

Free and Low-Cost Summer Family Fun

The Children's Museum

300 Congress Street, Boston, 617-426-8855 or www.bostonkids.org. The Children's Museum's exhibits focus on early childhood development and have three themes: arts, culture, and science. Admission is only \$1 per person on Fridays from 5 – 9 p.m.



Castle Island is said to be the site of the oldest continuously used military fortification in the U.S.

Castle Island

Day Boulevard, South Boston, 617-727-5250. Come here and visit the playground, go for a swim, have a picnic, or stop by the snack bar. Ride your bike or scooter along the water. Admission is free.

"Much Ado About Nothing"

The Commonwealth Shakespeare Company performs this comedy on the Boston Common from Saturday, July 10 to August 1. Performances are at 8 p.m., Tuesdays – Saturdays, and last about 2 ³/₄ hours with one 15-minute intermission. Admission is free. Bring a blanket and a picnic while you enjoy the show. For more information visit commonwealthshakespeare.org.

Tenacity: a free summer tennis program

This is a free summer tennis program for Boston youth ages 7 – 15 with locations throughout Boston. In addition to tennis, most summer sites include a daily 30 minute reading session. The program runs for 7 weeks beginning Tuesday, July 6 and ending on Friday, August 20. The session runs Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – noon and then 1 – 4 p.m. Families may register their chil-

dren for a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of seven weeks. Contact 617-562-0900 or www.tenacity.org

Summer meals for kids

The Summer Food Service Program provides free, nutritious meals to low-income children when school is not in session. To find a free summer food service program in your area go to www.meals4kids.org or call Project Bread's Hotline at 800-377-1292.

Boston's Fourth of July Celebration

Once again Boston will celebrate the Fourth of July with a Boston Pops concert and fireworks at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. Admission is free, but get there early!

Puerto Rican Festival

July 23 – 25 at Franklin Park in Dorchester. Enjoy live entertainment, salsa music, folklore and storytelling,

traditional arts & crafts, athletic events, and a variety of ethnic foods. Free.

Frog Pond Spray Pool and Fountain

From June 1 – August 31, the Frog Pond on the Boston Common features a 70 foot spray plume and a wading pool for youngsters. The spray plume and concession are open daily from 10 – 6. Free admission.

Dads Make A Difference — Father's Day Celebration

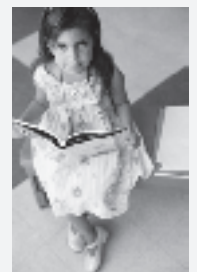
On Sunday, June 20, a celebration of fathers will take place on the Boston Common from 1 – 5 p.m. Family entertainment includes magic, music, dance, and comedy performances, as well as a puppeteer workshop, mural painting, a moon bounce and Velcro obstacle course, free Ben and Jerry's ice cream, and more! Free. Details: www.dadsmakeadifference.com

MBHP to host a free summer reading fair on July 15

MBHP staff invites tenants and their families to celebrate the joys of reading at our summer reading fair. This free event will feature storytelling, kids' activities, refreshments, and gift bags for all attendees. The summer reading fair will be on July 15, 1 – 3 p.m. at MBHP, 125 Lincoln St., 5th floor, Boston.

As a bonus, everyone who calls to reserve a space will be eligible to win our Summer Fun Prize package! For information or to reserve a space, e-mail info@mbhp.org or call Jennifer Shaw at 617-425-6637.

See page four for a discount coupon to Borders Boston!



» free books for the first 50 children who attend


» our summer reading list is at mbhp.org

Voter encouragement project moving ahead

Thanks to the work of MBHP's Director of Tenant Development, Stevan Lent, and Program Representatives Shane Cox and John McDonough, many Section 8 voucher holders are registering to vote.

These MBHP staff members are overseeing the Voter Encouragement Project, an initiative that assists clients to become involved in the political process.

"Voting allows citizens to take active roles in decisions that shape their lives," says McDonough. "Our short-term goal is to register voters, but the longer-term goal is to encourage active participation in the political process."

