

# Akwesasne Housing Authority Newsletter

Retha Herne - Executive Director

358-9020

**Emergency  
Phone Numbers**

Akwesasne  
Tribal Police  
518-358-9200

Fire - Rescue  
Dial 911

#### DID YOU KNOW?

About 30% of consumers use their credit card as their main means of buying Christmas goodies, 70% do not save to buy Christmas gifts and 86% of consumers do their Christmas shopping during December.

#### PAYMENTS DUE

Payments are due on or before the 1st of each month

There is a 10 day grace period for rent.

Late fees of \$25.00 are assessed on the 11th day.

IF YOUR PAYMENT IS IN ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH, YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR GREAT PRIZES!!!

## From the Office of The Executive Director: Retha Herne

Greetings! I hope everyone had a safe and fun summer. Thankfully, we continue to have some beautiful days in Akwesasne, yet as we are all aware, fall is approaching. This reminds me, as a homebuyer, that there is plenty to prepare for before the snow flies.

First of all, thank you for all who are cooperating with our annual maintenance inspections. These inspections are a critical part of your homeownership agreement with AHA, and of course, ensuring safe and healthy conditions in your home. Inspector, Liz Jacobs, has been doing a great job visiting our homes and providing you with recommendations to continue with maintaining your home in a safe and sanitary manner. It is very important in keeping your home free of trash and debris leading to unhealthy conditions, inside and out. Remember that as the "inside seasons" near, it is necessary to ensure your furnace is properly cleaned, filters changed, and your basement is free and clear of items that may cause mold and unsafe conditions, such as fires.

Please enjoy the fall months ahead and I truly hope your children enjoy the coming school season!

### TIPS: FALL MAINTENANCE

**F**all maintenance: Things to do to Prepare for Winter!

Before the chilly weather of fall begins, make sure your furnace is tuned up for the winter and change the filters. Homeowners with a fireplace should check the flue and have the fireplace cleaned if it is wood burning. Fall is also a good time to have your air ducts cleaned too!



Greg Kruchko, the owner of a local Mr. Handyman, said one of the *biggest must-do tasks* of the season is to clean your home's gutters. If you don't clean out your gutters, you run the risk of water building up in them during cold weather. This can cause "ice damming," Kruchko said. *"That will ruin a roof."*

It's also a great time to install gutter protectors that keep debris, like falling leaves, out of the gutters, he said. Other home maintenance tasks for the fall include:

- Examining your chimney for any damage, Kruchko suggests.
- Covering up your air conditioning unit to protect it from ice and snow.
- Putting away summer equipment, such as outdoor tables and chairs, umbrellas, grills and children's toys.
- Touching up paint on and decks, trim and railings, says [organizedhome.com](http://organizedhome.com). Use a wire brush to remove flaking paint; prime bare wood first.
- Draining and storing garden hoses, the site recommends. Install insulating covers on exterior spigots and have sprinkler systems blown free of water.
- Inspecting washing machine hoses for bulges, cracks or splits. Replace them every other year.
- Checking the dryer exhaust tube and vent for built-up lint, debris or birds' nests. Make sure the exterior vent door closes tightly when not in use.

# Housing Services

Shekon from the Housing Services Department, I hope everyone had a great summer this year; we are already looking at our children going back to school. This year seems to be flying by!

I would like to take this time to thank MaryAnn Durham, Program Manager from COMLINKS. She has been the liaison between our community and the weatherization program. Unfortunately MaryAnn will not be taking applications at the Akwesasne Housing Authority. If you are feel you would qualify and are interested in applying for this program you can call for information at 518-483-1261 ext. 1031

**Training** - I would like to let our home owners know of the trainings that Housing Services has planned for the fall. The trainings are available to any homeowner in our program. For more information please contact Housing Services at 518-358-9020.

Oct 6: financial literacy class -every Wednesday for 6 weeks @ 4:00pm location is in AHA's commons room.  
Oct/Nov - Home Maintenance workshops - homeowners that attend these workshops will have the knowledge and ability to: repair walls, fix leaky faucets and toilets, lawn maintenance, weatherizing, paint and decorate their homes. We will also offer individualized home maintenance workshops.

**Inspections** - AHA has been conducting maintenance inspections for all homeowners. If you have not received a notice please note you will be receiving an appointment in the mail with an assigned date and time for your home inspection. The inspector is on a tight schedule so please **MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT!**

Your home maintenance inspections will be conducted to ensure that each homeowner is maintaining their home in a healthful and sanitary condition to prevent damage and problems arising. Please ensure your home is accessible to the inspector. Remove any items around the furnace, ensure smoke and CO detectors are in proper working order, make sure all switch and outlet covers are intact, and remove any rubbish in and around the home.  
The Maintenance inspections are to ensure that the homebuyer is maintaining their home. The inspector will not be accepting any construction issues and resident concerns at this time. If you have any concerns about the construction and/or have a resident concerns about your home, please contact the office via phone or letter detailing your concern. These issues will be addressed separately from the maintenance inspections.

