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Avalon's 2010 Graduates

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## **From Community to College**

Avalon families, friends and neighbors proudly celebrated the achievements - and future plans - of our 2010 high school graduates in June.

All three graduates are headed to college in the coming months, including Ed who will be attending Washtenaw Community College in the fall, and Jameesha who is leaving for Mississippi Valley State University in a few short weeks. Vanessa too is planning to attend school, but not until after she spends her "gap year" working and traveling overseas.

Best wishes to our teen tenants as they embark on this new and exciting phase of life.

### ***And kudos for the cakes!***

Huge thanks once again to The Baking Brigade for their sweet contributions. They were at it again this month, supplying baked goods and treats to the Avalon graduation celebration, including special cakes decorated in school colors for the graduates to share with their families.

Want to join in the fun? Email [Jude](#) for more information or to join the Baking Brigade.

## Realtors and Builders

The Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors (AAABoR) and the Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Ann Arbor (BRAG) have made a bold commitment to Avalon Housing, promising to raise funds through the year. The effort kicked off with a fun summer mixer, including hot dogs, cool drinks and live music provided by the Community High Jazz Band.

As President of the AAABoR, Alex Milshteyn, states: "As the leaders in the local housing industry, we understand that stable housing does not just mean for those who can afford to purchase a home. It also means permanent affordable housing for those in our community who are the most vulnerable to the effects of government funding cutbacks.



*Nancy Merdzinski, of the AAABoR, proudly shows off her new Avalon bag!*

We selected Avalon Housing because in February, 2009 Avalon assumed the property management and administration of 114 units of the Washtenaw Affordable Housing Corporation (WAHC) ... This additional funding will enable Avalon to continue its work to keep these units as affordable housing."

***If you are currently in the process of buying or selling a home ask your agent if they are already involved in this great community support project. You can also make a donation yourself at the time of closing.***



### Camera Call!

Have you upgraded your digital camera recently? And is that old one stuck in a drawer or gathering dust? If yes, then we're talking to you!

Our Avalon community centers are currently organizing photography classes & workshops for tenants and we're in need of cameras. We are also looking for photographers to share the basics with our tenants, and help with photography sessions.

Photography is a wonderfully creative and expressive outlet – a way to share hopes, dreams and fears. And when the creative spirit grows, sometimes it becomes a little more possible to find creative ways of facing and solving the hurdles in life.

So if you've got a camera to pass on, or if you're interested in lending your time or expertise, please [email Jude](#).

## Fall Event Preview: What's Your Story?

We're already getting in high gear for our fall events this year... and we're looking to share YOUR story! We're excited to announce that **Dick Gordon** of NPR's *The Story* will be hosting a very special Avalon storytelling event.



We will also be releasing a new book - **Edible Avalon: Tales from the Garden**, which shares recipes, stories, memories and practical garden and health tips from our organic gardening program.

In addition to Avalon tenants, we're looking for our supporters and friends to share their stories with us too! [Click here](#) for more information and to get inspired!



*Some of the WCBA volunteer group who joined us for planting flowers!*

## Bloomin' Volunteers!

We're very lucky at Avalon to have a large and diverse group of volunteers that help us on a regular basis - in fact, in just the month of May we had well over 700 hours of support!

On several different days, members of the Washtenaw County Bar Association (WCBA, pictured left) came out, rolled up their sleeves and helped us weed and plant at some of our many flower gardens around town (you can click on the picture for more information).

In the last few weeks we've also worked with a group from Trinity Methodist Church (who came all the way from Sandusky, OH to help for 3 days!), the Youth Volunteer Corps (of the Ann Arbor YMCA), McNaughton & Gunn, the Children's Creative Center and literally dozens of other individuals. Thank you all for your painting, baking, planting, paper crane making and more!

Sound like fun? Want to get involved? [Email Jude](#) to sign up for our volunteer email and [click here](#) to see our upcoming volunteer calendar.

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