



OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



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The Scoop

Wait List Opening

OHA will open its waitlist, inviting pre-applications for 2- and 3-bedroom apartments at two Public Housing Sites, Lockwood Gardens and Peralta Village. Pre-applications will be accepted during a twelve (12) day period, from 12:01 a.m., Monday, November 10, 2014 to 11:59 p.m., through Friday, November 21, 2014, using a web-based submission process only (www.ohawaitlist.com). Applicants requiring assistance can visit the East District office or West District offices.

Following the close of the waitlist on Friday, November 21, a computerized lottery will be conducted by an independent third party and each pre-application will be assigned a number with 1,500 drawn at random. The pre-applications selected in the lottery will then be ranked by preferences established in OHA's administrative policies.

RAB Newsletter Committee

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Tina Moses
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FCP Staff, Contributors

Healthcare

On October 1, 2013 when the website was launched allowing people to sign up for healthcare using the new Affordable Care Act (ACA) "exchanges," many people thought the much anticipated and highly divisive program would fail. President Obama continued to champion the landmark legislation, which is arguably the hallmark of his administration; and others continue to this day to threaten to repeal it if ever given the opportunity. Through all of the political wrangling, finger-pointing and naysaying, there is finally good news to report. The ACA (also known as "Obamacare") works!

In its first year over 10 million Americans have signed up for private health coverage. In California alone, over one million people now have coverage through the exchanges with more than two million receiving care through the expansion of Medicare. Today, the uninsured rate in

California is at 11%, down from 22%. For 2015, the number enrolled under Covered California, the name of the California exchange, is expected to grow to about 1.3 million through a combination of policy renewals and newly covered people. The Open Enrollment period will be from November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015 and is expected to be much smoother and more streamlined than last year as better processes are implemented as a result of lessons learned.

Having health insurance is now the law, and finding affordable healthcare is now easier than ever. Also, there is financial help for those who cannot afford healthcare. Don't hesitate to sign up for healthcare if you are currently uninsured. The deadline will be here before you know it. 

For more information visit:

www.coveredca.com

www.barackobama.com/obamacare

THANKS TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT...

- Insurance companies can no longer discriminate against Americans by denying coverage because of a pre-existing condition.
- Nearly 6 in 10 uninsured Americans can get coverage for \$100 a month or less.
- It's now illegal for health insurance companies to arbitrarily cancel your health insurance just because you get sick.
- All health insurance plans purchased through the marketplace must provide basic preventive care with no co-pay, including annual checkups, contraception, and routine screenings like colonoscopies and mammograms.
- Health plans are required to cover key essential benefits like hospitalizations, mental health services, and prescription drugs.
- Insurance companies can no longer impose annual or lifetime limits on your coverage's essential health benefits.
- Insurance companies are required to publicly justify their actions if they want to raise your rates by 10 percent or more.
- Insurance companies must provide a rebate if they don't use at least 80% of your premium on care, not CEO bonuses or advertising.
- Women can no longer be charged higher premiums just because they are women.
- Young adults can stay on their parent's health insurance plan until the age 26—a change that has already allowed more than 3.1 million young adults to receive health coverage.
- Health care costs are now growing at their slowest rate in 50 years.

Spotlight

FCP 2014 Achievements

FSS Program Graduates

Shawna Flowers
Latanya Shelton
Lawan Jones
Charmaine Eskridge

Combined total of escrow disbursed of \$25,197.25

Cypress Mandela Graduates

Camron Ferguson
Richard Saechao
Naila Vitatoo

Homeownership

Terri L. McIntosh
Kenneth J. Jordan

Spotlights for future issues:

Please send names of OHA family and friends who have recent accomplishments you'd like to share with the housing community.

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.

Send entries to:

ohacommunications@oakha.org

RESOURCES

Making Solar Affordable to OHA homeowners

Terri McIntosh, recent homeowner said she felt like she'd won the lottery!

McIntosh, a 45-year-old Oakland Unified school District security officer and Section-8 homeowner, had a 2.5-kilowatt solar system installed on her house by a group of volunteers on August 23, 2014, completely free of charge.

The project was initiated by GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit organization that enable low-income qualifying families to access money-saving solar technologies and support local green-jobs training and workforce development programs by enabling job trainees to participate in solar electric system installations. Terri's new system should provide her with power for 60 to 100 percent of her home's electricity, and will save her hundreds of dollars in electricity costs each year.

GRID Alternatives has partnered with the OHA Homeownership Program. Phase I of the partnership has resulted in free solar installations for eight OHA homeowners. The impact of this installation is in the chart below:

The second of phase of the intake is scheduled for October 09, 2014.



OHA homeowner, Louisa Padilla, assisting Grid Alternatives volunteers with her solar installation.

For more information please contact Hanan at (510) 587-5173.

