

# Bayside at Fort Howard Newsletter

Volume I

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## A Message from the Secretary of the VA

Dear Veteran:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to consider Bayside at Fort Howard as your future home. By the recent signing of a long-term enhanced use lease, the Department of Veterans Affairs launched this first-of-its-kind construction and development project – a multi-phased effort designed to fully meet the health care, residential, and community needs of our senior veterans. It establishes a veteran-focused, continuing care retirement community, complete with a museum, theater, marina, activity center, and recreation areas where senior veterans are Priority One!



This project replaces an outmoded and outdated VA facility with a new, state-of-the-art VA outpatient clinic offering primary care services. And it preserves the rich history of Fort Howard and retains the decades-old tradition of a strong VA presence within this beautiful community.

Bayside at Fort Howard symbolizes cooperation and collaboration at all levels, and by all parties involved, as they worked together to benefit veterans health care and overall quality of life. The project's success can be credited to wide and far-reaching partnerships: to the master developers, Fort Howard Senior Housing Associates and Federal Development; to the state and local government officials including Senator Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, and Chairman of the Baltimore County Council John Olszewski; to community associations and veterans groups; and to national and state historic preservation interests, among others.

I believe that this project – made possible by determination, hard work and teamwork – will set a new standard in care and service for the rest of the VA system and be a harbinger of future success stories as Fort Howard serves as the model for veterans' and other senior communities across the nation.

In Closing, let me ask you to remember the veterans of tomorrow – our brave troops in the field today fighting for the freedom we have here at home. May God bless them and may He always bless the United States of America.

Sincerely yours,  
R. James Nicholson

Welcome from Fort Howard Senior Housing Associates! This is the first edition of our new monthly newsletter designed to inform veterans interested in living at Bayside on current activities as well as keep them up-to-date on the project's progress.

## A Message from Rep. Ruppertsberger

Our Veterans risked their lives to protect our freedom and liberty. Some paid the ultimate sacrifice. I believe we must honor American Veterans with both words and actions. It is wonderful to see the former Fort Howard VA Medical Center infused with new life for Maryland Veterans. I look forward to visiting the state of the art retirement facility upon completion to personally thank our Vets for their service and sacrifice.



- Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
(Maryland 2nd District)

## A Look Back at Local History

The designation of Fort Howard for a VA retirement community is appropriate considering its rich history. Fort Howard's



significance began with its connection to the largest invasion of the United States in history on the morning of September 12, 1814. The British had landed about seven thousand men near the site that later became Fort Howard, as a part of a campaign to capture and burn Baltimore. In coordination with their navy's bombardment of Fort McHenry, the British troops were to march up Patapsco Neck and capture Baltimore from the east. But the British advance was first demoralized when American sharpshooters Daniel Wells and Henry McComas killed their popular commanding general. The advance had been temporarily stalled by the Americans in the Battle of North Point, and finally stopped dead when the British perceived the strength of the American defenses at Patterson Park. Disheartened, they re-boarded their ships near North Point and sailed away- to another defeat, in the Battle of New Orleans.

Fort Howard was originally known as North Point, but



was renamed in 1902 after Colonel John Eager Howard, a Baltimore philanthropist and distinguished soldier of the Maryland Continental

Line during the Revolutionary War. In the 1700's, the site served as an important part of the transportation route between the Eastern Shore and the port of Baltimore. Known as the "Bulldog at Baltimore's Gate", Fort Howard also held great significance as a defensive point for Baltimore. Many of the fort batteries, previously manned by Coast Artillery Corps, can still be seen, although they are now covered by dark ivy and bushes.

## The Fort Howard Waitlist: Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How do I get added to the waitlist?

You can add yourself to the waitlist a number of ways. By phone, call Coordinator Kimberly Smearman at (410) 288-1512. If you want to add yourself via the web, visit [www.baysidefthoward.com](http://www.baysidefthoward.com) and send an email to [info@baysidefthoward.com](mailto:info@baysidefthoward.com).

### 2. How do I get on the Priority waitlist?

Complete and mail back the application included with your brochure package, complete with reservation deposit and all necessary information.

