

Home♥Owner Herald

A Publication of the Habitat of Humanity Schenectady County

Summer 2017

Madelyn's Musings

Dear Partner Families,

As we approach our 25th Anniversary of building and refurbishing homes in Schenectady County, I am thankful for the people and families Schenectady Habitat has partnered with for almost a quarter of a century. WOW! Without you our mission would only be words; you have brought meaning and meaningful work to Habitat. Thank you.

Often, when I am "out-and-about" in the community close to your neighborhood or at a current build site I find myself thinking about our partner families. I wonder if you still feel the same joy that you did at your home's Dedication Ceremony. Do you still feel the same excitement as when you knew your home was waiting for you to move in? Mostly, I think about the dreams you had for the future when you moved into your home. *My wish for you is that your dreams have been fulfilled and many more made.*

Homeownership can initially feel a little overwhelming with all the "chores" that go along with owning a home. Sometimes there is a sense of what needs to be done first? Again, my hope is that you and yours have settled into a comfortable routine, one that includes both the joy and confidence that your hard work has paid off.

Schenectady Habitat does not want to lose touch with you. You continue to be part of the Habitat family and its mission. Therefore, we have chosen to start this quarterly newsletter (you will also be able to find it on our website.) The newsletter will include updates on Habitat's projects, helpful hints for homeowners, suggestions regarding community resources for homeowners, stories from partner families and other "newsy" items to help us remain in contact with each other.

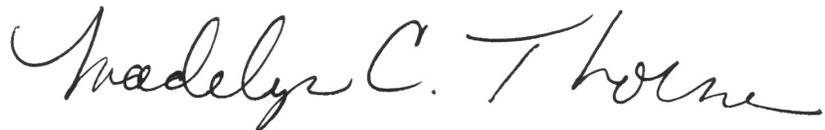
Enjoy this first edition of our new Newsletter. Let us hear from you. Please stay in touch and tell us how you are. We look forward to hearing from you, and wish you a very happy summer!

Warmly,

Madelyn Thorne

Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County



Put \$200.00 in your wallet!

Help a friend become a first time homeowner. For every friend you refer, who becomes a Habitat for Humanity Homeowner in Schenectady County, you will receive a \$200.00 thank you.



Entertainment on a Budget

Everyone has a right to the pursuit of happiness! Some of us need to really focus on the adage “ the best things in life are free, or at least really cheap. Time with family and friends, laughter, a hug or being outside on a beautiful day truly are the best things in life. However, as a financial counselor, I advise all my clients to make sure they have a budget and that the budget includes funds for entertainment.

Your first step is to decide how much of your income you are willing and able to commit to entertainment. Next, decide what activities you enjoy the most. For some families having individual entertainment budgets and separate family budgets work the best. For example, if your teenager wants to go to the movies with friends it comes out of his entertainment budget, however, if the family goes to the movies as a family outing the funds are taken from the family budget.

Now comes the hard part... sticking to the budget. It is hard for everyone, no matter their income. Money just seems to want to be spent!

Luckily, there are many cheap and free fun activities and lots of resources to discover them. In today's Internet world you can find lots of activities listed online. Look for local events and festivals, discounts and coupons to your favorite places and maybe even

try something new. Some of the most popular activities are going to the movies, shopping, and eating out. Below are a few ways to enjoy the movies for a whole lot less.



THE MOVIES

Movies are great no matter the weather. They are a terrific way to relax and be entertained, but by the time you buy a ticket, snacks and drinks it can really add up. The cheapest way to enjoy a movie is to rent a video from the library, pop up some popcorn and enjoy a mini stay-cation. Netflix is another option if you have good internet. At \$9.99 a month for unlimited movies it is a 4 star deal. Next up the ladder is Redbox. If you sign up online, about once a month you will get a coupon for a free movie. There are also pay-per-view movies on most cable packages. Just make sure to keep track and set the money aside for when your cable bill is due.

Sometimes, You just need to go out to a movie. If you have AAA, they have discount tickets for Regal and Bowtie. Scotia Cinema just across the bridge by Jumpin' Jacks is a great deal. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children and Seniors. The movies

are about a month behind Regal and Bow-tie cinemas, but at a saving of over \$7.00 a person it is worth the wait. Additionally, in my option, the snacks are cheaper and fresher at Scotia Cinema. Another fun way to see the movies is at the Malta Drive-In. It is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children, but it is a double feature. The Big plus is you can arrive early and hang out with friends before the show. Toss a Frisbee, play catch, play a board game at the picnic tables or just grab a drink and socialize. For \$5.00 you can purchase a food permit to bring in all the food and drinks you want. Make dinner at home, pop some popcorn and you have a fantastic night out for a lot less than a fast food dinner. Another bonus, if you have little ones-bring them in their jammies and let them sleep or watch a dvd in the back seat. Their movie schedule and rules are at: <http://maltadrivein.com>

For the Elementary school set, and those that are kids at heart, Regal Cinema offers a summer series of movies for just \$1.00. For details go to: <https://www.regmovies.com/movies/summer-movie-express>.

If you really want to see that new release consider a matinee. The price is cheaper. Matinee prices used to be any movie before 4pm, but the current trend has been to only offer matinee prices for only the first showing of the day. Check with your theater. Enjoy!

