



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



As the Executive Director of the Housing Authority, I am excited to introduce the first edition of "Open House," the Authority's new resident newsletter. *Open House* is a quarterly publication providing news, education and information for our residents and community partners. Featured articles are from various

sources including adult and youth residents, agency staff and members of the community. The Housing Authority aims to use this publication as a way to keep residents up-to-date on development projects and resident services. It is the desire of this Agency to deliver on its vision of creating community partnerships that result in individuals and families having hope for a better tomorrow.

I encourage you all to get involved and make *Open House* your own by submitting articles, suggesting topics or becoming part of the editorial team (see the Editorial Team contact information on the back page). Through *Open House*, the Housing Authority hopes to convey our mission and vision with you as we make affordable housing a safe and decent place to live, work, and play.

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Coming Up in Issue II...

- Break the Habit – Quit Smoking Program
- Neighborhood Watch Program
- Resident Fairs
- Bike Safety Program
- Child Injury Prevention Program

Maintenance Moment

A dirty air filter blocks airflow through the air conditioner and makes the system work harder. This wastes energy, increases the utility bill and shortens the equipment's life. Replacing the air conditioner's filter on a regular basis can prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system and help provide clean air in your home.



Tip for Residents: Prior to coming to the Management Office to pay rent, check your air filter. If the filter looks dirty mention it to the Management Office staff when you are at the office and you will be provided with a new filter. At minimum, change the filter every three months.



Community Corner



Neighborhood Spotlight

As a public housing agency, the Housing Authority received \$2.8 million in stimulus funds from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funds are for public housing authorities to use on improvements to the quality of public housing. The Housing Authority has identified the projects below to use these stimulus funds. Please contact the Management Office if you have any questions.

Conway Homes	Sierra Vista Homes	Thornton - Mokelumne Manor	Tracy Homes
Tree Trimming	Tree Trimming	Tree Trimming	Tree Trimming
Concrete Work	Concrete Work	Concrete Work	Concrete Work
Roof Rain Diffusers	Fencing Replacement	Roof Rain Diffusers	Window Replacement
	Storage Sheds-Roof Replacement	Storage Sheds- Replacement	

Community Connections

by Nancy Loucks, Community Services Liaison



The Housing Authority is excited about the programs that are available to public housing communities! Presentations are free of charge to residents with translators on hand. The following are highlights of what has been presented and what is to come.

- Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention
- Identity Theft Prevention
- Healthy Connections - Programs and services offered by Healthy Connections in Tracy.
- Free Flu Shots - Please let us know if you need more information.
- WorkStart YES program - Provides participants (ages 16-18) with paid work experience to find employment.
- YouthBuild San Joaquin – Assists residents (ages 17 ½ - 24) earn their high school diploma or GED, and learn the construction trade while earning stipends.

The Housing Authority would like to hear from residents regarding other programs or services which could be brought into our communities. Please submit ideas to: Nancy Loucks, Community Services Liaison, 460-5051 or nloucks@hacsj.com.

From the Beat



Serving the Public Housing Residents of Sierra Vista Homes, Conway Homes, Tracy Homes, and Thornton

Local law enforcement is available to the residents of public housing to assist them with law enforcement issues. The officers are committed to working with our residents professionally, courteously, and confidentially to ensure our neighborhoods are safe.

If there is an **emergency and immediate assistance is needed** call **911**. Otherwise feel free to contact the officers below to address your NON-EMERGENCY concerns:

Stockton Police Department

Conway Homes – Officer K. Pham 937-8377
Sierra Vista Homes – Officer S. Peppard..... 937-8377
Community Police Services Liaison –
Officer M. Sandburg..... 460-5044

Tracy Police Department

Officer M. Contreras 831-6618

San Joaquin Sheriffs Department - Thornton

Sheriff Deputy 468-4400

Residents Revue



Crime Prevention Tips

Anyone can be a victim of crime but there are some things that one can do to help prevent being targeted by crime.

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Keep doors and windows locked. Doors should be locked at all times.
- Place valuables away from a window so they cannot be seen from the outside.
- Renter's Insurance. Typically for little cost, a renter's insurance policy covers your valuables in the event that they are stolen.

The Housing Authority is establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program. Go to the Management Office to get more information or contact Nancy Loucks at 460-5051.



Resident Council News

The Housing Authority encourages residents to get involved and one way to do so is through the Resident Council. The purpose for a Resident Council is to empower residents and provide a forum to address issues and concerns regarding their communities.

The following is the schedule of events for establishing Resident Councils. Please contact Nancy Loucks at 460-5051 with questions.

Conway Homes – 2633 Arizona Avenue

January 26 - 5:00 p.m. Community Meeting
February 2 - Posting of Resident Council Election
February 26 - Elections

Tracy Homes – 340 W. 4th Street

February 1 - 4:00 p.m. Community Meeting
February 8 - Posting of Resident Council Election
March 1 - Elections

Sierra Vista Homes – 2436 Belleview Avenue

February 4 - 3:30 p.m. Community Meeting
February 11 - Posting of Resident Council Election
March 4 - Elections

Community Cookin' Corner

Ms. Bernetta Stewart in Conway Homes provided her favorite recipe for Pepper Steak. Recipes are needed for the next issue of "Open House." Please contact Nancy Loucks with your recipes at 460-5051 or submit them to nloucks@hacsj.com.

Bernetta's Pepper Steak (serves 8-10)

Ingredients:

2 yellow onions
1 green bell pepper
10 breakfast steaks or other thinly sliced steaks
2 tbsp cooking oil
1 1/2 cup water
4-5 teaspoons of garlic powder

1 package of chili powder (1/3- 1/2 cup from a bottle)
1/2 bottle of ketchup
1 tsp creamy peanut butter
1 bottle of steak sauce (any kind)
1/2 bottle of Worcestershire sauce



Thinly slice the steak (or ask the butcher to slice them). Slice the onion and bell pepper into small pieces. Brown meat in 2 tbsp cooking oil. Once meat is brown add 1 and 1/2 cups of water. Add all other ingredients. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for about 35 - 40 minutes.

**Serve over rice!
Enjoy!**

Calendar of Events

January 2010

7	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
12	Resident Community Meeting Sierra Vista Homes
13	WorkStartYes and YouthBuild Meeting-Tracy Homes Meeting
21	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
26	Resident Community Meeting - Conway Homes
27	WorkStartYes and YouthBuild Meeting-Thornton
28	WorkStartYes and YouthBuild Meeting-Sierra Vista Homes
29	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes

February 2010

1	Resident Community Meeting Tracy
1	Stockton Food Bank Delivery - Sierra Vista Homes
2	Nominations Due for Conway Homes Resident Council
3	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
4	Resident Community Meeting Sierra Vista Homes
4	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
8	Nominations Due for Tracy Homes Resident Council
10	Mobile Food Bank - Conway Homes
10	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
11	Nominations Due for Sierra Vista Resident Council
15	Stockton Food Bank Delivery - Sierra Vista Homes
17	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
18	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
24	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
26	Conway Homes Resident Council Election

March 2010

1	Stockton Food Bank Delivery - Sierra Vista Homes
1	Tracy Homes Resident Council Election
3	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
4	Sierra Vista Resident Council Election
4	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
10	Mobile Food Bank - Conway Homes
10	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
15	Stockton Food Bank Delivery - Sierra Vista Homes
18	Board of Commissioners' Meeting
24	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes
29	Stockton Food Bank Delivery - Sierra Vista Homes
31	WIC Program - Sierra Vista Homes

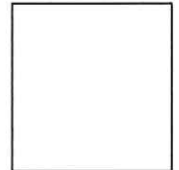


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