Save Our Water

Following the lowest snowpack ever recorded and with no end to the drought in sight, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced actions that will save water, increase enforcement to prevent wasteful water use, streamline the state’s drought response and invest in new technologies that will make California more drought resilient, according to the governor’s website, gov.ca.gov. For the first time in state history, the Governor has directed the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns across California to reduce water usage by 25 percent.

As part of the changes, Brown said additional measures will crack down on water inefficiency as California enters the fourth year of a worsening water crisis. OHA will follow the lead of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), which provides water to OHA properties and to most of the households in Oakland. Some of OHA’s water-saving measures include turning off irrigation at all properties continued under Issues & Politics

Jobs for OHA Youth

A teenager with a summer job can really go places! Not only does working during the summer months provide earnings that can last well into the new school year, but it provides practical hands on work experience, exposure to various career paths, access to employers and an environment where personal and professional relationships can grow.

Since 2012, OHA has provided job opportunities throughout the summer months to residents between the ages of 14-21. This year, Oakland’s new mayor, Libby Schaaf, will be expanding the program to create year-round opportunities for employment and engagement with local businesses. Through C2 | Classrooms 2 Careers, summer employment will move beyond the workplace and will incorporate internships, job shadowing, career days, interview prep and more.

Learn about the wonderful world of youth employment at the Oakland Youth Careers Expo, Thursday, May 21, 2015. The event, to be held at Oakland’s Jamtown, located at 31 4th Street, from 9am-2pm, is sure to kick off your summer adventure with an exciting look at employment opportunities.

So whether you are looking for jobs in business administration, construction, recreation, food service, maintenance/ janitorial, education, childcare, community outreach, or something altogether different, let this be the summer that OHA hooks you up with one of the many businesses throughout Oakland who want to invest in OHA’s resident youth. If you are an OHA resident (on the lease) and between the ages of 14-21, call FCP to learn more at (510) 587-5115.
Chabot Space & Science Center Launches Access Program for Low-Income Families

Oakland's new mayor, Libby Schaaf, recently applauded the Chabot Space & Science Center for its initiative to significantly increase access to the science museum for low-income families by offering $1 admission. The program works by admitting any individual receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) admission for only $1 per person with no limit to the number of visits per year.

With a looming shortage of scientists, and a critical need for diversity in science fields, it’s important that science museums like Chabot fill a need to provide informal science education in diverse communities. Chabot Space & Science Center's commitment to welcome all members of the Bay Area community goes to the core of the organization’s mission and extends to several programs already in place.

Since Chabot’s founding in 1883 there has been a policy of free access to the telescopes. Currently, the Chabot Observatory Deck is open every Friday and Saturday night (weather permitting) for telescope viewing. The popular youth programs Champions of Science and Galaxy Explorers, provide year-round science education and mentoring to 260 student per year. The program is underwritten by corporate and foundation gifts.

To receive the discounted admission, participants need only to show their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card at the admission desk and pay the discounted fee for each person in their group, up to a maximum of 10 people. In California this EBT card is called the Golden State Advantage Card, although Chabot will honor an EBT from any state. The museum does not accept the EBT card as payment; guests must use cash, debit or credit cards.

With the Golden State Advantage Cardholder Program, Chabot joins a nationwide effort to make the museum more accessible. “Museums for All” is an initiative of the Association of Children’s Museums and the Institute of Museum & Library Services to encourage museums to offer low-income families affordable year-round admission for visits to participating museums. A program goal is to enlist 125 museum participants across the country. Chabot’s program is a pilot that will extend to March 2016, and funds are being sought to enable the Center to continue the program. Be sure to check with other museums and educational institutions for possible discounted programs.

Located in the Oakland hills, Chabot Space & Science Center focuses on the earth, life, physical and astronomical sciences, with a 128-year legacy of serving Bay Area communities through exhibits, public programs, school field trips, science camps, teacher training, teen development programs and community outreach.