Diggin' Your Yard

One of the nice things about homeownership is having your own yard. It can also be a challenge. Once you learn the tricks of the trade, taking care of your lawn isn't too difficult. Lawns do not need fancy treatments. Set your lawn mower blade to 3.5 to 4 inches. This is the ideal height to shade the roots and tender shoots, hold in moisture and crowd out weeds. Lawns need an average of 1 inch of moisture a week. Watering your lawn for 20 minutes per section twice a week is sufficient. Too much moisture will encourage shallow roots, moss and disease. If you have grubs, now is too late to use a grub killer. Mark your calendar for next May to put down grub killer if you need it. The ideal fertilizer for your lawn is your own lawn clippings. A mower with a mulching blade will mince the grass blades feeding nitrogen back into the soil. If you want to use packaged fertilizer, read the package carefully and never use when the temperature is over 85F anytime within the next 72 hours. If your lawn still isn't looking healthy, the PH is the most likely culprit. Take a soil sample to the Cooperative Extension. Testing is \$1.00. For details on their many services and lots of useful information on gardening and yard care check out their website at: <http://ccschenectady.org>. Happy digging!



Gardening To Do List

July

Sow autumn peas; presoak seeds for a faster start.

Harvest summer squash and cucumbers while they're still young and tender.

Harvest vegetables and flowers in the cool of the morning.

Trim back tired-looking impatiens and petunias by half, then boost their regrowth by feeding with fish emulsion.

August

Pick zucchini when fruit are 4 to 8 inches long—you'll get twice as many.

After midmonth, pinch off any new tomato flowers to direct energy to ripening fruit.

Slowly reduce watering of perennials, trees, and shrubs to allow them to harden-off for the winter.

September

Start spinach and kale under row covers or in a coldframe for tasty winter salads.

Still time to patch bare spots in the lawn—cover grass seed lightly with compost.

Plant perennials to take advantage of cool weather and rainfall

TICK REPELLENT RECIPE

20 Drops Lemongrass Essential Oil

20 Drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil

4 oz. of Water

Add all ingredients in a spray bottle...

Shake Well!

Spray on shoes, socks, and pant cuffs





Current House Builds

We currently have three homes being built with groundbreaking on a fourth home any day. All four homes will be 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 story homes. The two homes on Carrie street already have partner families. Volunteers have been diligently banging away to get the Carrie houses completed soon. Both partner families have been working hard on their sweat equity hours and savings.

1685 Carrie is tiled, floored, painted and has the cabinets installed. Finish work has started and will be completed soon. Look for home dedication photos in our next issue.

1693 Carrie is also close to being finished. The porch rails and trim work are almost finished.

1061 Davis Terrace has a foundation and is framed in. The rain has been slowing the progress but the volunteers are ready to start closing in the walls and installing windows soon.

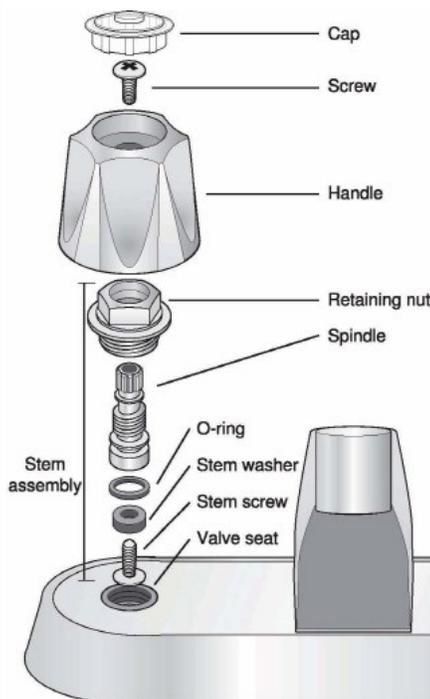
We hope this first issue of the HomeOwner Herald has been helpful. If you have any comments or suggestions for future issues please contact us at HFHSC_Helper@gmail.com
Enjoy your summer.

HOMEMADE Weed Killer

*1 gallon of white vinegar Listotic.com
*1 cup of table salt
*1 tbsP of liquid Dawn Dish Soap



Repair a leaky faucet



Step 1: Don't make a mess worse by transforming your broken faucet into Old Faithful, make sure your water supply is turned off from the knobs underneath that control the water coming in from the main line.

Step 2: Remove any decorative parts of the handle knobs. A simple prying with a flat-head screwdriver will take care of that. Underneath each knob, there will be a screw that mounts the handle to the stem. Unscrew, then gently remove the handle with your flat-head.

Step 3: Use your wrench to loosen the packing nut. From there you should notice the stem. Remove that as well. Depending on the faucet, some stems pop right off, while others twist off from the valve. Check the removed parts for any damage.

Step 4: If everything is intact at this point, inspect the O-ring and washer inside the valve seat—they could be the reason for your leak. Remove the washer and put a replacement inside the seat.

It's crucial to make sure your replacement washers and O-rings are an exact fit. If you are unsure about either, check the seat to see if the sides fit a cone-shaped or flat washer, and purchase the appropriate type. You may want to take the old O-ring to your local hardware store to verify the correct size.

Step 5: From here, carefully reassemble all the parts (in order of washer/O-ring, stem, packing nut, screw, and handle). Slowly and gently turn the knob to test the running water and check to see if you've licked that leak.

If, after all of your hard work, you notice the faucet is still dripping, then the cause may be corrosion in your valve seat. If not cleaned over time, it can produce leaks near the spout. Other potential problems are worn-out seals, loose parts, or, even worse, broken plumbing. If your troubleshooting leads to these areas, or if other sudden complications occur, then it may be time to call a professional plumber.