

# The Enterprise

The Newsletter of Rockville Housing Enterprises

From the Staff of RHE



## Happy New Year, Everyone!

And what a great year this is going to be! New Years always bring about a chance for change and new beginnings.

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility -- a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world; duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."

—President Barack H. Obama

Let us do our part in making his words in each and everyone of our lives ring true by taking responsibility for our households.

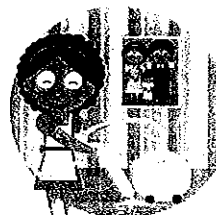


## Housekeeping Inspection Cancelled

Rockville Housing Enterprises would like to apologize to all residents for the cancellation of the Housekeeping Inspections. Due to inclement weather during the week of January 26 – 29, 2009, RHE was not able to conduct the Inspections.

RHE will notify residents as to when Housekeeping Inspections will be rescheduled and if your unit will be inspected.

Thank you again,  
RHE Staff



### Inside this issue:

From the Housing Choice Voucher Program	2
Tax Season/ Free Tax Preparation	3
Suggestions and Tricks for Saving Money	4
Notes from the Homeownership Coordinator	4
Family Self-Sufficiency	5
Should I take that New Job?	6
Savings Tips	6
Savings Tips/ Auto Repairs	7
Calendar	8
Homework tips /Summer Camps	9

## Tax Season Begins 2009

The Internal Revenue Service today kicked off the 2009 tax filing season by announcing a number of new steps to help financially distressed taxpayers maximize their refunds and speed payments while providing additional help to people struggling to meet their tax obligations. Here are some of their tips for preparing your taxes for 2009.

### **Top Ten Tax Tips for filing 2009:**

1. **Gather your records...now!** It's never too early to start getting together any documents or forms you'll need when filing your taxes: receipts, canceled checks, and other documents that support an item of income or a deduction you're taking on your return. Be on the lookout for W-2s and 1099s, coming soon from your employer.
2. **Find your forms.** Whether you file a 1040 or 1040-EZ, you can download all IRS forms and publications on the Web site, [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).
3. **Do a little research.** Check out Publication 17 on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). It's a comprehensive collection of information for taxpayers highlighting everything you'll need to know when filing your return.
4. **Think ahead to how you'll file.** Will you prepare your return yourself or go to a preparer? Do you qualify to file at no cost using Free File on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov)? There are many things to consider.
5. **Take your time.** Rushing to get your return filed increases the chance you will make a mistake and not catch it.
6. **Double-check your return.** Mistakes will slow down the processing of your return. In particular, make sure all the Social Security Numbers and math calculations are correct as these are the most common errors made by taxpayers.
7. **Consider e-file.** When you file electronically, the computer will handle the math calculations for you, and you will get your refund in about half the time it takes when you file a paper return.
8. **Think about Direct Deposit.** If you elect to have your refund directly deposited into your bank account, you'll receive it faster than waiting for a check by mail.
9. **Visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) often.** The official IRS Web site is a great place to find everything you'll need to file your tax return: forms, tips, FAQs and updates
10. **Relax.** There's no need to panic. If you run into a problem, remember the IRS is here to help.

If you have more questions about preparing your taxes please try [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or call our customer service number at 800-829-1040.

**FREE TAX  
PREPARATION  
30 COURTHOUSE  
SQUARE, SUITE 100  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850  
CALL 240-314-8310  
TO MAKE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
STARTING EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
5-8PM  
BEGINNING  
JANUARY 28- APRIL 8  
2009**

To qualify you must:

1. Live in Montgomery County
2. Earn under \$40,000 in 2008
3. Have W-2 and or 1099



# Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)

If you are a Public Housing resident or a Housing Choice Voucher resident

If you are single, married, a parent or elderly

If you want to own a home, open a business, go back to school or accomplish something else...

**The FSS Program can help you make your goals and dreams come true**

A recent graduate of the program earned \$34,000 in escrow savings and bought a home

**YOU CAN TOO!**

Call RHE at (301)- 424-6265. If you are a Public Housing Resident, ask for Florence Cole.

If you are a Housing Choice Voucher resident ask for Jean Caraway.

