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Inside this Issue

Page 1

- * *HCAP: Oahu Head Start*
- * *Grievance Hearing Officers*

Page 2

- * *Executive Director's Message*
- * *Laiola Breakfast*
- * *Toll Free Numbers for Neighbor Islands.*

Page 3

- * *Parking Rules and Regulations*
- * *Aloha Meds*
- * *Resident Association Elections*

Page 4

- * *Transportation for the elderly*
- * *Senior Companion Program*
- * *Happy Easter*

Page 5

- * *Community Service Requirements*
- * *Keeping your Home safe.*

Page 6

- * *Construction Corner*
- * *Kindergarten Registration*
- * *Women, Infant and Child (WIC Program)*

HCDCH

Contact Numbers

Applications
832-5960

Fair Housing Officer
832-6003

Homeless Programs
832-5930

Property Management and Maintenance Services Branch
832-6034

Resident Services Section
832-5900



Honolulu Community Action Program
Oahu Head Start

Are you in need of free or affordable preschool care? One program offered by the Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. (HCAP) is Oahu Head Start. Oahu Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for families with preschool-aged children that offers part and full-day programs, island-wide. Health, education, and family support services are offered, either directly or through referrals to community agencies. Program options include part-day centers, child development centers, home base services or family child care home services. Enrollment opportunities are also available for children with special needs. For an application, call 847-1000 or for additional information call 847-2400. Or visit us at www.hcapweb.org or www.oahuheadstart.org. Oahu Head Start does not discriminate on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, national origin or persons with disabilities.



Grievance Hearings Officers

Make a difference! The Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) is actively seeking people who would like to serve as a grievance hearing officer. Recently, HCDCH adopted a new grievance procedure that states that HCDCH and the resident associations shall nominate a slate of impartial persons to sit as hearing officers. The initial slate of nominees shall consist of not more than twenty persons, of whom at least two shall be from each county. Hearings officers must meet the following criteria:



1. Be fully capable of impartiality;
2. Willing to serve without compensation;
3. Be capable of rendering a decision based solely and exclusively upon the facts presented at the hearing;
4. Be capable of preparing a written decision, together with the reasons; and
5. In compliance with the lease agreement.

If you feel that you meet the above criteria, please call the Resident Services Section at 832-5900 for more information.



Executive Director's Monthly Message

After a recent meeting with housing residents, someone turned to me and asked, "Eh Stephanie, how you like your job, anyway?" I paused for a moment and thought to myself, "...that's a hard question!" Looking back, after nearly 2½ years as the Executive Director and 12 months spent as a member of the Board of Directors of HCDCH, I've come to the conclusion this is a job I am still passionate about and have trained for all of my life.

I thought about how my past experiences have come together and prepared me for my job today. Born and raised on Maui and armed with a degree in public administration, I spent the mid 80's working with Mauka Electric learning the construction industry and the development of single family homes. This was followed by an administrative position with a non profit social service agency working with youths. I believe it was those two jobs that helped me with my next job from 1991 to 1998 as the Director of Maui County Department of Housing and Human Concerns, under then Mayor Linda Lingle. I learned a lot because we dealt with everything from developing affordable housing to providing social services.

After spending a year on the Board with HCDCH, like a lot of the other Board members, I felt "driven" to do more. I knew then and I know now that HCDCH can improve, will strive to be a "high performer" and our residents will live in communities we can all be proud of. I am glad I took that leap from being on the board to being the executive director.

I sincerely believe we are on the right path to improving the welfare, health and safety of neighborhoods with a caring partnership among residents and management. As we move into the second quarter of 2006 *we hope to show continued improvement in our evaluation of annual unit inspections and REAC scores. Let's work as a TEAM because Together, Everyone Achieves More!*



Stephanie Aveiro
Executive Director

Laiola Breakfast

On March 1, 2006, Laiola residents, under the leadership of the Laiola Senior Resident Association and Council, gathered to cook breakfast for the community. The association board served as the cooks for the event, making everything from egg omelets, spam and waffles. Residents were able to spend some time with Area Manager Christopher Price and Project Manager Marina Lai who took a little time out from their busy schedules to have breakfast and to converse with the residents.

