

OPPORTUNITIES

Housing Nantucket's Resident Newsletter



New Resident Association Seeks Participants

Housing Nantucket is pleased to announce the formation of a "Resident Association." The RA is composed of all current tenants and will be used to discuss issues facing tenants, decide new ideas for resident programs (such as adult education, children's programs, or special events), and generally interface with the organization. The RA will choose a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a treasurer. The organization has set aside a small budget for "resident services" to plan for special events or programs. If you are interested in participating, please call or drop an email!

Housing Nantucket

Creating housing opportunities for Nantucket...

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Winter is Fast Approaching!

We hate to be the bearer of bad news – but with the howling winds and driving rain, it can only mean one thing. Winter is coming fast. That means its time to think about ways of conserving energy and saving on the energy bills. Here are a few top tips (and we would be happy to help you implement them):

1. **Don't just turn it off; unplug it!** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 75% of the electricity used to power electronics in the average home is consumed while the products are turned off. To rid your home of this "phantom load," unplug electronic devices (such as VCRs, televisions, game consoles, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances) when they are not in use, or use a power strip to cut all power to these devices. Also be sure to unplug cell-phone, laptop, and battery chargers; they continue to draw a small amount of power even when they are not connected to the devices they are designed to charge.
2. **Adjust your thermostat.** In the winter, set it at 68 – 70°F when you're home, and 62 °F when you're away or in bed. In the summer, set it at 76 – 78°F when you're home, and 82 °F when you're away and running the air conditioner.
3. **Turn down your water heater thermostat to 120°F, or the "normal" setting.** Water heating accounts for about 13% of home energy costs.
4. **Take short showers instead of baths.** Bathing uses the most hot water in most households.
5. **Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.**
6. **Change over to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).** Replacing traditional light bulbs with CFLs will save up to 75% of the energy you currently use to light your home. Start by switching out the bulbs in the fixtures you use most often.

New Name, New Look!

While you may know that we changed our “doing business name” to Housing Nantucket, you may not know that we have been busy changing our look too! We have modified our logo and updated our website. You can now find us at <http://www.housingnantucket.org>. This website is intended to be more user friendly and reflect our changed definition of our programs. We have defined our three major areas of focus as *rental services*, *homeownership services*, and *technical assistance*. Come visit the new website and find out more! (By the way, your rent checks can still be made out to NHA Properties Inc. NHA Properties Inc. is our legal corporate name.)

News & Notes

- Anne had her new baby on September 19, 2008. Owen Joseph was born at home and was 9 pounds, 2 ounces. He was 21 inches long. Congrats Anne, John, and Owen!
- Do you know someone facing foreclosure? The Housing Assistance Corporation from Hyannis has a Foreclosure Prevention specialist who will travel to Nantucket to help give information. Contact the office for more information
- Aaron will be presenting a lecture on green affordable housing on November 7 at the UMass Field Station at 4pm. Call the Nantucket Community School for more information.

Units Going Up!

Housing Nantucket is currently building an energy efficient, two bedroom house on Clarendon Street in Tom Nevers (the picture shows the first floor and dormers going up). Rob Andersen Construction has been building this house out of “Insulated Concrete Forms” - which means the most of the house is built out of concrete! We will be starting a second unit on 3 Norquata Drive – a one bedroom, energy efficient unit.

Fire Safety

Do you hear ringing in your ears? Are you sure it isn't your smoke detector? Perhaps your detector's batteries need changed – let us know and we will change them for you. Also, make sure your fire extinguisher is up to date – it should be stamped for some time in 2007 or 2008. If not, come pick up a new one.

How did you like it? Do you have new ideas for a story?

Then Contact Us!

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