



# Open House

*The Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin is dedicated to providing and advocating for affordable, attractive, safe living environments and opportunities to become self-sufficient for individuals and families that are hard to house.*

## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Barbara S. Kauss



### Springtime at the Housing Authority

The arrival of Spring will not only bring sunshine and warmer weather, but also a flurry of activity! In the upcoming months, the Housing Authority will be investing

Federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on projects that improve the quality of the public housing communities.

The Housing Authority is fortunate to have these funds available to not only enhance the public housing communities, but to also put people to work. Be on the look out for new fences in Sierra Vista Homes, kitchen and bathroom remodels in Conway and Tracy Homes, storage shed replacements in Thornton Homes, and tree maintenance in all of the communities.

### Administration Highlight

In February 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at the urging of President Obama, who signed it into law four days later. A direct response to the economic crisis, ARRA has three goals:



- Create new jobs and save existing ones
- Spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth
- Foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending

The Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin was the recipient of \$2.8 million in ARRA funds. To date, the Housing Authority estimates that 44 jobs have been created by ARRA-funded projects. The jobs created represent the workers and contractors carrying out the rehabilitation projects in the Public Housing Communities.



### In this Issue

From the Desk of the Executive Director ....	1
Administration Highlight .....	1
Community Corner	
Neighborhood Spotlight .....	2
Community Connections .....	2
Community Partners.....	2
Residents' Corner	
Resident Recipe Round-Up.....	3
Resident Council News.....	3
From the Beat.....	3
Maintenance Moment .....	3
Have a Say – Lend Your Voice – Take Action	
Census 2010.....	4
Voter Registration .....	4
Public Housing Agency Plan .....	4
Calendar of Events.....	4

## Coming Up...

### In Issue 3

National Night Out August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Announcement of Resident Council Representatives

Weatherization Assistance Program



# Community Corner



## Neighborhood Spotlight



Buthmann Homes is a senior public housing community located in Tracy. Built in 1974, it was considered innovative because of its "scattered site" concept. As important today as in 1974, Buthmann Homes represents the importance of integrating affordable housing within a community.

The residents of Buthmann are very proud of their community and have contributed positively to the healthy and happy environment of the complex. Ms. Eva Wright, a resident for several years at Buthmann shared, "We are all in the same boat here, seniors that need affordable housing." Ms. Wright went on to say, "We are one big happy family. It doesn't matter what race or religion you are, we all look out for each other and I am very, very happy here." Ms. Wright stated that the Community Center is the hub of social activity for the residents. They do puzzles, play cards, have pot luck banquets, birthday parties, and enjoy each other's company. Ms. Thelma Johnson, a nine-year resident (see her recipe on Page 3), said, "I love it here. It is close to the stores, and I get my exercise walking around the neighborhood."

The Housing Authority looks forward to continuing to improve the quality of affordable housing for seniors. Contact the Management Office at 209-835-3320 for more information on this vibrant community.

## Community Connections



### Resident Fairs



On every Thursday in May, the Housing Authority will be hosting Resident Fairs for the Public Housing Communities in Stockton, Tracy and Thornton. Service providers will be on hand to distribute information in the areas of: health, education, and social services. Food and social activities will also be offered at no cost to the residents. The fairs are from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the schedule is:

Tracy Homes-May 6<sup>th</sup>                      Sierra Vista Homes-May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Conway Homes-May 20<sup>th</sup>                Thornton Homes-May 27<sup>th</sup>

All residents are encouraged to participate in this fun afternoon of activities. Please contact Nancy Loucks, Community Services Liaison, at 209-460-5051 with questions.

## Community Outreach

For over forty years, El Concilio has provided programs for individuals that need assistance obtaining services in the community. The programs offered by El Concilio range from counseling and referrals, to education. El Concilio offers these services to infants, youth, adults, families, and seniors.

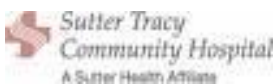
Ms. Cecilia Sierra with El Concilio's Parent Education Program will be conducting a Parents Support Group at Sierra Vista Homes every Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. through June 2010.

Anyone interested in this free program open to all residents, may contact Ms. Sierra at 209-351-1555.



## Community Partners

Enviroplex, Inc. donated to the Housing Authority hundreds of gallons of "environmentally-friendly" paint worth nearly \$17,000. Thank you Waste Management, Inc., Enviroplex, Inc., and all of the Housing Authority's community partners for helping to provide a better community for the Housing Authority's residents.



