

# COMMUNITY TIMES

Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara

## Summer is Coming!

Contact the Housing Authority's Resident Services for help in keeping your kids busy this summer! A few of our camps are listed below. Space is limited, please RSVP at 805-897-1044.

## Learn to Fly!

This summer our teens get the opportunity to learn how to fly a plane! This interactive course is offered for free to Housing Authority teens. Limited to 18 participants. Wednesdays 6/7 - 7/5 & 7/8 - 7/9, 6pm - 8pm, Grades 9-12.

## Engineering Camp

A great opportunity to learn more about engineering. Limited to 18 participants. Tuesdays & Thursdays 7/11-7/27, 6pm-8pm Grades 9-12.

## Casa Camp

Explore the history of Santa Barbara with knowledgeable guides from the Trust for Historic Preservation. Camp includes daily field trips. Open to first 12 applicants. Transportation provided. Ages 8-12, 6/12-6/15 & 6/19-6/23

## Campership Alliance

The "Campership Alliance" was established in 2000 for low income families to provide one place to go to find summer camp scholarships for their children. For more information, contact [www.santabarbarapal.org](http://www.santabarbarapal.org) or (805) 962-5560.

## Youth Summer Employment Program: Earn & Learn!

**Work**  
experience!

Are you looking for a summer job?

Get connected with summer jobs in the retail, non-profit, and service sectors!

- Eligible ages: 15-21 years old

Six week workshop that includes career exploration, money management, and skill development.

- Application deadline is June 1st
- Apply at the Housing Authority Main Office at 808 Laguna St.

Students receive a stipend for completing the workshop series!

- For more information: contact Celia Wright at (805) 897-1099

## Bed Bugs

Bed Bug infestations have become a serious problem in the United States. Here are some FAQs:



The size of an adult bedbug compared with a US penny

**What are bedbugs?** Small wingless insects, approximately 1/4 of an inch long that feed on blood, normally during the night.

**Are bed bugs dangerous? Do they carry disease?** Bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, however, their bites can cause large, itchy welts on the skin.

**What are the indicators of bed bug infestation?** Evidence includes the presence of bed bugs or their cast exoskeletons, and blood spots/stains on bedding, walls, or upholstered furniture, most often where a person sleeps or rests.

### What can I do to prevent bed bugs?

1. Check for bed bugs before unpacking during a trip away from home.
2. Look for tiny blood spots on the mattress.
3. Look on edges of the box springs and seams of the bedding and mattress.
4. Inspect the headboard and behind it.
5. Examine wood or upholstered furniture, especially along crevices and seams.
6. Do not pick-up used mattresses, furniture, electronics or appliances from an unknown source or without thoroughly inspecting the items first.

### If discovered, who do I call?

If you discover, or believe you have bed bugs, **immediately** call the Department of Property and Development at 897-1060.



## Housing Authority News

- Construction began at the Authority's newest affordable housing development, Grace Village, located at 3869 State St. The community will feature 58 one-bedroom units for seniors (See above). Grace Lutheran Church gifted this property to the Housing Authority, and is expected to open in early 2018.
- The Housing Authority created the pilot program HACC (Health Access & Care Coordination) which offers free health services for Medi-Cal recipients. To enroll or learn more about HACC please contact Hannah Greenberg at 805-897-1054 or hgreenberg@hacsb.org.
- Two former 40+ year old public housing properties, Sycamore Gardens and Pearl Gardens, went through extensive rehabilitation last year; inside and out, as a part of the Housing Authority repositioning its entire public housing inventory into a more stable funding platform. Apartments were updated with to new floors, cabinets, water-saving appliances, solar panels, tank-less water heaters, etc. ("After" photo below).



Pearl Gardens

## Phone Scams

Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Santa Barbara Police Department have recently seen an increase in a telephone scam that targets customers of the utility service provider within the Santa Barbara area. In this particular fraud, victims receive a telephone call from the scammer informing them that they are past due on their utility bill. The victim is advised their electricity and services will be shut off or disconnected if they do not pay over the telephone immediately. The victim will be instructed to go to a store and purchase a prepaid Visa debit card, MoneyPack card or make a Pay Pal money transfer. Victims are told they must do this within the hour or their utilities will be turned off. Victims have also been told when they question the caller they will be arrested if they do not pay.

SCE does not demand payment and threaten customers with disconnection of service in this manner. Customers that receive a suspicious phone call should contact SCE's Call Center at (800) 655-4555 and local law enforcement to report suspicious activity and to verify the validity of information.

## RESIDENT COUNCIL

Resident Council meets quarterly, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month to provide a forum to discuss the interests and concerns of all Housing Authority residents. The Resident Council is an important advocate on behalf of you and your neighbors, please join us! If you are interested in more information, attending a meeting or becoming a member, please contact Janice Rodriguez at (805) 897-1046.



Interested in an internship with the Housing Authority? Interns get paid on-the-job training and valuable workplace experience. Must be 18, have a valid CA drivers license and DMV record in good standing. To apply, go to our website at [www.hacsb.org](http://www.hacsb.org) or for more information, please contact Janice Rodriguez at (805) 897-1046.

## Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. Remember, it is against the law (and a violation of your lease) to dismantle your smoke alarm.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



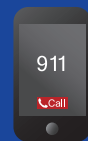
Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

# The Importance of READING

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that 68% of America's fourth graders do not read at a proficient level? How about the fact that one out of six children who do not read at age level by the end of third grade will not graduate from high school?

