

# Community Times

Fall 2008



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

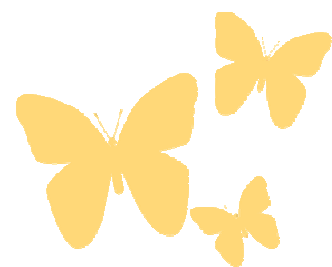


## Welcome!

The *Community Times* has a new look! In case you didn't know, the *Community Times* is celebrating 16 years of publication. The Housing Authority began the newsletter as a means of outreach to residents. Our Housing Authority residents and clients include families of all ages, backgrounds and interests, and therefore we have tried to share information and stories that appeal to everyone. And because this newsletter is for YOU, we welcome your comments and suggestions. We hope you enjoy this edition and future editions of the Housing Authority's *Community Times*—a newsletter dedicated to celebrating and serving our Housing Authority families!

### Inside

- Summer 2008 Photo Album 2
- Finance FAQ's & Fire Safety 3
- Furniture Closet, Family Build & Homework Help 4
- Resident Council, Work Orders & Digital TV Change 5
- VOTE! 6



# Summer Photo Album

## Harvesting the Garden

The Housing Authority maintains, solely with the help of its young residents, a flourishing vegetable garden. Sergio and Jimena Jaimes, pictured at left, learned about horticulture through planting and harvesting their own vegetables at the Arroyo Gardens on Carrillo Street.



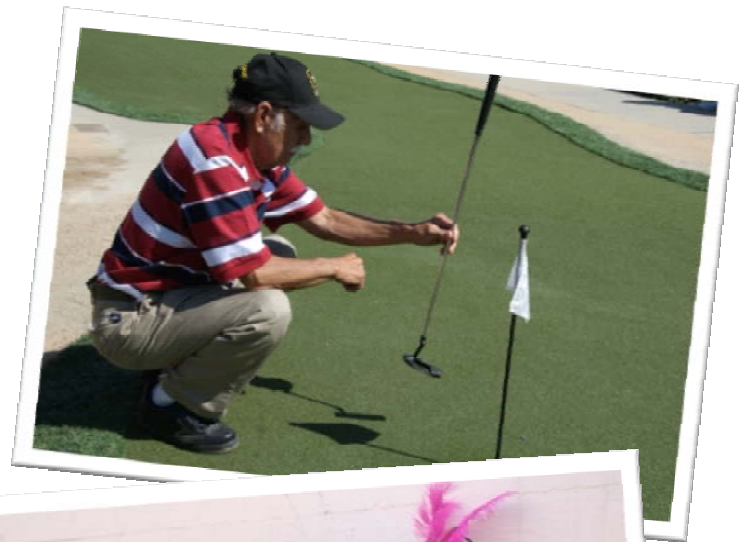
## Making Corn Tortillas at CASA

What better way to learn a skill than to have fun while doing it? Children learned the process of making corn tortillas using authentic metates at the historic El Presidio.



## Senior Putting Tournament

What better way to spend a beautiful summer day in Santa Barbara than with little competition? These seniors, all residents of the Housing Authority's 122 unit senior complex, Presidio Springs, hold quarterly putting tournaments—with a cash prize!



## Solstice Parade

It isn't summer in Santa Barbara without our annual Solstice Parade—just ask Danny and Norma who had a chance to express and share their creativity with the community and celebrate the summer season.





## Finance FAQ's

*How do I get new rent coupons?*

Rent payment coupons are not automatically mailed to you; before you run out of coupons, call Leah in Finance at 897-1039 or come in to request them.

*If my rent changes, do I need new coupons?*

No, keep using the coupons you have; the coupons identify you by the lease number listed on them, not by your apartment number or dollar amount.

*Is there a charge if I lose my coupons?*

Yes, there is a \$6 charge.

*Is it faster to pay rent at the office or the bank?*

The bank; if you pay at the office, your payment may not be taken to the bank that same day.

## Reminder to Residents... The Importance of Fire Safety

A recent fire in an apartment has reminded us of the need to emphasize the importance of fire safety among our residents. Thankfully, in the incident that occurred, there were no injuries or loss of life. However, there was extensive damage and loss of property for both the residents and the Housing Authority. According to the lease, residents are responsible for the continued and proper operation of smoke detectors in their apartment. Additionally, we encourage all residents to acquire renter's insurance as the Housing Authority, save for gross negligence on our part, does not cover the loss of contents in any sort of accident or incident whether it is fire, flooding, etc. To ensure your personal belongings are covered you must have renter's insurance. If you would like assistance in acquiring renter's insurance, please call Resident Services at 897-1044.

