

Community Times

A publication of the Housing Authority
of the City of Santa Barbara

What's new at HACSB? Bradley Studios!

The Housing Authority's newest affordable housing development, Bradley Studios, is now four months into construction and on schedule for its expected completion date of December 2012. The 55 unit project will be home to Santa Barbara's downtown workforce and individuals with supportive housing needs, including homeless individuals. If you know someone who might be interested, applications may be obtained at the downtown office at 808 Laguna Street or our website at www.hacsb.org.



Senior Volunteers

You are never too old to make a difference! Here are a few needs in our community:

- Casa del Herrero needs volunteers who love gardens, antiques and history
- Peoples' Self-Help Housing needs after-school tutors to help children with reading, homework
- Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network needs volunteers to help with feeding orphaned and injured baby birds, pelicans & small mammals
- CareLine Phone Reassurance - call home-bound elderly who are living alone

Remember: When you volunteer, you're not just helping others - you're helping yourself. Plus, studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life! Contact RSVP for more opportunities at (805) 963-0474 or visit their website at www.sbrsvp.org.

What are your children doing for Summer Break?

Here are some ideas...

- 1 **PAL Campership Alliance:** If you missed their initial summer camp scholarship registration on May 5th & 6th, PAL is open between 1p-5p Mon. - Fri. for walk-ins or call PAL at 962-5560 for appointment. HURRY!
- 2 **Internships:** Many internships are available, including the Partnership in Education program which pairs a student with a business after six weeks of job prep training. Contact our Resident Services Coordinator, Marcus Lopez at 897-1044 for more information.
- 3 **Youth interested in healthcare:** "Shadow" professional health care providers, including nurses, to observe various health care careers. Contact Kathy Hestahl at 569-7357 at Cottage Hospital to arrange an orientation.
- 4 **United Boys & Girls Club of SB:** Open to SB youth year-round offering recreational & social activities. During summer months open all day. The West Clubhouse is home to MusicBox Studios offering a drop-in recording studio, free access to a wide variety of musical instruments, expert instruction, and the tools to create and record their own music.
- 5 **SB Parks & Rec. Summer Fun Program:** FREE drop-in recreation program for McKinley & Franklin students in grades 1-6. Includes swimming, field trips, etc. Visit www.sbparksandrecreation.com. Limited availability—sign up NOW!



GO GREEN!

Raffle! In honor of Earth Day, the Housing Authority wants to know how you are going green in your home. Your efforts could win you a prize! All submissions will be entered into a raffle for great prizes and we'll also share (anonymously) some of the most unique environmentally friendly practices of our residents.

The Housing Authority is dedicated to doing its part in preserving our natural resources and reducing our "carbon footprint". Here are a few of the ways in which we practice earth friendliness:

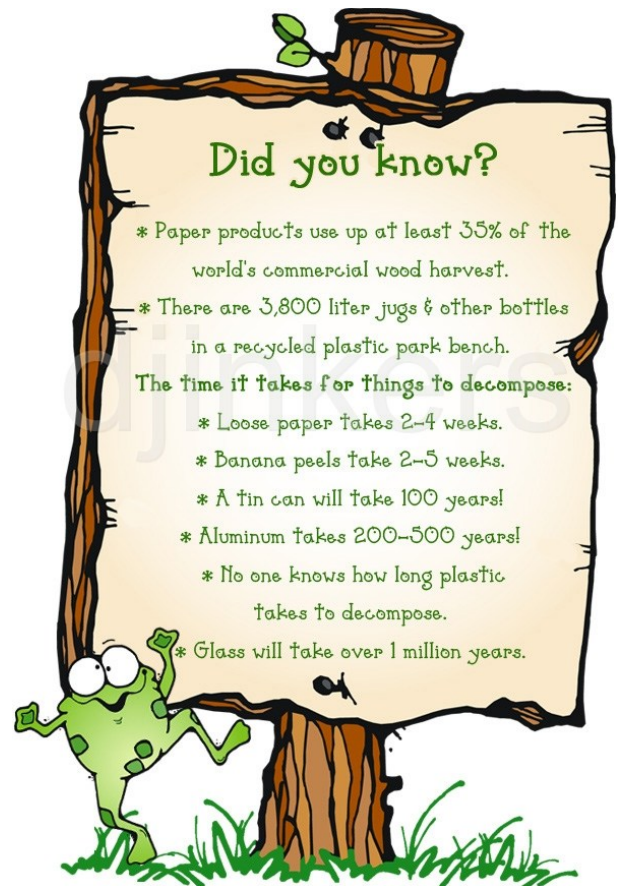
Employee Evaluations: Environmentally friendly practices at work are considered as part of each employee's annual performance evaluation. This promotes and encourages a workplace that conserves resources, practices recycling and use of sustainable materials.

Eliminate "Single Use" Items: Where possible, the Housing Authority is eliminating single use items such as plastic bags, plastic water bottles, coffee cups and plates.

Composting: Each of our buildings have a compost container for employees to deposit scraps from their lunches or meetings. These scraps make their way to our compost bin weekly, which in turn becomes nutrient rich soil for our landscaping.

Paper Reduction: Inherent in our job is lots of paperwork. Where possible we have eliminated printing and have entered the world of "paperless files" through scanning. All outgoing emails from the Housing Authority note our commitment to saving the environment and request the recipient to only print if necessary.

