

OHA NEWS IN BRIEF

June 2003

PUBLISHED FOR RESIDENTS OF THE OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY
1619 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 874-1588

Hearts of Gold

In keeping with National Volunteer Week in April, the Oakland Housing Authority Foundation honored public housing resident volunteers on April 29, 2003, at 1619 Harrison Street. Residents walked through the doors of the Board of Commissioners' Room to a buffet of fruit, sandwiches, beverages and desserts, as they socialized at the Volunteer Recognition Reception.

It was clear to staff and residents that the volunteers dedicated not just their time, but their hearts. Attendees and staff alike learned about resident teens who initiated a local park project, young adults who gave their input to local housing developers, and seniors who rallied residents to create a sense of community.

Commissioner Melanie Shelby encouraged each honoree to return next year with a young volunteer by their side. Also in attendance was resident Commissioner Marion Mills who appreciates volunteerism as she herself volunteers her time on the Oakland Housing Authority Board.

Certificates and small gifts were given to each of the 21 attendees for their valuable contribution to their community. The program closed with a song by Shad Small, of the Oakland Housing Authority, who volunteered his time.

As the celebration ended, everyone agreed that the residents honored have something valuable and lasting—their hearts of gold.



Top photo: Commissioner Marion Mills Cato, Patricia Ison, Jon Gresley, Officer Nick Jones (5th person from left), Commissioner Melanie Shelby (2nd person from right) and the 2003 OHA Honored Resident Volunteers.

Left middle photo: Beverly Darensburg, Big Mama, happy to be honored.

Right middle photo: Commissioner Melanie Shelby (left) and Commissioner Marion Mills Cato (right) present Helena Parr (OHA resident volunteer) with her Certificate of Appreciation.

Bottom middle photo: Jon Gresley, Executive Director, thanking the volunteers. Bottom photo: Volunteers enjoying the reception. From left to right: BJ Starts, Catherine Smith, Irene Woods, Blanche Scott and Sebron Russell.

The Oakland Housing Authority would like to acknowledge the following honorees:

Joe Brown	Judy Goree	Ollie Randolph
Alzora Coleman	Bill Hamer	Louise Reed
Robert Craig	Lillie Haynes	Sebron Russell
Jean Craig	Melvin Henry	Lois Sarley
Beverly Darensburg	Lula Holliday	Nick Sarley
Emmanuel Hudson	Blanche Scott	
Bessie Duckworth	Yamesha Martin	Catherine Smith
Delonzo Ellis	Carolyn Parker	B.J. Starts
Henry Flowers	Helena Parr	Ivory Thompson
Lillian Gibson	Deiane Perry	Ruby Turner
Bernice Gladney	Sharon Pree	Irene Woods

OHA is proud of its Youth

On May 1, 2003, OHA youth **Delonzo Ellis** served on the juror panel that assessed the final presentations of UC Berkeley's Y-PLAN (Youth-Plan, Learn, Act, Now). The Y-PLAN is a program where graduate students at the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design work with two classes at McClymond's High School to learn planning and design skills by professionals. The Y-PLAN's project for this year was inspired by none other than the Oakland Housing Authority Youth Charettes Team, of which **Delonzo** is a member.

As you may recall, last summer, seven youth from various OHA sites came together to address the issue of McClymond's Mini-Park, a park identified as one of the worst in the City of Oakland. The OHA Youth Charettes team interviewed Oakland residents, visited other Oakland parks (to use as a reference point to McClymond's Park) and studied the principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) before developing a 3-D model of a proposed redesign of a new, safer and friendlier park. The Team also brainstormed ideas for raising funds and involving the community in the revitalization of this park.

The UC Berkeley Y-PLAN classes followed in the footsteps created by the OHA Youth Charettes team, so it was fitting that **Delonzo** was asked to be a juror to help evaluate the ideas that the McClymond's High School classes developed with their graduate student mentors.

Delonzo was also in good company on the jury panel, which also included Oakland Vice Mayor and Councilwoman **Nancy Nadel**; **Lynn Dodd**, Principal at McClymond's High School; **Harrison Fraker**, Dean of the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design; **Greg Hodge**, President of the Oakland Unified School District School Board; and **Kiri Eschelle**, Co-Chair of the West Oakland Project Area Committee for Redevelopment.