A few tips for maintaining smoke detectors:

- *Test smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.*
- *Change the batteries when you change your clock when the time changes.*
- *Pay attention to any chirping, beeping or lights from the smoke detector; these may indicate it is failing.*
- *Dust or vacuum all unit covers when performing battery maintenance. Debris and dust will make the detectors less sensitive.*

## Safety Quiz...Does your family know the answers?

Where is the closest fire extinguisher to your unit?

Do you know how to turn off your gas/water in case of an emergency? (If not, please contact your on-site manager or the Property and Development Department at 897-1060)

Do you have all of your important documents (birth certificates, etc.) and cherished items (pictures, etc.) accessible in case of emergency?



## The Furniture Closet

Providing housing to families is one thing—but we discovered that many of the families we assist move into their new homes with little or no furnishings. The Housing Authority's Department of Resident Services began working diligently with local non-profit organizations, private businesses and citizens of Santa Barbara to secure home furnishing donations. These donations are set aside for recently housed families, seniors and disabled residents in need. Everything from kitchenware, sofas, dressers, tables, chairs and televisions have been donated. If you have furniture in good condition that you would like to donate to this program, or know of a tenant or Housing Authority client in need, please contact Angel Velazquez or Marcus Lopez at 897-1044.

## *Family Build* Case Management Program

The Housing Authority would like to introduce Natalie Collins-Smith, our new case manager for the Family Build Program. Natalie is employed by New Beginnings Counseling Center, and began working for the Housing Authority as our Case Manager at the beginning of August. She recently earned a Master of Arts degree from Antioch University, and is working towards her licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Natalie spends a good portion of her time out in the field working with Housing Authority clients and families, identifying needs and linking clients with vital services, such as counseling, in-home supportive services, and obtaining important benefits. Natalie has been a tremendous asset to the Housing Authority and to our clients and we encourage residents in need of assistance to contact her at 897-1083. A warm welcome to Natalie!

Your children need your presence more than your presents.

~Jesse Jackson



## Homework Centers

Do your children need help with their homework? Reading? Computer skills? Are they looking for some after-school fun? Then they (and you) are in luck! The Housing Authority runs two FREE homework centers staffed by retired teachers, current educators, volunteers and Housing Authority staff. We can help your children with math, history, reading, computer literacy and much more. Homework is followed with fun-filled activities such as art, games and athletics. There are two sites available to you and your children (please see below). More information may be obtained by contacting Resident Services at 897-1044.

- 1 **Paseo Voluntario Learning Center**  
309 S. Voluntario St.  
Monday – Thursday 2:00 – 5:00 pm  
Fridays are saved for a trip to the Boys and Girls Club!
- 2 **Family Opportunity Center**  
526 W. Montecito St.  
Monday – Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Bookmobile on Thursdays!

## Resident Council is looking for New Members!

The Housing Authority's Resident Council is the voice of our residents and participants. The Council represents our clients on everything from housing issues to community improvements. Residents in properties the Housing Authority owns and manages, as well as Section 8 participants, are eligible to be on the Council. And adults of any age are welcome! Please contact the Resident Services Department at 897-1044 for a ballot, to nominate someone you think would be a good representative for your complex. The deadline for nominations is October 24, 2008, and new Council members will be selected on October 30, 2008.

## Work Orders and Minors

When you call to request a work order, the Housing Authority's Property and Development Department goes to a lot of effort to complete the work in a timely manner. **However, if you have minor children home alone in your apartment, the Housing Authority's policy is that Property and Development staff will not enter without an adult being present to complete the work.** An adult 18 years of age or older needs to be present, and may or may not be a family member. For further information regarding work orders, please contact the Property and Development Department at 897-1060.



## Analog to Digital TV Change

After February 2009, television stations will begin broadcasting solely in digital. As a result, television sets that use "rabbit ears" or rooftop antennas will need to acquire a converter box to continue receiving broadcasts. The Federal government is offering households up to two \$40 coupons towards the purchase of converter boxes. These converters will allow current analog televisions to receive the digital broadcasts after February 17, 2009. For more information call (888)-DTV-2009 or go online at [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov).

## Notice to all residents:

Please report any suspicious activity, loitering, illegal drug use, or other criminal activity to the Police Department (911) your resident manager (if applicable) and Housing Authority (965-1071) immediately. Such calls are essential in helping to keep your neighborhood safe for your family.

# Remember to Vote On November 4<sup>th</sup> !

In his Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln called democracy "government of the people, by the people and for the people." It means that we are not here to serve our government, but that our government is here to serve us -- and we have the right to decide who will represent us and how we want to be represented. It means that we have one of the greatest rights any free people can have: *the right to vote*. Voting is a right that, throughout history, many have fought for and sacrificed everything to achieve. It's a right that people continue to fight for and that millions of people throughout the world still do not enjoy. As Americans, we have the great privilege to live in a free society and voting is the right that makes us free. Remember to cast your vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>!

Information courtesy of [www.sos.ca.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections)



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