### 3. What is my current waitlist status?

Once you have mailed in your application, you will receive notice by mail of your current status, beginning in September.

## Lifestyles at Fort Howard

Bayside at Fort Howard is the first veteran focused community of its kind – with all types of senior care and housing, including active adult living, independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing. These housing options and types of care are being offered to United States veterans first, and then to non-veterans if space is still available.

With a clinic on-site for veterans and non-veterans, Bayside provides a continuing care retirement community located on the Chesapeake Bay, with other community and resident amenities just minutes from your doorstep. In a safe and serene environment, senior citizens are free to enjoy the benefits of such a picturesque location while meeting fellow veterans, and having access to activities that contribute to their overall wellness, health, and quality of life.

To explain more about the unique variety of lifestyles Bayside has to offer, the following are more detailed descriptions of each living style available to Veterans at Fort Howard:

**Active Living** is the right choice for you if you are looking for an apartment residence or an apartment home and do not need services to support your daily living. Our Active Senior apartment residences offer social activities and entertainment, social, and cultural trips with fellow senior veterans and non-veterans. Independent Living



In our **Independent Living** residences, seniors live in a shared setting where buildings will have large common areas, activity spaces and central dining rooms. Meals are provided for Independent seniors and included in the rent. Supportive services are not included but available when you desire or require it.



**Assisted Living** provides additional services in addition to those offered in the Independent Living residences. Assisted Living provides help with your daily activities, such as bathing, dressing, and medication reminders. Alzheimer/Dementia dwelling units are also available.



**Skilled Nursing** facilities are for seniors that require 24-hour nursing supervision. Increased medical and daily supportive services are provided in a more clinical environment. Benefits from Medicare and/or Medicaid are accepted.

## Fort Howard Veterans Museum Needs Your Help



The rich and compelling history of Fort Howard will provide ample information and resources for the Fort Howard Veterans Museum. The Museum presents an opportunity to veterans to tell their story and participate in keeping their history and memories alive for generations to come.

Federal Development, the developer of the Fort Howard Veterans Museum, is currently requesting artifact donations for the new museum. If you would like to donate war memorabilia, photographs, personal correspondence, or other artifacts, please contact Kimberly Smearman at (410) 288-1512 by October 1, 2007.

The Fort Howard Veterans Museum and Marketing Office will be unveiled during a grand opening ceremony on Tuesday, October 15th, 2007 at 10am. Please join Bayside Staff and local officials as we celebrate continuing progress on the Fort Howard campus!

## The Unique Combination of Preservation and Development at Bayside

Fort Howard presents a unique opportunity to create a thriving new community based on a historically valuable military installation. This is the first time the VA has entered into a lease agreement with a private developer to offer senior living housing.



This new development is the first project of its kind – with all types of senior care and housing, including active adult living, independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing. It is anticipated that Bayside at Fort Howard will serve as a national model for better serving the needs of America's rapidly aging veteran population.

The coming decade will see more than ten million more people in the 55-85 age group. By the year 2030, the U.S. Census projects that 1 in 5 Americans will be 65 or older, more than double the number of Americans who are 65 or older today. In addition, approximately 500,000 veterans reside within Maryland, and 2,500,000 within Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania combined.

Senior veterans and their spouses, who have given such major service to their country, deserve to live in a visually beautiful, peaceful and stable environment more appropriate for their needs as they age in place.

It is a goal of the developers of Bayside at Fort Howard to fulfill these needs in this new community. The campus includes 37 historic structures that will be rehabilitated and reused into senior living facilities and community amenities for Bayside residents. This campus will be redeveloped in a multi-phased project over the next ten years into a thriving, multi-faceted environment that meets the residential and community needs of America's senior veteran citizens in a continuum of care while respecting and preserving the rich history of the Fort Howard Campus

and ensuring that its residents are able to live with dignity as they age in place. It will provide a living model for veterans and other senior communities across the country. Additionally, securing historic tax credits throughout the various phases will ensure the affordability of housing for veterans.

