

# Warm welcome for homeowners

CAA paying for weatherization of 1,300 homes



CITIZEN PATRIOT • J. SCOTT PARK

Bryan Stenger, a worker with Radiant Heating and Air Conditioning, uses a drill to put holes in a house in preparation for insulation to be blown into the walls at 129 W. South St. in Jackson on Wednesday morning. The work is being done through the Community Action Agency's weatherization program.

By Chris Gautz

cgautz@citpat.com — 768-4926

Rose Kemmer is looking forward to a warmer winter.

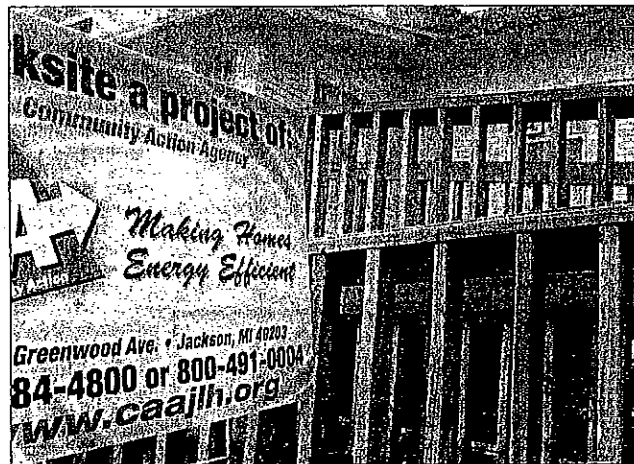
Kemmer's modest home on E. Argyle Street was recently outfitted with new insulation in the attic and ceiling, new windows, a new door and a new refrigerator.

Kemmer's home was among the first of about 1,300 homes to be weatherized in the next 18 months after \$5.7 million in federal economic stimulus funds was awarded to the Community Action Agency, which serves Jackson; Lenawee and Hillsdale counties.

About 37 homes have received the improvements in recent weeks, and work will continue at a good clip. Work crews were busy at another Jackson home at W. South Street on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, several state and local officials gathered at Kemmer's home to discuss the program and other ways the state Department of Human Services can help people in need.

Community Action Agency CEO



Marsha Kreucher said the funds are available to low-income families in the three-county area.

Human Services Director Ismael Ahmed said once a home is weatherized, owners can expect to pay about

30 percent less in energy costs.

In previous years, the CAA usually had enough cash to provide about \$2,000 in weatherization

See PROGRAM, on A2

"It's going to make a big, big difference. I am so grateful."

— Rose Kemmer, Jackson resident whose E. Argyle Street home was weatherized



CITIZEN PATRIOT • J. SCOTT PARK

Rae Pierce of Rives Junction, a worker with Radiant Heating and Air Conditioning, prepares insulation for a home at 129 W. South St. in Jackson.

## Program helps homeowners

Continued from A1

improvements for about 75 homes annually in Jackson County.

Under the new plan, about 700 county homes will receive up to \$6,500 in improvements.

"It will be very dramatic," Kreucher said.

She said they should be able to complete even more homes because Consumers Energy has invested its energy optimization funds to support these efforts.

The stimulus funds also have been used to hire six staff members to consider more than 1,000 applications; the CAA has contracts with

14 general contractors and a dozen certified inspectors.

Kemmer said she was thankful for the help, and specifically mentioned her contractor, Tim Vandenburg and his crew, who completed the work in about four days.

"It's going to make a big, big difference," she said. "I am so grateful."