Association President Maurice Hornos said breakfast has been held on every Wednesday since the beginning of the year. The 1st Wednesday of each month is the only day breakfast is cooked for the community. Coffee and donuts are served at the other breakfast gatherings during the month. He continued to say that the turnout for breakfast has been great and it gives residents a time to just "talk story" and get to know each other a little better. Keep up the great work!



TOLL FREE NUMBERS

Neighbor Island Residents may call

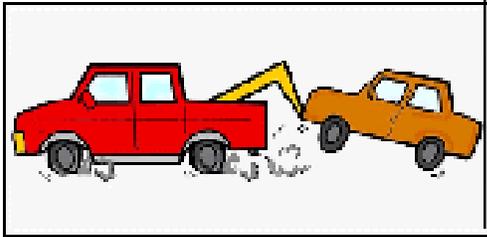
State Offices on Oahu toll free by dialing:

HAWAII - Dial 974-4000; listen for the dial tone, enter the last five (5) digits of the State number and press the # key.

MAUI - Dial 984-2400; listen for dial tone enter the last five (5) digits of the State number and press the # key.

KAUAI - Dial 274-3141; listen for dial tone, enter the last five (5) digits of the State number and press the # key.

MOLOKAI/LANAI - Dial 1-800-468-4644; listen for dial tone enter the last five (5) digits of the State number, and press the # key.



Parking Rules and Regulations

Just a reminder that if you own your own vehicle, it must be parked in your assigned stall only. Some projects require you to get a parking sticker from management before you are allowed to park on property. To register your vehicle, you will need to bring in your vehicle's current safety check, registration and no-fault insurance to the management office. Check with management if your project requires a parking sticker. Vehicles without parking stickers are subject to being towed by the management office. Register your car now before you end up paying for tow-a-way charges.

Aloha Meds



State agencies and community organizations have pulled together with America's pharmaceutical companies to develop AlohaMeds. AlohaMeds is a program designed to help low-income, uninsured Hawaii residents get **free or discounted** brand-name medicines.

If you have a hard time paying for your medications, you may be eligible for help in paying for prescriptions. You can visit the AlohaMeds website at www.alohameds.com or you can call them toll free at 1-888-477-2669.

Resident Association Election Results

Puuwai Momi Resident Association

On February 15, 2006 the Puuwai Momi Resident Association conducted their officer elections. Congratulations to the new officers!

President: Ms. Heather Kahawai
 Vice-President: Ms. Christine Ke-a
 Secretary: Ms. Noji Surber
 Treasurer: Ms. Naomi Medieros
 Sgt At Arms: Ms. Donna Avilla

Mahalo to the outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication:

President: Ms. Heather Kahawai
 Vice-President: Ms. Christine Ke-a
 Secretary: Ms. Katie Williams-Aguigui
 Treasurer: Ms. Donna Avilla
 Sgt At Arms: Ms. Naomi Medeiros

Kauhale Nani Resident Association

On March 8, 2006 the Kauhale Nani Resident Association conducted their officer elections. Congratulations to the new officers as they start their new terms on April 1, 2006.

President: Ms. Marsha Rodrigues
 Vice-President: Mr. Elvis Velles
 Secretary: Ms. Kimberlee Lum
 Treasurer: Ms. Francine Santos
 Sgt At Arms: Mr. Jerry Gomes

Palolo Valley Homes Ohana Resident Association

On February 17, 2006, the Palolo Valley Homes Ohana Resident Association conducted their officer elections. Congratulations to the new officers!

