



Habitat Happenings
A Newsletter for Habitat Families
April 2021

Thought of the Month: “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” –Saint Francis of Assisi

Hartford Habitat Announcement

Family Services is seeking applicants for a 2 Owner Occupied Multi-Family Property (2Br each floor). Must have an annual income of \$38,000. Visit HartfordHabitat.org/homeownership/ to view the 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>

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.

- **HOW TO LOCATE A FREE VITA TAX PREPARATION SITE:**

Option 1: Dial 2-1-1 (available 24/7) – press option ‘3’ and then ‘6’ – and speak with a contact specialist who can help connect you with a VITA site or an appointment. Please note that if there is a wait when you call, there is an option to opt for a call back instead.

Option 2: To search for and view a list of VITA sites in your area, click [HERE](#). Once you click on the link, remove ‘Connecticut’ from the location box and instead enter your own address, town, or zip code and click the magnifying glass to search for a site near you.

Option 3: **OR BOOK YOUR OWN APPOINTMENT ONLINE**, If you want to go to a site in one of the towns listed below, click [HERE](#) to book your own appointment online. ****If you’re not sure how to book your own appointment online, click here to watch a brief instruction video****

2. WHAT ARE OTHER FREE TAX PREPARATION OPTIONS IF I'M NOT ELIGIBLE FOR VITA?

- **MyFreeTaxes:** If your income was greater than \$56,000 last year or you prefer to do your taxes on your own, you can prepare your taxes yourself online for free at <http://www.myfreetaxes.com>

- **AARP Tax Preparation Sites:** If you are over the age of 60, you can use a free AARP Tax-Aide Site. Dial 2-1-1 to get the location of an AARP Tax-Aide Site near you or click on the link to the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Site
Locator: <http://www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action>
- Tech savvy filers with an annual income of up to \$62,000 can file online for free at www.myfreetaxes.com/unitedway

Spring Organizing Tips

- ***Dig into your landscaping***

Grab your pruning shears, because this job will take some elbow grease. Start by removing any dead annuals and pruning back the perennials that have new growth at the mulch line. Proactively pull weed seedlings while the ground is soft and before the weeds become pesky in the summer months.

- ***Review your roof***

The winter is a punishing time for your home's front line of defense against the elements: your roof. Check for shingles that have come loose or broken in the snowy or icy winter weather. These inefficiencies can allow your roof to leak and water to puddle. For a quicker (and safer) inspection, get out the binoculars and detect damage from the ground.

- ***Get your mind into the gutter***

While you're on the roof, you might as well give your gutters some attention. Snow and ice storms can send additional leaves and twigs into your gutters, and you'll need to make sure that the detritus isn't clogging the downspouts. In spring's rainy season, the extra precipitation, if not funneled away from your home, can end up leaking into your foundation.

Handy Man Recommendation

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