



OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



Summer/Fall
2012

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The Scoop

Award Winning Housing

Residents of Palo Vista Gardens can now take pride in living in an award-winning community. The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) recently awarded Palo Vista Gardens with a National Award of Merit in Housing and Community Development. In addition, Palo Vista Gardens has also been nominated for the National Award of Excellence to be awarded later this year.

This development won the Award of Merit due in large part to the innovative Force Account Agreement with the Alameda County Building and Trades Council that enabled OHA to hire 103 local skilled and semi-skilled trade professionals and others. The result of the partnership is the rehabilitation of this property that created an energy efficient, aesthetically beautiful and ADA-functional senior living community.

Palo Vista Gardens joins past award winners, Tassafaronga Village, Lion Creek Crossings and Mandela Gateway as places many are proud to call home.

RAB Newsletter Committee

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

Staff

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

Sailing on the Bay



The America's Cup is the world's premier yacht race which will take place on the San Francisco Bay this year and next. And while participating on a world-class team is probably years away, local residents interested in the sport of sailing can get a jump start at our very own Lake Merritt near downtown Oakland.

The Lake Merritt Boating Center offers a variety of boating safety, sailing and rowing camps throughout the summer. Upon completion of the one week basic sailing camp, participants may be ready to move

to the next level the following week. Some scholarships are available and free boat rentals are periodically offered. To learn more about the programs available call (510) 238-2196 or visit www.sailoakland.com.

Beginning in August, use your knowledge of sailing to enjoy the 2012-13 America's Cup World Series practice, preliminary and championship races. For more information visit <http://www.americascup.com/sanfrancisco>.

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. Today Juneteenth celebrates African



American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

Learn more about Juneteenth and its history by visiting www.Juneteenth.com.

To plan a fun Juneteenth celebration locally visit www.berkeleyjuneteenth.org or www.sfuneteenth.org.

Spotlight

OHA's Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA) Student Scholarship Applicants Recognition 2012

Nija Dantzler
Tichina Ward-Pratt
Harold Halcomb
Tiara Wright
Morgan Wilson
Danny Le
Elisha Davis

Recipients of the Housing Authority Insurance Group Scholarship

Remi Lacey

New College Graduate

Temeshia Pierce

New Homeowner

Sam Taylor, Quyen La, Ali Saeed all purchased homes through the Homeownership program since the last issue.

Spotlights for future issues:

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

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.

Slide into Summer

Summer vacation is just days away and if you are like millions of other families in America, you are asking yourself "Where did the school year go?" Time flies when you are juggling work, school, childcare, homework, sports and other family obligations; and needless to say there is never enough time to accomplish everything on your "to do" list. Summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for children who have the option of attending. With so many different types of camps, there are plenty of options to choose from whether you want a traditional outdoor camp experience or wish to focus on specific interests like sports, engineering or space. However, summer shouldn't only be about fun and games.

Studies dating back 100 years show a correlation between an extended break from school and lowered academic scores. Even top students show "Summer Academic Loss" or "Summer Slide" following summer vacations where the goals of enrichment and learning were not incorporated into

Grandparents Day

National Grandparents Day is a secular, or non-religious, holiday celebrated in the United States since 1978.

The United States recognizes grandparents on the first Sunday after Labor Day, while some countries celebrate Grandmothers Day and Grandfathers Day separately. On August 3, 1978, then-President Jimmy Carter signed a proclamation which cites the day's purpose as: "...to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children, and

to help children become aware of [the] strength, information, and guidance older people can offer."

Today's families come in all different shapes, sizes and structures and in many instances grandparents are the primary caregiver to their grandchildren. It is important to recognize the value that grandparents bring to the family structure. On September 9, 2012 show your grandparents some love by giving them some forget-me-nots, a seasonal spring flower which has been named the official flower of Grandparents Day. 🌿

Labor Day

Each year, Labor Day is held on the first Monday of September. The first Labor Day, held in 1882, was originally organized to celebrate various labor associations' strength and their contributions to the United States economy. To this day we still recognize the value of the hard work done by America's workforce.

Memorial Day is generally considered the official beginning of summer vacation while Labor Day marks its end. Many Americans celebrate the federal holiday by gathering with friends and family, having BBQ's and closing out the summer as kids start the new school year.