On May 10, 2003, the Youth Charettes and the Y-PLAN teams worked together in sponsoring a **Park Clean Up Day** at McClymond's Mini Park. People from the community came out to support their efforts in painting the park benches and removing litter that cluttered the play area. Councilperson Nancy Nadel attended the event and was very pleased to see youth involved in the West Oakland community. Home Depot has committed to join this effort to maintain this park. The OHA team had fun and are eager to get involved with other community projects. In the words of **Bobby Santa-Cruz**, "continue to call me when you have other youth projects, this was fun!"

The seven OHA youth who participated are: **E.J. Hudson, Stephanie Winchester, Gerry Silva, Bobby Santa-Cruz, Delonzo Ellis, Kervin Carter** and **Tracison White**. Thank you to the Youth Charettes team for making us proud.



Top left: Y-PLAN Juror Panel: From left to right: Delonzo Ellis (OHA Youth Charettes member), Council person Nancy Nadel, Kiri Eschelle (Co-Chair of the West Oakland Project Area Committee for Redevelopment), Lynn Dodd (Principle of McClymond's High School), Greg Hodge (President of the Oakland Unified School District Board), and Harrison Fraker (Dean of the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design).



Top right: Council person, Nancy Nadel addresses the volunteers.

Bottom left: OHA Youth help paint a bench at the McClymonds Park.

Bottom right: OHA Youth Charettes Team and the UC Berkeley volunteers ready for action.

Disaster Preparedness Workshop at the City of Alameda Housing Authority



Carolyn Dickens, OHA staff, conducting the workshop.

On May 7, 2003, the Oakland Housing Authority staff collaborated with City of Alameda Housing Authority to facilitate a Disaster Preparedness Workshop at the Independence Plaza Senior Development in Alameda. Thirty-six (36) seniors participated in this workshop, which educated them in what to do in an event of a disaster. The residents who took part in this workshop were very motivated to prepare a disaster supply kit soon after the workshop. The residents said, "this information was great and now we know what to do."

Oakland Housing Authority would like to offer **Disaster Preparedness Training** to all OHA residents. The one-hour training class can be conducted at your individual site. If you are interested, please contact **Nicole Thompson**, Resident Services Coordinator I, at **(510) 874-1585**.



What's new in Facilities Management?



Landscaping

With the completion of Campbell Village landscaping improvements, you may see Oakland Housing Authority special landscaping crewmembers working on some of the smaller, scattered sites. They wear dark blue coveralls with an OHA logo when the weather is not too hot.

Some upcoming/current Facilities Management Projects:

Address	Description	Timing
2202 Mitchell Street	Balconies and façade repairs	Summer 2003
2005 East 21st Street	Rehabilitation of building	Summer/fall 2003
2056 35th Avenue, Unit #9	Dryrot repairs	Spring/summer 2003
Peralta MPB – (New Construction)	Construction of Multipurpose Building	Startup: Spring 2003
1951 East 24th Street, Units #2 & #3	Repair drainage and water damage inside units	Summer 2003
2102 East 17th Street, Unit C	Deck (Unit C) and promenade repairs	Summer 2003
1465 Seminary Avenue	Promenade walkway repairs	Summer 2003
565 45th Street	Balconies and façade repairs	Summer 2003
1919 East 15th Street	Roof replacement	Summer 2003
866 37th Street	Roof replacement	Summer 2003

Rallying Together

If the Annual Sacramento Senior Rally is about standing united, the Oakland Housing Authority residents and staff certainly showed their togetherness. On May 7, 2003, twelve OHA senior residents and three staff members were among the many who met at the steps of the State Capitol in Sacramento, on a bright, sunny day for the 33rd Annual Senior Rally. They came to hear legislator's viewpoints on problems such as Medi-Cal cuts. Seniors also had their opportunity to speak out in front of the audience and legislators.

Residents met and greeted representatives of groups, such as AARP (American Association for Retired Persons) and the Gray Panthers, who handed out brochures from their tables under palm trees that lined the Capitol's sidewalks. But, the day was not just about politics. After turkey sandwiches and snacks, supplied by the Oakland Housing Authority, several residents and staff enjoyed a tour of the State Capitol, including sitting in on a live session in the Assembly Chamber.

The program closed with music by two different jazz bands and a grand finale--a live performance of line dancers from the North, East and West Oakland Senior Centers, who set the mood. Staff and residents alike got up and practiced their steps.



Top photo: Line Dancers from Oakland area Senior Centers "gettin' their groove on." Middle photo: Listening to the speeches at the State Capitol, Than Ho and his wife Tsan Hong. Bottom photo: Rallying together on the lawn of the State Capitol. From left to right: Margie Mask (seating), Chantha Oum (OHA Staff), Jo Ann Bernstine, Bernice Gladney and Shirley Robins. Left photo: OHA family united as one. From left to right (standing): Viola Hampton, Tsan Hong, Than Ho, William Brown, Bernice Gladney, Shirley Robins, Nick Sarley, Lois Sarley and Jo Ann Bernstine. From left to right (seating): Lisa Gorman (OHA staff), Cam Nguyen, Chantha Oum (OHA staff), Margie Mask and Audrey Dirden.