As the VA Medical Center at Fort Howard is a public installation, Bayside's developers are required to meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, meaning that all parties associated with the project must take special measures to discern what portions of the property could be affected by development, and at the same time try to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects that development could have on historic properties. Further, the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), who represents the interests of the State and its citizens in the preservation of their cultural heritage, advises and assists Federal agencies in carrying out their preservation responsibilities.

Most of the existing buildings are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and were constructed between 1898 and 1947. In fact, only five of the buildings at the site were constructed later than 1947. The site contains approximately 90 acres and 37 buildings, and while the structures of the existing historic buildings are standard 19th Century design, the facades of the exterior architectural treatments range from Georgian Colonial to English Tudor, Spanish Renaissance, and French Colonial styles, as these were the dominant designs for most buildings through the end of World War II.

The Master Plan for Fort Howard, being consistent with good preservation practices, respects the overall historic site plan and involves the rehabilitation and reuse of most of the existing buildings into compatible use. Kann & Associates, Inc., the chief architect at Fort Howard, additionally plans to provide research for the entire site to both document its rich history and to seek State and Federal historic tax credits. It plans for the construction of new buildings and amenities based on design standards so as to assure a consistent and sensitive design attitude throughout the community.

## VA Assistance: What you may be eligible for



With the costs of caregiving and senior care on the rise, expenses that are already staggering to seniors and their families are only getting worse. What many veterans don't know, however, is that they may be qualified to receive special financial assistance from the

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help pay for nursing homes, in-home care, and assisted living expenses. Additionally, countless Veterans Service Organizations have individuals specially trained to represent Veterans and help explain the benefits that are available to them. By pooling the resources of the VA and local VSO offices, veterans who have never previously looked into VA benefits may find that they can receive a wide range of helpful assistance in the areas of health and long-term care services.

In 1999 Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, which requires the VA to provide extended care for veterans, including areas such as home care, home-based primary care, respite, rehabilitation, adult day care, and programs such as Telehealth. In addition, the VA helps to pay for care at home, in nursing homes, or at an assisted living facility through Disability Benefits-Special Pension with Aid and Attendance. In order to qualify for these benefits, seniors must require regular help with at least two of the following: eating, dressing, bathing, toileting, and medications. If you only need meals, transportation, or an elder care apartment, you won't be eligible for these services yet.

Assistance for these programs is available in the form of as much as \$1,375 per month for a single veteran and \$883 for a surviving spouse. If one spouse is a veteran, a married couple may receive as much as \$1,630 per month. The final amount that veterans receive is based on their current income and out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Even with the existence of these financial benefits for senior veterans, navigating the red tape and formalities of applying can seem daunting. This is why most Veterans Service Organizations staff personnel who are specially trained to help veterans acquire their benefits. For assistance, veterans can choose between recognized and non-recognized organizations, the main difference being that only a recognized organization can legally represent you before the VA. VSOs can help inform veterans of what benefits they may qualify for, and can then present their case and assist them in applying for those benefits. If veterans decide that they want to appoint a recognized service organization as their representative, that organization or the VA will give you a VA form 21-22 to fill out. The veteran should talk to the service organization they want to represent them before they submit this form. To find VSOs near you, you can contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000. Additionally, the VA website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) provides a great deal of information on these programs and more.

### Upcoming Events

Completion of Bakery Building Renovation:  
September 1, 2007

Marketing and Leasing Office Opening:  
September 15, 2007

Advanced Priority Applications mailed out:  
September 15, 2007

Fort Howard Veterans Museum and Marketing Office  
ribbon-cutting ceremony: October 15th, 2007

Completion of Fort Howard Guard House  
restoration: October 30, 2007

### We want to hear from you!

In future newsletter issues, our team is interested in hearing from future Bayside residents. Whether you would like to submit an article or would prefer to be interviewed as a future Bayside resident, we know that veterans have stories to tell. We want this newsletter to provide one way for family and friends to learn more about our honored veterans and their spouses. To be included in future issues of this newsletter, please call 410-288-1512 or email [info@baysidefthoward.com](mailto:info@baysidefthoward.com).

*A Retirement home for America's veterans*

AT FORT HOWARD

**BAYSIDE**



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