OHA’s 75th Anniversary

Created in 1938 under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, 2013 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Oakland Housing Authority. What started as war-time housing for workers near the port of Oakland has grown and evolved to become affordable housing for over 15,000 families, seniors and individuals living with disabilities throughout the city. OHA now offers a wide range of supportive services that help OHA residents in their efforts to achieve maximum self-sufficiency, more than at any other time in the past.

For those who were raised in households subsidized by OHA, positive changes are evident and there are many compliments for the improvements in customer service and the quality of OHA housing. One thing that has not changed is the dedication of the OHA staff to the City of Oakland and the residents who make their homes in our community. OHA invites residents to share their experiences and photos which might be incorporated in our 75th Anniversary commemorative material being developed over the course of the year. Whether your piece of OHA history is woven into the fabric of the stories we tell or your photo appears in our newly designed website or other printed material, you are encouraged to represent all that is good about the Oakland Housing Authority.

Please share/upload memories and photos to OHACommunications@oakha.org.

Jobs of the Future

New years often inspire new goals and a shuffling of priorities to make the future more successful than the past. Whether your resolutions for 2013 involve getting a new, better or higher paying job or losing weight or just taking more time to stop and smell the roses, there is an abundance of supportive services all around to help you succeed.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics tracks and reports trends in the job market that include industries and professions with anticipated future job growth. Preparing for the jobs of the future with targeted training and customized education plans is a prudent way to get a jump on the competition. While there will be more jobs available, there will also be more people competing for those jobs as increased automation in the workplace will displace some workers and some “baby boomers” will have to delay retirement due to a sluggish economy.

With the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) being in full effect by 2014, careers in the healthcare field will increase significantly. Over 35 million new Americans will now have access to healthcare, and significant growth in the field is anticipated in areas of healthcare delivery, medical

continued inside
President’s Day

Not since Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) was elected to his fourth term in 1944 has a democratic candidate won re-election with over 50% of the popular vote. In fact, President Obama made history as one of only four presidents to win each of two presidential elections with more than 50% of the votes in the past 100 years. Ronald Reagan, Dwight D. Eisenhower, FDR, and now, Barack Obama have earned a place in the history books for their popularity; however, all U.S. Presidents deserve our honor and praise for leading the nation. The job of president has been held by only 43 different men, each with unique and unpredictable challenges. While the political climate may shift over time the complications of governing amidst political opposition endures.

Since President Obama’s second inauguration on January 20, there have already been major swings on hot-button issues like immigration reform, the debt ceiling, gun control, women in the military serving in combat, Roe v. Wade, and arguably most important, changes to the Electoral College voting system, which opponents fear would give greater weight to the votes of voters in some of the nation’s rural districts. Political followers will be busy for the next four years watching the drama unfold, predicting the 2014 mid-term elections and debating who will seek the presidency in 2016.

Recognizing the contributions and hard work of the American President, the holiday to honor George Washington, “the Father of Our Country,” was established by Congress in 1880 on the date of his birth. Since that time, this day that originally honored one president has evolved into a day called Presidents Day to honor Washington, Lincoln and all presidents on the third Monday of February annually. Abraham Lincoln’s birthday is sometimes recognized the week prior.

This year, the President’s Day holiday is Monday, February 18, 2013. The day is often celebrated with school assemblies, parades, and for some, a day off of work. Check www2.oaklandnet.com/Events for local activities.

For fun, presidential facts and trivia visit www.history.com/topics/the-us-presidents.

America’s Growing Diversity

If the 2012 election taught us nothing else about the shifting demographics in America, it made clear that Latino Americans are a growing force to be reckoned with. Since the nation’s founding, Mexicans, Cubans, Spanish and other ethnic groups of Spanish origin have played an integral role in the cultural, economic, religious and political life of the country. Nowhere has their presence been greater than in southeast and western states like Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Posed to become the most populous ethnic group in California by the year 2042, Hispanics are the “fastest growing ethnic group in the country” according to the 2010 US Census.

Celebrations like Cinco de Mayo, César Chavez Day, La Semana Santa (Easter) and Mexican Independence Day go a long way toward helping people appreciate the richness of the Hispanic culture which is inextricably woven into the fabric of American life. Those celebrations also help to tear down barriers that have ostracized many Latinos. Increasingly, Americans are realizing how important it is to understand the significance of Hispanics not just in history but in the role they play in our daily lives. Today, millions of influential Hispanics permeate every facet of American life in politics, arts, entertainment, business, media, education and healthcare. From Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Hilda Solis to Los Angeles Mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa, Nike CEO, William Perez and media personalities like Eva Longoria, John Quinones, and Rosario Dawson. We should expect Hispanics to be featured more prominently in American life as President Obama has tapped several people for highly visible roles like San Antonio Mayor, Julian Castro, who delivered the Keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2012.

