

# Grass Roots



Vol.13, Issue 2, February 2012

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Offices of the Housing Authority of McDonough County*

*will be closed Monday,*

*February 20, 2012*

*Project HOPE*

*First Presbyterian Church*

*400 East Carroll, Macomb, IL*

*4PM-6PM*

*February 26, 2012*

*For a ride call 309-333-7747*

*The Crossing has a food pantry open the 3rd Saturday of every month!*

*Housing Authority Emergency*

*Maintenance number for*

*After hours, weekends &*

*holidays*

*309-313-1116*



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## AARP SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

The goal of this directory is to provide current information about the choices available to interested parties who are seeking help for a senior citizen living in McDonough County, Illinois; whether it is you, a relative, or a friend.

You will find the information you seek about provider agencies and services for seniors under broad topics that are listed on the website in the table of contents under "directory links above." Information for each provider agency includes their address, telephone number, a brief description of the services or activities they provide, and a web address/link, if it was available.

Macomb Area AARP's Creative Elder Options Committee (CEO) collected, organized, and verified the information included in this directory. We would like to thank all the Provider Agencies and Senior Services included in the directory for providing up-to-date and reliable information. Information in a directory is subject to constant change, as a result, the Macomb Area AARP's CEO is not responsible for any information that you find to be incorrect. We hope that the information included meets your needs.

**Lynne Ruben, President of Macomb Area AARP Phone: (309) 426-2930**  
<http://macombaarpceo.org/>

## ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL

As of January 1, 2012 the State of Illinois banned the disposal of a variety of electronics into landfills. This means that residents are no longer be allowed to dispose of electronics in the dumpsters at any of the public housing properties. All electronics must be taken to the Tri-County Regional Collection Facility at 510 North Pearl in Macomb and 138 East Hail Street in Bushnell. A complete list of items accepted at the Tri-County Regional Collection Facilities in both Bushnell and Macomb are posted on the Community Bulletin board at each site. There is also contact information to contact Tri-County Regional Collection Facility if you have any questions. Len Phillips, Operations Manager at the Housing Authority will assist residents with recycling of air conditioning units, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and dryers. Please contact Len during office hours at the Housing Authority for assistance.

## FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The YMCA Senior Center, 400 East Calhoun Street in Macomb and the AARP Tax-Aide Program will provide free tax preparation for low- and middle-income tax payers 60 and up beginning February 3, 2012. The services will be available Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Appointments are required. Call (309) 837-5733 to schedule. All forms are available at the YMCA. You must file a federal income tax return if your income is more than \$9,350 (filing single, under 65); \$10,750 (single, age 65-plus); \$18,700 (married, filing jointly, both under 65); \$20,900 (married filing jointly, both over age 65).

## **FITCH MANOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

This month's Resident Meeting will be about Fire Safety. A representative from the Bushnell Volunteer Fire Department will educate residents on being prepared in case there is a fire in your apartment. The meeting will be held at Diane Sipes (121B) on February 16, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

## **EISENHOWER TOWER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 11, 2012 @ 5:00 p.m.** is the resident meeting and potluck. Valentine's Day theme. **February 25, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.** is BINGO.

Illinois law and changing needs of our residents, HAMC can no longer park on the lines of the handicapped parking spaces. Please consider leaving the three up front handicapped parking spaces open if you are able to manage walking a little farther than those spots so they are available for individuals who desperately need them.

**Key fobs should work in the Community Room entrance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you are having problems, please report it.**

**Old electronics are not allowed to be left on the free table as of 1/1/2012.**

## **PRAIRIEVIEW TOWN HOMES**

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT and HOMEWORK HELP** are offered at the Prairieview Community Center. Homework Help is offered Mondays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Family Fun Night is offered Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please remember not to park in the "snow zones" as you may get towed. Also please remember to register all vehicles at the Housing Authority office and to display your parking sticker. If the Housing Authority is not sure its your car, it may get towed.

## **GREENBRIER TOWN HOMES**

Family Fun Night is held two times in February. The dates are Tuesday, February 14, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 21, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## **HOUSING AUTHORITY WEBSITE**

The Housing Authority has a new website! The web address is the same [www.mcdonoughhome.org](http://www.mcdonoughhome.org). Please visit the new site. Pictures of current resident's apartments were used on the website. There are also many forms available on the website to complete, print out and return to the office. There is also a Trespass list on the website. Thanks to Carlene Lyons, Pauline Oye, Trisha Belville, Ken Snider and Jared and Sarah Metcalf's who offered their homes for pictures on the website.

## FREE TAX PREPARATION WEBSITES

Tax payers can file income tax returns by filing directly through the Internal Revenue Service ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) and the Illinois Department of Revenue ([www.revenue.state.il.us](http://www.revenue.state.il.us)). The websites are very user friendly and walk tax payers through the process. You can still get your return in two weeks most of the time. Both websites will tell you what you need to file your tax return.

## CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR PETS

- Pet accidents must be cleaned immediately for best results.
- If the accident is on carpet, saturate the spot with water, or even better with some white vinegar added. Using a dry towel (or paper towels), fold it up, place over the spot and stand on it to soak up the liquid. Repeat as necessary and let the spot air dry.
- If the accident occurs on tile, wipe it up. Then wipe down the area with water with some vinegar or with a little dish detergent. Dry as necessary.
- Keep litter boxes clean and clean up accidents immediately.
- Shedding is also a problem if you have a pet. Brushing your pet keeps the fur on the brush rather than in your home. Brushing your pet outside rather than inside will also help with this. If you have a dog, bathe your dog at least once a month but not more than every two weeks. Feed your pet a food that promotes a healthy coat. You may also talk to your vet for help.
- Sweep and vacuum tile and carpets often.
- Potpourri and air fresheners do not get rid of animal odor.

## LEASE HIGHLIGHT

### YOUR DWELLING LEASE REQUIRES YOU TO:

Promptly pay any utility bills for utilities supplied to Tenant by a direct connection to the utility company, and to avoid disconnection of utility service for such utilities.

**Failure to pay utility bills when Tenant is responsible for paying such bills directly to the supplier of utilities may result in termination of tenancy.**

## HOUSING AUTHORITY SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a graduating high school senior or GED recipient who wants to attend college or vocational school? Are you currently attending college or would like to return to earn your degree? Are you worried about how you are going to pay for your education?

The Illinois Association of Housing Authorities' Central Council is once again offering an Educational Assistance grant program for graduating high school seniors, GED recipients, or individuals currently enrolled or planning to enter college or a vocational school.

Applicants must be a current Housing Authority resident or Section 8 program recipient. Interested applicants should stop by the office and pick up an application. All applications must be turned into the Executive Director, Bill Jacobs by February 28, 2012.

# Grass Roots

## *IN OUR COMMUNITIES!*



MACOMB BULLDOGS BASKETBALL GAME AT WASHINGTON STREET GYM



HOMEWORK HELP AND FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT PRAIRIEVIEW



PRAIRIEVIEW CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY