

# Grass Roots



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

The offices of the **Housing Authority of McDonough County** will be closed on **Monday, July 5th** in honor of the Independence Day holiday.

### PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing regarding the Housing Authority of McDonough County's five-year plan will be held at **3 p.m. on June 25th at Eisenhower Tower**. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

### EISENHOWER TOWER IS GOING GREEN!

A recyclables-only disposal container has been placed by the back door on the building's west side. Residents, please take advantage of this service.

### FIREWORKS ARE NOT ALLOWED!

With July 4th just around the corner, **please note that fireworks of all types are not allowed** on Housing Authority property.

## Prairieview Resident Wins Statewide Poster Contest

Prairieview resident Alexandria Burchett is the winner of the Illinois Chapter of NAHRO's 2009 poster contest.

The Illinois Chapter of NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) awarded Burchett with a \$50 American Express gift card as a prize for her winning artwork. Her poster was then entered in NAHRO's nationwide contest.

Burchett, the daughter of Chris Cordrey, is an 8th grader at Macomb Junior High School. The Housing Authority of McDonough County salutes her artistic efforts.



Annette Carper (left) presents Alexandria Burchett with a \$50 American Express gift card, courtesy of the Illinois Chapter of NAHRO. Burchett's mother, Chris Cordrey (right), is proud of her daughter's artistic abilities.

NAHRO has kicked off their 2010 poster contest, and students of all ages who live in Housing Authority of McDonough County neighborhoods are invited to participate.

The theme for this year's contest is "What Home Means to Me." Submitted artwork should be no larger than 22 x 28 inches. Contestants may use

any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but NAHRO asks participants to remember that posters will need to be mailed and reproduced.

All artwork should be submitted to Resident Services Manager Kathy Millard. Millard may be reached at 837-2363.

## P.R.I.M.E.

PRIME (Pride and Responsibility In My Environment) announces their 2010 Summer Schedule:

**June 12 - Horn Lodge** (All day - Teams Course and community service mulching project)

**June 19 - Lakeview Nature Center and community service** (litter pick-up along VFW's Adopt-a-Highway stretch, and PRIME's adopt-a-street stretch), recreation (swimming or Ball Fore)

**June 26 - Kibbe Field Station** (Warsaw, IL)

**July 10 - Galesburg Railroad Museum** (community service to be determined)

**July 17 - Cooking Experience at Knoblauch and community service** (litter pick-up along VFW's Adopt-a-Highway stretch, and PRIME's adopt-a-street stretch)

**July 24 - Block Party**

**July 31 - End of program field trip** (Destination to be announced)

Contact Allen and Andrea Henderson at 309-837-3605 to get your child involved in PRIME's exciting summer lineup.



The duo of Darla Wagy (left) and Jeff Turner placed 2nd in Bocce Ball Double Team Competition at a recent Special Olympics event. Wesley Shepler (not pictured) placed 3rd in the same event. The Housing Authority congratulates these athletes for their success.

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## FITCH MANOR'S ANNUAL COOKOUT

Fitch Manor's annual cookout will be held on June 17th following the 3 p.m. Resident Council meeting. The cookout will be held at the picnic tables on the HUD side of Fitch Manor. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish. Watch for more information.

## FITCH MANOR COOKOUTS

Throughout the summer, **Fitch Manor is hosting cookouts on the second Wednesday of each month.** These cookouts are an opportunity to get to know your neighbors better. The next monthly cookout is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 14.** Watch for more details.

Organizers request that each attendee bring a covered dish, a meat item for grilling, and their own table service. For more information contact Resident Council President Daryl Gray at 331-3559.

## PARENTS & CAREGIVERS:

Please protect the children in your care. For safety reasons, children should not be left unattended and unsupervised outdoors or in other public areas.

## Put Illinois to **WORK**

The State of Illinois is attempting to help those who have had trouble finding adequate employment due to the current recession. "Put Illinois to Work" is a new program designed to create jobs throughout the state.

Through Put Illinois to Work, unemployed and underemployed Illinois residents can be placed into subsidized employment positions for up to six months. The participant's wages are provided by state/federal funding, and the employer must provide supervision and training throughout the participant's time on the job.

Funding for the program expires on September 30, 2010, at which time subsidized employment placements must end.

### Who is Eligible?

Individuals interested in participating in Put Illinois to Work must fit into the following criteria:

- Worker-trainees must be legally present in the United States and authorized to work.
- Worker-trainees must be a parent (custodial or non-custodial) of a minor child, and under 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Worker-trainees 18-21 are not required to have a minor child, but must be part of a household with income under 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and living with a parent or caretaker relative.

### Federal Poverty Level Chart

Family Size	Maximum Monthly Income
1	\$1,805
2	\$2,428
3	\$3,052
4	\$3,675
5	\$4,298
6	\$4,922
7	\$5,545

- Income from Put Illinois to Work may be countable for SNAP, TANF, Medical Assistance, and Unemployment Insurance benefits. Participants receiving income from any of these sources must report this income to their caseworker.



- Individuals hired into Put Illinois to Work may not be related by blood or marriage to the Employer.
- Worker-trainees must agree to work a minimum of 30 hours per week.
- Put Illinois to Work is a work-relief program; therefore participants will likely not be eligible for unemployment benefits at the conclusion of the program.
- Individuals participating in Put Illinois to Work must be residents of Illinois.
- Put Illinois to Work is not intended to subsidize an Employer's current workforce. If any Put Illinois to Work applicant was laid-off on or after March 15, 2010, he or she may not be employed by the same Employer.

### How to get involved

Sign up to be a worker-trainee by visiting [dhs.state.il.us](http://dhs.state.il.us) and clicking on the appropriate links. After filling out and submitting the necessary forms, you will be contacted by a Put Illinois to Work staff regarding your application.

Please note that every individual who applies for Put Illinois to Work may not be connected to a subsidized placement.

Note: When you are interviewed for Put Illinois to Work, please bring the following:

- o Photo id,
- o Social Security Card,
- o LINK Card (if applicable),
- o Medical Card (if applicable),
- o Most recent pay stub of any individual in the household that is working.

– Information courtesy of [dhs.state.il.us](http://dhs.state.il.us)

## MOLD CONTROL

Is mold growing in your home? The key to controlling mold is controlling moisture. Dry water-damaged areas and items within 48 hours to prevent mold growth. If you have mold in your home, clean it up and get rid of the excess moisture or water that is causing the problem. Wash mold off hard surfaces with detergent and water and dry completely.

Watch for more information about controlling mold in the July edition of Grassroots.

## ANNUAL INSPECTION SCHEDULE

Annual inspections are here! Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

### **Prairieview Townhomes:**

*June 7-9*

### **Greenbrier Apartments:**

*July 6-7*

### **Fitch Manor-HUD:**

*July 12*

### **Rural Development:**

*July 13*

Eisenhower Tower residents, thank you for your cooperation with recent inspections in your apartments!

All inspections will begin at **9:00 a.m.**

Please have your apartments ready for inspection. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please contact Kevin Meunier or Kathy Millard at 837-2363. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

## New HUD Regulations Regarding Debts Owed to Public Housing Authorities

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has a new policy regarding "adverse information." As the term suggests, "adverse information" is information about your relationship – particularly your financial relationship – with public housing that is less than flattering.

If you faithfully pay your rent on time and follow the terms outlined in your lease agreement, there is no reason to worry. If you consistently fail to pay your rent and your lease or rental assistance is terminated, HUD will retain the following information:

- Amount of any outstanding balance you owe the Housing Authority or Section 8 landlord and an explanation (i.e., unpaid rent, damages, utility charges, etc.);
- Whether or not you have entered into a repayment agreement for the amount you owe;
- Whether or not you have defaulted on a repayment agreement;

- Whether or not the Housing Authority has obtained a judgment against you;
- Whether or not you have filed for bankruptcy;
- Any negative reasons for the end of your relationship with the Housing Authority (such as fraud, lease violations, criminal activity, etc.).