This year, keep an eye out for the local activists who make a difference as well as the 100 Most Influential Hispanics as identified by www.hispanicbusiness.com.

Jobs of the Future

continued from front

records billing and health information and technology (IT). Growth is also expected in the social services fields and in construction. A decline in employment is expected in federal government, particularly at the US Postal Service and in the garment and textile industry.

As employment ticks up, so too will the need for childcare and other ancillary services (like dry cleaning, auto maintenance and personal services). Bay Area organizations like Bananas provides free referrals for childcare as well as information about how to become a licensed childcare provider.

OHA offers tools and resources to help with job searches, career changes and education. The Oakland Unified School District’s Adult and Career Education conducts a Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) Program. Also, the Family and Community Partnerships department at OHA presents Microsoft Office Suite computer training classes year-round to residents.

For more information contact Patraya Lowe-Smith at (510) 587-5107.

Spotlight

FSS Graduate
Sheila Douglas (October 2012)

College acceptance:
Brandon Douglas was accepted to San Francisco State University for Fall 2013.

Mother and son are on the road to success!

Spotlights for future issues:
Send names of OHA family and friends who have recent accomplishments you’d like to share with the housing community.
The Resident Advisory Board (RAB) announces with great sadness that William Curry, a former OHA Commissioner and member of the RAB and the RAB’s newsletter committee passed away peacefully in the hospital before Christmas, 2012.

Mr. Curry served on our Board of Commissioners from 2010 to 2012. He believed that “knowledge is power” and was passionate about helping OHA residents gain access to the Internet by working with the Get Connected Oakland!, initiative of Mayor Quan, and OCCUR to help refurbish computers so that everyone would have access to the modern tools used to gather information.

In his spare time, Mr. Curry loved politics and was a staunch supporter of President Obama. An avid NPR listener, he often called into talk radio shows to share his political opinions and participate in the conversations that shape our nation. He also loved Irish folk music, art and working on creative projects at home. William Curry was an active member of The Church in Berkeley and is survived by his daughter, son, son-in-law and three grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his fellow RAB members and all who worked with him.

E-mail your comments or news to ohamailview@oakha.org or drop off content at your management office.

**FAMILY RESOURCES**

Saving money always makes sense and now residents at Lockwood Gardens can save money on their grocery bills through a new pilot program. The Oakland Food Pantry has partnered with OHA to provide residents fresh and healthy food every Thursday between 2pm-4pm in the Lockwood Gardens community room. Unlike other food pantries that provide bags of food that have been pre-packed, through this program residents may select foods they prefer which minimizes waste. The healthy food choices also allow families to cook the foods they enjoy while saving money on their food budget. The program is expected to eventually expand and be available at other communities in the future.

**YOUR VOICE**

**Q:** I’m a resident and I need to have my blood pressure checked. Does OHA ever have health fairs?

**A:** The Samuel Merritt Nursing program is offering health clinics to OHA residents, providing health screenings for vision, blood pressure, scoliosis and developmental assessment. The weekly clinic will operate January 17 through May 2, 2012 every Thursday at 1327 65th Avenue, in the Lockwood Gardens Community Room, from 1pm - 4:30 pm. All services are free!! For additional information, contact Dawn Pipkins at 510-777-4123.

For residents who do not have health insurance or other access to regular healthcare, the East Oakland Family Health Center and the West Oakland Family Health Center are local options available to meet some of your medical needs. Visit www.wohc.org to learn more about services and fees.

E-mail your comments or news to ohamailview@oakha.org or drop off content at your management office.

**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.
Mentoring Helps Drive Success

For many, the key to success is opportunity. The opportunity to learn in a supportive environment, the opportunity to explore without judgment, and the opportunity to thrive while pursuing your dreams are infinitely more possible with the guidance of a strong mentor. Several mentor programs are available through community-based organizations that have established partnerships with OHA.

Whether you would like to establish a mentor/mentee relationship for yourself to help with advancing your education or career or for your child(ren) to assist with homework, college test prep or emotional support, there is a program that meets your needs.

If you would like to volunteer to be a mentor and share your knowledge and expertise please consider working with one of these organizations that reach out to the OHA community.