## CAN LOW LITERACY SKILLS AFFECT A CHILD'S FUTURE?

- One in six children who are not reading proficiently in the third grade do not graduate from high school on time, a rate four times greater than that for proficient readers. This rate is higher in children from limited-income families.
- 68% of America's fourth graders read at a below proficient level. 82% of those children are from limited-income families.
- Among those who reach adulthood with the lowest level of literacy proficiency, 43% live in poverty. Among those who have strong literacy skills, only 4% live in poverty.

## WHAT IS "SUMMER SLIDE"?

- More than 80 percent of children from economically disadvantaged families lose reading skills over the summer because they lack access to books, learning resources, and such enrichment opportunities as trips to the library, bookstore, or museum.
- Students who lose reading ability over the summer rarely catch up. By the end of fifth grade, they are nearly three grade levels behind their peers.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT?

- Research shows that students are most successful academically and socially when their parents are involved and engaged in their learning.



**“Reading proficiency by third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success.”**

- Encouraging your child to read just 4 to 6 books over the summer has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall, so even small steps are very beneficial.
- Just having books in the home has been proven to:
  - Improve a child's reading performance.
  - Cause children to read more and for longer lengths of time.
  - Produce improved attitudes toward reading and learning among children.

The Housing Authority sponsors summer learning opportunities through our Resident Service's summer programs, including "Literacy in the Garden". We also have "Little Outdoor Libraries" (see below!) Please contact Rigoberto Gutierrez at (805) 897-1044 or [rgutierrez@hacsb.org](mailto:rgutierrez@hacsb.org) for more information or to sign up.

## LITTLE OUTDOOR LIBRARIES

The Housing Authority has initiated programs within Resident Services, in partnership with its affiliate non-profit 2nd Story Associates, targeting literacy and education of youth residing in Public Housing.

The idea for Little Outdoor Libraries, a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange, was one result. We partnered with Leadership Santa Barbara, who planned, hand-built and installed the first Little Outdoor Library at one of our family properties. It was a great success, and since then we have installed 3 more Little Outdoor Libraries through 2nd Story Associates.

The Housing Authority was even honored with a national award for its Little Outdoor Library initiative, as an innovation in youth literacy and community awareness.

If you are interested in a Little Outdoor Library at your complex, contact Resident Services at (805) 897-1044 for more information.







## Doctors Assisting Seniors at Home (DASH)

DASH provides rapid-response medical care to adults (18+) in their own homes. By offering prompt medical attention to people who are too ill to wait for an office appointment or too weak to get there, DASH helps them avoid unnecessary hospital stays and trips to the emergency room.

DASH offers home visits Monday through Saturday, with a doctor available by phone on Sundays.

Affordable Peace of Mind: \$60 per person or \$90 per couple, monthly. No cost for those who live in low-income housing or receive Medi-Cal.

Contact DASH to learn more (805) 617-0049 [info@dashsb.com](mailto:info@dashsb.com).

## FREE Senior Fair!

WHAT: Housing Authority's annual "Young at Heart Senior Fair"

WHEN: Thursday May 25, 2017  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Villa Santa Fe Community Room at 418 Santa Fe Place, Santa Barbara

RSVP: by 5/12/17 to Rigoberto Gutierrez at (805)897-1074 or [rgutierrez@hacsb.org](mailto:rgutierrez@hacsb.org)

FREE wheelchair accessible transportation provided by EasyLift!

Join us for information about healthcare available in the community, free health screening, BBQ, raffles & more!

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

If you, or someone you know, has a mental health condition, you're not alone. **1 in 5 U.S. adults will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime.** In addition to a person's directly experiencing a mental illness, family, friends and communities are also affected.

Contrary to popular beliefs, children can, and do, have mental health conditions. Research shows that one in five children between the ages of 13 and 18 have or will have a mental illness. Many children and teens with mental health challenges keep their pain secret. Other youth express their feelings with risky behaviors or in angry and offensive ways.

Due largely to stigma that includes fear, shame, and misunderstanding about mental illness, more than half of young people who need help may never receive clinical care.

A few facts about mental health:

- Depression is never an inevitable part of aging. Older adults may have a greater risk of depression because they experience so many changes in roles and social networks.
- Mental illness is not anyone's fault, anymore than heart disease or diabetes is a person's fault.
- Genetics, biology, and environmental influences almost always play a role in whether a person develops a mental illness.
- The vast majority of individuals who suffer from a mental illness are not violent. The reality is that people with a severe mental disorder are 11 times more likely to be the victim of violence than those without one.

The Housing Authority offers free supportive services, including case management, counseling and referrals. Please contact Lesley Wilson at (805) 897-1048 or [lwilson@hacsb.org](mailto:lwilson@hacsb.org) for more information or to set up an appointment.

## PARKING

As a reminder, all residents living in Housing Authority properties have signed a Residential Lease, including a Parking Agreement, which provides the rules for owning a vehicle and parking in Housing Authority's residential parking lots.

- All residents parking their vehicles in Housing Authority lots must display a current, valid permit issued by the Property and Development Department of the Housing Authority.
- All guests must park in "Visitor" or "Guest" designated spots.
- Handicapped spaces are reserved for vehicles displaying the proper handicapped/disabled placard.
- Residents must park in assigned parking space (if applicable).

Residents or guests in violation of the parking rules are subject to warnings, towing and/or ticketing (the Housing Authority is authorized to issue SB Police Parking Citations). Please contact your resident manager or the Property and Development Department (805-897-1060) with question or for more information.