To learn more about these programs visit www.chabotspace.org.
Success Stories

Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland 2015 Youth of the Year award winner

Mahlik A. Smith, a McClymonds High School senior who clearly excels in virtually everything he does. He has been able to maintain an impressive 3.5 GPA, while playing basketball, football and baseball. In addition, he manages to keep his focus on his academic and athletic responsibilities in spite of personal hardships that would have derailed less determined people.

It looks like all of Mahlik’s hard work is starting to pay off. He has been accepted to Hampton University in Virginia, beginning in the fall and has been applying for scholarships to help defray the costs of college.

More impressively, Mahlik won the honor of Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland 2015 Youth of the Year. His unwavering commitment to his goals, leadership and community volunteerism made his selection an excellent choice. Sure to have a future in sports medicine, Mahlik is a shining example of the success that can be reached when goals are set and you have the support of family, friends and a community.

Congratulations, Mahlik, for leading by example and being named Youth of the Year!

Q: Will OHA ever have online account services?
A: Yes. By the summer of 2015 residents will be able to manage their OHA accounts from the convenience of home when the new online resident portal is launched. A portal is simply a gateway to the information and resources available to each family living in OHA-subsidized housing. By introducing the portal, OHA expects to reduce the need for costly trips downtown to handle routine business like completing recertifications and submitting rent changes. Public housing residents will be able to view rent statements and submit maintenance work orders; and Section 8 participants will have a similar ability to access and submit forms online, as well as view their current rent portion and the portion of the rent paid to the landlord by OHA.

This new level of service is being made possible as a result of recent changes made to OHA’s computer information systems. In February, OHA closed its business offices for a week in order to install, Yardi Voyager, a new comprehensive software system that combines and aligns three separate systems into one. This update is already making the processing of the documents and financial transactions, which is necessary for maintaining a program that serves nearly 16,500 households, easier and more seamless.

More information will be provided about the portal soon, but until then, rest assured that OHA is working around the clock to improve the delivery of service. OHA thanks residents for their continued patience while all systems come online.

RENT STATEMENT CHANGES

Take note of your tenant information on your rent statements. Then:
- Tear-off the rent payment stub and include it with your rent payment;
- Record your new 16-digit Client Code and include that number on your rent payment;
- Also include your 8-digit number (this number begins with a “T0”) on your rent payment. OAHPI clients only have been issued a new Client Number;
- Please continue to open and review your rent statements for policy and lease changes, and other updates, including the maintenance fee schedule, minimum rents and late fees.

RAB Blog

The Resident Advisory Board (RAB) would like to encourage you to join us at our next meeting. The meeting is open to all Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) residents and is designed to support residents in making recommendations regarding the development of the Annual Making Transitions Work (MTW) plan. It is a place where residents can provide feedback and opinions on any significant amendment or modification to the OHA operational plan. It is also a forum that addresses issues that impact the OHA communities. This year, the RAB is scheduled to focus on the following topics:
- MTW Presentations
- Mental Health Presentation
- Senior Assistance Presentation
- Emergency Preparedness Presentation
- Youth Violence Presentation
- Voter Registration Drive
- Public Safety Presentations
- City Planning and Building Presentation

RAB’S MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that OHA Public Housing Residents and Section 8 Participants actively participate in the decision making process regarding OHA policies and procedures and are actively engaged in their community as leaders.

The RAB meets the 1st Thursday of each month from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at 1619 Harrison Street. For more information about the meeting, please call (510) 587-5129.

Success Stories

OHA salutes one of our residents, Mahlik A. Smith, a McClymonds High School senior who clearly excels in virtually everything he does. He has been able to maintain an impressive 3.5 GPA, while playing basketball, football and baseball. In addition, he manages to keep his focus on his academic and athletic responsibilities in spite of personal hardships that would have derailed less determined people.