On September 2, Oakland Pride will



be one of several events recognizing Labor Day. Help celebrate the hard work and contributions to commerce, arts and culture by the LGBTQ community. Learn more about the annual festival and LGBTQ history by visiting www.OaklandPride.org.

Also keep an eye on the City of Oakland's website at www.oaklandnet.com for updated information about other events throughout the city. 🌿



their daily activities. When students have the ability to learn and grow during the summer break whether through an organized camp, a family vacation or day trips to local educational events they stand a higher chance of retaining their knowledge throughout the summer and into the next grade. Historically low-income students have not been able to access enrichment programs, however, many such programs do exist and some are even available for free or for a nominal fee.

Take the time to sit down with your child(ren) and plan a few fun and stimulating outings. Consider creating a summer

theme like food or water. If your family were to choose a food theme you could plant a vegetable garden, take cooking classes and go to nearby events like the Gilroy Garlic Festival (July 27-29). Or if your interest is in water, perhaps everyone in your family will commit to learning to swim, take the safety and sailing classes at Lake Merritt, have a picnic at Lake Temescal and wrap up summer by following the America's Cup races out on the San Francisco Bay.

Remember, this is your summer and your child's memories in the making.

Check out these various summer vacation resources and plan ahead.

<http://sf.funcheap.com/events/east-bay/>

http://attractions.uptake.com/california/oakland/cheap_vacations/257888718.html

<http://www.zvents.com/oakland-ca/events/free+summer+activities+for+kids+near>

Learn more about Summer Slide:

<http://www.summerlearning.org/>

<http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/three-ways-to-prevent-summer-slide> 🌿

Success Stories



OHA is proud to salute **Kamau**, a member of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps 2011, who was recently honored with several awards. His unit was invited to attend a special presentation with the First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Michelle Obama. The pride felt by Kamau's mother is evident in the photos she shared and the OHA community is also proud to recognize one of our own as he advances in his very young career.

The objectives of the Sea Cadet program are to introduce youth to naval life, to develop in them a sense of pride, patriotism, courage, and self-reliance, and to maintain an environment free of drugs and gangs. Cadets are instructed by active and reserve military personnel and Sea Cadet officers in military drill and discipline, physical fitness, seamanship, shipboard safety, first aid, naval history, and leadership.

Kamau, congratulations on a job well done!

PARENT'S RESOURCES

One of the benefits of living within the OHA community is having the ability to share news and information with other residents and being able to learn from and be inspired by the successes of others. Angela, an OHA Section 8 participant, shared a resource that was invaluable to her when she became a new mother. She found an incredible support system through the Alameda County Health Department's **Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Program (IPOP)**, which is dedicated to reducing infant mortality within the African American community in Alameda County. To learn more visit <http://www.acphd.org/ipop>.

YOUR VOICE

Q: How can Oakland Housing Authority help me purchase my first home? – Anonymous

A: The Oakland Housing Authority Department of Family and Community Partnerships will be hosting a Homeownership Resource Fair for OHA families on Saturday, June 30, 2012. The event will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm, at the Oakland Housing Authority, East District Office at 1327 65th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94621.

Come and learn about the first time homebuyer programs offered in the city of Oakland. Also meet the OHA Homeownership staff and learn about the many OHA resident service programs in the areas of education, employment and family self-sufficiency, in addition to the Union Street Computer Technology center. Presentations will be conducted by local Affordable Housing developers and a local non-profit agency.

In order to participate, please contact Hanan Albabtain at (510) 587-5132 to reserve a seat by Monday, June 25, 2012.

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) is taking great strides towards improving your communities. Our vision work is well underway and great things are coming from these efforts. The OHA Craft Club is now meeting regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month; locations are being discussed for a new community garden at Lockwood Gardens; and several RAB members are developing an action plan to improve Oakland Schools. In an effort to allow these groups more time to meet on their own the RAB has decided to meet every other month beginning this June. The extra meeting time allows the vision groups to convene more frequently and take action on priority items. The RAB meetings for the rest of the year will be held June 7, August 2, October 4 and December 6, 2012, all at 5:00pm in the Board of Commissioners Room at 1619 Harrison Street.

All residents are welcome to come to one of the upcoming meetings. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Jillian Ryan in Family & Community Partnership at (510) 587-5110.