Job Opportunities Corner



Stephanie Winchester, OHA resident, reviewing her resume with Nicole Thompson, Resident Services Coordinator I.

The Oakland Housing Authority can provide you with assistance toward obtaining employment opportunities by participating in one of our Life Skills workshops to enhance your interviewing skills and/or by helping you to create a dynamic resume. One OHA young adult resident, **Stephanie Winchester**, took advantage of this opportunity by participating in a one-on-one workshop with OHA staff, Nicole Thompson, to create her resume to begin her employment search. For more information, please contact: **Nicole Thompson**, Resident Services Coordinator I (West Oakland), at **(510) 874-1585** or **Marianne Foster**, Resident Services Coordinator II (East Oakland), at **(510) 777-4151**.

Tassafaronga Community Building Meeting



Tassafaronga resident, Earl Baker (middle front), reads over the Lease Agreement for all the attendees.

The second community-building meeting for this year was held at Tassafaronga Village on Wednesday, April 30. This meeting was a follow-up for the residents who showed a strong interest in building the overall esteem of their community.

To implement those interests, plans are underway for a neighborhood potluck barbecue. This will be the first resident driven community-building event scheduled for this year.

Representatives from Facilities Management, Housing Management, OHA Police Department, and Resident and Community Services were present and available to address resident concerns.

Kim Boyd, Housing Manager for Tassafaronga reviewed and discussed the importance of abiding by the entire lease agreement. He emphasized the terms and conditions of the housing lease pertaining to the "Occupants Responsibility," after which resident Earl Baker read verbatim to the group the portions of the lease agreement pertaining to "Maintaining a Drug Free Unit."

Other topics addressed by agency representatives were: Public Housing Assessment Surveys (PHAS), new procedures for notifying residents when maintenance needs entry into their unit, police presence, and services available through the Resident and Community Services Department.

The meeting ended on a very positive note and a thank you from agency representatives to the residents for taking an interest in the welfare of their community. Likewise, the residents thanked the agency for hosting the meeting.

Lockwood Gardens Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Lockwood Gardens 2003 Annual Easter Egg Hunt held on Friday, April 19, 2003, was a HUGE success. Lockwood Gardens Resident Council sponsored this event. There were over fifty children and adults in attendance. The children were eager to find the Golden Egg and win the Grand Prize, a large chocolate bunny. There were lots of fun and games, which were enjoyed by everyone. The Lockwood Gardens Resident Council wishes to thank residents and friends that donated eggs to make this a successful event.



A picture is worth a thousand words. Lockwood residents' children enjoying 2003 Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Head Start Program at OHA's Lockwood Garden Site

Are you aware that there is a **no cost, quality pre-school** located at Lockwood Gardens (1327 65th Avenue, corner of 65th and International Blvd.)? The program is called **Lockhaven Head Start**. The program offers a half a day option (8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon or 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.) for children ages 3-5 years old. Services include: early childhood education, health services, free nutritious meals, services for children with disabilities, parent involvement including male involvement and many other services. Look for upcoming sign up opportunities at Lockwood Gardens in June, July and August of 2003 for the following school year (2003 – 2004.) For more information please call **(510) 238-3165**.



LockHaven Head Start pre-schoolers in their Halloween costumes collecting candy.

I Remember Mama

The "I Remember Mama" Mother's Day luncheon, sponsored for the last eleven years by the Volunteers of America, was held on Sunday, May 11, 2003 at the Snow Building in Knowland Park. According to the six OHA senior residents attending, this Mother's Day celebration just gets better with time. The luncheon fare was grand. High praise from celebrants, who themselves know how to cook well. No mother left without a flower corsage. Given this setting, together with the company of one another, made for a joyous day of honoring the effort, that is motherhood.

Stanford GEMS Program

The Stanford GEMS (Girls Health Enrichment Multi-Site Studies) Program is a FREE health education program for African-American girls between the ages 8-10 years old who live in Oakland. Our goal is to offer an innovative community-based program to help African-American girls and their families make healthy lifestyle choices by focusing on increasing physical activity and improving nutritional habits.