Mentoring sometimes unlocks the potential that leads to great things!

Mentor Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be A Mentor</td>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>(888) 232-6368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost West Oakland</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>(510) 444-7285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Works</td>
<td>5-Adult</td>
<td>(510) 486-2340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brothers on the Rise</td>
<td>9-14</td>
<td>(510) 599-3582</td>
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Kid’s Play

Mother’s Day

Word Search

Ahm (Arabic)  Moji (Hindi)  Mamma (Italian)  Mother (English)  Mzazi (Swahili)  Haakui (Maori)  Makauhine (Hawaiian)  Mater (Latin)  Muter (Yiddish)  Okaasan (Japanese)  Madre (Spanish)  Maman (French)  Moeder (Afrikaans)  Mutter (German)  Pabo (Punjabi)

Send questions or comments to nataliegtmp@oakha.org or ohacommunications@oakha.org
Community Partners Host Gun Buyback Program

In Oakland, 131 homicides were recorded in 2012, which is a much larger contributor to America’s murder rate. In 2012, there were an estimated 48,000 deaths caused by firearms. The gun debate now underway across America and in the halls of Congress has been called one of the biggest challenges facing our country. While that debate continues in Washington, DC, local governments and activists are taking matters into their own hands with gun buyback programs. Mayors Against Illegal Guns, mental health professionals, and video game producers were among those who participated in the discussions to find common ground that might begin to help affect change. The most controversial participant in those meetings was Wayne LaPierre of the National Rifle Association (NRA) who has adamantly opposed any and all legislation that would limit access to semi-automatic weapons, high-capacity clips and magazines, or even background checks which recent polling shows about 90% of Americans favor.

While that debate continues in Washington, DC, local governments and activists are taking matters into their own hands with gun buyback programs and other education outreach. With a $100,000 donation from Keith Stephenson, YouthUprising, and their community partners hosted a gun buyback program that netted nearly 700 guns in Oakland and San Francisco. With no questions asked, Oakland residents were given $200 in exchange for guns which will be turned into the metal used to build park benches and light posts. One in five of Oakland’s homicides happen within one mile of YouthUprising’s office, which thrusts them into the center of the problem both literally and figuratively.

When sensible solutions to the out of control killing happening in our nation’s suburbs as well as in our inner cities is resisted or dismissed as politically impossible, we all need to step up and make our voices heard. Start with your own family by making your home safe and free of illegal guns. Get involved with local organizations like YouthUprising to give your children healthy alternatives to negative environmental influences. Learn about the 23 Executive Orders announced by President Obama that would improve inter-agency communication, research into the impact of guns within our communities and begin to reduce gun-related crime. Visit www.whitehouse.gov now-is-the-time for a comprehensive view of the national discussion. Vote for the change you wish to see in your community by learning where your elected representatives stand on issues of concern to you. And commit to making a difference in whatever ways, large or small, you feel comfortable.

Global Problem Local Solution

The OHA Board of Commissioners recently passed a resolution ordering the destruction of all firearms no longer used by OHAPD. Now, when OHAPD purchases new weapons the older ones will not be reconditioned and re-sold, which could potentially put them back on the streets in the hands of criminals. OHAPD is doing their part to make Oakland safer by reducing the proliferation of guns on the street.
**February**

- **02/01 - 02/28/13**
  - Black History Month
- **02/14/13**
  - Valentine’s Day
- **02/18/13**
  - President’s Day**

**March**

- **03/10/13**
  - Daylight savings time begins
- **03/14/13**
  - Resident Advisory Board Meeting
- **03/17/13**
  - St. Patrick’s Day
- **03/20/13**
  - Spring begins
- **03/25/13**
  - Cesar Chavez Day**
- **03/31/13**
  - Easter

**April**

- **04/04/13**
  - Resident Advisory Board Meeting*
- **04/15/13**
  - Tax Day
- **04/24/13**
  - Administrative Professionals Day

**May**

- **05/02/13**
  - Resident Advisory Board Meeting
- **05/05/13**
  - Cinco de Mayo
- **05/12/13**
  - Mother’s Day
- **05/22/13**
  - Earth Day
- **05/27/13**
  - Memorial Day**

*Advisory Board “work group” only meetings. Contact FCP for more information at (510) 587-5110. **OHA business offices closed.

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

All OHA offices will be closed Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7, 2013 for staff training. Limited staff will be available for emergencies. Please call for (510) 874-1500 for assistance. We look forward to serving you when we re-open on Friday March 8.