



OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



Summer / Fall
2011

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The Scoop

In an 11th hour closed door agreement and subsequent votes by both houses of Congress, the Fiscal Year 2011 budget passed and was signed by President Obama. This concluded months of debate, negotiation and concern about how a government shut down might impact the various agencies funded by the Federal government. It also ended the concern that many Oakland Housing Authority participants had when confronted with the prospect of OHA losing some of its funding. To follow the 2012 budget process, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb>.

RAB Newsletter Committee

- Commissioner William Curry
- Henry Flowers
- Lillian Gibson
- Robin Johnson
- Tina Moses

Staff

- Greer McVay, Managing Editor
- Jillian Ryan, Senior Editor

OHA in the Mix

Oakland Housing Authority is busy! Check out what's on the horizon for OHA public housing residents and Section 8 participants.

Parent Café

OHA has partnered with Alameda First 5 to establish a Parent Café at the Lockwood Gardens Community Center located at 1327 – 65th Ave. in Oakland. Parent leaders and OHA staff will lead these workshops giving parents an opportunity to come together, share resources, speak with one another about their concerns and learn skills to build stronger families. The first Parent Café is planned for late July. For details please contact Jillian Ryan at 510-587-5110.

Summer Lunch Program

The City of Oakland's Summer Lunch Program is coming to OHA. The program provides free, nutritious meals to children throughout Oakland. From June 20-August 19, 2011, OHA has arranged for lunch to be provided daily from 11:30am-1:00pm, at the Peralta West District Office at 935 Union Street, Lockwood Gardens Community Center at 1327 – 65th Street and Campbell Village Recreation Center at 800 Willow Street. Through good nutrition children are able to learn, play, grow and develop healthy eating habits promoting normal weight and a positive self-image—making them better prepared to start another school year. If you have yet to stop in with your child please come by—healthy things are happening in Oakland!

Back-to-School Backpack Give-A-Way

Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) is planning a school backpack give-away when school is back in session based on the overwhelming success of last year's program. Oakland Housing Authority Police Department and the Oakland Black Firefighters Association co-sponsored the event and issued over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies to the youth at Lockwood Gardens and OHA scattered sites. FCP plans to have another backpack give away this year. For more information call FCP at (510) 587-5110.

Summer Jobs with the Mayor's Office

Several OHA youth, ages 14-21 are currently participating in the Mayors Summer Jobs Program (MSJP). MSJP offers youth subsidized employment lasting six to eight weeks at job sites throughout Oakland. Summer job participants will earn \$8/hour for 120 hours of employment, with ongoing training provided by partnering youth agencies. Youth Employment Partnership (YEP) is serving as administrator for this year's program and has managed the job placement. Funding partners include City of Oakland funds through Measure Y, Oakland Fund for Children and Youth, Department of Public Works, and the Oakland Workforce Investment Board, supporting over 300 positions. Funding from Alameda County will support over 300 additional jobs for youth involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. Recruitment for these positions usually occurs in May and June.

OHA in the Mix continued...

Spotlight

Purchased a Home

LaDonna McTiller
Claudetta Porter
Esther Hancox
Karreimah Sanders
Agnes Baariu

Family Self-Sufficiency

Graduates

Agnes Baariu
Kisha Bolds

Spotlights for future issues:

Send names of OHA family and friends who have recent accomplishments you'd like to share with the housing community. If space permits we will include:

- Graduates of High Schools and College
- New Jobs/Promotions
- Acceptance to College
- Completion of a skills training or vocational course

Please forward entries to: jryan@oakha.org. Make sure to include your name, phone number and e-mail address, along with the name of the person you want to recognize and your relationship to that person.

4th of July History

Known as the 4th of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.



From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

Visit the City of Oakland's events calendar to learn about fun 4th of July celebrations or check out Jack London Square: www.jacklondonsquare.com 🌿

Staying Cool Beyond the Pool

When most people think of summer they think of school vacation, hot days, long warm evenings and outdoor festivals and activities like swimming in the pool. But it can also be a time when heatstroke, dehydration and sunburn are of concern. Being prepared for the heat that summer brings helps make summer safe and fun for all!

