



# 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



What a difference a year makes! This time last year the Housing Authority was fortunate enough to receive Federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Housing Authority used these funds to improve the

quality of the public housing communities. Unfortunately, this year and perhaps the next as well, there could be significant cuts to the federal budget that impact the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which will also impact all Housing Authorities nationwide.

In spite of the upcoming challenges, the Housing Authority will continue to seek ways to be cost-effective and innovative in administering its public housing program. As always, the Agency is committed to providing safe, decent and affordable housing to the residents of our public housing communities.

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## Federal Administration Highlight

Below is an excerpt from an article published in the Washington Post regarding the Proposed 2012 Federal Budget

### Budget 2012: Housing and Urban Development

By Dina El Boghdady *The Washington Post* February 14, 2011

President Obama's proposed budget includes \$41.74 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, about **\$1.1 billion less** than what was enacted by Congress for fiscal 2010. Programs designed to help the homeless and those in need of rental assistance got the biggest boost in this budget. The administration proposed roughly \$2.3 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, up from the \$1.9 billion enacted in fiscal 2010. Another \$9.4 billion was requested for project-based rental assistance, up from \$8.6 billion in fiscal 2010. "In this constrained fiscal environment, increases were made only for the neediest Americans," the proposal states.

Funding was slashed by \$300 million for the community development block grant program, which was funded at \$3.98 billion in 2010. The grants are designed to help rehabilitate housing and invest in the economic development of primarily low-income neighborhoods. The budget also proposes about \$172 million less for new housing construction for seniors and people with disabilities. The administration is requesting \$953 million for that program. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan said the cuts would not have been made if economic conditions were stronger.

# Community Corner

## Community Connections

### Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance

VITA is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program that provides free Income Tax preparation assistance to low-income, elderly, disabled and limited-English speaking people. Please call for an appointment at the following locations if you would like assistance with your State or Federal taxes. Below are the locations for assistance.

#### Stockton

- C.P.F.S.T. – CUFF Center - 244 Fair Street (209) 444-5555
- TAFC Center - 389 West Downing Ave. (209) 468-4168
- Jene Wah Inc – 238 E. Church Street (209) 463-7654
- Calaveras Family Resource CTR – 7908 N. West Lane, Suite 201 (209) 483-4190

#### Tracy

- Lolly Hansen Center – 375 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St (209) 831-4230
- CTFSJ Health Beginnings – 20 Eaton Avenue (209) 483-4190

#### Thornton

- Thornton Community Center – 26675 N. Sacramento Blvd (209) 794-2144

### Save On Your Home Phone Bills with the California Lifeline Telephone Program

As we all look for more ways to cut costs, having a home phone is still a good option for you and your family. Emergencies can occur at any time and the reliability of a home phone may benefit you.

California LifeLine is a state program that provides discounted local home phone service to help consumers get and keep their service. You will get unlimited local calls for less than 25 cents a day plus other discounts.

Eligibility rules do apply, typically, residents of **Public Housing** automatically qualify for California LifeLine.

Start saving now. Apply for California LifeLine by calling your local home phone company, or call 1-866-272-0357 for more information.



## Programs Coming to Your Community

FREE Health Clinic: St. Joseph's Medical Center is bringing their mobile Care Van to Conway Homes on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a free health clinic for low income and no insurance individuals or families, 16 years old and above. These clinics will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. They will treat minor illnesses and injuries, which may include, mild burns, bumps, abrasions, sprains, sinus infections, cold and flu.

FREE Diabetes Education Program: A free 8-part series of educational conversations conducted by St. Joseph's Medical Center titled "Knowledge is powerful medicine" will be available to learn ways to manage diabetes. These sessions are open to all residents and their caregivers, and upon completion of the series, all participants diagnosed with diabetes will get a **FREE GLUCOMETER**. The 8-week program begins at 1:00 p.m. starting March 8<sup>th</sup> for Sierra Vista Homes and May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Conway Homes. For more detailed information, flyers are available in the Management Offices of Sierra Vista and Conway Community Offices, or call St. Joseph's Medical Center at (209) 461-3471.



