



## Worries Grow about Impact of a Prolonged Government Shutdown

By: Associated Press

The partial government shutdown has frustrated tourists, delayed trash pickup in national parks and shut off the Smithsonian Zoo's beloved panda cam. But as the closure drags on with no end in sight, it's also jeopardizing the welfare of some of America's poorest families.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is one of the seven agencies most directly affected by the standoff between President Donald Trump, who is demanding \$5 billion in border wall funding, and congressional Democrats, who want to reopen the government without it. Since Dec. 22, the vast majority of federal housing employees have been forced to stay home without pay — prohibited from doing any work, including responding to emails.

Most of HUD's routine enforcement activities have been suspended, including mandatory health and safety inspections of housing for low-income families, the elderly and people with disabilities, according to the shutdown contingency plan that HUD posted on its website. Public housing officials say they don't know how long rental assistance payments will keep coming from the government, and a suspension could put millions of tenants at risk if the shutdown drags on into February. And if there are any problems in providing affordable housing grants to local and state governments, as well as nonprofit groups, there are few people on hand to resolve them, according to one furloughed staffer.

The initial impact of the shutdown was muted as it began shortly before Christmas, typically a slow time for HUD and other federal agencies. But the standoff has now lasted nearly two weeks.

About 95 percent of HUD's 7,500 employees have been furloughed without pay, according to HUD's contingency plan. Those exempted from the furlough include staff members needed for emergency situations that pose "an imminent threat to the safety of human life or the protection of property." That includes some housing and emergency services for the homeless, according to HUD's contingency plan. But most work that requires hands-on processing and assistance has been put on hold, including activities that directly affect the well-being of low-income Americans.

The consequences for both HUD staff and the people they serve will continue to mount if the standoff continues, housing advocates and officials say.

## Member of the Month

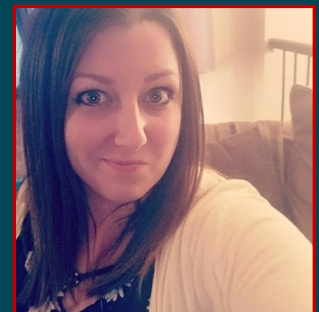
By Stacie Becker, BPO5 Ventures

I'm sure you've heard her name many times since she's been in the industry for over 17 years, especially if you work for Case & Associates since she has spent her entire career with them, but I would love to introduce you to Tracy Mathis. Tracy has definitely seen her fair share of excitement over the years in the industry, but she said the one thing that she likes the most is the unpredictability. "I love not knowing what each day will hold. There is no such thing as a 'typical day.' Days can be slow and mundane, to scary, to downright hilarious! And at the end of each day, we have usually helped people, so we can chalk the craziness up to 'worth it!'" says Tracy.

When asked how Tracy got started in the industry, she explained that she previously had worked in a hotel at the front desk, but was looking for something that didn't involve working evenings and holidays. It just so happened that Tracy's mother was apartment shopping and she moved into Silver Springs, which led her to inquire about working at the complex. Turns out, they were hiring for a leasing agent and the rest is history.

Tracy currently on the AAGW Board of Directors and would love for our association to focus on more participation and excitement at Member Meetings. "There is a lot of valuable information out there, and I would like to find a more interactive, engaging way to present it," Mathis says.

We are lucky to have Tracy on our AAGW team!



**Tracy Mathis**  
Case & Associates

# the grapevine



ACUTE Construction Services, Inc. is pleased to announce that Jeff Fetzer has been brought onto our team as the new Project Manager. Jeff is from Overland Park, Kansas and graduated from Pitt State University with a bachelor's degree in Construction Management. After graduating, Jeff took a position with Hughes Machinery Co. in Lenexa, Kansas as a Project Coordinator in which he was responsible for sales, bidding and management of Commercial/Industrial boiler application and installation projects. We are excited to not only bring Jeff's education and experience to our team but also his outstanding expertise in Customer Relations. As of December 17, 2018 Jeff will be responsible for estimating, Project Management and client outreach with the same professionalism and enthusiasm that he has shown through-out his career.



Metro Appliances and More is excited to announce that Betty Wares is not retiring until September 14th 2019. Betty says she is happy to be staying another 9 months and to continue working with all the Management Companies and properties she has worked with for the last 14 yrs.



Weigand-Omega Management would like to introduce Jamie Stebens as the new Assistant Manager of Twin Lakes Apartments. Jamie joined the team in November and they are very proud of the job she has done in such a short period of time and look forward to watching her grow in her position.

## Meet Your AAGW Board and Committees

Happy New Year everybody! My name is Stacie Becker and I am an independent rental owner in the AAGW, along with my husband Kyle we operate BPO5 Ventures (along with our other full-time jobs). I have been with the AAGW for nearly 10 years now and am currently on the Board of Directors as Chair of the Communications Committee.

So what does the Communications Committee do? We work to increase the presence of the AAGW in the region through newsletters, social media and public relations. Part of my role is to also keep tabs on all the other committees so I can help promote their events and pass along important industry news to our members. If there is anything I can do for you to help promote company announcements or new hires please feel free to email [admin@myaagw.com](mailto:admin@myaagw.com) and we can figure out how best to spread your message!



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The AAGW Membership Drive event "Taste the AAGW" welcomes individuals and their companies that provide professional services and quality products to the multifamily industry, rental property owners and management companies. In addition, the Membership Committee will be contacting apartment communities in the AAGW area that are not currently members encouraging them to join.

The AAGW could not continue to grow without new member support. New members bring new ideas to the Association, give additional financial support, sponsor membership events and seminars, and they volunteer and serve on committees.

Please join us and learn how we can help grow your business, property and employees!



## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### RESIDENT EVENT PLANNING

**Register today at [www.myaagw.com](http://www.myaagw.com)**

**Where:** Abode Venue

**When:** January 17th, 11:30am-1:00pm

**Cost:** \$27/members, \$47/non-members

**Details:** Hosting regular resident events has proven to increase resident retention as they help foster a sense of community and shows how much the management cares for those who choose to call their property home. But what makes a resident event successful? Join us for this very interactive meeting and walk away ready to plan your 2019 event calendar!

## UPCOMING

## EVENTS

**Tuesday, January 1st**

Happy New Years!

**Thursday, January 10th, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Metro Appliances & More  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Wednesday, January 16th, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

Furniture Options  
Suppliers Council Meeting

**Thursday, January 17th, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Abode Venue  
Membership Meeting: Resident Event Planning

**Wednesday, January 23rd, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Fuzzy's Taco Shop  
"Taste the AAGW" Membership Drive

**Thursday, February 14th, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Metro Appliances & More  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Wednesday, February 20th, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

Furniture Options  
Suppliers Council Meeting

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