



JUNE 2010



Housing Happenings



COUNTY OF
LAMBTON

Housing Services Department
150 N. Christina St., 2nd Floor
Sarnia, ON N7T 8H3
519 344-2057



Housing Happenings is a newsletter for residents living in rental accommodation managed by the *Housing Services Department*, County of Lambton.

It is hoped that this newsletter will provide information useful to you in learning more about your housing and your community.

We want to hear from you!

If you would like to put articles in this newsletter or your tenant association has news you would like to add in our next issue just call:

519 344-2062 ext 2038.

In this issue....

- ***Parents Standing Together***
- ***Community Emergency Management***
- ***Active Outdoors/Walk for your health***
- ***Affordable Housing Building name contest***
- ***Bed Bugs***

This spring, the Parents Standing Together (PST) Tenants' Association organized a clean-up day on Kathleen Avenue. Parents and children spent an afternoon picking up garbage and debris in the parks, parking lots and front yards of addresses along Kathleen Avenue.

We thank the PST group for their dedication to the neighborhood and their willingness to get involved. Their efforts certainly make a difference.

Air Conditioners

If you are ready to install your air conditioner, ensure it is plugged into an outlet all by itself. **Do not** plug anything else in the same outlet.

Don't forget that air conditioning charges are \$60 per a/c for the year paid in a lump sum or \$5 per a/c unit per month in addition to your rent payment.

Community Emergency Management

In Canada, the responsibility for emergency management is shared among the different levels of government, first response agencies, non-governmental organizations and volunteers. During an emergency, all these groups must work together to formulate a coordinated response to protect life and property.

However, because emergencies occur at the local level, emergency preparedness actually begins at home. One of the most important things you can do to assist your community during an emergency is to be able to take care of yourself and the rest of your family for at least three days. That way, first responders and municipal officials can deal with the direct impacts of the disaster first.

During An Emergency

- ✓ Follow the advice of local emergency officials!

- ✓ Listen to your radio CHOK 1070 AM or K106.3 FM for news and instructions. Do not use your telephone unless absolutely necessary (emergency personnel need access to telephone lines) and do not call 9-1-1 to obtain information!

For Local Weather Conditions Phone:

519 464-5121

If time and safety permit, take your pet with you! Pets should not be left behind during an evacuation because they could be injured, lost or even killed as a result of the emergency.



Emergency Supplies Kit

If you are advised to leave your home or stay inside for a period of time, having some essential supplies on hand will make you and your family more comfortable. Assemble a **“72 Hour Emergency Supplies Kit”** and store the items in an easy-to-carry container such as a duffel bag or plastic storage bin. Store the container in an easily accessible location such as a closet shelf on the main floor. Your emergency supplies kit should have enough food, water and basic needs that will keep your household self-sufficient for at least three days.

Please visit our web-site to get an Emergency Supplies List

www.lambtononline.com

OFFICE HOURS SCHEDULE

CANADA DAY JULY 1 CLOSED
CIVIC HOLIDAY AUG. 2 CLOSED
LABOUR DAY SEPT.6 CLOSED

PLEASE NOTE

***THE HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY JUNE 11, 2010***

During the year, do not forget to report the following changes:

- ✓ **Income**
- ✓ **Assets**
- ✓ **Household composition**
- ✓ **Ability to live independently**
- ✓ **Immigration status**

You must report any changes in writing within 30 days or you may lose your subsidy



Public's Help Needed to Name New Affordable Housing Building

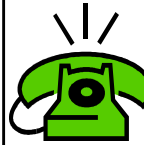
The County of Lambton Housing Services Department and Lambton County Council are looking for help from the public to name the new affordable housing building that is currently under construction at 993 Maxwell Street in Sarnia.

Submissions recommending names, and the reason for choosing those names, are being taken until Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

"We wanted to involve the public in the naming of this building, since it will serve as a home to tenants for many years to come," said Lola Dudley, Manager, Housing Services Department. "The site also has a long history associated with its former use as a long-term care home and we would like this building to have a new name with a new identity."

The contest is open to all residents of Lambton County and the top three selections will be forwarded to Lambton County Council for its final decision. The top three finalists will receive gift card prizes and the winner will also have an opportunity to participate in the grand opening celebrations.

"The Corporation of the County of Lambton has a Naming Policy. The full Naming Policy, along with an online submission form, can be found at www.lambtononline.ca/993_maxwell. Submissions may also be submitted to the County of Lambton Housing Services Department at 150 N. Christina Street, Sarnia, ON N7T 8H3



Housing Services Department Staff

Staff can be reached Monday to Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by calling **519 344-2057** or **519 344-2062** and entering their extension number.

Extensions are:

Lola Dudley	2041
Nancy Bouterse	2030
Tina Buono	2036
Maria Cossa-Rossi	2165
Heather Fisher	2032
Kelly Hall	2038
Tracy King	2174
Gail Kyle	2031
Terry McCallum	2131
Shelley Nickson	2037
Debbie Nisbett	2034
Karen Van Dyk	2035
Connie VanSickle	2040
Allan Vansteenkiste	2039



- No heat
- No hydro
- No water
- Sewer backup
- Broken water line

If you have a maintenance emergency that occurs after hours, please call **519 464-9365**

For maintenance concerns that can be reported during business hours, call Karen, our Property Services Assistant, at **ext 2035**

For questions about your rent, changes with income or household members call Gail **ext 2031** or Heather **ext 2032**, our Client Services Assistants

Call **ext 2200** for all other inquiries.

Walk This Way, Walk Into Health

Walking is one of the greatest ways to get started in physical activity. It is easy, can be done almost anywhere, anytime, and it's free! Walking can be a fun social event with friends, family or by yourself.

Walking is the closest thing to the perfect exercise!

It's good for your overall health, increased fitness, weight control, mental health and recovery after an illness. It's good for your heart, your lungs and for muscles and bones. Walking is good for children, teens, adults, and older adults. You can do it in the city, in the country, at home, at work, at play, on a trail or anywhere in between. You can walk alone, with your family, with a friend, with a group or in a club.

Everyone, including people with Type 2 diabetes and older adults, benefits from increasing their physical activity. Walking is good for what ails you.

However, many of us struggle to get started and stay with it. But here's some good news! If you have been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, walking can help you manage your disease.

There is a tool called a step counter (pedometer) that will help keep you moving. Research studies show that using a step counter is a great way to motivate yourself.

If you would like a free copy of the **Walk This Way** kit or more information please contact Rose Atkins or Cathy Powell from the County of Lambton Community Health Services Department at 519 344-2062 ext. 2142 or 2129, or toll free 1-800-387-2882.



Annual Garden Contest



The Housing Services Department is once again holding our annual garden contest. If you live in a townhouse, semi-detached or single detached home, please call to register. If you live in an apartment, get together with your neighbours and register as a building.

Winners are based on cleanliness and curb appeal throughout the season. There will be winners in the following categories:

4 individual winners - family locations
2 building winners - 1 for apartment buildings with more than 30 units, and 1 for apartment buildings with less than 30 units.

Please call Kelly Hall at ext. 2038 in you are interested in entering the contest.

Barbeque Safety



Please remember that barbeques are not allowed on your balcony. If you are barbequing in your patio area, please ensure the barbeque is a good distance away from the building. Also, be careful to not "smoke" your neighbours out.

Swimming Pools

Children's swimming pools are to be kept on the cement patio when in use. The water cannot be more than 60 cm/24 inches deep as per City of Sarnia local by-laws.



Children's pools contain enough water for a person to drown in. Never leave children in or around a pool unless supervised by a responsible adult.