



Habitat Happenings
Newsletter for Habitat Families
January 2025

Thought of the Month: The New Year is more than just a turn of the calendar page; it is a moment of renewal, reflection, and optimism.

Hartford Habitat Announcement

Office will be Closed

- In observance of Martin Luther King Jr.
Day: Monday, January 20, 2025

Habitat for Humanity North Central Connecticut Newsletters are now available online:

<https://hfhnc.org/homeowner-newsletters/>

Office Hours

Family Services office hours will be **9 am-3:30**
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
- 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

Be Aware Spam Mail

If you have received any mail in regards to warranties “from” Habitat for Humanity please disregard! HFHNCC does not send mail

regarding warranties, AT ALL. If you have any questions please call the office. **However, if it asks you to send personal information to a specific address or number it’s likely a scam.**

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**

Financial Freedom Center

Exciting News! Habitat has teamed up with **Northwest Community Bank** to bring you a series of free Zoom workshops that will help you take control of your finances and we want to invite you!

Our first workshops started on, November 19, 2024. Workshops Dates & Classes:

- **Understanding Escrow and Insurance payments:** November 19th, 2024
- **Fraud prevention: January 21, 2025**
- **How to leverage your tax return, saving strategies:** February 11, 2025
- **What makes up a credit report and score:** March 11, 2025
- **Budgeting, saving and retirement:** April 8, 2025
- **Understanding different types of debt**(revolving, mortgage, installment, others): April 29, 2025

Contact Guirleene Morales- **on how to Sign-up.** 860-541-2208, ext. 2213

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>

A Brush With Kindness (ABWK) Program

We have extended services to the Tolland County servings:

- Bolton
- Ellington
- Somers
- Stafford
- Tolland
- Union
- Vernon

HFHNCC ABWK program has resume taking applications. This program is a zero percent loan home repair program to assist Veterans, Elderly and those with limited mobility with a minor exterior home repair (interior repair for Veterans). Contact Guirlene Morales for further information. 860-541-2208, ext. 2213

January Home Maintenance Check List

A new year has arrived! You likely have plans to create better habits and find new ways to improve in the next 365 days. To set yourself up for success, it's best to make sure your home is ready for the changes you're about to make in your life.

January To-Do List

It's time for a fresh start in your home and January is the perfect time to do so. After a busy holiday season, I bet your home can use some TLC to get it clean and organized. Here are your top tasks for this month:

1. Deep Clean Your Home

While many homeowners wait for a spring cleaning to freshen up your home, I think January is the perfect time for a deeper clean. I like starting the year off knowing that my home is free of dust and build-up. Personally, I prefer to go room by room and clean every shelf, carpet and baseboard, making it free of clutter and dust. Depending on the size of your home,

this could take anywhere from an afternoon to a weekend. But, you'll feel great once it's done.

2. Organize The Basement

If you have a basement, finished or unfinished, I'd guess that it accumulates a lot of items throughout the year. It's the perfect time to go through old items to donate or sell and reorganize things you want to keep. I'm an advocate for storing items in clear containers so you can easily see what's inside.

3. Check For Ice Dams

If you live in a colder part of the country, you may want to check for ice dams in your gutters. This can happen when snow begins to melt from warmer air coming off the roof, yet freezing when it hits the gutter. This can cause big problems when the weather begins to get warmer in the spring, causing leaks and damage to your home. If you find you have an ice dam, a roof rake should help to remove the built-up ice short term. However, a long-term solution is needed. You may want to have better **roof ventilation** to prevent ice dams from occurring.

4. Clean Your Kitchen Appliances

You spend a lot of time in your kitchen throughout the year. It's time to spend some extra time giving your appliances a good scrub. Clean your stove range and oven, getting under racks and the hood as well. An important area to also clean is your kitchen sink and garbage disposal. Refreshing them will get rid of any lingering odors in your kitchen.

5. Clean Ducts & Vents

Another important area of the home you'll want to be sure is clean for the new year is your air ducts and vents. While you may not think of them often, it's important to clean at least annually to keep dust and debris from accumulating. The **average cost to clean ducts and vents** is \$330, with most homeowners spending between \$280 to \$366.

6. Plan Your Remodeling Projects

With a new year ahead, it's the perfect time to start to think about what you want to accomplish for your home this year. Is it finally time to start that kitchen remodel you've always wanted? What about expanding your small bathroom? Now is the time to start to plan ahead and help the remodeling process go as smooth as possible.

7. Conclusion

It's a new year and the perfect time to get your home in order after a busy holiday season. Clean and organize to get the year off to a great start.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!!!

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you own a business? Habitat for Humanity will love to help you spread the word about your business in our family newsletter. Please mail in your business card or business information to HFHNCC, Family Services, PO Box 1933, Hartford CT 06144-1933



January Holidays & Awareness Days



HARTFORD OPENS WARMING CENTERS AS SEVERE COLD WEATHER ACTIVATION TAKES EFFECT MONDAY

EVENING - Hartford, CT – Today, the City of Hartford shared cold weather protocol information in effect from 6:00 PM on Monday, January 6, to 12:00 PM on Thursday, January 9, encouraging residents to seek warmth and shelter. Warming centers will be open Monday, January 6 to Thursday due to extremely cold conditions forecasted for this week. The City is also supporting overnight warming centers, which residents can utilize throughout the week. "We've activated the severe cold weather protocol to ensure Hartford residents have easy access to a place they can go to stay warm," said Mayor Arunan Arulampalam. "If you are in need of shelter over the next few days, please make sure to head to one of these warming centers or call 2-1-1."

Warming Center locations:

Center Church 60 Gold Street

(Enter using the Lewis St. Entrance)

Sunday – Sunday: 8:30 pm - 8:00 am

Shelter operations open 7 days a week

preference is given to individuals 18-24yrs of age and individual with mobility issues wheel chairs/walkers.

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

110 Washington St

Monday 7:00PM- Thursday 12:00





MDC
The Metropolitan District
Hartford, Connecticut

MDC customers may apply through Operation Fuel to receive a grant for up to \$400 on their water bill. To qualify, clients: Must earn up to 75% State Median Income (SMI).



Submit the last **4 weeks** of income for all adults in the household over 18, your most recent bill and payment history. **NOTE:** Payment history must show 4 payments of 50% monthly charges within the previous 12 months.



Submit application.

APPLY NOW

If you have questions, please email us at applications@operationfuel.org or call (860) 243-2345



Christmas Tree Collection
January 6th- February 21st

Christmas trees will be collected curbside on your regular trash day beginning Monday January 6th, 2025 to Friday February 21st, 2025.

Christmas trees are not considered a bulky item.

For further information, please call Hartford 311 at 860-757-9311.

Staff Available Monday- Friday:
8:00am - 5:00pm.

311



Program Season Updates:
Operation Fuel's Water Application portal is open as of 1/06/25. Application dates for Energy Assistance will be announced in early January.

Water Assistance