

# Round Town

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## Moving Toward Energy Efficiency

The Ann Arbor Housing Commission has taken a step toward energy efficiency. Beginning in December DTE will no longer supply gas for our Baker Commons and Miller Manor residents, Exelon will be our natural gas supplier.

Several years ago, the Michigan Public Service Commission passed legislation to allow other utility companies to enter the Michigan market of natural gas for home heating to allow customers a choice of providers, which initiated the Gas Choice Program.

Gas Choice is a voluntary program open to all customers. This voluntary program gives you the option to purchase your gas supply from an Alternative Gas Supplier (AGS). By choosing an Alternative Gas Supplier you have the choice to purchase your gas at the regulated prices offered by the AGS.

The goal of the Housing Commission is to reduce the cost of gas by purchasing in an economical amount. Typically, gas purchased from DTE is purchased in bulk

amounts and stored, customers in turn pay for the cost of gas, delivery of gas, and the storage of gas. Exelon is an Alternative Gas Supplier.

Exelon provides their customers the opportunity to purchase the amounts they need, that results in a savings. The Gas Choice program is also available to you, for more information contact DTE at 1-800-477-4747



## Michigan Energy Appraisal 2007/2008

This report was produced by the Michigan Public Service Commission, Lansing, MI on Oct 10, 2007.

The Michigan Public Service Commission released the 2007/2008 Winter Energy Appraisal. The appraisal reviews the cost and availability of energy for the winter months, November through March.

Research shows that the available supply will most likely meet the future demands but, with soaring

prices. The cost of crude oil to U.S. refiners projected for 2008 is \$70 per barrel. As of October 8, 2007, the average price of residential heating oil is up 20 percent from last winter's average.

The National Weather Service is projecting that the temperatures in the Great Lakes region

will be warmer than normal during the winter. This would continue a trend seen over the last six heating seasons in Michigan where heating degree days have averaged 5 percent warmer than normal. This in turn would mean somewhat lower heating bills than estimates based on normal temperatures.



## AAHC Kudos

Peace Neighborhood Center has filled gaps, created opportunities, and has given support and encouragement to so many for over 25 years. Thank you, for preparing our youth for the future and creating young leaders.

*From Roben Barker,* Thank you to all of the children at Green Baxter Court who helped plant flowers and grass seed this summer. The children were very helpful and enjoyed being apart of something so simple. Plant a seed and watch it grow.

*From Joan Doughty,* Many thanks to Roben Barker for co-organizing the Back to School BBQ at GBC. Karen Little single-handedly barbecued all the meat products, and several other residents pitched in. Every Head Start and school aged child and youth at GBC received a brand-new back-pack with school supplies. Back-packs were donated by the first Congregational Church. Principals and staff member of King Elementary and Clague Middle Schools also mixed and mingled with parents and their children.

Many thanks to Roben Barker and

Felecia Cammon for helping to clean and reorganize the community center during a recent overhaul. Roben also engaged a friend's help to build new shelves for the basement, which helps expand the emergency food pantry capacity at GBC.

Many thanks to Michael Brann for his leadership in getting a concrete slab foundation for the gardening shed at Hikone. Michael was also very helpful in building the shed. Hikone's beautiful community garden, now in its fourth year, has produced many crops of beautiful vegetables for families and to be used in food served at the community center. The garden shed will give gardeners a convenient place to store gardening tools and supplies.

Many thanks too, to "mistress gardener" Betty Jean Jones, who keeps a close eye on this garden and assists anyone needing help. The four-year success of the Hikone garden is largely due to Betty Jean's hard work. Michael and Betty Jean also took the lead on co-organizing the expansive potluck dinner during the Hikone Back to School BBQ. Many residents contributed wonderful home cooked dinners, representing food from sev-

eral countries and ethnicities.

Congratulations to O'dell Marshall and Nicole Jones for successfully completing the Food Gatherers Community Kitchen Job Training Program this summer. This program paid them a stipend to learn food safety rules, food preparation, cooking and serving. After graduation, Nicole will be serving it up at Stucci's.

A new CAN program allows Hikone and GBC teens to receive driver education scholarships in return for performing community service, earning good grades, and displaying responsible behavior at home and in school. This program is funded by the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation's Youth Council. Three Hikone teens will participate.

***Kudos to All Star Driver Ed. School***

## East Side Management

**Office Hours:**  
**Mon - Thurs**  
**Walk-ins**  
**9 am - 12 pm**  
**Appointments**  
**1 pm - 4 pm**



**Fridays Walk-ins accepted all day.**

**Mon - Fri Closed from 12 - 1 pm for lunch.**

**We hope this schedule is convenient to all residents. The new schedule will allow staff to better serve you. For more prompt service call us at 734-994-9042 to schedule an appointment.**

## Michigan Promise Scholarship



The Michigan Promise scholarship provide up to \$4,000 to high school graduates for successfully completing two years of postsecondary education beginning with the high school graduating class of 2007. All students who took the state assessment test (MEAP and MME) for class of 2008 and beyond have a opportunity to receive up to \$4,000 if they meet all eligibility requirements. Students who receive qualifying scores in each of the required

components on the test are eligible to receive up to half of their scholarship in the first two years.

