Microwave about 30 seconds longer or until mixture can be stirred smooth. Stir in vanilla. Pour mixture over cereal, stirring until evenly coated.

Pour into 2-gallon resealable food-storage plastic bag.

Add powdered sugar. Seal bag; shake until well coated. Spread on waxed paper to cool. Store in airtight container in refrigerator.



Courtyards Resident Key Borrowing Policies

We understand that unforeseen circumstances may leave you without a key to your apartment temporarily, such as forgetting the key in your bedroom if you're rushing out, or maybe you locked it in your car. In order to avoid unnecessary fees and confusion, we'd like to outline our key policies and your responsibilities:

Checking out a spare key: Residents can check out a spare key 24-hours a day by visiting the main office during normal business hours, visiting the after hours desk if the main office is closed, or by calling the Community Assistant on duty (301-906-3623) if the Clubhouse is closed.

Proper Identification: To check out a spare key, you must present your University of Maryland student ID card.

Time Limit: All checked-out spare keys must be returned within an

hour when the Clubhouse is open (regardless of whether you checked it out from the main office or the after-hours desk). If you check out a key and the Clubhouse is closed once your hour time limit is up, you must return the key no later than noon of the following day. *Residents will not be reminded of this time limit, so be sure to return the key in a timely manner.*

Penalty for Late/Unreturned Keys: If a spare key is not returned in one hour, the resident will be billed a \$10 late fee. If the key is not returned within 24 hours (or by noon of the following day if you checked it out near closing), the lock will be changed and the resident will be billed for the cost of the core change, \$125.

Excessive Check-outs: Once you have checked a key out five times, you will be charged a frequent user fee of \$50 each time you sign the key out.



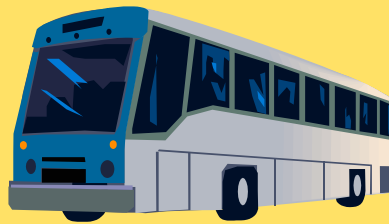
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Friend us on Facebook!
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Thanksgiving Break Transportation

Are you looking to travel to New York or New Jersey for the upcoming Thanksgiving break? The Department of Transportation Services is offering service to Port Authority, New York; Metropark, New Jersey; and Cherry Hill, New Jersey (near Philadelphia).



Wednesday, November 23rd Departure
 (Leaving Stamp Student Union at 2pm)

Destination	Estimated Time of Arrival
Port Authority, NY	6:30 pm
Metropark, NJ	5:30 pm
Cherry Hill, NJ (near Philadelphia)	5:10 pm

The cost of the trips are \$50 roundtrip and \$30 one way. Visit <http://dots.umd.edu/trips.html> for more details and to register.

Sunday, November 27th Arrivals
 (Returning to Stamp Student Union)

Departure Location	Departure Time	Estimated Time of Arrival
Port Authority, NY	12:00pm	5:00pm
Metropark, NJ	1:00pm	5:00 pm
Cherry Hill, NJ (near Philadelphia)	2:00pm	5:00 pm

All return trips will arrive at the Stamp Student Union .

Need more space in your room?

Don't want to make a trip home for your winter clothes?

rooms available to rent!

\$25 per Month

Contact Misty Adams, Account Coordinator, if you are interested or if you have any questions.



The 2011-2012 Community Assistant Staff

Pictured above are the faces of our 2011-2012 Community Assistant staff. CAs help facilitate a positive living experience here at the courtyards. They plan programs and activities, assist with roommate concerns, and assist with emergencies and after-hours concerns. If you have roommate concerns, questions about policies, ideas for programs, or if you would just like to say hello, please feel free to contact them.

First row (left to right): Tiffany Harvey (100), Eric Federline (100), Kevin Such (200), Roberta Capobianco (200), Jarret Angbazo (300), Caitlin Browne (300), Eviealle Dawkins (400). Second row (left to right): Hawaria Shiferaw (400), Samira Howard (500), Alenna Monet (500), Adrenia Smith (600), Joshua Parrish (600), Grant Hughes-Baldwin (700), and Ellen Farr (700)



Courtyards Sustainability Initiative!!

November Sustainability Tip: Don't Idle Your Car!

Now that colder weather is here to stay, you may be tempted to idle your car while waiting for it to warm up on cold mornings. Instead of idling, give your car about 30 seconds to get oil circulating, then you can go. Not only will this save you money on wasted gasoline, but driving will warm your car faster, too!

The Courtyards at University of Maryland

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