HACSB would like your help in going green! We are committed to keeping you updated regarding various



programs, activities and opportunities within HACSB and the community. The method most utilized is mailing information. In an effort to use less paper and get you the information as quickly as possible, the Housing Authority would like to begin utilizing the world of email to communicate. If you are interested in receiving updates and information via email, please send us your email address to cmontenegro@hacsb.org. Please include your name and address and help us go green!

Property & Development Department Corner

INSPECTIONS...

Annually, we are required to inspect all units owned and managed by the Housing Authority. We expect your apartment to be clean and safe, at a minimum. Very common fail items **THAT RESULTED IN TENANT CHARGES** during inspections last year were:

- **NON-WORKING SMOKE ALARMS, MISSING BATTERIES** - this is one of the easiest & cheapest ways to keep your family safe in the event of a fire
- **MISSING OR CRACKED PLATES ON ELECTRICAL & LIGHT SWITCHES** - if you cannot replace yourself, notify the Property & Development Dept. at 897-1061 (at tenant's expense)

Have you checked your smoke alarm battery?

Renters Insurance—it IS for you

Why buy renters insurance? As a renter, you may not think you need insurance at all. But you may not realize that the Housing Authority's insurance policy doesn't cover any of your personal property. What would happen if:

- Your apartment building burned down?
- A thief broke into your town house?
- A guest slipped and injured himself in your kitchen?
- The home you're renting suffered water damage?

Renters insurance can start low as \$10 per month

Without renters insurance, you've got no coverage for personal property loss or damage. Fortunately, you can get affordable renters insurance (also called apartment insurance) to help protect you in situations like these.

Contact your insurance provider as many agents selling auto coverage may also provide renter's insurance at a discounted rate.

Success Story!

Last month, Noozhawk published an article featuring a former Housing Authority intern, Gilbert Ortiz. Gilbert is now the self-employed owner of Cell Tek, a company he started to repair smart phones. He started repairing smartphones

out of his home then opened a store in Goleta. After 8 months in business, he has expanded to a storefront in Isla Vista. Gilbert started the Housing Authority Training Program his junior Year in high school and worked in the Department of Resident Services. During his time in the Training Program, Gilbert demonstrated his talent with technology by setting up computer labs for the Housing Authority's after school programs. He also helped with the VITA program, Arroyo Gardens and administrative office work. Congratulations Gilbert! For the full article go to Noozhawk.com.



Alex Kacic / Noozhawk photo

Beautiful Home Award!

The Housing Authority is happy to honor Mitchi Blake with the Beautiful Home Award. Our judges could not resist the charm of her beautiful patio in bloom at Presidio Springs, her home for the last 3 years. For her efforts, Ms. Blake will receive a gift certificate to Home Improvement Center!



Good Neighbor Award!

Thank you for the nominations received for the Good Neighbor Award! The Housing Authority is happy to honor Hilda Densmore with the first Good Neighbor Award! Hilda has been a resident at SHIFCO for 30 years and is known among her neighbors for her tenderness and helpfulness. She looks after those who are not well, and even bakes and brings people food. Thank you to Hilda Densmore for being such a Good Neighbor!

NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR FOR THIS AWARD! IF THEY WIN, YOU BOTH RECEIVE A GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Contact Clarissa Montenegro at 897-1044 or cmontenegro@hacsb.org to submit your entry.

Thinking about starting your own business? Check out Santa Barbara City College's Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program and Women's Economic Ventures. Both offer self-employment training and support.

A message from your Resident Council: Get to know your neighbors!

The dictionary gives the following definitions for neighbor:

1. a person who lives near another;
2. one's fellow human being;
3. a person who shows kindness or helpfulness toward his or her fellow human.

A neighbor can be more than the person that lives next door to you. Neighbors can be friends, helpers and sometimes saviors.

It does not take very much time or trouble to be a good neighbor and make a small gesture of kindness. We can simply knock on our neighbors' doors, introduce ourselves, and let them know that there is someone near, a good neighbor, who cares about them. You never know when you will need a helping hand and this small act of kindness and compassion can be reciprocated to you from your fellow neighbors.

We believe that this is a great way to take an active part in our community!

Sincerely,
Resident Council

READING is FUN!

Summer is coming, a time for kids to relax, visit friends, enjoy the outdoors, and dive into an exciting new book.

Research shows that children lose one to three months of learning every summer. Prevent this summer learning loss by keeping your child reading. Below are some tips to make reading exciting for your child:

- **Be a reading role model** - Don't just tell your child to read, let him see you read.
- **Entice your child with a riddle or joke book** - When riding in the car, ask your child to ask you some riddles or tell you a joke.
- **Read recipes or directions on a project** - Pull out some cookbooks or go to the craft store to buy a project to build.
- **Don't use reading as a punishment** - Make sure reading is considered a pleasure.
- **Write a book together** - You and your child write a sentence or two everyday, by the end of summer you'll have complete a whole book. At the end of the summer, read it to the whole family!
- **Read everywhere** - Read signs out loud in the grocery store or on road trips.
- **Turn off or limit the TV** - Research is consistently showing that excessive television deters children from reading & other activities.

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