

Community Times

Spring 2010



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



Inside

[Employee of the Year](#)

[Humanitarian of the Year](#)

[Outstanding Community Partner](#)

[Coming Soon...Artisan Court!](#)

[Housing Authority's Parking Rules](#)

[VITA Program](#)

2010 Census: Be Counted!

The United States Constitution requires that the entire population of the United States is counted every ten years. Important decisions are made based on this count and the information the census collects helps to determine how over \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services.

Postal workers will deliver the initial mailing in mid-March, 2010. The easiest way to keep your information safe is to fill out your census questionnaire and mail it back right away.

A census taker is hired by the Census Bureau to make sure that your neighborhood gets represented as accurately as possible. The census taker's primary responsibility is to collect census information from residences that have not sent back their 2010 Census Form. Look for identification from census takers and remember that the Census Bureau will never ask for any information to be submitted online.

All responses provided on the 2010 Census Questionnaire or to a Census Bureau employee are confidential and protected under Title 13 of the United States Code. Under the law, no individual or agency (federal, state or local) can have access to any information that will tie the respondent to his or her responses.

So make sure you return your Census questionnaire and be counted!



Employee of the Year

Each year HACSB Staff nominates and votes for the "Employee of the Year". We are pleased to announce that **Andrea Fink**, our Administrative Assistant in the Department of Housing Management, was the top vote getter for 2009. Andrea started at the Housing Authority in 2005 as a Clerk. She quickly demonstrated her immense capacity to learn and accomplish goals and tasks, earning her a promotion in 2006 to Housing Management Representative and another promotion in 2007 to her current position as Administrative Assistant. Andrea truly embodies the Housing Authority's core values of Commitment, Cooperation, Competency, Compassion and Communication. She is known for her willingness to help her co-workers and her compassion for our clients and is at the forefront of innovation and motivation within the Housing Authority. Andrea is honest, fair, dedicated and works tirelessly to ensure the efficiency of the organization to be sure that you, our client, receive the best assistance and customer service. In short, Andrea Rocks! Please join us in congratulating Andrea Fink as the "Housing Authority's Employee of the Year for 2009!"

Humanitarian of the Year

Every year the Housing Authority staff votes for its "Stephen B. Logan Humanitarian Award Winner". This award is given in the name of one of our former Housing Inspectors who taught us all about what it means to "give back to one's community". Each year we honor Stephen's memory and spirit by voting for a co-worker who best exhibits Stephen's compassion and willingness to go that extra mile to help others in our community. It is our honor to announce that **Marcus Lopez** from our Department of Resident Services was selected by the Staff to receive this award for 2009. Marcus joined the Housing Authority in 2007 as a Resident Programs Coordinator. During that time, he has been instrumental in improving the lives of others in our community by seeking out and creating new and innovative opportunities and adventures for our residents. He shows a true passion for his work and assisting our residents. He has positively impacted the lives of many of our youth by leading and creating youth programs that encourage community, respect and self-sufficiency. Additionally, as an On-site Coordinator at Monteria Village, Marcus has been successful in fostering a greater sense of community, cooperation and harmony through the after-school program and site events. He is truly an invaluable asset to the Housing Authority and you, our residents. Please join us in congratulating Marcus for receiving the "2009 Stephen B. Logan Humanitarian of the Year"!



Outstanding Community Partner Award

As the Housing Authority celebrates 40 years of successful service to Santa Barbara, we recognize that our work would not be possible without the help of our community partners. Our collaborations with community partners are absolutely critical to our success and that of our clients, as we cannot meet all the community's affordable housing needs, as well as the social service needs of low-income families and individuals, on our own. With this in mind, the Housing Authority introduced our 1st annual "**Outstanding Community Partner Award**" as a way of recognizing and thanking organizations and businesses that help us change lives for the better.

We feel it could not be more fitting that **PathPoint**, as voted by our staff, was selected to receive the first annual Housing Authority Outstanding Community Partner Award for 2009. PathPoint, originally known as Work Training Programs, is a non-profit organization established in 1964. PathPoint is dedicated to helping people with disabilities or disadvantages reach their fullest potential, and is a leader in the field of supported employment and housing support services in California-- serving over 2,000 people each year in the five counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and Kern.

Coming Soon...Artisan Court!



On January 13, 2010, the Housing Authority broke ground on its newest affordable housing development, Artisan Court, located at 420 E. Cota Street. Artisan Court will open its doors in January of 2011, and will provide 55 studio apartments to a combination of youth aging out of foster care, disabled/special needs clients, and downtown workers. As a supportive housing development, Artisan Court will include on-site supportive services to provide residents with the needed support and encouragement necessary to successfully maintain permanent housing. Rents will range between \$408 and \$817, and Section 8 subsidy may be available for some units, allowing residents to pay no more than 30% of their monthly income for rent. For more information about Artisan Court, please contact the Housing Authority at 965-1071.

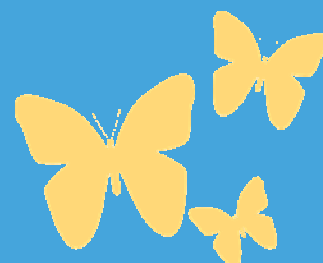
Parking Rules at Housing Authority Properties

The Housing Authority strives to ensure that residents are able to experience the safe and peaceful enjoyment of their residence, including the parking lot. The parking rules and regulations set forth in the lease agreement ensure that parking spaces are being used properly and with proper authorization.

Below are some of the Housing Authority's rules about parking:

- A Housing Authority parking permit must be clearly displayed on all tenant vehicles at all times or a one-time warning ticket may be issued.
- If unauthorized parking continues, a parking ticket will be issued at the owner's expense.
- Tenants are not authorized to park in the visitors parking spaces.
- Visitors are not allowed to park over an extended period of time unless authorized by Property & Development or the on-site manager.
- Handicap parking spaces are reserved for tenants displaying proper documentation.

We understand that parking can sometimes be in short supply, and Housing Authority staff strive to address any issues pertaining to parking. If you have a concern about parking in the complex in which you reside, please contact your on-site manager, or the Department of Property and Development at 897-1060.



VITA: Free Tax Assistance!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program can make filing Federal and State Income Taxes easy! This will be the Housing Authority's eighth year of assisting in the preparation of income tax returns for the low-income community and Housing Authority residents. We invite those who qualify (low-income and disabled) to take advantage of this **free** service. During the 2008 tax year the centers prepared over 1,000 tax returns and over 1 million dollars in tax refunds were secured for the low-income community!

**The Housing Authority has two Tax Preparation Centers.
Centers are open from February 1, 2010 through April 15, 2010.**

Please note that days & hours may be subject to change.

**Hours at 526 West Montecito Street:
Monday, Tuesday 5:30pm-8:00pm. Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm.**

**Hours at 309 South Voluntario Street:
Monday thru Wednesday 5:30pm-8:00pm.**



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