



Habitat Happenings
A Newsletter for Habitat Families
June 2021

*Thought of the Month: "Then followed that beautiful season...Summer...Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light! And the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood."
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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

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>

Check Yourself: 7 Home Maintenance Tasks You Should Tackle in June

By Holly A.

1. Check your AC

“The last thing you want is a busted air conditioner, so before a heat wave hits, give it a test run for 30 minutes to make sure it’s cooling properly.

Shortcut: To extend the life of your AC unit, adjust your programmable thermostat by only 2 to 3 degrees at a time.

Call in the pros: If anything seems off, call in a professional HVAC company. You’ll spend between \$100 and \$250 for service, which includes cleaning the condenser and lubricating the fan motor. When the outdoor temps go deep into the red zone, you’ll likely consider it money well-spent.

2. Stop mold before it starts.

June kicks off a stretch of the hottest months of the year, especially in Southern states where heavy rain is also the norm. All that heat and moisture provide the perfect climate for mold to flourish.

Shortcut: There’s an easy trick you can use to keep mold at bay: Lower your thermostat. “Also avoid leaving your AC fan in the “on” position (instead of “auto”). This can cause rapid mold growth, especially in high-humidity regions. Here’s why: If your fan is running continuously, then any moisture that’s condensed on your AC’s evaporator coil during cooling doesn’t have a chance to drain off—and it can be blown back into your home.

Kuczak also cautions against trying to limit or increase airflow to certain rooms by shutting supply grills. That can cause condensation buildup, leading to mold growth around those grills and in the adjacent ceiling or wall.

Call in the pros: If you have a mold problem, expect to pay a small fortune for a pro to remove it. Homeowners spend up to \$3,200 on average for mold remediation.

3. Prime your pool

Test your pool’s pH levels often to keep the chemicals balanced and your pool safe for swimming. Run the pump daily (one hour for every 10 degrees of heat in the water is a good rule of thumb) to avoid that swampy green color.

Shortcut: If you forget and come home to a green pool, a jug of liquid bleach will clear it up quickly, according to Quandt.

Call in the pros: Don't want to bother with it? You can hire a pool maintenance company for an average of \$243 a month.

4. Eradicate pests

Warm weather draws out all the creepy-crawlies. But you can give summer bugs the boot (or at least keep them at a comfortable distance).

Shortcuts:

- Trim shrubs or bushes that touch your home's exterior (which can harbor wood-destroying insects such as termites, carpenter ants, and powder post beetles).
- Swap mercury vapor outdoor lightbulbs with yellow sodium vapor ones, which are less attractive to insects such as mosquitoes, moths, and beetles.
- Weed thick vegetation and pick ripe fruits and vegetables as soon as they're ready.
- Keep bird feeders at least 25 feet from your house—spilled seeds can attract rodents.
- Stop mosquitoes before they hatch by eliminating all sources of standing water on your property.

Call in the pros: Above all, know when to seek professional help.

“Pests can carry bacteria and disease, and some can do serious damage to your home. If you're seeing pests pop up with frequency—especially if you notice them appearing in the same places—it's time to call in a professional to help.”

It'll cost you an average of \$178 a month. But hey—you'll sleep better, right?

5. Service your sprinklers

When temperatures rise, so does your water bill. Service your yard's irrigation system to save water, prevent damage to your landscaping, and reduce standing water.

Shortcut: Make sure your sprinklers are programmed to follow any local water rationing regulations, and program your system to optimal summer use settings to keep the landscape looking fresh.

Call in the pros: If you don't know what kind of maintenance your sprinkler system needs, a pro will take it on for \$95 to \$123.

6. Keep your fridge frosty

To keep them running smoothly, clean condenser coils—which help the unit stay cool by releasing heat from the compressor—and be sure to remove dirt, pet hair, and any nasty food that's lodged there.

Shortcuts: Make the job simple by using a vacuum and coil brush. While you're at it, tackle the door.

“A leaky door gasket can result in your refrigerator trying to cool the entire kitchen,” Granger says.

Clean the gasket with a mild cleaner, and then check the seal integrity with a solution of soapy water—just like you would do with an inflatable mattress, he says. You can also use the dollar bill approach: Close a dollar bill in the door so it's half in your fridge. If your gasket isn't tight enough, it won't hold

the bill firmly in place—the dollar bill will fall out or slide down.

Call in the pros: Most appliance repairmen charge by the hour. Depending on the issue, a refrigerator repair could cost anywhere from \$100 and \$200 an hour.

7. Pimp your ride (riding lawn mower, that is)

Use compressed air or a leaf blower to clear grass, dirt, and debris that have accumulated in your riding lawn mower. Drain old fuel into an approved gasoline can, and follow hazardous waste disposal regulations to get rid of it. Then, change your oil and filter: It is recommended letting the mower run for a bit before getting started. If you have a foam air filter, clean it with soap and water, and make sure it's dry before reinstalling. Finally, change the spark plugs. "This simple but crucial task will help the mower start smoother and run more efficiently,"

Call in the pros: On average, professional lawn mower maintenance and repair will cost \$35 to \$90.

June 20, 2021