# Residents' Corner

## Resident Recipe Round-Up

### Sticky Rice

The following recipe is a family favorite of Ms. Bang's that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is a tried and true recipe that will always make the perfect dish of Sticky Rice. ENJOY!



Ms. See Bang resides in Sierra Vista Homes.



- 2 cups sweet rice (the package should be labeled "sweet rice" or "glutinous rice")
- 3 ½ cups water
- ¾ tsp. salt

Put sweet rice and water in a pot and stir. Allow rice to soak at least 20-30 minutes. After rice has soaked, add salt and stir. Put pot on the stove and turn heat on high. Once water begins to bubble at a gentle boil, turn heat down to medium-low to simmer. Place lid halfway on pot and simmer until all water is gone. When all the water is gone, turn off the heat but leave the pot on the stove. Place lid on tight and allow rice to sit for 8-10 minutes.

## Neighborhood Spotlight

### Resident Fairs Are Coming!



In April and 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. 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. The fairs are from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the schedule is:

Tracy Homes-April 28<sup>th</sup>      Sierra Vista Homes-May 12<sup>th</sup>  
Thornton Homes-May 5<sup>th</sup>      Conway Homes-May 26<sup>th</sup>



## Maintenance Moment



### How to Prevent and Remove Mildew

Mildew in damp areas can cause health problems and is easily avoidable. There are a few steps you can take to help prevent mildew in your home. There are two major ways to reduce the chance of having mildew: **proper air circulation** and **light filtration**. When possible, open (or at least crack open) a window in the bathroom to air out moisture after bathing/showering. Also, when possible allow natural light into the room (a natural enemy of mold!). Additionally, the exhaust fan will also help move the air around and dry things out a bit, and if you have low-energy light bulbs, try leaving them on for 10 to 15 minutes after showering. Lastly, try to **keep the area clean**. Hang up wet towels, spray tiles with vinegar or store-bought cleaner regularly, and mop up any standing water as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding mildew, please contact the Management Office.

# Lend Your Voice - Have a Say - Take Action



## Resident Advisory Board Applications Now Being Accepted

The Housing Authority is seeking Public Housing residents willing to serve on the Housing Authority Resident Advisory Board. The purpose of the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) is to assist the Housing Authority with the development of its Annual Public Housing Plan and Five-Year Plan. These plans help to shape the future of the Housing Authority and focus on the development of housing policies, operational budgets, and public housing capital projects.

### APPLY NOW TO BE A RAB MEMBER!

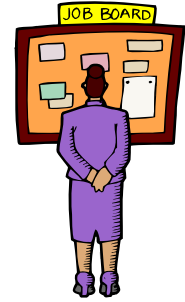
Contact Nancy Loucks, Community Services Liaison at 460-5051.

## Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin Board of Commissioners Elderly Tenant Commissioner Vacancy

The Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners has an opening for the Elderly Tenant (62+ years old) Commissioner Representative.

The Board of Commissioners is the policymaking and executive body of the Housing Authority. The Board meets at least once a month and Commissioners receive a stipend for attending the meeting.

Interested tenants of public housing (62 years old or older), may contact the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Clerk of the Board at 468-2350 for further information.



### Did You Know?

Did you know that the Housing Authority posts job openings and contract opportunities in the public housing Management Offices? Be sure to check frequently to see what is available.

## *Upcoming Events – Be Sure to Mark Your Calendar!*

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
March 15<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Health Clinic at Conway Homes  
March 29<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
April 12<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
April 19<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
April 26<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Sierra Vista Homes  
April 28<sup>th</sup> – Tracy Homes Resident Fair

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes  
May 5<sup>th</sup> – Mokelumne Manor (Thornton) Resident Fair  
May 10<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes  
May 12<sup>th</sup> – Sierra Vista Homes Resident Fair  
May 17<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes  
May 24<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – Conway Homes Resident Fair  
May 31<sup>st</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes

June 7<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes  
June 14<sup>th</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes  
June 21<sup>st</sup> - Diabetes Education Program at Conway Homes



### *Editorial Team Contact Information*

Nancy Loucks, 209-460-5051  
nloucks@hacsj.com

Kristi Rhea, 209-460-5024  
krhea@hacsj.com