



ADU Ordinance Update; LIHEAP Program to Help with Energy Bills; ANCHOR Property Tax Relief; Senior Freeze; COLA; HOWE HOUSE

Hi there,

This MGAP newsletter includes timely updates for Montclair's community of older residents.

Please note: the deadline for submission of the Senior Freeze application is October 31, 2022. See below

Application Period Open for Home Energy Assistance Program to Help with Winter Heating Bills

With cold weather coming, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 heating season. LIHEAP is a state-run program that helps residents with their heating and medically-necessary cooling bills.

Homeowners and renters are eligible, even if your heat is included in your monthly rent. Income limits for 2022-2023 LIHEAP eligibility are dependent upon household size:

| Household Size | Monthly Gross Income |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | \$3,464 |
| 2 | \$4,530 |
| 3 | \$5,596 |
| 4 | \$6,662 |
| 5 | \$7,728 |
| 6 | \$8,794 |

To apply for LIHEAP, you can download or complete an application by visiting energyassistance.nj.gov. For assistance with applications, or to submit or mail an application, download [this flyer](#) to locate the local agency in the county where you live, or call 800-510-3102.

Montclair's Pending ADU Ordinance

After the September 13 unanimous first reading approval of the pending ADU ordinance, it was expected that the ordinance would go to The Planning Board for review. Instead, questions about harmonizing this ordinance with Montclair's existing Rent Control ordinance necessitated an additional legal review. We have been informed that the legal review will likely result in reintroduction of the amended ordinance on October 25th. Best case scenario: if the amended ordinance is favorably voted on Oct. 25, it will then be referred to the Planning Board and, if all goes well, Council's second reading vote will occur in mid-November.

We apologize for circulating bad information regarding an Oct. 17 Planning Board review of the ADU ordinance in our first newsletter; our reporting was based upon the most accurate information provided to us at that time.



SAVE THE HOWE HOUSE- 369 Claremont Ave

Also known as the Freed Slave House, Howe House reconfirms the historical role Montclair has played in African American history. Way before the civil war, in 1831 Nathaniel Crane left Howe his freedom along with the house, \$600 and land.

Connect with the Friends of the Howe House who are urging our community to fight with them to save this property which has been put on the market with special outreach to investors. [More information](#)

New Jersey Anchor Program

The New Jersey Anchor Program offers property tax relief for qualified homeowners and renters. Deadline for filing is December 30, 2022. [More Information](#)

NEW JERSEY SENIOR FREEZE

Deadline October 31, 2022

The Senior Freeze Program reimburses eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for [property tax](#) or [mobile home park site fee](#) increases on their [principal residence](#) (main home). To qualify, you must meet all the [eligibility requirements](#) for each year from the [base year](#) through the application year. See [How To File](#) for more information.

Social Security Announces 8.7% Increase or 2023!

The 8.7 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) approved by the Federal Govt. will begin benefit distribution payable in January 2023. On average, recipients will receive more than \$140 per month. This increase, the highest since 1981, will counter the impact of inflation which is a growing concern for many older adults.

[COLA Release](#)

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