Approximately 10% of OHA Public Housing and Section 8 households are elderly and people with disabilities who are at greater risk of suffering the ill-effects of the hot summer months. Each year seniors, children and pets, nationwide, fall victim to the heat and in many cases, a little bit of preparation could have saved a life. Heat related illness is one of the leading killers in the summer months and reason for hospitalization. Here are some potentially life-saving tips to help keep you cool and safe.

Drink plenty of water. Aim to drink at least 6-8 8oz glasses of water a day and be sure to increase that amount to at least 3 or 4 extra glasses if you are going to exercise or do strenuous activity in the sun.

Wear cool clothing. Light clothing such as cottons and linens, allow our bodies to breathe easily and keep



Photo by Greer McVay

moisture in rather than cause us to sweat profusely and lose valuable fluids.

Stay out of the sun as much as possible to avoid dehydration and heatstroke. Take shade under a tree or awning of a house as much as you can.

Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages when in the hot summer sun. Alcohol strips the water from your body and changes your body's chemistry. This can create symptoms of dizziness, tiredness, and lack of energy. Consuming alcohol in the hot sun can also make you nauseous and cause vomiting, making your body even more dehydrated.

Learn more about how you can keep your family and seniors safe during hot weather by visiting: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/NR2009-60.aspx> 🌿

Summer Camps



Once again OHA has partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oakland to send OHA children to Camp Mendocino over the summer. This year we will be sending 80 OHA youth to camp. Orientations were conducted in May and June and two sessions of camp will occur in July. If this is an opportunity you would like your children to share in the future please keep your eyes open for the February 2012 edition of this newsletter for 2012 camp information. 🌿

Success Stories



Agnes Baairu was a model student in the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, a five year program that helps future homeowners, entrepreneurs and students. With home ownership as her goal, Ms. Baairu was able to build and maintain an escrow savings account that would ultimately be used toward a down payment and ownership costs of her new home. Through the program participants receive assistance with setting and achieving personal goals, obtaining quality employment and learning about money management. Throughout the program Ms. Baairu never took her eyes off the prize and today she is close to closing escrow on her very own home. Ms. Baairu (r) is seen here receiving her escrow check from FSS Coordinator Sonya Wright.

MOTHER'S RESOURCES

Alone No More – for Single Moms



Whether you are a single mother by accident or by design, there are bound to be times when you feel alone and unsupported. Even women who have very strong support systems find themselves feeling as if they have to do everything by themselves, for themselves. You are not alone. Many helpful resources are right at your fingertips.

HELPFUL LINKS:

www.parenting.com/mom

www.ivillage.com

YOUR VOICE

Dear readers:

We have dedicated this space to you. We encourage you to submit content that we might share with the rest of the OHA resident community.

Whether you want to respond to something you read in this newsletter, or you have a concern about OHA policy; or if you want to share your interest in poetry or have a story you think will inspire others, we want to hear from you.

This newsletter is for, by and about OHA residents and we want you to feel free to contribute. Your submissions will be considered and included based on space availability and appropriateness for our large audience of families with children.

E-mail content to ohacommunications@oakha.org or drop it off at your management office.

RAB Blog

The Resident Advisory Board (RAB) is moving forward at lightening speed. Well maybe more like light bulb speed! Nevertheless, we are excited about many of the new initiatives taking shape as a result of the hard work of so many concerned and involved residents. Many of these initiatives are covered in the pages of this newsletter. This is your go-to source to learn what is happening around OHA that affects you.

While the RAB is growing, it is not nearly as large as we'd like it to be. We invite you to come to an upcoming meeting and learn more about what we do and join if you decide you want to make a difference. The 1st Thursday of each month the RAB meets at 5:00PM at the West District office (935 Union Street). Concerned residents, staff and guest speakers discuss ways to make Oakland Housing better for us all. Complimentary dinner is served and children are welcome.

Commit to joining us soon!

OHA's New Computer Lab

In 2010, OHA opened the doors of the Department of Family and Community Partnerships (FCP). This new department now houses the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program, the Section 8 Homeownership program, the Employment Development program, a new educational program, and facilitates the monthly Resident Advisory Board meetings.

Most recently, FCP partnered with several organizations to form Get Connected Oakland!. On Thursday, April 28, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan hosted a press conference at the West District Office where she officially launched Get Connected

Oakland!, a citywide initiative to eliminate the digital divide throughout the city by making it as simple as possible for everyone to have broadband Internet access along with training and tech support.