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.

Introducing the OHA Parent Ambassadors

During the Spring 2012, seven Graduates of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI) Cohort IV, committed themselves to service in support of OHA's partnership with the Oakland Unified School District (OSUD). Driven by the definition of the term Ambassador, "a diplomatic agent of highest rank," the goal of the Parent Ambassadors project is designed to uplift OHA parents as change agents in the area of academic achievement for school age youth. OHA Parent Ambassadors are also role models and serve as leaders within the local school systems.

OHA Parent Ambassadors provide meaningful services and contributions to OHA's partner school sites within OUSD. These schools are for the 2011-2012 school year: *Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School; PLACE @ Prescott Elementary School; West Oakland Middle School; Santa Fe Elementary School; Markham Elementary*

School; Futures Elementary School; Community United at Lockwood Elementary School and Parker Elementary School. OHA Parent Ambassadors work in partnership with the principals at OHA's partner school sites to identify tasks and projects to meaningfully contribute to the entire school community. Some of the service areas may include:

- **Classroom supports**
- **School safety**
- **Health and Nutrition**
- **Main Office support**
- **Special Events**

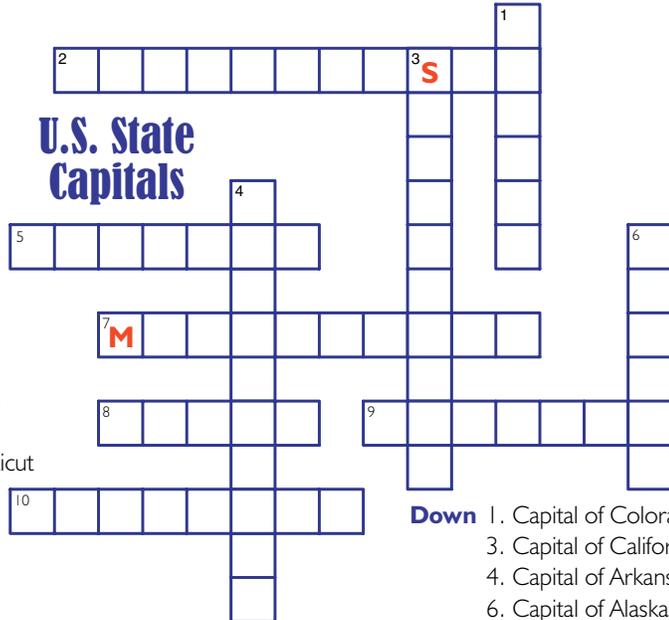
OHA Parent Ambassadors also take advantage of opportunities to advance their leadership skills through participation in committees, clubs and groups at school site and district levels. OHA Parent Ambassadors garner support and uplift other parent leaders through regular communication and dialogue regarding their service experiences at the local schools. 🌱



Kid's Play



U.S. State Capitals



Across

2. Capital of Florida
5. Capital of Arizona
7. Capital of Alabama
8. Capital of Delaware
9. Capital of Georgia
10. Capital of Connecticut

- #### Down
1. Capital of Colorado
 3. Capital of California
 4. Capital of Arkansas
 6. Capital of Alaska

Teen Scene

Kids Bowl for Free

Kids can bowl for free all summer long. Visit freebowling.amf.com for more information.



Share your ideas and accomplishments with the OHA Community!

See Contest on reverse.



ISSUES & POLITICS



The Political Landscape

Following the May 22, Texas Republican primary, Mitt Romney surpassed the necessary count of 1,144 committed Delegates to secure his place as the presumed presidential nominee of the Republican Party. Now that we know Romney will face President Barack Obama in the November 6, presidential election, it's time for American voters to focus their attention on learning what separates the candidates. It is also advisable to learn about the other candidates on the "down ticket," all those running for offices that are lesser known than the presidency. And while at it, we would all do ourselves a favor by understanding the various measures on our local ballots, because as the old saying goes, "All politics is local."

Over the past couple of years a number of major shifts have happened in politics and while people tend to focus on their own lives and tune out the day-to-day maneuvering of the political process, we are starting to see the consequences of our past votes (or lack thereof).