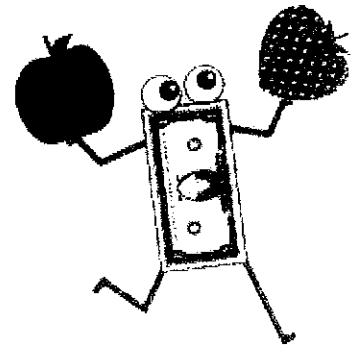
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## Grocery Shopping Tips from the FSS Program

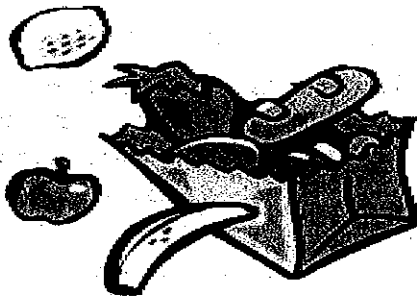
### Tips for Grocery Shopping

As the economy worsens and more jobs are lost and more workers' hours are reduced, we must all look for ways to cut expenses and save money! Following are tips on how to save money at the grocery store.

- Always watch for sales and specials
- Don't shop when you are hungry or thirsty, you'll spend more!
- Compare prices among grocery stores.
- Use coupons for foods you are planning on using anyway.
- Keep cabinets organized so you don't buy food you already have.
- Buy only what you have room to store.
- Stick to your list. Don't buy what you don't need
- Stick to your budget.



**In the next newsletter look for more suggestions on ways to save money on your food budget.**



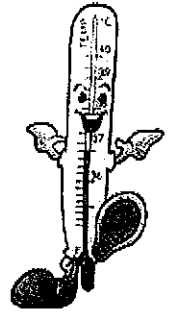
# Home Energy Saving Tips

With winter in effect and spring quickly approaching, RHE would like to provide all residents with some energy saving tips for their home.

## No-Cost or Low Cost:

- Lower your thermostat at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms. If you consistently set your thermostat back at night 10 degrees Fahrenheit, you may reduce your heating bill by 10-20 percent. **Thermostats should always be lowered at night before going to bed.**
- Shut off lights, computers and other electronic appliances when you're not using them.
- Examine and adjust, if necessary, weather stripping, door sweeps, and thresholds.
- Use a microwave or toaster oven rather than your regular oven for smaller items.
- Always use the bathroom or kitchen exhaust fans while showering or cooking and baking to avoid potential moisture problems.

For assistance with your heating costs or other energy saving tips please call your local gas company or MEAP (Maryland Energy Assistance Program ) at (240)777-4450.



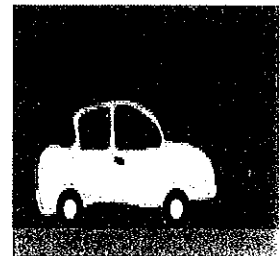
For other great energy ideas you can visit <http://www.energyideas.org> or <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>

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## Simple Tips for Auto Repairs

With the economy at an all time low and gas prices slowly going right back up again, RHE would like to help you save some money on your car repairs. Here are some helpful tips.

- Call for estimates when wanting to repair simple things in your car.
- Choose a reliable repair shop.
- Describe you car's symptoms.
- Get a written estimate when talking to a mechanic.
- If the mechanic needs to call you always be available by phone.
- Always ask questions and ask the mechanic to be specific as possible.
- Test drive your car.
- Keep a copy of the repair order.



If you have a problem, call Consumer Affairs at (240) 777-3636.

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RHE would like to thank all those parents, teachers, and staff that came out to "Everything Rockville"

on January 10, 2009. It was a great success!

Please be on the lookout for new events coming soon.

For more information on school news and events, please call Florence Cole, Resident Counselor, at (301) 424-6265.

If you would like to have an event posted in the next upcoming newsletter please contact RHE and ask to speak with Florence Cole, Resident Counselor.

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## Helpful Homework Rules for Parents and Kids

After a long day of school, homework time can be difficult for all children. It can be especially difficult for those children with learning disabilities (LD). Children with LD have more difficulty completing homework due to the following reasons: difficulty with organization (e.g., forgetting to bring home books, which homework pages to complete). Parents, here are some rules you can follow.

- Set clear study rules.
- Eliminate distractions-no TV, no telephone use, no text messaging, etc.
- Set the environment- have a quiet place for studying with a place for books and papers
- For older children, let them figure out what works best for him/her.



If you have more questions about how to help you child when studying or you have tips you would like to share, please contact RHE at (301)424-6265 and ask to speak with the Resident Counselor, Florence Cole.

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## Summer Camps

If you want your child to have an energetic summer adventure, this is it! Summer Day Camps are fun, safe, convenient and affordable.

\* Nonstop fun all day long (9:00 am to 3:30 pm with the option of an extended camp from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm)

- \* Recreational swimming for a splashing good time
- \* A field trip each session that adds a little pizzazz
- \* Kids friendly activity choices for a guaranteed great time.



Please visit Montgomery County website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) or contact (240)777-6870.