To claim the Michigan Promise scholarship students should visit the web site at [www.Michigan.gov/promise](http://www.Michigan.gov/promise) or 1-888-4-GRANTS for an application. Students who initiate their scholarship in the 2008-2009 academic year, must utilize all funds by the end of 2011-2012 academic year.

## AAHC: What's the Word



**Patriotism** denotes positive and supportive attitudes by individuals and groups. Patriotism covers such attitudes as: pride in its achievements and culture, the desire to preserve its character and the basis of the culture, and identification with other members of the nation. Patriotism is closely associated with nationalism, and is often used as a synonym for it. Strictly speaking, nationalism is an ideology - but it often promotes patriotic attitudes as desirable and appropriate.

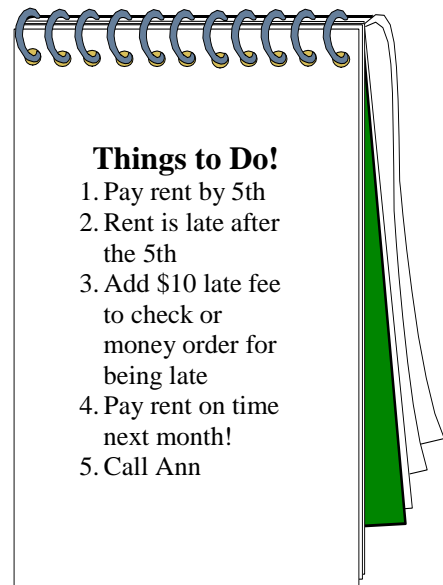
**“Men love their country, not because it is great, but because it is their own. Seneca”**  
(www.wiktionary.com)

Here... at the Housing Commission we like to take pride in our communities. We like to give praise to your accomplishment and show appreciation for your efforts. Our residents and youth make new accomplishment everyday; accomplishment we as a community can take pride in. There is nothing more patriotic than patriotism.

## HUD REAC Inspections

HUD REAC inspections are scheduled for Nov 19-21. Annually HUD conducts inspection at all housing authorities to evaluate how well the commission maintains it's properties. Units are randomly selected for inspection. AAHC is unaware of the selected units, until the inspectors arrive and inform us of what units will be checked. This year we have began and completed several improvement projects to enhance the appearance and safety of our communities. The commission will be evaluated on the safety and appearance of the sites and units separately.

We ask that you, remove any A/C units from windows in rooms with only one route of escape. Having an A/C unit in a room with only one window or one route of escape, in the event of a fire, is a safety violation, known as blocked egress. If you need help removing an A/C unit please, contact you local maintenance office for assistance. The commission has gone through some changes over the last several months. Our intent is to improve your quality of living, our customer service and ultimately, our goal is to make the Ann Arbor Housing Commission one of your best housing experiences.



### Things to Do!

1. Pay rent by 5th
2. Rent is late after the 5th
3. Add \$10 late fee to check or money order for being late
4. Pay rent on time next month!
5. Call Ann

## You Earned, You Keep It! Michigan EITC

Tax season is approaching, and many working individuals are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC, a federal tax refund for eligible working individuals and households. Contact the Michigan EITC Statewide Coalition at 1-800-865-8683 for a local site near you for free tax preparations. The Housing Commission will have free tax preparation at our Miller Manor (734-955-0897) and Baker Commons

sites (734-994-8249). While preparing your taxes inquire about the following saving programs: A MESP account is an investment account that, over time, can help your money grow into a nest egg for your child's college education visit MESP Web site at <http://www.misaves.com/MESP>. An Individual Development Account (IDA) is a special savings program where money saved is matched to help families accumulate

more money to invest in a home, education/job training or a small business, visit <http://www.cmif.org> under Michigan IDA Partnership for more information. The Michigan Education Trust exists to provide an avenue for families to invest in their child's future financial ability to attend a Michigan institution of higher education, visit Michigan Education Trust, <http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/>.

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Visit us on the Web:  
[www.A2gov.org/housing](http://www.A2gov.org/housing)



ANN ARBOR HOUSING COMMISSION  
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## Ann Arbor Housing Commission's Mission Statement

*Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC) seeks to provide desirable housing and related supportive services for low-income individuals and families on a transitional and/or permanent basis. AAHC will partner with housing and service providers to build healthy residential communities and promote an atmosphere of pride and responsibility.*

### Building Closures

- Veterans Day, Monday, November 12, 2007
- Thanksgiving Day, Thurs & Friday, November 22-23, 2007
- Christmas Eve and Day, Monday, December 24, 2007 12-5 pm and Tuesday, December 25, 2007
- New Eve and Day, Monday, December 31, 2007 12-5 pm and Tuesday, January 1, 2007

### Monthly Meetings

#### RAB Meetings

Monday, November 26, 2007  
Monday, December 17, 2007

#### Board of Commissioners Meetings

Wednesday, November 29, 2007  
Wednesday, December 19, 2007