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RESOURCES

Proposed Retrofit May Impact Tenants

More than 22,000 rental units in Oakland are in potential soft-story buildings—apartments with parking or open commercial space on the first floor. In a major earthquake, unreinforced soft-story apartments such as these are at risk of collapse, resulting in personal injury, destroyed possessions, loss of housing, or loss of life.

The City of Oakland is proposing a new seismic retrofit program for soft story apartments of 5 or more units in pre-1991 buildings. Learn more about the proposed Soft Story Seismic Retrofit Program coming before the Oakland City Council this spring at www.oaklandnet.com/homeretrofit.
Family Wellness Workshops Now Available

In a recent paper published by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris of the Bayview Pediatric Clinic in San Francisco, a link was found between the physical ailments of low-income children and correlating childhood experiences. When children endure adverse conditions, the emotional outcomes often last for years and perpetuate cycles of poverty. Furthermore, living in distressed neighborhoods and having financial stress can lead to an inability to execute the tasks—such as attending night school or seeking unemployment—that could ultimately lift people from poverty.

In an effort to provide greater support to residents who struggle with emotional issues, OHA has partnered with the Ann Martin Center to provide psychotherapy services. The workshops and programs help families develop confidence, strengthen social and communications skills and help clients improve their ability to cope with emotional, interpersonal and behavioral challenges.

The center now provides parent education workshops at OHA’s East and West District Offices, that are intended to strengthen parent-child relationships. By addressing many of the concerns parents have about their child’s emotional, behavioral and academic development, families can get much needed help in their journey to wellness. With an emphasis on prevention and early intervention, the workshops provide vital support, skills, and tools that promote positive parenting.

To participate in the Parent Network Support Group, attend Parent Education Workshop, or to learn more about the Ann Martin Center, please contact Hanan Albatbain at halbatbain@oakha.org or (510) 587-5132.

Teen Scene
Decisions! Pressure!! Expenses!!!

Colleges, applications, financial aid, fees, books, GPA’s … decisions, pressure, expenses! Are you considering going to college? Do you need help with college applications, applying for financial aid and understanding other important information about college? Don’t wait until your senior year to begin to think about this…start early! The Oakland Housing Authority plans to develop programs and support services that help you reach your goal of going to college by guiding you through the process. Please help OHA develop a pilot program for college-bound youth like you. Your input will help us help you achieve your dreams, and leave the nightmare behind. Call (510) 587-5114 for more information.

Labor Day Puzzle

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OREGON PARADE STRIKES
REVOLUTION PICKET CONDITIONS
KNIGHTS OF LABOR NEW YORK CITY CANADA

BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Continued from reverse

Be Informed: Have a list ready of radio and news broadcasts for your area; be aware of weather watches and warnings; update your ICE (in case of emergency) contacts so family can respond quickly in an emergency.

For more information on how to prepare for a natural disaster check out the following links:
http://www.ready.gov/
http://emergency.cdc.gov/ http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/OFD
Protect Your Identity

Identity theft comes in many forms, all of which wreak havoc in the lives of the victim and create compounding obstacles to overcome. Victims of identity theft have reported having someone use their personal information—such as social security number or personal identification numbers (PIN)—to open bank and credit card accounts, purchase houses, apply for jobs and even commit cyber-crimes. Over the past few years identity thieves have stolen tax documents and fraudulently filed tax returns before the victims even realized that their W-2 information had been compromised. The IRS estimates that by 2016, $21 billion will be lost to tax refund fraud and shows no signs of ending that trend. While technological advances in commerce and determined criminals will continue to increase the opportunities for your identity to be used illegally, there are things you can do to minimize your risk.

Identity theft is a crime. Today there are better ways to catch culprits and much stiffer penalties for those convicted than there were just 20 years ago when identity theft was a relatively new phenomenon. Nonetheless, catching thieves after they have stolen your identity is probably of little comfort to people who have to then spend months, or even years, going through a process of undoing the damage done.