This information will be available to HUD and Housing Authority employees for a period of 10 years, during which time you may be denied entry into or assistance from any HUD or Public Housing Authority program.

For more information and a complete text of the policy, visit [hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/forms/files/52675.pdf](http://hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/forms/files/52675.pdf). This document also will advise you of your rights under this policy.

Residents who faithfully pay their rent on time and follow the terms outlined in their lease agreement will not be affected by these new regulations.

## Housing Authority Welcomes New Intern Lashonna Taylor



The Housing Authority welcomes a new intern for the summer months. Lashonna Taylor will serve from the beginning of June until late August.

During this time Taylor will shadow

Resident Services Manager Kathy Millard and help provide programming for Housing Authority residents. She also may assist with PRIME events.

"I'm looking forward to getting involved in the social services field," Taylor said.

Taylor, a native of Champaign, Ill., has lived in Macomb since 1999. She earned her undergraduate degree in African American Studies/Sociology and a graduate degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences, with a focus on Africa and African Diaspora Studies, from Western Illinois University.

Taylor is the first graduate of WIU's Liberal Arts and Sciences graduate program. During her graduate studies she served as a Graduate Assistant at Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center.

She previously served as a Direct Support Associate at Mosaic, and was a Peer Mentor for the African American Studies Department's First Year Experience. As a Peer Mentor, she helped incoming freshmen acclimate to life at WIU.

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## GRASSROOTS CONTRIBUTION

Do you have good news or information you would like to share with your neighbors? Is there someone you'd like to brag on publicly? Someone you would like to thank? A favorite recipe you would like to share? A great photo everyone should see?

Grassroots is your newsletter, and we want to publish your content. Please forward your submissions to Resident Services Manager Kathy Millard, 322 West Piper, Macomb, IL 61455, or e-mail her at [kathy@macomb.com](mailto:kathy@macomb.com).

Grassroots welcomes all submissions that are positive, uplifting, and of interest to the Housing Authority community at large.

## Grilling Safety

Nothing beats hot food straight off the grill, especially on a warm summer evening. The following safety tips will keep you from getting lit up when you light up your grill.

### Charcoal grills

- Use charcoal lighting fluid, not gasoline, to light the coals.
- Let the lighter fluid soak into the coals before lighting, giving explosive vapors a chance to dissipate.
- Stand back from the coals when you ignite them, and make sure you didn't accidentally spill fluid on yourself or any surrounding area.
- If the coals start to die, don't spray lighter fluid on the hot coals, or you might end up with explosive results.
- Always extinguish the coals when you are finished grilling.
- Never dump hot coals in the garbage dumpsters.

### Propane Grills

- Inspect your grill at the start of the season. Spray soapy water on the connections and supply lines. If bubbles form, you have a leak. Turn off the tank and try reconnecting. If it still bubbles, shut off the tank and replace the leaky part.

- Remove the grates and lava rocks and check the burner. If it looks good, fire it up and make sure you have an even flame throughout. If not, replace the burner. Most burners only last a couple of years, depending on how much you use your grill.

### Whenever you cookout...

- Make sure the grill is at least six feet from your unit or any other material that could catch fire.
- Stay with your fire until you finish cooking. Accidents can happen when you leave the grill unattended.
- Always make sure the grill is in a safe place where children and pets won't touch or bump into it and get burnt.

## Congratulations Graduates!

The Housing Authority of McDonough County salutes the following residents for completing their studies at their respective educational institutions. (Please forgive us if we overlooked anyone. We will be happy to recognize that graduate in the next edition of Grassroots.)



Pictured left to right: Heather Ferguson, Eisenhower Tower – Master of Arts in Sociology – Western Illinois University, Pierre Graham, Eisenhower Tower – Macomb High School Graduate, Marco Joseph, Eisenhower Tower – Bachelor's of Science in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration – Western Illinois University, James Marshall, Eisenhower Tower – Bachelor of Arts in Broadcasting – Western Illinois University