President: Ms. Dalphne Nisa
 Vice-President: Ms. Jan Ii
 Secretary: Ms. Ray Hilongo
 Treasurer: Ms. Lucy Sefo
 Sgt. at Arms: Mr. Auala Sefo

Mahalo to the outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication:

President: Ms. Dalphne Nisa
 Vice-President: Ms. Tanya Rodrigues
 Secretary: Ms. Ray Hilongo
 Treasurer: Ms. Mary Chanthabandit
 Sgt At Arms: Mr. Auala Sefo



Transportation Services for the Elderly



Catholic Charities sponsors a Transportation Services Program (TSP) which enables people 60+ to remain independent and continue living in the community. The vans transport clients and groups for shopping, medical appointments and other needs. This “door-to-door”, hands-on-assistance” service uses regular vans for most clients, but also has lift vans to accommodate those in wheelchairs.

Many of the TSP users have no access to a car, find it difficult to use public transportation, and does not have friends or family members who can take the time to transport them in the community. TSP is the only viable transportation option that allows them to mobile within the community.

This program is largely funded by federal and state grants through two contracts with the Elderly Affairs Division, City and County of Honolulu. The state-funded contract (Assisted Transportation) is part of the State Kupuna Care Program. Currently, clients who are eligible for services under the State contract, and who have an income of 150% over the poverty line, may have to pay a share of the cost of their trip.

Service is provided Monday to Friday (except State Holidays) from 7:00am to 3:30pm. For more information, call Catholic Charities at 595-0077.

Happy Easter! Did you know?



*1 billion Easter eggs are hunted in the United States each year in parks, back yards and on the White House lawn.

* Most children (74%) eat the ears of their chocolate bunny first, 13% eat the feet first and 10% eat the tail first.

* 600 Million Marshmallow Peep are sold each Easter.

*American spend 2 billion dollars on Easter candy and eat 7.1 billion pounds of Easter Candy each year.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter!

Senior Companion Program



The Senior Companion Program provides low-income senior volunteers age 60 and older the opportunity to offer socialization, companionship, home management, and limited personal care assistance to individual homebound seniors. Some of the services and assistance include light shopping, light housekeeping, light meal preparation, advocacy, encouragement and assistance with appropriate therapies, companionship and friendship.

The Senior Companion volunteer is entitled to these benefits

- *Non-taxable stipend of \$2.65 an hour or \$212.00 monthly (estimate)
- *Pre-entry and yearly physical exams
- *Paid pre-services, in-service, and out-service training
- *Paid vacation leave and paid sick leave
- *Monthly non-taxable travel allowance
- *Paid state observed holidays
- *\$3.00 a day non-taxable meal allowance for each work day or \$60.00 monthly.
- *accident/liability insurance for on-the-job injury

For more information, please contact the Department of Human Services, Senior Companion Program at 586-5192.



Community Service

Federal Housing Only:

The community service and self-sufficiency requirement is a legislative mandate by Congress as part of the Public Housing Reform Act of 1998. This provision requires low-income families in public housing to contribute or participate for 8 hours a month in a community service or self-sufficiency activity or a combination of both, as a condition of living in Federal Public Housing.

This community service requirement pertains to ALL members of the household 18-61 of age. Below is a short list of categories that are exempt from being required to perform 8 hours of community service per month.

- 62 years of age or older
- Is blind or disabled and certified that the disability prevents him/her from doing Community Service.
- Is needed at home to care for another household member who is blind or disabled and who certifies that the disability prevents him/her from doing Community Service.
- Is unable to engage in any substantial gainful employment of at least 30 hours per week, for a period of more than 30 days from the onset of an illness, incapacity or disability due to a physical or mental impairment, as determined by a licensed physician or psychologist. (Verification MUST be provided)
- Is a parent of a child under six months of age who is personally providing care of a child. Only ONE parent may claim this exemption. (Verification MUST be provided)
- Is engaged in work activities at least 30 hours per week as defined in section 407(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C 607 (d). Verification MUST be provided)

This is only a partial list of exemptions. Be reminded that in order to claim an exemption, you must meet certain requirements. If you have any questions as to whether you are exempt from the community service requirement, please see your manager.