# Residents' Corner



## Resident Recipe Round-Up



Ms. Thelma Johnson, a resident in Buthmann Homes, provided a recipe that her daughter-in-law invented called "Jeri's Lazy Cake." **ENJOY!**

### Jeri's Lazy Cake (serves 3)

#### Ingredients:

- |                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1/2 cube butter  | 1/3 cup milk                          |
| 1/2 cup Bisquick | 1 pint canned fruit (including juice) |
| 1/3 cup sugar    |                                       |



Preheat the oven to 400°. Melt the butter in a bread pan in the preheating oven. Once the butter has melted, remove bread pan from the oven. Combine Bisquick, sugar and milk, then mix with butter. Pour canned fruit, juice and all, on top of batter. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until brown on top. To double the recipe for 6 servings, use an 8" or 9" square pan.

## Resident Council News

### Resident Councils Make Decisions that Affect Residents.



Resident Councils serve as the voice of the residents at each public housing community. Tracy, Conway, and Sierra Vista Homes are well on the way to establishing active Resident Councils.

Thornton Homes Resident Council is one of the sites that is off and running! The Thornton Homes Resident Council is committed to bringing the community together through a variety of services and programs. The Resident Council has identified having a safe neighborhood as a priority; therefore, a Neighborhood Watch Program is currently being developed in Thornton. Good Job Thornton Homes!

### Resident Advisory Board

The role of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) is to assist the Housing Authority in developing the Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan and make recommendations to amend or modify the PHA Plan. Currently, with the assistance of the Resident Councils, the Housing Authority is creating a RAB to review the 2010 PHA Plan.

RAB membership is comprised of individuals who reflect and represent the residents of the Public Housing Communities. Contact Nancy Loucks, Community Services Liaison, at 209-460-5051 with questions regarding either the Resident Councils or the RAB.

## From the Beat

### Spring Safety Tips



The following are some Spring Safety Tips for walkers, runners, and bicyclists:

- Bicyclists should travel with traffic, obey the rules of the road, and always wear a helmet.
- Wear reflective clothing.
- Be attentive to the lighting conditions. It's harder for drivers to see walkers, runners, and bicyclists during dusk and dawn.

## Maintenance Moment



Blocked sinks and drains are frustrating to everyone and are easily avoidable. Food waste, food scraps, or cooking grease/oil put down the sink or flushed down the toilet are common causes for clogged drains. Instead of going down the drain, these items should be thrown away in the trash.

**Tip for Residents:** To help keep sink drains clean, place a tablespoon of baking soda in the drain followed by a cup of water to wash it down. Not only will it help keep the drains clean, it is also environmentally-friendly!



# Lend Your Voice - Have a Say - Take Action



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The Census is a count of every person residing in the United States. The count includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. Federal law protects the personal information shared during the Census.

The information collected is used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to state and local governments each year.

Please see the insert regarding the 2010 Census. For more information or questions, contact the Census Call Center at 800-923-8282 or go to [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov).

## PHA Plans

On an annual basis, a PHA (Public Housing Agency) Plan is developed by the Housing Authority and submitted to HUD. The PHA Plan contains information about how the Housing Authority manages the public housing communities.

### A big part of the PHA Plan process is resident participation.

The PHA Plan process provides residents with an opportunity to get involved, ask questions, and discuss important issues.

Information about upcoming Public Meetings regarding the PHA Plan Update will be distributed to residents. All residents are encouraged to attend the Public Meetings to provide input as to what is important to the residents and how proposed changes may affect residents.



For information on how to register to vote, call the San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters at (209) 468-2885 or go to [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).

The Housing Authority has multi-lingual Voter Registration Information in all of its Public Housing Management Offices.

California Voter Registration Deadlines for Upcoming Elections	
Election Date	Registration must be postmarked by:
6/8/10 (Primary Election)	5/24/10
11/2/10 (General Election)	10/18/10

## Calendar of Events

### April 2010

1	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
7	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
14	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
14	Mobile Food Bank - Conway Homes
15	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
21	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
28	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes

### May 2010

5	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
6	Tracy Homes Resident Fair 🎈
6	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
12	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
12	Mobile Food Bank - Conway Homes
13	Sierra Vista Hms. Resident Fair 🎈
19	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
20	Conway Homes Resident Fair 🎈
20	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
26	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
27	Thornton Homes Resident Fair 🎈

### June 2010

2	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
3	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
9	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
9	Mobile Food Bank - Conway Homes
16	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
17	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
23	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
30	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes



#### Editorial Team Contact Information

Nancy Loucks, 209-460-5051  
[nloucks@hacsj.com](mailto:nloucks@hacsj.com)

Kristi Rhea, 209-460-5024  
[krhea@hacsj.com](mailto:krhea@hacsj.com)