## Notary Public

Kerry Jacobs

Walk - Ins Welcome

Retha Herne

Monday & Wednesday

By appointment ONLY!

## 1 on 1

Budgeting Sessions

Kerry Jacobs

Appointment Only

358.9020

## Giving Back

### AKWESASNE HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMUNITY FUND

The Community Fund was set up late in 2008 by employees of the Akwesasne Housing Authority. The fund is supported solely by fundraising activities throughout the year.

The AHA sponsored another Bird House Contest this year and the winners were

1st Place-Brian Herne \$150

2nd Place-Robert & Jane Tarbell \$100

3rd Place-IPP \$75

The winners generously donated their winnings back to Community Fund. A special thank you to all three winners.

### COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Medical Expenses: \$700.00

Burn Out Assistance: \$200.00

Golf Tournament: \$200.00

Spring Clean-Up: \$100.00

**GIVING BACK!!**

## Fire Prevention Week

### **AMERINDS 2011 SAFETY POSTER CONTEST**

Sponsored by the Akwesasne Housing Authority

Grade Level K-3

Grade Level 4-6

Grade Level 7-8

AHA will offer gift card prizes for 3 winners in each category!

1st Place \$100.00

2nd Place \$75.00

3rd Place \$25.00

The 1st place winners will be submitted to the USET Semi-Annual Meeting for regional judging in June, 2011.

The 1st place winners from USET regional judging will be entered into:

### **AMERINDS 2011 NATIONAL MEETING**

#### **National Safety Poster Contest**

For a chance to win a \$2000 Savings Bond for each grade category.

#### Contest Rules for 2010 Fire Safety Poster Contest

1. Entry forms must be filled out completely and attached to the back of the poster **RETURNED BY OCTOBER 12, 2010**
2. All Posters submitted must illustrate a "safety theme"
3. Grade categories K-3, 4-6, 7-8 **ONLY**
4. All entries must be original and created by the child using only or a combination of crayons, markers or paint. **NO LEAD PENCIL**
5. Posters must be drawn horizontally on **8.5" x 11"** paper.
6. All artwork submitted will become the property of the AHA.

# Maintenance Department

## ATTENTION HOMEBUYERS

### STRUCTURAL CHANGES/etc

In the process of updating our inventory with Amerind (our insurance risk-pool provider), we have also been submitting updated photos recently taken of your home.

If you've had additional square footage added to your unit over the past several years, for example: added an addition, attached a garage, you are encouraged to submit the square footage for the entire unit as well as pictures. And, if you've had your original roof replaced, we'd like to know.

Currently, we have only the original square footage of the home when it was first built. Therefore, you may want to provide us with a drawing layout with the measurements of the entire unit including any additions and/or attached garages.

Should you need assistance with the process of drawings, please give the Development Department a call. You may ask to speak with Lorraine.

Just a reminder, in the event that you have a loss at your unit, the actual structure is covered according to our files to be rebuilt at the square footage indicated in our files.

### INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE

The current deductible for a loss is \$1,000, which is the responsibility of the homeowner(s) - depending on how many units have a loss per event. Example - high winds cause roof damage to one unit - deductible \$1,000; high winds cause roof damage to 10 units - deductible is calculated on a percentage of the cost of repair.

### RENTER'S COVERAGE - PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Personal belongings are not covered thru our insurance carrier. However Amerind offers coverage "personal property" coverage. Information can be obtained at the Housing office.

The Housing Authority encourages ALL homeowners/tenants to carry "personal property" coverage in the event of a loss to your own personal belongings.

Should you have any questions regarding any insurance coverage, additions, etc., please do not hesitate to contact Lorraine Thomas at any time.

## SAFETY

# HALLOWEEN

- ⚠ As bad as it sounds, this is just a fact of life now. Get on the internet and check your local state website for sex offenders. Almost every state has one; just do a search for your state sex offender site. Look up your zip code and it should have a list of registered offenders in your area that includes street addresses. Make sure that your kids stay away from these houses!
- ⚠ Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. Let them know that they are to check in with you every hour, by phone or by stopping back at home. Make sure that they know not to deviate from the planned route so that you always know where they will be.
- ⚠ Kids will be kids. Explain to kids of all ages the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem funny, but they need to know the other side of the coin as well, that clean up and damages can ruin Halloween for everyone. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.
- ⚠ Help your young child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make sure that its fire proof or treated with fire retardant. If they are wearing a mask of any kind, make sure that the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision.
- ⚠ Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions. If they are going to be at a friend's home, get the phone number and make sure that you've met the parents.



BE SAFE



# Sudoku

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6						3		8
4		5						6
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2					7			3
			7			6		

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hard

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						7		1
9		1					3	
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1		5						
7	9		4		1			

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AKWESASNE, NEW YORK

US POSTAGE PAID

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