TOTAL IMPACTS OF SOLAR INSTALLATION ON 8 OHA HOMEOWNERS

| System Size (CEC-AckW) | Total Of System value | Equivalent number of trees planted | Value of energy produced over systems' lifetimes | Tons of Greenhouse Gases Eliminated Over the Systems' Lifetime |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 11.149 | \$64,685.52 | 5675 | \$78,219.00 | 242 |

The Holidays are Coming...

The holiday season is upon us and the Oakland Housing Authority is here to assist families in locating resources to help make their holiday season one to remember!

Holiday Employment:

If you are interested in getting seasonal employment for the Holiday Season, now is the time to apply. Most retail stores hire extra staff during the holiday season to support the growing crowds during the holidays. For assistance with applying for seasonal positions, please contact the Family & Community Partnerships Department (FCP) at (510) 587-5115.

Food Drive:

The holiday season is a joyous time that brings family and friends together to share meals, laughter, and love. Each year, organizations like the Alameda County Community Food Bank receive



food donations to distribute to households in need. Food banks are found in most communities and rely on donors and volunteers to carry out day-to-day operations. The Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) has been in operation since 1985 and continues to offer approximately 380,000 meals weekly. If you are in need of emergency food, or are interested in receiving food for the holidays or volunteer opportunities, please contact ACCFB at (800) 870-3663.

Toy Drive:

Every year the Oakland Housing Authority partners with the City of Oakland for the Mayor's Toy Drive. Community based organizations, emergency services departments, and volunteers come together and distribute toys as Christmas gifts to children within the community. In previous years, the event provided toys to over 8,000 children from low-income families. That's



over 16,000 dolls, trucks, books, board games, sports equipment, and gift certificates. If you are interested in learning more about the upcoming event or how your family can receive toys for the holiday season, please call the FCP at (510) 587-5115.

Holiday Splendor

On Thursday, December 11, 2014, OHA presents its 34th Annual Holiday Splendor event at the Wedgewood Banquet Center. This event is for seniors (age 62 and above) who are Public Housing residents and Section 8 participants. The gala includes an evening of fine dining, live music, dancing, fashion and raffles. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, please contact the FCP at (510) 587-5115.



Success Stories

Neighborhood Leadership Institute



Through educational programs, workshops, events and healing circles, they cultivate skills in personal development, community leadership and the arts.

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA), has a strong commitment to resident empowerment and community advocacy. It is through the efforts of programs like the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI) that OHA has been able to continue and maintain its commitment to this mission.

Through the partnership with the Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. (AHC), OHA supports its residents in developing the skills and tools necessary to create more positive communities for themselves and their families. AHC created this program to combat the negative influences and challenging circumstances many Oakland residents face each day.

AHC builds healthy communities by breaking the cycle of violence. It provides a platform for creative expression and communication for children, youth, adults and families. Through educational programs, workshops, events and healing circles, they cultivate skills in personal development, community leadership and the arts. AHC promotes the understanding that we can choose peace over conflict and love over fear.

This past June, 18 OHA residents graduated from this nationally recognized program. It is the sixth cohort group since the program began in 2010. After graduation, participants are supported in their active roles while addressing issues in their communities and working with OHA programs like the Parent Ambassadors Program, Resident Leadership Program, and the Resident Advisory Board.

OHA is proud to bring this transformational program to OHA residents and would like to congratulate the sixth NLI cohort on their recent graduation. If you would like more information about NLI or would like to get involved with civic engagement and leadership programs your community, please contact Shawn Johnson at (510) 587-5129.

YOUR VOICE

Q: Are there any places you can go to cash a check without any check cashing fees?

A: Yes, credit unions such as Community Trust Federal Credit Union in West Oakland and Provident Credit Union in East Oakland allow its members with a savings account to cash checks without any fees.

To open a savings account you must deposit and maintain a minimum balance of \$5. Your initial checks will have a hold placed on them until they are verified; the hold typically lasts between 2-4 business days and will decrease as you continue to cash your checks.

If you are unable to open a regular savings account because you are in Chex Systems you may be eligible for a second chance checking account. The first step in opening a second chance checking account is attending a Banking Basics workshop with Operation Hope, to register contact Operation Hope at (510) 535-6700.

Q: How can I enroll into this workshop?

A: The Oakland Housing Authority, Family and Community Partnerships Department has partnership with Operation Hope and can assist you with enrolling into their program at no cost. You must contact Jose Romero at (510) 777-4124 to register for the next upcoming workshop.