To that end, MBHP has developed an on-going, multifaceted plan to increase voter participation among our voucher holders by providing opportunities to learn about the voting process, such as what it will be like going to the polls and supporting people's efforts to vote on election day with reminder phone calls and referrals to interpreters or rides as needed. Many tenants have reacted positively to the project, either by registering to vote in the lobby or expressing that they are already participating in the political process. To date, MBHP staff members have registered more than 100 people to vote. 

Your Voice is Your Vote – July 22

Come to a voter registration party for homeless and low income people, as part of a national voter registration day. Everyone is welcome. If you are already registered, come to show your support to others, make your voice heard, and enjoy the party with music, refreshments, and celebrity appearances.

When: Thursday, July 22, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Where: The Christian Science Plaza, 175 Huntington Ave., Boston (close to the Green Line/Symphony station)

Information: Steve Lent, 617-425-6701 or www.mbhp.org

From the Executive Director: Section 8 update

At the request of MBHP's Tenant Advisory Committee and on behalf our board of directors and staff, thank you for your tremendous efforts to preserve the Section 8 program.

This past April, MBHP sent letters explaining that we might have to terminate some housing voucher contracts because of federal funding cuts to the Section 8 program.

For the past two months MBHP has been working closely with you, property owners, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, and the Governor's office to ensure that the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) fully funds the Section 8 program as Congress had intended.


The good news is that our collective lobbying has resulted in HUD's funding all of the vouchers that MBHP administers this year. The bad news is that HUD has not reversed its interpretation of budget language, maintaining it still has the authority to not fund every voucher in use across the country.

The President's fiscal year 2005 budget proposes to drastically underfund the program and to deregulate the Section 8 program. The bottom line is, the program would no longer be targeted to the most vulnerable among us: extremely low-income elders, disabled individuals, and families with children.

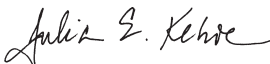
The Administration claims that Section 8 is too expensive. It is — because in this country, housing is too expensive. But beyond cost, Section 8 is valuable because it gives people a chance to become more economically self-sufficient. Stable housing allows people to better access health care, education and employment and stabilizes communities. It also improves quality of life.

This message was never made more clear than by the thousands of Massachusetts tenants who contacted their elected officials in Congress, the White House, the Governor's office, and who submitted testimony or attended the public hearing in April at the State House.

What we learned was that while circumstances have made Section 8 participants vulnerable, they have also highlighted how powerful you are. Your strength and ability to communicate how Section 8 has improved or saved your lives has gotten us through this most recent struggle.

It is for this reason that MBHP's initiatives to increase tenant participation in program development and advocacy efforts are so important. Our recently formed Tenant Advisory Board and Voter Encouragement program are just two examples of how we are working together to ensure everyone's access to safe, permanent, and affordable housing. 

Sincerely,




Julia E. Kehoe, Executive Director

What you can do

Call the offices below and ask to speak to the person who works on housing issues. Start by telling him/her why the Section 8 program is important to you, and then give this message:

Governor Mitt Romney: 617-725-4005. "I am concerned about changes to the Section 8 housing voucher program in the President's FY 2005 budget. Please work with other New England governors to approach the President and U.S. HUD and recommend that they preserve and enhance the Section 8 housing voucher program, not block grant or deregulate the program, and that they increase funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program in FY 2005."

President George W. Bush: 1-202-456-1111. "I am concerned about changes to the Section 8 housing voucher program in the President's FY 2005 budget. I would ask that the President and HUD preserve and enhance the Section 8 housing voucher program, not block grant or deregulate it, and that they increase funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program in FY 2005." 

Are you in an “in-between” career place?

Maybe you are thinking about earning a GED. Maybe you know that you need to gain some computer skills. Maybe you're trying to figure out ways to build your résumé. How do you start down a “career path?” Where do you find these resources?

Boston Public Library in Copley Place has an information center for career development and higher education. The Codman Square Branch library in Dorchester, East Boston Branch Library, Hyde Park Branch Library, and Dudley Literacy Center in Roxbury also provide these resources. One-on-one sessions are provided by appointment or on a walk-in basis. For more information, call 617-536-0200.