Part of the reason the damage can be so extensive is that many victims do not realize that their information was stolen until they begin to face the consequences of the crime. Money can be removed from your bank account, credit scores can plummet, bill collectors may make harassing phone calls and employers can turn you down for a job for which they were considering you.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, tax refund fraud is the biggest category of identify fraud reported. Scammers use Social Security numbers and other information collected in data breaches to steal a person’s identity and file for their tax return. Frequently, the first time a taxpayer becomes aware that their data has been compromised is after they file their return, are waiting for a refund, and receive a notice from the IRS that somebody has already filed their tax return.

With so many people recently filing tax returns and awaiting refund status, it is helpful to use the IRS or State Franchise Tax Board’s websites to track refund status. Ideas for reducing your risk in the future include filing early; when given the opportunity, opt for high security by using login credentials that are harder to figure out; and modify your withholdings to reduce the amount of your return.

For more suggestions on ways to protect your identity and your money, visit the Federal Trade Commission at http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/privacy-identity or the Internal Revenue Service at http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection.

Save Our Water

continued from front page

(which may lead to lawns turning brown) and monitoring water usage at each property to ensure we are all doing our part to conserve. OHA encourages residents to immediately report all leaks to your property administrator or landlord.

Follow EBMUD’s tips and mandatory outdoor watering rules now in effect:

- Turning off the water while brushing teeth saves 25 gallons per month.
- Turning off the water when shaving saves up to 300 gallons per month.
- Run the washing machine only when you have a full load of laundry.
- For lightly soiled laundry loads, use the shortest wash cycle.
- Keeping your showers brief, a five minute shower using a low-flow showerhead uses 12 gallons of water.
- Water lawns no more than two days per week with no runoff.
- Water only before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- No watering allowed within 48 hours of measurable rainfall.
- No washing of driveways and sidewalks; except as needed for health and safety.
- Use only hoses with shutoff nozzles to wash vehicles.

Given the severity of the drought and the urgency of conservation there is no shortage of information available at your fingertips geared toward helping you save water. Interactive charts, calculators, online tours, hotlines along with rebate programs and money-saving coupons are among the tools geared toward helping you reduce your use of our precious water resources.

DON’T WAIT FOR DISASTER TO STRIKE

The possibility of a public health emergency such as a natural disaster, act of terrorism or a disease outbreak will cause concern for many people. Are you prepared in the event one of these events occurs? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following for all individuals and families.

Get a Kit: If a disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water or electricity for a period of time. Create emergency kits for your home, office, school and car; at a minimum each kit should have 1 gallon of water for each person, Non-perishable food to last a minimum of 3 days, flashlights, batteries, cellphone with portable charger, battery or solar powered radio, first aid kit, medical supplies, emergency blanket, extra cash and a multipurpose tool.

Make a Plan: Create an emergency contact list that every household member has with them every day, establish an out of town contact for individuals to contact in the event they cannot reach family members nearby, establish a meeting place outside of the home, teach children to call 911, determine escape routes from your home, office etc.

Continued on reverse
### AT-A-GLANCE • SPRING 2015

#### JUNEAU

Juneteenth is the oldest continuous celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The day is marked with public celebrations and family gatherings.

On June 19th, 1865 Union soldiers landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were free. This was two-and-a-half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation – which became official January 1, 1863.

We celebrate Juneteenth and commemorate African American freedom in the United States. We mark this day to emphasize education and achievement, to recognize the importance of civic engagement and voter empowerment, and to acknowledge that freedom must always be fought for.

Visit the Board of Commissioners web page for Board meeting schedule, agendas and minutes at http://www.oakha.org/boc.html

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Language translation services are available in 151 languages at all offices at no cost.

Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todas las oficinas sin ningún costo.

**Trung** chính thông dịch** dịch vụ** cho to 151 tiếng nói miễn phí cho quý vị dạng có tay
nhếu vang phòng gần đây.

**所有**办公**地點**都會**免費**提供151種
的外語**翻譯**服務。