The backdrop for the event was the West District Office's new Technology and Learning Center. The center consists of 15 desktop computers purchased by OHA from OTX-West. FCP intends to use the lab in conjunction with its Employment Development program to assist with resume writing, internet-based job search and employment training.



There will be additional focus on OHA youth who attend MLK, Jr. and PLACE at Prescott elementary schools. Students from these schools are using the web-based tutorial program, Lets Go Learn, and can continue to access it after school and during the summer. FCP will also provide assistance to senior residents who may have limited knowledge of computer technology. The Technology and Learning Center summer hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M. Please stop in to check out the new center, get resume assistance or help setting up an email account. 🌱

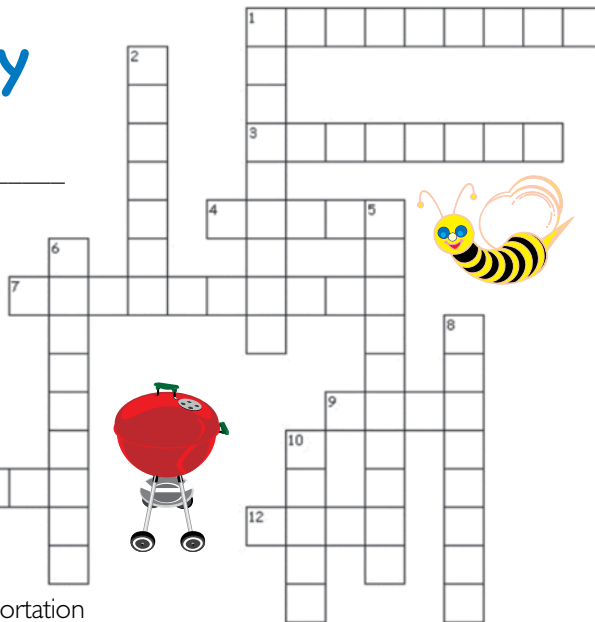
Kid's Play

Across

1. From caterpillar to _____
3. Dad's grill
4. A gardener's worst enemy
7. Pink juicy fruit
9. In the summer, the weather is _____
11. I have a rod and reel, let's go _____
12. A long walk

Down

1. Insect with yellow and black stripes
2. Healthy summertime transportation
5. Protective eyewear
6. A patty and a bun
8. Favorite drink of young salespeople
10. Playground toy you swoosh down



Word List: barbeque, bicycle, bumblebee, butterfly, fishing, hamburgers, hike, lemonade, slide, sunglasses, warm, watermelon, weeds

Teen Scene

Late Night Live!

Teens now have a safe place to go from 8pm-midnight on Friday and Saturday nights for fun activities, sports, music performance, computer class and digital media arts training. Late Night Live is currently available at the McClymonds High School's gym and the Rainbow Recreation Center in East Oakland with additional locations opening soon. OHAPD, OPD and OUSDPD will all offer security, making Late Night Live a place parents and teens can feel good about attending. For more information contact the City of Oakland.

Contest

Rules: Submit your entry at any of our business offices or mail to:

Oakland Housing Authority

935 Union Street, Oakland CA 94607

Attn: Family and Community Partnerships

Entries received by July 31, with all correct answers will be entered into a drawing for tickets to an upcoming Oakland A's baseball game. Six (6) randomly selected prize winners will receive one ticket for every family member residing in the household.

1. Name any one of the programs or services offered at the Department of Family and Community Partnerships. _____

2. What day and time do the RAB meetings occur each month? _____

3. When does the next Sherwin-Williams training course begin? _____

4. In addition to the helpful tips presented, name one thing people can do to stay cool during the summer months. _____

Hint: answers are contained in the articles in this newsletter.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____



ISSUES & POLITICS

America Needs Dads

In 1960, less than 8 million children were living in families where the father was absent. Today the number of children living in father-absent homes stands at 24 million. That means that tonight one out of every three children in America will go to sleep in a home in which their father does not live. Children who grow up in father-absent homes are significantly more likely to do poorly on almost any measure of child well-being. For example:

- Almost 75 percent of American children who grow up in single-parent homes will experience poverty before they turn 11-years-old, compared to only 20 percent for families where there are two parents.
- Violent criminals are overwhelmingly males who grew up without fathers, including 72 percent of adolescent murderers and 70 percent of long-term prison inmates.
- Children living in father-absent homes are also more likely to be suspended from school, or to drop out; be treated for an emotional or behavioral problem; commit suicide as adolescents; and be victims of child abuse or neglect.

