

Direct to You

Thursday
6/30/22

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



Good Afternoon OHA Team:

I've spend this week catching up on current news and familiarizing myself with the details and substance of several major events that have taken place in our country over the past few days. I hope each of you are also taking the time to get reliable information so you can make choices that impact your life and that of your family. Regardless of which side of any issue you stand, the solution is to vote.

We recently had primary elections in California and are only about 18 weeks from the mid-term general elections. Again, I am not interested in suggesting how you should feel about any of the issues on the table (gun safety, Roe V. Wade, voting rights, or the January 6 Committee hearing, etc.) or how you should vote on those matters or for the representatives who have positions on each. What I want to do is make sure you all think about the connection between the power of your vote and the rights that you ultimately enjoy.

On a different note, around OHA, I am excited to see us charge into the summer with new staff, new programs and renewed energy. This past Friday, we hosted the first resident block party since the beginning of the pandemic. It's been much too long since we were able to be together in a fun and festive atmosphere. Nearly 120 people—families, seniors and children—showed up for carnival games, a BBQ lunch and music, to celebrate the end of the school year and kick off the summer season. Read more about the event below.

I also want to recognize June as Pride Month. During this month, events are held around the world to observe and bring attention to the accomplishments and influence of the LGBTQI+ community. At OHA, we honor the basic dignity and human rights of all—our employees as well as our brothers and sisters in our community. Learn more about the history of this national awareness month.

Finally, I want to circle back to May. Because the **Direct To You** did not get deployed timely, I didn't manage to recognize Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I apologize for the omission, but please know it is not a reflection of my respect and appreciation for the individuals who make up this community or the accomplishments they have added to our nation and the world. Learn more about AAPI Heritage Month here.



Happy a great loooong 4th of July weekend!

Patricia



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Congratulations Chief Love!

At the June 27 Board of Commissioners meeting, OHA's 6th Chief of Police was sworn in. As was reported in the February 4, 2022 **Direct To You**, OHAPD's newest Police Chief Alan Love, joined OHA earlier this year as Deputy Police Chief after a national search with an expectation to move into his new role upon the retirement of Chief Carel Duplessis.

Since joining OHA, Chief Love has been actively engaged in activities with our families, seniors and youth, signaling a strong commitment to the community policing principals that have helped OHAPD develop trust with our residents. At a recent event, he enthusiastically read a story to the children in attendance, which underscores the level of concern and support our families can expect from the department under his leadership.

Alan replaces longtime Police Chief Duplessis, who has been a steady presence for over two decades, as well as during this transitional period. The stability of the department has been a top priority and we are incredibly grateful for former Chief Duplessis's service.

There will be more formal celebrations and Meet & Greet opportunities for Chief Love in the coming weeks. Information will be shared with staff and we encourage each of you to get to know our new Chief.



Summer Block Parties

Last Friday, June 23, OHA's Office of Property Operations (OPO) held the first resident block party since the start of the pandemic over two years ago. The block parties are an opportunity for OPO staff to engage with our families, focusing on celebrating them as residents, welcoming them for summer activities and encouraging safe outdoor interaction after the long pandemic. The festive event, offered at both the Peralta and Lockwood locations, marking the beginning of the summer season, welcomed more than 100 residents for an afternoon of food, facts and fun.



The event serves as an opportunity to distribute much needed information about resources available to our families from community-based organizations and local businesses including:

- Alameda County Community Food Bank
- Life Eldercare-Health Forward/Fall Prevention
- Spectrum Meal Program and Spectrum LIHEAP program
- Alameda County Asthma Start Program
- Allied Universal
- Laney College
- Ryde Trans
- OHA Human Resources

As always, the event was fun for everybody as the community came together to enjoy delicious BBQ and danced to music by the live DJ. Thanks to all who made it happen including our staff from Family & Community Partnerships (FCP) and the OHA Police Department (OHAPD) who provided event support.

A second block party was held today, **Thursday, June 30, at Lockwood Gardens.**

Please share information about future block parties and events with your clients who might live in or near these communities. And stop by if your work schedule allows!



The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day—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. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2022 is on Monday, July 4, 2022. Read more from [History.com](https://www.history.com).



Patch.com has prepared a comprehensive list of 4th of July activities including parades, concerts and fireworks all around the Bay Area.

Direct From Me

Messages from OHA Employees to Leadership

Have an idea to save time or money? Figured out a way to make work a little easier and more efficient? Or perhaps you want to share your team's success with the entire agency? Well, now it's easier than ever to share your ideas! No matter what's on your mind... **Direct From Me** is the easy way to have your ideas delivered to OHA's Executive Director, Patricia Wells.



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REMEMBER: if you have reasonable suspicion that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms of fever (100.4 Fahrenheit or higher), coughing, or shortness of breath, do not report to work. Immediately contact your primary care provider and then your supervisor for instructions on what you need to do next. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact your supervisor or Director. If you have questions in regards to pay or leave time, please contact Human Resources at (510) 874-1575.

