



Housing Authority of the City of Alameda

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Winter Newsletter



November 2011

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Office Closed for the following holidays:

Friday, November 11th – Veterans' Day
 Thursday, November 24th and Friday,
 November 25th - Thanksgiving Holiday
 Monday, December 26th – Christmas Day
 Monday, January 2nd (2012) – New Years Eve
 Monday, January 16th – Martin Luther King Jr.
 Monday, February 20th – Presidents' Day

Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Smoke Detectors

The Housing Authority, in compliance with the new Carbon Monoxide Detector law, has recently installed Carbon Monoxide detectors in our single family residential units. The law requires that the detectors also be installed in all multi-family units by January 2013. Beginning with Esperanza in July 2011, the Preventative Maintenance (PM) crew will be installing these detectors in all apartments that contain gas fired appliances with completion scheduled for July 2012.



Please note that the apartments at Independence Plaza, Anne B. Diament Plaza and the condos don't contain gas fired appliances and won't have these detectors installed. If these detectors sound an alarm, you should first open some windows to allow fresh air into your unit and contact the maintenance department for investigation of the problem. Around this time, there is a dramatic increase in the instances of smoke detectors without batteries. Please remember that tampering with your smoke detector or removing the batteries is a serious lease violation.



The City of Alameda receives federal funds each year for housing and community development projects. The City of Alameda wants you to have a voice in how this money is invested. Information collected by this survey will be useful for the City of Alameda, the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda, the Alameda Unified School District and Alameda social services agencies as they plan for the future of Alameda.

To complete the online survey, go to alamedahsg.org or cityofalamedaca.gov/ and click on **City of Alameda Community Needs Survey**.

Questions: Call Jim Franz – City of Alameda Community Development Coordinator at 510-747-6883

Toys for Tots Sign-Ups

Alameda families can sign-up to receive Toys For Tots for children 16 and under at the Alameda Food Bank, at Atlantic & Constitution, or any of their other program sites. Visit alamedafoodbank.org or call them at (510) 523-5850. They will take sign ups through December 16th. The distribution of toys will be on December 21st.

Building Security

If you live in a building with common entry doors, be sure to keep those doors closed, no matter how long you plan to be gone. In the minute or two it takes you to run to your car for a bag of groceries or to take out the trash, a burglar can gain entry. It is always a good idea to lock your apartment door as well. If someone who does not belong there should gain entry, your locked apartment door is one more barrier between the bad guy and you! Keep your doors locked!

Holiday Cooking Reminders

Do NOT dispose of cooking oils or grease down the drain. By following these guidelines, you should avoid sewer overflows, backups and costly repairs.

- ✿ Pour cooled cooking fats, oils and grease that will harden (bacon grease, meat drippings) into an old milk carton, can or other container with a lid and throw it away in the garbage.
- ✿ Mix small volumes of liquid grease with an absorbent material such as cat litter or paper towels, place in a lidded container and put in the garbage.
- ✿ Wipe grease clinging to pots, pan and dishes with a paper towel before washing.
- ✿ Using hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain only moves the grease a short way down the drain - it gets cold quickly and can still plug the drain.

Newest Housing Authority Officers

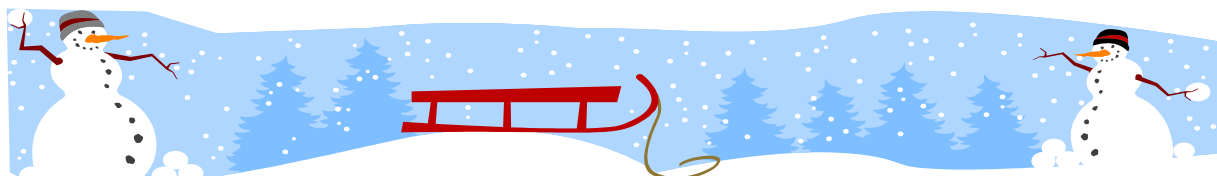
Currently, the Alameda Police Department has assigned the following officers to walk the beat at Housing Authority properties:

Officer Koby Burns
Officer Robert Heckman

If you have a concern, be sure to give the officers a call at 510-337-8340.

Waste Disposal

Please remember to properly dispose of all trash in the common area dumpsters and receptacles. There are instances where the lids are not properly secured. This invites rodents and other pests to make a home and then requires costly trapping and pest control services. If we all do our part, we can keep our properties clean and pest free!



Holiday Home Safety Tips

The Winter Holidays are a time for celebration and that means more cooking, decorating, entertaining and an increased risk of fire and accidents. A few simple steps can help you avoid disaster:

- ✿ Use flame-resistant, flame-retardant and non-combustible decorations when decorating anywhere in the home, especially the tree.
- ✿ Use caution when using a real tree that must be kept in water. Make sure all light cords are kept away from open water at all times.
- ✿ Plug all electric decorations into circuits with ground-fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shock and electrical fires.
- ✿ Never leave cooking food or open flames unattended, especially when children are present.
- ✿ Keep lighters and matches out of reach of children.
- ✿ Check your child(ren)'s presents for small parts that can cause choking.
- ✿ Test your smoke alarm's batteries before entertaining.
- ✿ Do not leave space heaters unattended or on all night when everyone is sleeping.

Christmas Tree Disposal

As in years past, please place your used Christmas tree beside the dumpster enclosures - NOT in the dumpsters. Housing Authority Maintenance staff will pick up trees and properly compost them. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

