



Habitat Happenings
A Newsletter for Habitat Families
May 2021

Thought of the Month: "Your Mind is a Powerful thing. When you fill I with POSITIVE thoughts, your Life Will Start to Change"

Hartford Habitat Announcement

Family Services is seeking applicants for a 2 Owner Occupied Multi-Family Property in Hartford (2Br each floor).

Must have an annual income of \$38,000. Visit HartfordHabitat.org/homeownership to view the Applicant Information Video and access the Pre Screen Financial Form

Applicant Information Meeting (AIM)

Location: **Virtual- Video Posted on HartfordHabitat.org/homeownership**

Date: **Fall 2021- Check**

HartfordHabitat.org for updates

Please contact Family Services at 860-541-2208 ext. 2210

Office Hours

Closed: Monday, May 31, 2021 (Memorial Day)

Family Services office hours will be **9am-3:30pm by Appointment ONLY!** Contact Family Services 860-541-2208 ext. 2210

- Please contact Family Services to update any changes regarding:
 - Phone Number and Email Contact Information
 - Home Insurance Policy Information

- Hartford Habitat is your Mortgage Company. You may contact us for information about:
 - Mortgage Payments
 - Home Insurance Coverage & Payments
- You should contact your town/city hall regarding:
 - Mortgage Documents
 - Property Lines
- If you have been in your home over a year, we suggest contacting home repair resources such as:
 - Electricians
 - Plumbers
 - Handyman

For Your Information

Family Services will be conducting monthly maintenance checks on Hartford Habitat properties.

Home Repair Recommendations

We constantly get request for a handyman. We are pleased to re-introduced Hayvon Simon. He specializes in all home repairs and have completed projects for properties

managed by Habitat. **Handyman:** Hayvon, 860-874-1670

Giving Back

- Family partners are needed. If you are interested in partnering with a prospective family please contact Family Services: **860-541-2208 ext. 2210**

Free Credit Report

To get a free credit report once a year

- Call (877) 322-8228
- www.annualcreditreport.com

Senior Advice

Based on conversations we have had with families across the US, it can be an overwhelming and heartbreaking time; and there are many questions since every situation is unique. We created a detailed guide to help families find the **Best Memory Care Facility** in Connecticut. You can find our memory care guide here: <https://www.senioradvice.com/memory-care/connecticut>

Assistance with Utility Bills

If you need help paying your Heat and/or Electric Bill, Please contact CNG or Eversource to set up a Budget and/or Payment Plan. Other resources include:

CRT

1. **Energy Assistance Program** 860-560-5800
2. **CNG**
 - Payment Arrangements
 - Financial and Medical Protections
 - Matching Payment Plans
 - Programs to help you lower your bills
3. **Operation Fuel:** If eligible, this program can provide year-round emergency energy assistance for low to moderate-income households. This program also offers assistance with repair/replacement of older furnaces, boilers, and water heaters.

4. **One-time Water-Assistance Grants Now Available!** CRT is working with Operation Fuel to provide water-assistance grants to households in need. Applications accepted July 21, 2020 – May 28, 2021

Tax Season 2021- Extended: May 17

Free Tax Preparation in Hartford, CT

1. VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

- **BASIC ELIGIBILITY FOR VITA:** The VITA program is for individuals who generally make \$56,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. Also, individuals who are self-employed should have business expenses less than \$25,000, and individuals should not have income from a rental property.

Spring Home Maintenance

April showers bring May flowers ... along with a lot of home maintenance chores! With the weather too nice to be stuck inside, most of this month's home maintenance to-do list focuses on getting the outside of your home ready for summer picnics and barbecues.

From window cleaning to deck repair to lawn mower maintenance, your home will be clean and ready for summer fun in no time! On the inside, you'll be cleaning your garbage disposal and getting your air conditioning ready for the summer heat.

- Install a fresh set of batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If you have the new detectors with 10-year batteries, you don't need to do this.
- Test (and dust) detectors to ensure they're in good working order.
- Inspect the caulk in your kitchen and bathrooms; re-caulk where needed.

- Vacuum your refrigerator's coils.
- Schedule an air conditioning inspection (or perform your own inspection). Be sure to clean your AC Condensate drain to prevent clogs.
- Clean the kitchen exhaust hood and air filter to remove grease and prevent fires.
- Inspect your deck. Hammer or screw down any nails that are sticking up. Then, clean and re-seal the wood to extend it's life (if needed).
- Inspect exterior paint (on house and outbuildings), and do touch-ups as needed.
- Inspect siding/masonry. Make repairs and re-caulk around windows and doors as needed.
- Remove and store storm windows, and install screens. (if applicable)
- Repair or replace damaged window screens.
- Inspect your roof for damage. Look for broken, missing or loose shingles and roof leaks. Also, check the roof on any outbuildings.
- Inspect the attic for signs of leaks or pests.
- Inspect outdoor play equipment for safety issues. Look for loose bolts, broken equipment and active wasp or bee nests. Address any issues found.
- Clean out your gutters.
- Prune shrubs. Spring-flowering shrubs should be pruned after they've bloomed. Summer-flowering shrubs should be pruned before they've bloomed.
- Schedule your yearly septic tank inspection. (if applicable)

May 9, 2021



National Stroke Awareness Month

There are several sudden symptoms of a stroke which, when caught in time, help to lessen the effects. Remember to always act "FAST"



F - Face

Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?



A - Arms

Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one side drift downward?



S - Speech

Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Does their speech sound slurred or strange?



T - Time

If you observe any of these signs (independently or together), call 9-1-1 immediately



For more information, visit:

National Stroke Association
American Stroke Association

[Join the Stroke Advocacy Network today!](#)

For more on *CareStaj* visit:



