



Berkeley Housing Authority

1901 Fairview St., Berkeley, CA 94703
Telephone: (510) 981 5470 Fax: (510) 981 5480

Public Housing News July 2011



Kudos! Hooray!

At the June 28th Board meeting – special recognition was bestowed upon **Nya Sandeford**, 4th grader at Longfellow Elementary School for her academic achievements! And to the **Gregory Green** for his Master's Degree in Divinity from the American Baptist Seminary of the West. And to **Tracy Matthews**, in recognition of her service to BHA as a Section 3 hire. Absent, but not forgotten, kudos to **Jasmeen Kelly**, for her high school graduation and acceptance to the University of California, at Berkeley. We are soooo proud of you!

Annual REAC Inspections 2011

The Berkeley Housing Authority has been informed by Housing Urban Development (HUD) that the Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspections have been rescheduled and will be taking place on **Friday, September 16, 2011 starting at 9:00AM**. As you already know, HUD will randomly choose units to inspect within BHA's portfolio. Please let this newsletter serve as early notice of the upcoming inspection date for the REAC inspections. You will be receiving future correspondence as the inspection date becomes closer. Please contact K&S for maintenance service if there are any problems in your unit. Of particular importance are (a) issues with the smoke detector; (b) expired fire extinguisher; and (c) furniture blocking windows or exit doors.

Reporting Changes of Income

If you experience a change in your income whether your household income increases or decreases report it to the Berkeley Housing Authority immediately in writing. Please remember, that with a household income decrease, changes are effective the first (1st) of the following month the income change is reported and properly documented. For any income increases, changes are effective the first (1st) month after a full 30 days notice. Please note, that all income changes must be reported to the Berkeley Housing Authority in writing within 14-calendar days of occurrence.

Berkeley Public Libraries

Take advantage of the Berkeley Public Library system this summer and throughout the year. Enjoy the enormous resources that your local library offers for you and your family. Visit your local library and participate in activities such as children's reading programs, story times or book clubs. The library's resources are vast, which include, but are not limited to, conference rooms, community bulletin boards, children and adult activities, and of course checking out books, movies, and CD's.



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Listed below are the local libraries within the City of Berkeley, including the Tool Lending Library, which can loan your family tools for your home project and/or garden.

Central Library

2090 Kittredge at Shattuck
510-981-6212

South Branch/Tool Lending Library

1901 Russell Street at MLK
510-981-6260

West Branch Library

1125 University at San Pablo
510-981-6270

Rent and Late Fees

As a reminder, rent is due on the first (1st) of the month and your rent is late if received on or after the sixth (6th) of the month. If we receive your rent late, a \$40.00 late fee will be added to your account. Partial payments may be accepted, but will incur a late fee. Avoid late fees by making all payments on or before the 5th of the month. If your regular pay date is something other than the 1st of the month (e.g. if you are paid on the 10th of each month), with proper verification, you can request that BHA revise your "due date." Contact David Solis, Property Manager, for additional information at 510-981-5484.

Low Income Utility Services

Are you receiving discounted utility service from PG&E? If not, you may be paying too much. The application process is simple, and you can begin receiving discounted rates without any interruption in service. Call or stop by the BHA office for a CARE Program application from PG and E or call them at 1-800-743-5000. EBMUD has a program for discounted service. For more information call EBMUD at 1-866-403-2683.

Family and Youth Activities for Summer 2011

The Summer Activity Guide for adults and children are available at The Parks and Recreation Office located at 1947 Center Street. Scholarships for summer activities and camps are available for Berkeley residents for certain programs, provided applicant meets eligibility and verification requirements. You must submit an application with documentation at the time of registration.

The City of Berkeley has 52 treasured parks located throughout the City that include athletic fields, swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts, as well as numerous tot lots and playgrounds. Recreation, swimming, a skate park, and sports programs are offered to youth and adults throughout the year at various City facilities. Activities for youth and teens include after-school and week-end programs, summer fun camps, aquatics, and youth sports. Cutting-edge programs, such as Adventure Playground, the Shorebird Park Nature Center and the Marina Experience Programs provide visitors a valuable opportunity to enjoy the Bay environment. The City of Berkeley Camps are located in some of California's most beautiful locations. Tuolumne Camp is approximately 15 minutes from the west gates of Yosemite, Echo Lake Camp is a 20-minute drive from South Lake Tahoe. Berkeley Day Camp shares time at both Tilden Park and the Berkeley Marina. You may also contact The City of Berkeley Recreation Department at 510-981-5150 with any questions.

You and your family may also want to look into a family membership at the YMCA. Are you looking for some structured activities for your children and/or teenagers this summer? Don't forget to check out the YMCA, located across the street from the Main Post Office in downtown Berkeley (2700 Allston Way). The YMCA has low income scholarships for families wishing to participate in the myriad of healthy opportunities. Dance classes, swimming lessons, summer camps for kids,



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saunas, and senior groups are just some of the activities available. Visit your YMCA today and ask for a tour!

Free Meals for Berkeley Youth, Ages 18 and Younger

Children who are 18 years old or younger are invited to eat free in Berkeley from June 20-August 19. Since school meals are not available during summer vacation, the City of Berkeley, in collaboration with the State of California Department of Education, will offer free summer lunches and snacks at sites across the City. Children can rely on the Summer Food Program to provide nutritious food that will assist them to grow to their full potential, and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department staff members supervise the seven sites.

All of the City of Berkeley Summer Food sites offer recreational activities. Youth simply show up at the site during the time meals are being served, and enjoy good company and a delicious meal.

June 20 - August 19
Lunch Served 11am -- 1pm
Snack Served 2pm -- 3pm

- James Kenney Community Center 1720 8th Street
- MLK Jr. Youth Center, 1730 Oregon Steet
- Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park Street
- Harrison Street Skate Park, 5th and Harrison Street
- Black Repertory Theater Group, 3210 Adeline Street
- Malcolm X Elementary School, 1731 Prince St.
- Berkeley Youth Alternatives/ Strawberry Creek Park, 1255 Allston Way

Residents with questions can contact Ginsi Bryant at (510) 981-6674.

Maintenance Requests

Please remember that K and S Company provide emergency maintenance services after-hours and on weekends. Please limit your emergency maintenance calls to true emergencies such as a gas leak, or an electrical or plumbing failure in your unit. As you already know, K and S Company is available for regular maintenance, please contact K and S Company at 510-528-1900 with your service request.

In Home Housekeeping

BHA would like to continue to encourage households that need extra assistance in keeping a higher standard of cleaning within their home and back yard areas. Please remember to throw away or donate any items that you are no longer using in your household to free your home of excessive clutter and debris. Please keep the inside and outside of your home free of any recycling materials, if you have recycling materials you are waiting to turn in for money, please do so on a weekly basis to avoid cluttering your home and backyard. Remember to wipe down clean any surfaces in your home, sweep the floors, clean the toilet and sink areas, clean the refrigerator and remove food items that are spoiled to keep your unit clean. One of the areas that BHA would like to bring to your attention are your kitchen appliances, such as the refrigerator, stove top/oven and exhaust fan.



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Please wipe clean any excessive grease from the stove top/oven and exhaust fan, excessive grease on these items does affect the operation of these appliances and can prevented with continued cleaning.

Summer Cleaning-Bulky Trash Pick up

In order to continue to keep your home and backyard free of excessive debris and material, BHA will assist you in scheduling a free bulky trash pickup with the City of Berkeley Trash Services; the service is free if your household has not used it before within the last 12 months. If you have used the bulky trash pickup within the last 12 months BHA can schedule a trash pickup for you through K and S at a nominal cost to you. Please contact David Solis, Property Manager, to schedule an appointment for either a bulky trash pickup or back yard trimming service at 510-981-5484.

Recycling Containers

Berkeley Housing Authority would like to thank you for increasing your recycling and keeping recycled materials out of your trash container. Please remember that should you require a larger recycling can than the 32 Gallon sized container for either the blue or brown topped cart please contact David Solis, Property Manager, at 510-981-5484 to fulfill your request.