

Rice shortage

The Hmong community started hearing about the rice shortage a couple weeks ago, but now they're experiences it directly. I interviewed Phoua from Warren and this is what she has to say. **Phoua:** "I thought it was a joke and didn't think much about it, but when we were low on rice and my husband went to Seven Seas to buy rice and he was shocked that the price of rice had pretty much doubled already. He spent \$49 on a 100 lb bag that normally would have been less than \$30 - \$35. We understand rice is in high demand in the Asian communities and know that the shortage may be due to flooding of the rice crops in Thailand but gas is also playing a major role in the cost of everything every where to rise such as the ridiculously high prices we are paying for rice currently... **Interviewer:** How has the price of rice affected you and your family? **Phoua:** Well, we're trying to find other alternatives but being that we are just like any other typical Hmong family; rice is a large part of our diet just as bread is a large part of most American diet. We, like all other Hmong and Asian families still must eat so there's not much you can do besides pay the high prices. **Interviewer:** What other alternative are you looking for beside rice now? **Phoua:** Not really sure yet at this time. If you really think about it, our daily food is pretty much made from rice somehow such as the Pho rice noodles and rice flours. It's harder on the older generation as they are not accustom to eating a meal without rice, while the younger, more Americanize generation can go without rice as they are already accustom to burgers, tacos and other American meals which the older generation has yet too.

Interviewer: Rice has always been a big part of the Hmong's life, it doesn't matter if we're eating breakfast, lunch or dinner, there's always rice with each meal. Now that there's a shortage of rice and the rising price for a bag of 50lbs rice, do you think that the Hmong community will be eating least rice now? **Phoua:** It's really hard to say.. Some families may be cutting down on how much rice they are consuming as our economy is not in the best of shape at this moment. Some families CANNOT afford to buy rice as often as before due to the high prices. It's hard to believe but it's a fact that a lot of people don't want to acknowledge. But what a lot of people are failing to acknowledge too is that this rice shortage is not only affecting Hmong and other Asian people, it's affecting other ethnicities that are non-Asian as well who consume rice on a daily basis just as we do. I'm sure that with the rice shortage, the Hmong community will have to find alternative to substitute rice. **Interviewer:** Thank you Phoua for sharing your thoughts with us. Until the next crop gets harvested, sometime in October, families are stocking up on rice because it doesn't look like the shortage is going to be over anytime soon.

If you would like to receive our newsletter on a regular basis, please contact HCMDI at (313) 526-6380 or you can email us at hcmdi_newsletter@yahoo.com We will be more than happy to send you a newsletter. Please come and check out our website at www.hmongdetroit.org

Hmong Recipes

Ncuav Kib

1 Hnab hmoov nplaum	½ khob hmoov nplej txua
½ khob mi nyuj qhuav	½ khob dej
½ khob piamthaj	1 tsp baking powder
1 poom majphaub	1 hnab noob taum ntsuab

QHAI:

Muab 1 hnab noob taum ntsuab uas twb tev tau tag lawm tsau dej cia ib hmos mam muab los cub 20 feeb thiab rau ib diav piamthaj rau. Muab cov saum no do sib xyaw thiab zuaj kom nplaum nplaum ces thiaj li puab tau ua tej lub. Muab cov taum tuav thiab muab tso rau hauv lub hmoov ces muab puab tej lub kheej kheej. Muab cov noob hnab los nphoo rau saum lub nqe ncuav ces muab kib kom daj ntxim qab lawm ces npo los noj.

If you would like to share some of your favorite recipes with us, you can email or mail it to us and we will publish it in the upcoming issue.

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Kawm Lug Moob

Koj txhaj kuv txai

1. Tsuv dlev tws dlev qws. Yog Dlaab tsi?

2. Noj ntawm ncauj tshwm ntawm taav. Yog dlaab tsi?

3. Hlawv thawg nraam caaj roob tshwm peeg qhob ntoo khoob.
Yog dlaab tsi?

4. Tsiv qaav txhib naab. Yog dlaab tsi?

5. Tsuv tsi tum tsuv. Yog dlaab tsi?

Answer will be published in the next issue.



Hmong Community of Metro-Detroit up coming events!

MAY 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2008						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JULY 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- **May 11, 2008**
Happy Mother's Day!
- **May 15, 2008**
 - Celebrating International Cultural show at Walsh College with the HCMDI's Dancer group.(Nkauj Hmoob Toj Sab)
- **May 17, 2008**
 - HCMDI's Volleyball & Basketball Scrimmage
- **May 24, 2008**
 - HCMDI's Fundraising Golf Tournament
- **May 27, 2008**
 - Come and Celebrate **Asian Month** with us at the State Capitol of Lansing with the HCMDI's Dancers. (Nkauj Hmoob MI)
- **June 14 & 15, 2008**
 - Hmong Michigan's Annual Soccer Tournament
- **June 15, 2008**
Happy Father's Day!
- **July 1, 2008**
 - Volume 1, Issue 2 comes out.



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