Halloween Fest a Spooky Success

Hundreds of trick and treaters of all ages showed up at our Spooky Forest Festival, many wearing costumes they made for their children at the Oasis Community Center’s afternoon crafting class. The children walked throughout the campus and collected handfuls of treats at over a dozen stops set up by residents and staff lining the streets and throughout our community garden area. The brave souls lined up to be scared in the inflatable haunted house or by the ghouls and goblins running about the urban forest trails. Thanks to the help of our neighbor, Tesoro Corporation and the event company Plan-It, CVC residents watched as our Urban Forest was transformed into a Halloween playground, complete with a pumpkin patch, fog machines, plenty of scary props and a gigantic inflatable haunted house. Events like these help us create a safe community where neighbors know each other, look out for one another and help each other overcome the everyday hurdles they are facing as they work to improve their lives. Take a look at the collage of pictures and see if you can find your spooky self!

Celebrating Around the World

December is the time to celebrate around the world. From America to China, people celebrate the holidays with different rituals and customs. We know what we do here, so let’s take a trip around the world and check out a few.

Hanukkah This Jewish holiday is celebrated over a period of eight days. A Jewish household lights a candle each night in a special candleholder called a “menorah”. The custom is to celebrate an ancient miracle in which one day’s worth of oil burned for eight days in the Jewish Temple. On the eighth day, Hanukkah, the traditional meal is potato pancakes, called latkes. Families sing songs and spin a top called a dreidel to win candy coins, nuts and fruit. This holiday lands on a different date in December every year.

St. Lucia Day This Swedish holiday is celebrated on December 13 to honor Saint Lucia. Girls dress up in long white gowns with red sashes. Families in Sweden have been celebrating this holiday since the 1700’s. In addition to the white gown, the girls wear a wreath of burning candles on their heads. The girls wake up their families

Continued on next page...
Celebrating Around the World (continued from front page)

by singing songs, offering coffee, and a pastry called a “St. Lucia’s bun” that is yellow (from the ingredient called saffron)!

New Year’s Eve in Ecuador  A straw man (scarecrow) is dressed up to represent the old year. Each family member lists all of their faults in the form of a will. At midnight, the straw man is burned and people hope their faults will disappear with the straw man.

New Year’s in China  children dress in new clothes to represent a new year. A huge parade led by a silk dragon and people carrying candles winds through the streets. Dragons, the Chinese symbol of strength, sleep most of the year, so during the parade fireworks are used to keep the dragon awake.

CHOP

Borrowing the theme from the popular TV cooking show, the Oasis Teen program recently started its first CHOP (Creating Healthy Options Program) session with ground rules, basic kitchen safety, and knife safety. Many of the 16 teens originally participating came into the program with what they thought was a thorough understanding of cooking, but quickly found out that they were not as skilled in the kitchen as they thought they were.

Each week members are encouraged to bring recipes they would like to share or to make for their family. To date, the CHOP teams have created spiked chicken curry, pizza, tacos, quinoa and rice patties and many more fun and healthy recipes. The teens were able to display some of their new found skills during Halloween by preparing and selling festive Rice Krispy treats as well as run a do-it-yourself snack table. The teens assisted residents to make spooky and healthy snacks with apples, peanut butter and marshmallows.

While having fun, the teens are learning valuable lessons beyond food preparation and healthy eating. They are also learning about cleaning up after themselves, focusing on the task at hand, respect for others, appropriate dinner conversations and an appreciation for dining etiquette. One twelve-year-old told the instructor, “I have never sat down together with my family to eat. It’s nice to share a meal with other people.”

We are also fortunate to have a community garden on-site and the members have enjoyed learning how food is grown and how to incorporate fresh herbs and vegetables into their recipes. A teen, originally from Memphis, TN, has become mesmerized with the idea of growing his own food that he has started volunteering to help with the community garden.

All the teens and staff participating in this program thank the support they have received from the Building Healthy Communities Steering Committee, which has sponsored programs across the city to support food education programs like CHOP which teaches healthy choices, cooking and gardening.

For more information on CHOP please call Cherisse Goodman at 562.388.8080 ext. 4 or email cgoodman@centuryvillages.org.

Under Construction

Sticks and Bricks Progress!

Progress comes with a lot of dust and noise so we thank you for bearing with us the past several months as the Villages has undergone extensive construction activity with many more months to come. If you have questions or concerns, please stop by our property office and speak with our staff.

Cabrillo Gateway Apartments  The building is fully framed out and has achieved official “top out.” Windows have been installed and interior mechanical, plumbing and electrical work is well underway.

January:  Begin interior finishes inside units (drywall, cabinets, paint, flooring).

February:  Clock tower bell expected to be installed. Exterior paint to begin.

March:  Concrete sidewalks, built-in concrete seating and stage in the Grand Lawn area to be installed.

April:  Landscaping to begin.

May:  Final completion and inspections.

Maintenance Building Project  Final landscaping is being installed at the new Maintenance facility at the San Gabriel entry and the building has just been placed in service. The CVC Maintenance Team will enjoy its new, permanent home.

Solar Carport Project  The carport officially opened in September and began producing electricity in October. Signage about how solar energy works will be installed soon.

Urban Forest  The Urban Forest Grand Opening was in September and it is open to our community for your enjoyment. Thank you for staying on the path and protecting our trees and plants as they get established. Please remember that the urban forest area is a non-smoking area. Check out the signage to learn more about the site’s Tongva past and the trees that were specially selected for the forest.