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

RAB Blog

The Resident Advisory Board (RAB) would like to encourage you to exercise your right to vote! The RAB would like to remind community members of the importance of expressing your opinions, thoughts, and beliefs. If you are not registered to vote, you can register in person at state or local government agencies, voter registration and/or election offices, or online at registertovote.ca.gov. To register to vote in California, you must be:

- United States Citizen,
- A resident of California,
- 18 years of age or older on Election Day,
- Not in prison, on parole, serving a state prison sentence in county jail, serving a sentence for a felony, or on post release community supervision (for more information on the rights of people who have been incarcerated, please see the Secretary of State's Voting Rights for Californians with Criminal Convictions or Detained in Jail or Prison), and
- Not found by a court to be mentally incompetent.

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. For more information, please contact the Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office at 510-267-8683 or you can go to their website www.acgov.org/rov/.

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.

The Resident Advisory Board meets at 5pm the first Thursday of every month at OHA's main office at 1619 Harrison Street in the Board of Commissioners Room.

Family Education & Achievement Project

The long awaited Family Education & Achievement Project (FEAP) has arrived. FEAP was designed to address and support the OHA families that attend one of our seven Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) partner schools and are struggling with attendance. OHA sent out hundreds of letters and hosted several FEAP launch events throughout the summer to give information to the targeted families about our partnership with OUSD and how we can support them with some of their needs and the barriers that are preventing them from getting their children to school every day and on time.

OHA is proud to say that as of October 1, there are 24 families enrolled. OHA will partner with them and with their child's school for the next three years to help increase academic achievement, to decrease

the number of absences and to increase parent involvement.

The FEAP Coordinator has met with most of the families that have consented to identify their family's needs and set goals. In the FEAP program we work with the entire family to try to support each member as we know that stress on any member of a family can affect a student's success. In our commitment to education and our partnership with OUSD we organized the Back to School Campaign that included, back to school reminder calls, block parties and a backpack giveaway where we gave out an assortment of top quality backpacks filled with supplies to get our FEAP families as well as any other family that participated in FCP's summer programming excited and ready to go back to school!



Teen Scene

Opportunities for OUSD High School Students

OHA is excited to announce that FCP is partnering with the OUSD's Workforce & Economic Development Coordinator to create opportunities for OUSD high school students with career and workforce experience if college isn't their choice post-high school graduation. Because of the OHA partnership with OUSD, OHA students will get priority in some upcoming projects. We are also creating a college corner at 935 Union Street office with information on scholarships and post-secondary education.



New Year's Eve is a night to have fun and celebrate the coming year. However, safety is a must when participating in the festivities. Whether you're staying in and celebrating with friends and family, or you're traveling to a party or city bash, following a few safety tips will ensure that you're safe and sound when the clock strikes midnight, ringing in the New Year!



Designate a Driver: If you are going to be driving New Year's Eve, don't drink and drive.

Be Alert: Be aware of your surroundings and how others are acting. Stay away from those who are out of control and might cause harm.

Don't Drive: If you don't have to go behind the wheel, avoid it. More people will be driving under the influence on this particular night, avoid dangerous accidents by staying off the road.

Stick Together: This way we can look out for our friends and family.

Monitor your Alcohol Intake: A majority of people will be drinking on New Year's Eve, and there is nothing wrong with that. Don't forget about your pets. If you are using anything with loud noises, or fire, be sure that pets are kept at a distance as well as children.



Climate Change



For decades Californians have talked about “saving the planet.” Since grade school we have encouraged our children to turn off lights when not in use, dispose of trash properly and to not waste water. We have poster contests and festivals geared toward teaching good environmental conservation habits early. As adults, with more control over individual consumption, we can take even greater steps toward reducing our environmental footprint by using public transit instead of driving a car or installing energy efficient light bulbs in our home and by reducing the temperature on the thermostat. What we haven’t done as well is help people understand how their daily routine impacts the climate and how important even little steps can be toward slowing the speed of global warming.

There is general consensus among climate scientists that the climate is changing and the average temperature of the earth is rising. Increased incidences of extreme weather events coupled with actual data confirms that the change is cause for alarm. In the political world there is acceptance of the fact that the earth is heating, however, in certain circles there has been refusal to accept that the changes to the climate is a result

of human activity. Therefore developing policies that address the problem remains a distant dream.

Global Warming is the term used to describe the increase in the average temperature of earth’s atmosphere and oceans, along with the projected continuation of that trend. Climate change refers to the change in weather patterns, which can be attributed to the temperature, precipitation, humidity, air pressure and other factors. These terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but to put it simply, global warming can lead to climate change because as the temperature increases the result is more moisture in the air and rainfall. Between 1880 and 2012 the global annual temperature has increased by over one and one half degrees. While that may not sound like much this change in the temperature impacts the polar icecaps, the levels of the oceans and can lead to drought conditions. Droughts impact our ability to grow crops and livestock which impacts our food supply, creates higher risk of forest fires and flooding which impacts our safety and reduces our water supply.

