

Around the House

Volume 4, Issue 1

January/February, 2007



Housing and Community Services Department Mission

... to provide housing and related services to benefit the citizens and neighborhoods of Wichita



Inside this issue:

From the Director	2
HUD Survey—Public Housing	2
Behind the Scenes	2
Section 8 Client Services	3
HAP Payment Schedule	3
Kinship Navigator Program	4

It is customary at the start of a new year, to make New Year's Resolutions. Usually the resolutions are things that people want to change, eliminate or do more of—with a goal of improving their lives.

The City of Wichita has five goals which are very similar to resolutions. This first edition of the 2007 Around the House newsletter will present the City's goals and show how they apply to the Housing and Community Services Department. Each month there will be a feature on the goals and how they are being put into action in this department.

Last year, the Wichita City Council adopted the following five goals for the city—things they want City programs and services to accomplish for our citizens:

1. Safe and Secure Community
2. Economic Vitality and Affordable Living

3. Efficient Infrastructure
4. Quality of Life
5. Core Area and Neighborhoods

The idea behind setting goals is to guide City departments as to what programs and activities should receive priority focus. In that way, they will produce "results that matter" to citizens.

Following is a look at how Housing and Community Services' mission (on the left of this page) fits into these goals—and an example of "results that matter".

Economic Vitality and Affordable Living:

Public Housing, Section 8 Vouchers, Affordable Home Repair, First Time Homebuyers.

Core Area and Neighborhoods:

CHDO housing development, Boarded Up House (elimination and replacement), CDBG-funded infrastructure improvements.

And now for an example of how Housing employees are following these goals and coming up with

Results That Matter

An employee recently made a suggestion to include a special flyer in mailings to Section 8 applicants, to ensure that they know what materials to bring to their formal application meeting. If it works, the simple addition of a flyer will make it possible for staff to process the required paperwork more quickly—and get the voucher in the hands of our clients sooner. That should make everybody happy—and will demonstrate our commitment to the goal of (Economic Vitality and) Affordable Living!





From the Director's Chair Mary K. Vaughn

This newsletter started out with a reference to New Year's Resolutions and the City's goals. I would like to encourage all readers to think about ways you can improve your lives this year—and create new year's resolutions for yourselves. Following are suggestions which come from the most common new year's resolutions, according to the U. S. Government :

- Lose Weight
- Pay Off Debt
- Save Money
- Get A Better Job
- Get Fit
- Eat Right
- Get A Better Education
- Drink Less Alcohol
- Quit Smoking Now
- Reduce Stress Overall
- Reduce Stress At Work
- Take A Trip
- Volunteer to Help Others

If any of these resolutions sound familiar to you or if they are of interest to you, please check out the following website. There you will find links to resources that can help in each of these areas.

http://www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Topics/New_Years_Resolutions.shtml

No matter what situation you are in, there are ways you can make your life better for you and for your family. Good luck!

HUD Survey Delayed

In the last Around the House newsletter we announced the annual HUD Resident Services and Satisfaction Survey. Included in that announcement were the survey dates. However, HUD recently announced that the survey dates have changed. The surveys will now start arriving around **January 5, 2007**. Everything else is the same however.

As a reminder, the Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is sent to a sampling of public housing residents at each public housing agency (PHA) on a yearly basis to find out how sat-

isfied they are with the living conditions of their unit or development. This survey is part of HUD's increased commitment to monitoring Public Housing Authorities. Your satisfaction and experience with your living conditions will be included in HUD's yearly evaluation of your housing agency. This survey was developed with the help of PHAs, resident leaders and representatives of the industry.

If you receive a survey, your cooperation in completing and returning it promptly is appreciated.

!!NOTICE!! TENANT ADVISORY BOARD SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Due to the resignation of a few Tenant Advisory Board Members, the Board would like those **Section 8** and **Public Housing** clients who will be interested in serving on the Board, to contact Pat Harder at 332 N. Riverview, 462-3768 or [pharder@wichita.gov](mailto:p harder@wichita.gov). Tenant Advisory Board Members advise the management of the Wichita Housing Authority in the development of the Annual and 5-Year Agency Plans and related policies.

Behind the Scenes ...

Housing and Community Services Department staff decided to give more of themselves during the 2006 holiday season, and did so in the following ways:

Staff signed holiday banners for members of employees families, who are serving in Iraq. The banners were then sent to the service men as a reminder



We're proud of our people!

that their efforts are not forgotten—and more importantly, they are appreciated. Thanks to **Carla Bonjour** for coming up with this idea and for making the banners.

For assistance closer to home, **Rhonda Harper** suggested collecting money from staff to adopt a family from the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Employees responded with over \$350 in cash and addi-

tional donations of food. Rhonda and her committee purchased items for three children who were recently orphaned, had lost everything in a fire, and were living with their grandmother. Because of staff generosity, the children were provided with winter coats and hats, and toys. In addition the family received food for the holidays and beyond—and most of all, the spirit of a caring community of staff!