Citizen's United v. Federal Election Commission was a legal case that went before the court presumably to determine the legality of airing a political film about then-presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. However, when the case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, that court went a step further and deemed that corporations and unions were entitled to the same free speech rights as individuals because they were made of a

collection of individuals, and as such, they could not be limited in their ability to "speak" through political ads and messaging. Furthermore, the high court's majority ruled that monetary contributions to campaigns was a form of speech, therefore, it was determined to be unconstitutional to restrict the ability of corporations and unions to give any amount of money they wished to political campaigns. As a result of the Citizen's United case, it is estimated that over \$1 Billion will pour into the 2012 presidential race, most of which will go to purchase media ads designed to influence your vote on national, state and local ballots.

Relatedly, another change from previous year's elections is the rise of SuperPACS. A PAC, or Political Political-Action Committee, is a non-profit group formed to support a particular political candidate or position on a ballot measure. SuperPACS are similar to PACS but are not allowed to work directly with any candidate, therefore, they can collect unlimited sums of money without the restrictions placed on candidates. This year they are important to the election process because they are not required to disclose their donors and political candidates can hide behind the negative attacks of people who are allowed to remain anonymous. When watching a campaign commercial on television check out the name of the PAC or SuperPAC making the ad and do your own research to inform yourself of who is trying to persuade you to vote a particular way.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is another organization that has received a lot media attention lately. Although they are not new they have managed to fly under the radar for nearly four decades. ALEC is comprised of corporate members and federal and state legislators who routinely copy and paste the model legislation that ALEC writes and introduces it, ultimately leading to similar laws and policies without regard to individual state needs or circumstances. In recent months ALEC has proposed and promoted legislation containing voter registration restrictions, "Stand Your Ground," and bills that impact women's reproductive rights in California and in other states across the nation.

Ultimately, your vote is your one opportunity to effect the changes you'd like to see in your life. By becoming familiar with the issues that are being debated and understanding the political process, you can sort through the rhetoric offered by politicians and make educated decisions that benefit you and your family. Don't be fooled by clever (and often untrue) commercials.

For more information about the November 6, 2012 general election, visit www.barackobama.com, www.mittromney.com or www.whitehouse.gov.

National Night Out

Always the first Tuesday night in August,

August 7, 2012, will be recognized

in Oakland and throughout the nation as citizens claim their neighborhoods and make them crime-free. National Night Out is the nation's night out against crime. Learn about city-wide celebrations or how to register your neighborhood block party by visiting www2.oaklandnet.com/nno.



Contest

Rules: Submit your entry via e-mail at ohacomunications@oakha.org, drop off at any of our business offices or mail to:

Oakland Housing Authority
935 Union Street, Oakland CA 94607
Attn: Family and Community Partnerships

Entries must be received no later than July 31, 2012 to be eligible for prize.

Submit a story or story idea for the **YOUR VOICE** section or provide an entry for the **SPOTLIGHT** section and if your content is selected you will be rewarded with a \$10 gift card. Selected entries are subject to space limitations and appropriateness for the entire OHA community. A maximum of 10 winners will be selected.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

AT-A-GLANCE • SUMMER/FALL 2012

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

06/07/12

Resident Advisory Board Meeting

06/14/12

Flag Day

06/15/12

OUSD Last Day of School

06/17/12

Father's Day

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				

07/04/12

Fourth of July

07/16/12

Hug you Kids Day

07/20/12

Ramadan

07/27/12

2012 Summer Olympic Games

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	

08/02/12

Resident Advisory Board Meeting

08/07/12

National Night Out

08/27/12

OUSD First Day of School

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						

09/03/12

Labor Day

09/09/12

Grandparents Day

09/15/12

Mexican Independence Day

09/25/12

Yom Kippur

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



National LGBT Pride Month

In the United States the month of June was chosen to commemorate LGBT Pride Month because of the Stonewall riots. The riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969, has been cited as the first instance in American history when people in the homosexual community fought back against a government-sponsored system that persecuted sexual minorities. As a result, many pride events are held during this month to recognize the positive impact LGBT people have had in the world.



National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

This year's theme, "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories... One American Spirit," reminds us of the many benefits of diversity.

SAVE THE DATE

Father's Day June 17th

Things to do for DAD!

1. Wash his car
2. Clean the BBQ grill
3. Make him a card
4. Plan an activity like fishing or bowling
5. Serve dad breakfast in bed



**Oakland Housing
Authority**

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