The biggest global warming factors of concern is the increase in carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels due to emissions from fossil fuel combustion (car exhaust), followed by aerosols (spray cans that release particulate matter into the atmosphere), and then cement manufacture. Our reliance on

gasoline-powered vehicles and industry that releases CO₂ into the atmosphere is speeding up the rate at which earth warms. We have had historic periods that were marked by extreme weather such as the ice age, but those came about over millions of years, not a few decades.

Since the 1950’s we have seen the effects of these pollutants, many of which impact us directly. For instance, there are increasing numbers of people with asthma and other chronic respiratory problems. Additionally, weather-related phenomena have become larger, more frequent and more devastating. Some of the events in 2013 include severe storms, tornados, tropical cyclones, floods, winter storms, drought, temperature extremes, derechos, aircraft turbulence, wildfires, extreme solar activity, and ocean-land responses (e.g. storm surges, landslides, debris flows). In 2012, Superstorm Sandy wiped out much of the eastern seaboard and there are no signs of it being the last storm of that magnitude.

While we wait for meaningful action from Washington, DC and Sacramento many people are taking matters into their own hands. Recognizing that doing nothing will increase the speed at which our environment suffers, people can learn more about what they can do to stem the tide of global warming by visiting any number of websites, including

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/climate-change>
<http://www.climatechange.ove>

RECORD HEAT ACROSS THE U.S. STATE-BY-STATE TEMPERATURES IN 2012



ALSO IN 2012:
WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD FOR THE U.S.
 (AVG. TEMP.)
 DOESN'T INCLUDE ALASKA, HAWAII, OR U.S. TERRITORIES.
 SOURCE: NOAA

356 RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES TIED OR BROKEN IN THE UNITED STATES.
 SOURCE: NOAA, STATE OF THE CLIMATE REPORT

ABOVE AVERAGE:
ONE-THIRD OF THE U.S. POPULATION EXPERIENCED 100° TEMPERATURES
 FOR TEN OR MORE DAYS.
 SOURCE: NOAA



Buy Safe Toys

If you plan to buy toys for the kids in your life, choose age-appropriate toys and look for labels with safety advice.

Celebrate on a Budget

The holidays can be expensive, but you don't have to break the bank to celebrate.

Give the Gift of Service

Sometimes the greatest gift you can give to others is service.

Be Safe and Save Money with LED Lights

Electricity bills can grow during the holidays if you decorate with strings of lights. Consider switching to LED (light-emitting diode) holiday lights to save energy and money.

Pay Attention to Food Portions and Exercise

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with family and friends, but celebrations sometimes involve over-indulging in sweet treats and heavy foods.

Reduce Holiday Waste

The holiday season includes many opportunities to reduce waste, recycle, and reuse items.



AT-A-GLANCE • FALL/WINTER 2014 - 2015

OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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- 10/24/14 United Nations Day
- 10/31/14 Halloween
- 11/02/14 Daylight Savings Ends
- 11/04/14 Election Day
- 11/11/14 Veterans Day
- 11/27/14 Thanksgiving Day



Cesar Chavez Day is a commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Cesar Chavez on March 31st. The day is commemorated to promote service to the community in honor of Cesar Chavez's life and work. All OHA offices as well as many, but not all, state government offices, community colleges, and libraries are closed. Although it is not a federal holiday, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 31 as Cesar Chavez Day in the United States, with Americans being urged to "observe this day with appropriate service, community, and educational programs to honor Cesar Chavez's enduring legacy."

DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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- 12/16/14 First Day of Hanukkah
- 12/24/14 Last Day of Hanukkah
- 12/25/14 Christmas Day
- 12/26/14 Kwanzaa
- 01/01/15 New Year's Day
- 01/19/15 Martin Luther King Jr.

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

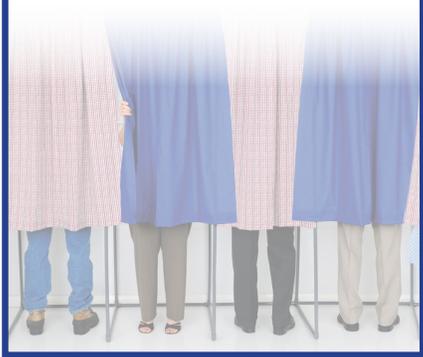
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- 02/04/15 Rosa Parks Day
- 02/14/15 Valentine's Day
- 02/15/15 Chinese New Year
- 02/16/15 President's Day
- 03/08/15 Daylight Savings Begins
- 03/17/15 St. Patrick's Day
- 03/31/15 Cesar Chavez Day

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

ELECTION DAY!

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4



**Oakland Housing
Authority**

1619 Harrison Street
Oakland, CA 94612

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Standard
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Permit #3048

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

Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todas las oficinas sin ningún costo.

Truong chình thông dịch đây đủ cho tới 151 tiếng nói miêng phí cho quý vị đang có tạy nhiều văng phòng gần đây.

所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種的外語翻譯服務。