To claim an exemption from the Community Service Requirement, complete the "Community Service Exemption Certification" forms which are available at your management office. If you have specific questions, feel free to call your manager.



Keeping your Home Safe



Your home is supposed to be a safe place, but recent statistics have shown that property crimes are on the rise in Hawaii. We have listed below some of the habits that you can develop and practice to ensure security to your home.

1. Establish a routine to follow in making sure that doors and windows in your home are locked.
2. Avoid giving information to unidentified telephone callers.
3. Avoid announcing your personal address in want ads or public notices such as giving your address when advertising items for sale.
4. Notify your management office or police if you see suspicious strangers in your area.
5. Don't carry your house keys on a key ring bearing your home address.
6. Don't hide your keys in "secret" places outside your home because burglars usually know where to look.



Construction Corner



Ka Hale Kahaluu, a 50-unit family project in Kailua-Kone on Big Island is scheduled to undergo major renovations this year. Bid opening is expected in late May with actual construction slated to start in late July 2006. The tentative date for the renovations to be completed is July 2007.

The construction corner will be a monthly feature in the HCDCH newsletter and will inform residents of any planned or upcoming construction to their project.

Kindergarten Registration

With the start of the school year being moved up to the end of July, public schools are encouraging parents of children born in 2001 to register their children for kindergarten now.

Early registration also helps the schools, since they need a firm enrollment count to know how many kindergarten classes they will need as well as how many supplies to order. A rash of last minute enrollments can mean students start school in over-crowded classrooms that are short on supplies. Schools end up not hiring enough kindergarten teachers could have difficulty finding qualified teachers once the school year is under way.

Parents who wait until the last minute might also find their children missing immunization or legal documents that will prevent them from starting school on time.

To find out which school your child will attend, call the elementary schools in your neighborhood to determine whether your street address falls in that district.

Documents required for registration include

1. Health Records: (Form 14) Children must have a physical examination, written documentation of required immunizations and tuberculosis clearance to enter school on the first day.
 2. Birth certificate: An **original** or **certified copy** is required to verify a child's age.
 3. Legal Documents: If there were changes to the child's name, custody arrangements or guardianship.
 4. Proof of local address: a document such as an electric, telephone or cable bill, or a housing or rental agreement that shows the address of the child's home.
- For More Information, call the nearest elementary school or visit <http://www.doe.k12.hi.us/parents>

WIC: The Women, Infant & Children Nutrition Program

Do you find yourself running out of money towards the end of the month?
Are you pregnant, just gave birth to a baby, or have child under the age of 5 years old? Do you meet the income guidelines in the box below? Then you may qualify for WIC checks (no cost to eligible families) that allow a person to buy milk, juice, eggs, cereal, cheese, and peanut butter. Infant formula is available for babies who are not breastfed.

Total Gross Income Guidelines

Family Size	Monthly Income
1	Up to \$1,698
2	Up to \$2,276
3	Up to \$2,854
4	Up to \$3,432
5	Up to \$4,010
6	Up to \$4,588
7	Up to \$5,167

*Count pregnant woman as two.

In addition to receiving WIC checks, eligible families receive services from a nutritionist. This nutritionist will:

- help you choose what to eat during pregnancy to grow a healthy baby;
- teach you about infant feeding, including the best way, breastfeeding;
- help you plan nutritious meals and snacks for children; and
- help you get other services for your family such as dental care, child care, and much more.

If you get TANF, Food Stamps, QUEST, or Medicaid, you also qualify for WIC. Military families, immigrants, and foreign students may also be eligible too. Working families, fathers, guardians, and foster parents are welcomed to apply as well.

Please call 586-8175 (Oahu) and 1 (888) 820-6425 toll-free from the neighbor island to get more information or find the WIC office nearest you.