Dear editor,

I write this letter reflecting on how the current economic recession has affected a newer member of your community.

I moved here four months ago and was renting a very nice little house with nice neighbors at a very nice monthly rent. Due to the recession or some other unknown reason, my landlords decided to sell the house that I am currently living. With a buyer lined up, I'll be moving in the near future. The problem is as to where I'll be moving.

There are several very nice homes for sale in Holyoke, as is evidenced in your classifieds, but the pickings are currently very slim for homes available to rent. The choices right now are between affordable yet run-down, or even dirty homes, or nice homes with rent above a teacher's budget.

Looking at homes that are for sale, many of them have been for sale for several months. Some of them have even been sitting empty for that long, which as I am told, is not good for the house.

So, why don't some of these homeowners/home-sellers rent out these homes to responsible tenants (such as a teacher) who would take good care of the house and yard until the recession is over and the home can go back up for sale? This would furnish the homeowner with a reliable income that an empty house does not provide, and would also give the responsible tenant enough time to save enough money to buy a home. It would be a win-win situation for both parties.

Sincerely,
Kerri Gardner