The United States is experiencing an epidemic of obesity among both children and adults. Obesity has been linked to many chronic illnesses in our communities. African-American women are more likely than other groups of women to die from heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some forms of cancer. As a result, preventing childhood obesity has become a national public health priority. If we can help young African-American girls adopt more healthy lifestyles, it may prevent future health problems.

The Stanford GEMS Program is looking for families to participate in a two-year study. Each family will participate in one of two groups. The first group will receive information and activities related to healthful eating and physical activity, along with community health events and family fun-nights. This program is designed to be both fun and educational.

The second program involves after school dance classes and a family-based program to help girls reduce television viewing. Currently, our dance classes are being held at the YWCA in downtown Oakland, **Tassaforanga Village** (an OHA East Oakland site), and the Acorn Town Center (West Oakland). The classes last from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and include a one-hour mentored homework program along with lessons in traditional African dance, Hip-Hop and Step.

For more information, please contact our GEMS hotline at 1-800-416-2187!



Fuel-Efficient Driving



Here are some tips on fuel-efficient driving that will reduce air pollution, improve your health if you walk or ride your bike, and could save you hundreds of dollars a year in fuel costs.

- **Avoid Aggressive Driving.** "Jackrabbit" starts and hard breaking can increase fuel consumption by as much as 40%. Tests show that air pollution is five times higher from a "jackrabbit" start.
- **Drive Steadily at Posted Speeds.** Increasing your highway cruising speed from 55 mph to 75 mph will boost fuel consumption by about 20%.
- **Avoid Idling Your Vehicle.** Idling wastes fuel, gets you nowhere, and produces unnecessary greenhouse gases. If you're going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, except in traffic, turn off the engine.
- **Make Sure Tires Are Properly Inflated.** Properly inflated tires are safer and prevent rolling resistance. Check tires at least once a month when the tires are cold.
- **Select the Right Gear.** Driving in a gear lower than you need wastes fuel; so does driving the car in high gear on hills and around corners.
- **Plan Your Trip** - whether going across town or across country. Combine several errands into one outing, and plan to avoid heavy traffic areas. You'll save time and money!
- **Best of All – Make a Commitment to Drive Less.** Approximately 50% of car use is for trips within 3 miles of home. Great for bicycling or walking!

So have a safe, healthy, and fuel-efficient summer!

Residents Questions or Concerns

The Oakland Housing Authority's goal is to respond to all phone calls in a timely and efficient manner. Residents are encouraged to attempt to resolve problems by accessing and utilizing the available resources.

Your Tenant Lease Agreement is a quick, convenient resource to answer many commonly asked questions. If you still have questions after reviewing these resources, contact the appropriate OHA department.

Issues Related To	OHA department	Phone Number
Repair needs in your apartment or at your site that are not your responsibility	Maintenance Division	535-3130
Your lease or unresolved problems	Housing Management/West District Housing Management/East District	874-1536 777-4181
Community resources, employment information, and information on programs and event	Resident & Community Services Department West District East District	874-1588 777-4157
Safety and/or security concerns	OHA Police Department	535-3100
Emergencies: any life threatening situations or situations needing immediate attention		911

If you have followed the appropriate steps to resolve an issue and are still not satisfied, you may file a formal grievance. For assistance with filing a formal grievance, please call the main number for the department of concern.

Language translation services are available in 151 languages at all offices at no cost. To request such services, please contact Mandy Zamani, Resident Services Coordinator II, at (510) 874-1581.

HUD & the Oakland Housing Authority need to HEAR from you!

The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is one of four ways that HUD's new Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) will evaluate your housing agency's performance through the new Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS).

The survey will measure your satisfaction and experience with your living conditions. Your household may be randomly selected to receive the survey. If you are selected, please take the time to complete it. Resident participation is essential to the survey's success.

Your opinion is very important to HUD!

If you have any questions about the survey, please call REAC's Customer Service Center at 1 (888) 245-4860.

Jon Gresley, Executive Director
Oakland Housing Authority



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The Commission meets the 4th Monday
of each month at 1619 Harrison Street.
Call 874-1517 for information.

Jon Gresley
Executive Director

Patricia Ison
Director of Resident and
Community Services

The Oakland Housing Authority NEWS IN BRIEF is a service of communication provided to its residents. The staff especially welcomes comments of residents and the other readers. Contact the Resident and Community Services Department at 1545 Willow Street, Suite 101, Oakland, CA, 510/874-1588

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**Be sure to keep
RCSD informed!**

Resident and Community Services is interested in putting your ideas, good news, and accomplishments in the newsletter. Do not hesitate to call at 874-1588 and give us the information. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

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