Section 8 Client Services

Family Self-Sufficiency Graduates

In the last edition, we announced that 76 persons participated in the CreditSmart program in 2006. Following is a list of Family Self-Sufficiency program graduates—Congratulations!

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Angela Jones | Klesia Holloway |
| Nannette Newhouse | Arlene Fields |
| Winifred McPherson | Angela Lyday |
| Amy Skuya | Marshella Humphrey |
| Maria Baez | Marvia Bell |
| Jo Anna Greene | Micca Turner |
| Sethileen Nutter | Patricia Moore |
| Tina Kelly | Frank Patry |
| Tevi Sevastian | Angelica Salas |
| Senta Washington | Marceline Collins |
| Paula Brown | Misty Campbell |
| Monica Warken | Sherry Jaynesahkluah |
| Karen Hubbard | Louise Burton |
| Katrinka Ivie | Nancy Chisom |

Delores Dick

These persons will be recognized in a graduation ceremony on Feb. 23, at the Senior Services Building, 200 S. Walnut, at 7 pm.

If you didn't receive a certificate for the CreditSmart Series in 2006, you have another opportunity this year.

Also, anyone interested in the FSS program should plan to attend the mandatory FSS workshops. Note: the April workshops on the attached schedule are for those pursuing Education or Employment goals only.

Section 8 Voucher holders should contact their leasing specialist for more information on how to take full advantage of all workshop opportunities!

2007 FSS Workshops

- February 8.....Becoming a Homeowner Part 1
- March 15.....Becoming a Homeowner Part 2
- April 5.....Adult Education
- April 19.....Employment
- May 10.....Physical Fitness Field Trip
- July 12.....Career Placement/Career Fair
- October 11.....Domestic Violence/Substance Abuse
- November 8.....Understanding Your FSS Escrow

Meeting locations to be announced. Meeting time: 6 pm.

2007 CreditSmart Workshops

- April 28Your Credit and Why It Is Important
- May 19.....Managing Your Money and Goal Setting
- June 9.....Banking Services & Establishing/
Maintaining Good Credit
- July 21.....Understanding Credit Scoring & Thinking
Like a Lender
- August 18.....Avoiding Credit Traps
- September 15.....Restoring Your Credit & Planning for
Your Future
- October 13Becoming A Homeowner

All meetings at Dellrose United Methodist Church, at 10 am.

2007 Homeowners Alumni Calendar

- March 12.....Gardening & Landscaping
- May 14.....Home Maintenance
- July 16.....Safety (Personal & Home)
- September 17.....Budgeting/Foreclosure Prevention
- November 19.....Meeting

**All meetings at Atwater City Hall at 5:30 pm—
for current Section 8 homeowners!**

Current HAP Payment Schedule

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mail Date</i>
FEBRUARY 2007	January 30, 2007
MARCH 2007	February 27, 2007
APRIL, 2007	March 30, 2007

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

332 N. Riverview
Wichita, KS 67203

Phone: 316-462-3700
Fax: 316-462-3719
Email: www.wichita.gov/



Published by:
City of Wichita
Housing & Community Services
Department

Editor:
Mary K. Vaughn

Contributors:
Tom Byler
Shaun Davis

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

We're On The Web!
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Housing

New Service For Grandparents or Relatives Raising Children

The Kansas Children's Service League has a new program dedicated to helping parents or other caregivers raising children in navigating and overcoming the issues and barriers they may face when parenting the second time around – the Kinship Navigator Program.

The Kinship Navigator Program is designed to help meet the needs of grandparents or other relatives raising children. This program provides a case manager dedicated to supplying kinship caregivers with the services and benefits needed to care for the children in their home.

"Raising a child is always a challenge financially as well as emotionally," says B.J. Gore, supervisor, Kinship Naviga-

tor program for the Kansas Children's Service League. "When a child comes into a home unexpectedly, there are always lots of changes. Some relatives face health and financial problems or feel unsure about their ability to parent their new child. They may also experience the joys of having a second chance to raise children, the opportunity to be closer to their new child and the rewards of providing a stable and loving home."

Services offered to families through the Kinship Navigator Program are support groups, training and workshops, answers to legal questions and evaluation of unmet needs. Additionally, a case manager is dedicated to providing kinship caregivers with the services and benefits available at

the local and state levels, as well as assisting them in accessing these benefits and services. All Kinship Navigator Program Services are free and confidential.

For more information contact B.J. Gore at (316) 942- 4261, ext 1315.

Common Kinship Caregiver Concerns

- Loss of freedom
- Change in lifestyle
- Increased financial obligations
- Exhaustion and health problems
- Frustration with social services and the courts
- Child-rearing challenges
- Difficulty finding child care and professional help
- Anger toward the child's parents
- Feelings of guilt
- Legal issues