National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI), a partner in the effort to build coalitions that create fatherhood programs, encourages and supports family and father-friendly policies, develops national public education campaigns to highlight the importance of fathers in the lives of their children, provides motivation for national and local coalition-building, and provides resources to men to help them be better dads.

With the help of hundreds of public housing authorities across the nation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is taking this initiative, and now Father's Day, to a whole new level. Championed by HUD, participating public housing agencies are inviting fathers and their children who live in public housing or the surrounding community to day-long events with a two-fold purpose—to provide fun activities to support the bonding of fathers and their children, and to connect fathers with economic development resources.

For more information visit:
fatherhood.gov
fatherhood.org
hud.gov/fathersday2011 🌱

National Night Out



August 2, 2011, will be recognized throughout the nation as citizens reclaim their neighborhoods and make them crime-free during National Night Out (NNO), the nation's night out against crime. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, residents are encouraged to join their neighbors to have a neighborhood block party, ice cream social or other outdoor event to build neighborhood spirit and unity—which is the first defense against crime.

OHA supports NNO by helping our Public Housing residents and Section 8 participants plan neighborhood events and we make small contributions of food items and supplies. We'll even help you register your event with the City of Oakland. City of Oakland elected officials and employees as well as OHA staff and police officers from OHAPD and OPD enjoy visiting NNO events as a way to strengthen the ties between residents and the community leaders who serve them.

For more information on how to register your group with OHA, contact Lonetta Evans at (510) 535-3163. 🌱

OHA in the Mix continued from page 1

Sherwin-Williams

FCP and Sherwin-Williams have successfully hosted three (3) Sherwin-Williams Painters Training Courses at the West District Office, Lockwood Gardens Community Center and Campbell Village. The classes include two days training in painting fundamentals, three days of hands-on training and painting experience, plus Federal EPA Lead Abatement Certification. This program has been a gateway to employment opportunities for graduating participants. The next course is scheduled for October 10-14, 2011. If you are interested in participating please contact Andrew Frankel at 510-587-5104. 🌱



Photo by Nicole Thompson

On June 8, OHA hosted its first annual **Fathers in the Park** event, a day of fun, food and facts about available resources and information for fathers and father-figures of children residing in OHA-subsidized housing. This activity-filled day featured team-building games and basketball in the park for fathers and their children, arts and crafts for the kids while fathers attended a brief session summarizing some of the local services available to them. The day ended with a BBQ dinner served to the entire family.

In response to the call for support by President Obama's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative, NFI, HUD and other partner agencies, Oakland Housing Authority is committed to helping fathers more actively participate in the lives of their children.

AT-A-GLANCE • SUMMER/FALL 2011

JUNE

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			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		

06/08/11

Father's In the Park

06/17/11

Lockwood Block Party

06/19/11

Father's Day
Juneteenth

06/20/11-08/19/11

Summer Lunch Program

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					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						

07/04/11

4th of July

07/05/11- 07/24/11

Summer Camp
Sessions I & II

07/07/11

Resident Advisory
Board Meeting

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	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			

08/02/11

National Night Out

08/04/11

Resident Advisory Board
Meeting

08/19/11

School Back Pack Give-A-Way

08/29/11

First Day of School (OUSD)

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				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	

09/01/11

Resident Advisory
Board Meeting

09/05/11

Labor Day

09/09/11

Admissions Day

09/16/11

Mexican Independence Day



SAVE THE DATE:

DEC 15th

Holiday
Splendor



Photo by Nicole Thompson



Oakland Housing
Authority

1619 Harrison Street
Oakland, CA 94612

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

所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種
的外語翻譯服務。

Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todos las oficinas sin ningún costo.
Trương chính thông dịch đầy đủ cho tới 151 tiếng nói miễn phí cho quý vị
đang có tạy nhiều văn phòng gần đây.!