

Local residents receive Census questionnaires

BY THE DAILY NEWS

CENSUS ASSISTANCE

STANTON — Most Montcalm County residents have received their 2010 U.S. Census form in the mail or at their door.

According to the Montcalm Human Services Coalition (MHSC), the envelope is not just another piece of junk mail — it is quite possibly the most important piece of mail local residents will receive this decade.

The census form has 10 questions and should take about 10 minutes to complete. It can be returned in a postage-paid envelope included with the form. Information provided on the form will be used for statistical purposes only and personal data is protected as strictly confidential under federal law.

“People who have questions, need assistance completing the form, or need replacement forms can get help in one of two ways — in person or by phone,” said MHSC staff member Lisa Lund.

To get help in person, residents can visit a Census Questionnaire Assistance Center (QAC). Through mid-April, four community organizations located in Edmore, Greenville, Howard City and Stanton are hosting a QAC with a U.S. Census employee available to assist residents in completing census forms and assist with other census-related needs.

People are seen on a walk-in basis. Appointments are not necessary.

To get help by phone, people can call the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Center toll-free at 1-866-872-6868 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days per week.

An accurate count of residents can have a tremendous impact on community

Four local census Questionnaire Assistance Centers are open to help residents fill out their forms, which many have received in the mail already. The centers are:

- Edmore — Home Township Library, 329 E. Main St. Hours: 3 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

- Greenville — Michigan Works Service Center, 114 S. Greenville West Drive (in Wyngate Office Park). Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, 2:15 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2:15 to 4:30 p.m. Fridays.

- Howard City — Timothy C. Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library, 117 Williams St. Hours: 2 to 5 p.m. Mondays, 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

- Stanton — Mid-Michigan District Health Department, 615 N. State St. Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays (closed for lunch noon to 1 p.m.), 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

All centers will be open during their scheduled times until mid-April. Walk-in visits are encouraged. Appointments are not necessary.

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federal funding can be based on population as determined by the census. An accurate count in the 2010 Census will help local communities get their share of more than \$400 billion in federal funds distributed every year for resources such as hospitals, job training centers, educational services, senior centers, public works projects and emergency services.

The data collected by the census also helps determine political boundaries and representation for the state and