Come to MBHP and ask the front desk to show you the “Job Leads Binder” and “Training Binder.” These binders are continually updated with information to assist you with your career development.

Some good local programs are listed below:

- **YouthBuild Boston** teaches Boston's unemployed 18 – 24 year olds to renovate abandoned buildings into affordable housing for low-income families, while addressing participants' academic, vocational, job training, and personal needs and interests. Contact YouthBuild Boston at 617-445-8887 or www.ybboston.org.
- **Job Corps** provides free training and job placement for young women and men ages 16 – 24. Choose from training in nursing, business, computers, auto mechanics, culinary arts, painting, carpentry, and more; For more information contact 800-97-BEGIN or www.nejobcorps.org.
- **The Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts's** Employment & Professional Skills Training program prepares customers to compete successfully in today's workforce

environment. This 12-week program offers training and education to unemployed and underemployed adults who want to advance their careers. Candidates must be 18 years or older and have a high school diploma or GED. For more information contact 617-442-4519 or www.ulem.org (click on “get to work”).

- **SCALE (the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences)** works with students who wish to improve their reading, writing, and math skills, progress toward a high school credential, or prepare for a training program or higher education. Participants must be at least 16 years old and have withdrawn from high school. For more information contact 617-625-6600, ext. 6936 or visit www.scalesomerville.org.

Volunteering ideas & options

Boston Cares, a non-profit organization, makes volunteering accessible to people with limited free time and does not require a long-term commitment. Boston Cares has more than 100 group projects each month, including opportunities for families to volunteer together. For more information, call 877-886-5868, or go to www.bostoncares.org.

The **United Way of Massachusetts** matches people interested in volunteering with non-profit groups. They will help you find the right match based on your interests, skills, availability, and location, and can also find volunteer opportunities for teenagers. Call 617-624-8000 for more information.

Their Volunteer Solutions Web site, www.volunteersolutions.org/boston, lists volunteer opportunities with hundreds of agencies in the Greater Boston area.

Share your money-saving tips and be eligible to win a summer prize package that includes a George Foreman Grill! We'll share the best tips in future newsletters. (All will be anonymous.)

What are your best budgeting tips?

How do you save money on groceries?

And on your utility bills?

First name Last name

Address

City

State Zip

E-mail

Have more tips? E-mail them to info@mbhp.org.

The raffle winner will be chosen at random from all replies and will be notified by mail. Only MBHP tenants may enter. Please mail your entry by July 8 to: MBHP Raffle, 125 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111

Metropolitan
Boston Housing
Partnership

125 Lincoln Street
Boston, MA 02111
617-859-0400
www.mbhp.org

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Join our tenant e-mail list!

Visit our Web site,
www.mbhp.org, to join
our free e-mail list. Once
you've signed up, you'll
receive regular updates
about:



- MBHP workshops and events
- Career resources and job fairs
- Free family activities
- Child care resources
- And more!

Get your summer reading and support MBHP's literacy programs

On Thursday and Friday, June 24 and 25, bring the coupon below to Borders Downtown Crossing and save 10 percent while you stock up on books, music, or gifts. Borders will donate 10 percent of your purchase on these days to support MBHP's literacy programs such as our book exchange and Summer Reading Fair. Spread the word: the coupon can also be printed from our Web site: www.mbhp.org/events/borders.

The July 15 Summer Reading Fair will celebrate the joys of summer reading and will feature free books for the first 50 attendees, storytelling, kids' activities, refreshments, and gifts. See page one to register for the Reading Fair! 🐾



mbhp benefit days at borders, June 24 & 25, 2004

Present this coupon and save 10 percent off your total purchase of regularly priced books, CDs, café items and stationery (may not be combined with any other offer), and 10% of your pre-tax total during this designated period will be donated to MBHP. Valid only on scheduled days for merchandise in stock at the Borders store listed below. Coupon must be surrendered upon use.

Cashier: Ring as you would a WGBH discount, but use this form as the multi-purpose form.

Valid only at: Borders Boston, Downtown Crossing, 10 School St., 617-557-7188, from June 24 – 25, 2004.

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