

# Grass Roots



Vol.12, Issue 11, November 2011

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The Offices of the Housing Authority of McDonough County will be closed Friday, November 11, 2011 for Veteran's Day and Thursday & Friday, November 25 & 26 so staff members can celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.*

*Housing Authority  
Emergency  
Maintenance number for  
After hours, weekends &  
holidays  
309-313-1116*

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## BARRED INDIVIDUALS

The Housing Authority receives numerous "anonymous" tips about barred or banned individuals being seen on Public Housing property after business hours. If you see a barred individual on the property, please call the police immediately. It is a crime and should be reported. It is in everyone's best interest to keep barred persons off the property and the Housing Authority cannot do it alone.

## ATTENTION PET OWNERS

The pet and its living quarters must be maintained in a manner to prevent odors and any other unsanitary conditions in the owner's unit and surrounding areas.

Repeated substantiated complaints by neighbors or Housing Authority personnel regarding pets disturbing the peace of neighbors through noise, odor, animal waste, or other nuisance may result in the owner having to remove the pet or move him/herself.

## DRIVING ON SIDEWALKS

Driving on the sidewalks is not permitted unless prior permission is given by the Housing Authority office. The Housing Authority office only allows persons to drive on the sidewalks when they are moving in or out of their apartment and in cases of medical necessity. Residents may be fined \$10 for the first offense and \$25 for each subsequent offense.

## FREE THANKSGIVING DINNERS

**MAPLE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH** If your family is in need of a Thanksgiving Food Basket, please notify the church office at 309-837-9318 by November 14, 2011.

**The BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION** is helping families in need of a Thanksgiving Food Basket. Sign up is from 10/28/11 to 11/11/11, between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm. Contact the BSA at (309) 298-2220 to sign up.

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Macomb Lion's Club and Loaves and Fishes are partnering with the River Bend Food Bank to provide a Mobile Food Pantry, November 12, 2011 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1212 W. Calhoun, Macomb, IL. Registration is from 10:30 am to 11:00 am. Food Distribution begins at 11:15 am. You must bring your own bags, boxes, etc. to collect food. Be prepared to wait 2 hours for distribution to be complete. For more information call:

**Linda Cremer @ 309-992-8166 or Bob Bowen @ 309.833.4608**

## ***FITCH MANOR NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS***

Thanks to the folks who supported the Flu Shot Clinic provided at Fitch. We will work with McDonough District Hospital to provide this service next year as well.

The Thanksgiving Dinner will be held November 17th, 2011 at Greenbrier Community Center at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish. Meat will be provided. Peachy Miller will play music during the dinner.

## ***EISENHOWER TOWER UPCOMING EVENTS***

Garden meetings are finished for the year. We will keep you advised of upcoming garden activities by March 2012.

**November 12, 2011 @ 5:00 p.m.** is the monthly potluck and resident meeting.

**November 26, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.** is Bingo in the Community Room.

***Please remember to clean up after your animals! It's a condition of the Pet Policy you signed. Violators will be fined.***

**Christmas is just around the corner.** Please remember, NO live trees in Eisenhower Tower.

## ***PRAIRIEVIEW TOWN HOMES***

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT is Thursday's 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.** Please contact the office if you have a talent you would like to share with the kiddos. Parents are the best teachers!

*Gardening is done for the season but I wanted to give a special thanks to Robb Mourning who went above and beyond to ensure a successful harvest.*

**Be careful** not to overload outlets and extension cords with Christmas decorations. It is also a lease violation to tamper with water heaters and furnaces.

## ***GREENBRIER TOWN HOMES***

Family Fun Night is being offered on Tuesday's 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come join the fun! Gardening is over for the year but we will continue to offer activities for families. Let us know if you have a special skill or talent you would like to share with the group.

**Be careful** not to overload outlets and extension cords with Christmas decorations. It is also a lease violation to tamper with water heaters and furnaces.

## ***ATTENTION GARDENERS***

There will be a meeting to form a Community Garden Committee and work on By-laws and to plan for Spring gardening. The meeting will be held at the Prairieview Community Room on November 2, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.

## SNOW REMOVAL

The Housing Authority of McDonough County uses the following guidelines when removing snow from the sidewalk in front of your house.

- Maintenance personnel will remove snow, sleet and ice from common sidewalks. Residents are responsible for removing snow, sleet and ice from walkways and front entrances at their homes.
- Elderly and disabled residents are exempt from the previous rule. Maintenance employees keep a list of residents who are physically unable to shovel snow and will clean the front walk, entrance and ramps at those homes. Reasonable Accommodation is available for assistance in removing snow for persons with **VERIFIED** disabilities.
- Snow removal begins one hour after it stops snowing, provided it snows less than five inches. However, if snowfall is heavy and expected to continue over a sustained period of time, crews may begin snow removal before snowfall ceases.
- The Maintenance Superintendent will decide when it is necessary to spread salt on sidewalks, entrances, ramps, dumpster enclosures and parking lots. In most cases, salting will begin one hour after all other snow removal services are finished.
- If weather conditions suggest that fresh snow will melt before 2 p.m. on the day it falls, the Maintenance Superintendent may decide to let nature take care of snow removal.

## YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Youth Assistance Program Fund was initiated in Spring of 2002 after a significant need was witnessed by Illinois State Trooper Glenn Daugherty.

The program's mission is to assist area school age youth who have a desire to participate in area activities such as sports, music, scouts, special camps and other organized activities available in the McDonough County area but cannot afford the fees, equipment, musical instruments, etc.

The Youth Assistance Program currently has funds available to assist with sports and many other extra-curricular activities. Families may contact Jo Anna Eidson at (309) 837-2363 for information on applying for assistance.

## SIMPLE STEPS TO A WARMER HOME

- Close and lock all doors, including storm doors.
- Close and lock all windows.
- Close curtains on cloudy days and let the sun in on sunny days.
- Keep registers OPEN and do not put anything over them.
- Keep the area in front of the furnace air grates CLEAR.
- Wear layers of warm clothes.
- Set your thermostat at a lower temperature at night when sleeping and when you are gone.
- Report any air leaks, or heat loss to the Central Office: 309-837-2363.
- Report any Maintenance Emergency to our On Call Service at 309-313-1116 after 4 p.m., holidays and weekends.
- **CONTACT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AT THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER IMMEDIATELY IF YOU DO NOT HAVE HEAT!**

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## ***CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE***

Sign up Dates for Christmas Assistance from the Salvation Army are:

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm  
Wednesday, November 2, 2011 1:00 pm to 4 pm  
Thursday, November 3, 2011 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm

You must bring I.D.s, social security cards, proof of residency, income and expenses, guardianship and gift ideas to:

The Salvation Army  
505 N. Randolph Street  
Macomb, IL 61455  
309-837-4824

## ***BELL RINGERS NEEDED!***

For Residents needing to meet the Community Service Requirement or if your looking for a way to give to your community at Christmas, consider Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. Volunteers may ring for as little a two hours. Contact the Salvation Army at:

The Salvation Army  
505 N. Randolph Street  
Macomb, IL 61455  
309-837-4824

All proceeds stay in McDonough County and provide assistance to members of our community all year long.

## ***IN OUR COMMUNITIES!***



Carol Heath won a Gold Medal for Ramp Bowling



### **GREENBRIER KIDS LEARN ABOUT STRANGER DANGER AND MAKE GOD'S EYES**



**THE KID'S AT PRAIRIEVIEW ENJOYED A VISIT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AT FAMILY FUN NIGHT.**