

Direct to You

Friday
9/2/22

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



Good Afternoon OHA Team:

I have worked since I was 10 years old back in Philly. I will tell you—from my first gigs as a baby sitter, cutting grass & shoveling snow for our elderly neighbors; or volunteering at our Church community kitchen—I learned from an early age to be a part of making the community a friendlier and supportive environment. Each of these roles, along with my first “real” job at Kentucky Fried Chicken (I might know a bit about those secret spices), “labor” was a part of my journey that helped me feel a sense of “purpose” in how I use my day.

This labor day, I am reminded of how the collective work of all of us—service to families, to the neighborhood, to the greater community, to a nation—is shared work and “labor” that hopefully inspires all of us to feel a sense of pride in team for doing our part right here in Oakland.

Over this long holiday weekend, we celebrate the enterprising spirit that drives us in each of our individual roles, at OHA, and in the work we do in other areas of our lives. The “labor” of raising children, caring for others, serving those less fortunate than ourselves, or whatever we do to make ends meet—we should be proud of our role in making our communities better places for all.

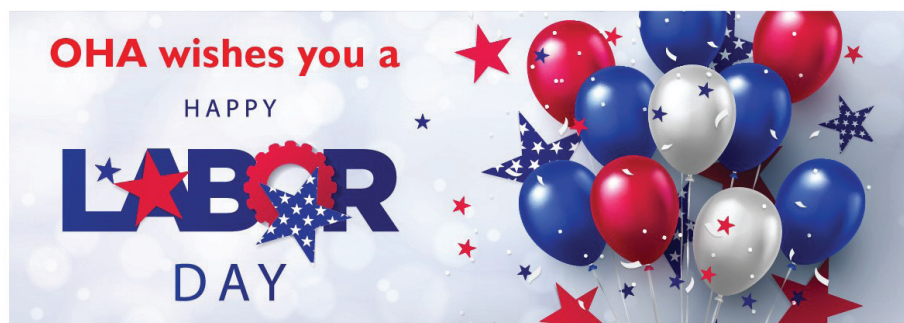
I hope you all use these next few days to take time to celebrate our collective efforts and enjoy some downtime doing whatever it is you enjoy most. Whether you spend time close to home getting R&R or get out of doors to breathe in fresh air, be reminded that we are anticipating hotter than usual weather—so stay hydrated and stay safe.

As always, I encourage you to read the stories that follow below and catch up on some of the activities going on around OHA. I am especially proud to share the journey of Samantha Vitti, who has taken her journey to new heights in a new leadership role in our community. If you would like to share your story, let me know using “**Direct From Me**,” so we can highlight your community service accomplishments, both personal and professional. The work you do matters!

Wishing everyone a refreshing and joyful Labor Day~

Patricia

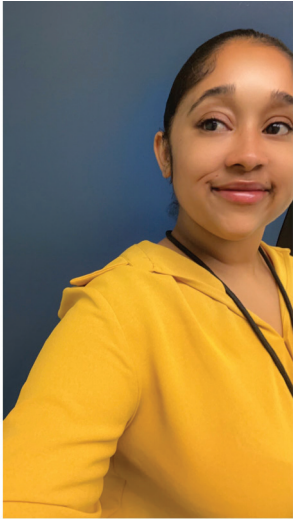
"The miracle is not that we do the work, but that we are happy to do it." – Mother Teresa



All past issues of Direct To You are available on the OHA website for 24/7 access. In addition to the messages sent directly from the OHA executive director, you can also find links to other resources, articles, and up-to-date information about OHA operations and the ways we are addressing the current health crisis.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Samantha Vitti - Working the Dream

When **Samantha Vitti** joined OHA in 2016, she was a 24-year old single-mother, who was trying to find her way. Her first role was as a Civicorp Intern. At that time her work involved assisting the Finance department with clerical work, and offering her assistance wherever it might be needed. At the same time, she had just completed a training program and earned her high school diploma and dreaming of launching her own website, **Talk with Sammy**, a soon-to-be launched site designed to help motivate at-risk youth. Well, Samantha's willingness to help in any way she can is paying off.

Samantha's hard work and "can-do" spirit quickly paid off. She applied for a regular job at OHA in the buildings and grounds department (OPO), as a groundskeeper. This work was familiar to her as she had been trained through Civicorp. However, Samantha wanted more and pushed forward. Her efforts were rewarded with a job that allowed her to earn a higher wage, build on her expanding skillset and begin to build a career that took advantage of all of her training and experience.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Samantha has received promotions in her job, now serving OHA as Office Specialist in OPO's AMP 12. Additionally, has stayed involved with Civicorp, the organization that gave her her start, and in a full-circle moment, Samantha was recently appointed to the board of Directors of Civicorp, a position that allows her to expand her leadership goals.

OHA couldn't be prouder to have watched Samantha grow as a professional and as a community leader. As we celebrate Labor Day, Samantha is a glowing example of what labor and hard work look like.

Congratulations Samantha for reaching for your dreams and achieving your goals each step of the way...and thank you for sharing your story.



Staying Connected

The Oakland Housing Authority Employees' Association is excited to report a membership that is 114 members strong. The OHAEA was established in 1984 so that OHA employees can "Stay Connected," and never has that purpose been more needed than over the past two years.

From the grounds workers to office specialists, from project managers to property administrators, we aim to serve all our members in ways that makes your OHA employment experience more pleasant and rewarding.

We offer a special welcome to all of the new enrollees! You are now part of a purpose driven employee group and can participate in fun and fulfilling activities and "Staying Connected!"

If you have not yet joined, don't miss out and don't delay. Join today and receive your shirt and show you are staying connected.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Activities in the next few days):

September 3, 2022 – National Cinema Day - Movie tickets will be \$3 at Regal, AMC, and more theaters on Saturday. What a way to cool off!

SAVE THE DATES (Activities in the future to be aware of and mark your calendars):

September 30, 2022 – OHAEA Annual Members Meeting 12p-1:00p

October 28, 2022 – Halloween Costume Extravaganza 12p – 1:30p

December 15, 2022 – Holiday get together ("Staying Connected")

Your Board Members:

**Victoria Wimberley – President (FCP), Valerie Graham – Secretary (Risk Management),
Tara Banks - Treasurer (FCP)**

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.*