St. Lucia’s bun with the straw man.
CVC is very excited to welcome Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) to our campus as our newest service provider partner. Beginning in October, HIS began supporting new residents at 2280 W. Williams when Resident Assistant Roberto Berrara (pictured) occupied the first room. CVC and HIS, along with the Corporation for Supportive Housing are piloting a new Coordinated Entry System utilizing our congregate living environment to serve those who have been chronically homeless but now have a place to call home.

Harbor Interfaith Services was first established in 1975; first as a food pantry, known as FISH, the organization serves many of the families struggling with the slowdown and eventual closing of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. Many of those who received this initial support had lost their port jobs.

As more women and children became homeless through the 1980’s, Harbor Interfaith Shelter was created to provide emergency shelter for residents with stays for up to 90 days. Through continued need and the dedicated work of the faith-based community HIS was able to acquire a 24 unit housing complex in San Pedro where families are now able to stay for up to 18 months and be supported in their recovery from homelessness.

Most recently, HIS moved into a newly built facility complete with a child care center and is now known, some 40 years later, as Harbor Interfaith Services.

By partnering with the Century Villages community, HIS will bring its expertise and compassion to serve those overcoming homelessness and strengthen our community. By February, the HIS House will be fully occupied, serving 15 individuals who previously did not have a home. Please join CVC in welcoming Harbor Interfaith Services as the newest service provider on campus.

Anchor Place

As shared at the October Town Hall meeting, CVC is moving forward with plans to develop its next phase of permanent supportive housing. Called Anchor Place, the development will be sited on the east side of River Avenue and will provide 120 affordable homes to both families and homeless veterans across its mix of one, two and three bedroom apartments. As we gear up for several key funding milestones, we will begin demolition activities over the coming months.

January: pedestrian traffic and street parking will be diverted away from the demolition for the safety of the pedestrians and the workers. Please cooperate with all safety measures and directions for pedestrians and parking.

CVC’s development team is committed to safety during the course of construction and wishes to minimize impacts on our residents. Should you have any concerns, please visit or contact our property office at 562-388-8107.

New Maintenance Building

Perhaps you have noticed that new building going in on the west side of our entrance on San Gabriel? This is the new home of the CVC maintenance department. This new facility represents all the hard work and sweat equity our maintenance team has put into our campus since our grand opening in 2001 when there were 5 guys in an old shed without tools, without water, or heat, or bathrooms, or sufficient electrical power. Joe Haywood, an original member of that team remembers those times and is giddy with excitement of moving into the new space which will provide sufficient space, storage, tools, and amenities to allow our crew of 15 hard-working members to be true stewards of our property well into the future. Our motto is Excellence In Stewardship and now we have a facility which reflects this expectation.

U.S. VETS Job Fair

Nearly 200 excited jobseekers from Century Villages and our surrounding communities converged on our central courtyard on a beautiful fall day this past October to attend U.S. VETS annual Job Fair. The event organizer, Jamie Rimphanli, secured 24 employer participants including LAPD, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, FBI, Teldyne, Yellow Cab and Hyundai just to name a few. While job seeking is serious business, this event was not lacking in fun festivities. Long Beach Fire Fighters Local 372 barbequed over 250 hot dogs while the cover band “Time Travelers” provided the campus with an eclectic repertoire of musical entertainment.

The Employment Development Department was also on hand lending guidance and job list resources to the many participants. The South Bay Veteran Employment Committee and the Greater Harbor Employment Advisory Council helped sponsor this community event with monetary donations.
The Oasis Community Center is a drop-in resource center on campus open to ALL residents Monday through Friday. Oasis is located between the Family Commons and Cabrillo Plaza and offers daily workshops, information and referrals, and one-on-one supportive services for adults, as well as a structured After-School Program for school-aged children and teens. The Center also features an internet connected computer lab, and play-care for pre-school children so parents can attend class—all free of charge. Oasis Staff also helps to plan campus-wide events and festivals and other special holiday programs.

Besides the skill building classes we offer to help residents like Career Planning, Parenting and Financial Literacy we have added some new and interesting classes to our schedule.

**Mondays are Wild!** Mondays are days of special guests, special topics, and different activities. Each month Kaitlyn teaches “Crafternoons with Kaitlyn,” a special DIY crafting class assisting residents with low-cost craft projects they can enjoy making and save money at the same time! This fall focused on holiday projects like low cost Halloween costumes, Thanksgiving centerpieces, and holiday gifts. We’ve also had representatives from Chase Bank come out for residents, a self-defense class for women, Long Beach Time Exchange, and we have planned much more for the coming months. Check out the monthly calendar and special flyers for these class details.

**On Tuesdays, parents meet** with Jaylene to learn different parenting techniques and valuable developmental information specific to their child’s age. The class offers parents a supportive environment to share their questions and suggestions with other parents in similar circumstances.

**Wednesdays we Shake it!** Each week Cherisse offers a program that encourages relationships and health. Residents of all ages and all fitness levels get together to walk and use the equipment in the new Urban Forest, practice relaxation techniques, and enjoy a smoothie or healthy snack. It’s the perfect way to get out of the classroom, relax, and enjoy the fitness trail while getting to know your neighbors.

**Show me the Money Thursdays!** Every Thursday we have financial literacy classes to help you manage your money. Who doesn’t like to have more money? You will learn ways to improve your credit, the best way to maximize savings, and make your dollars stretch. You do not have to share your personal information or divulge your financial history but you will meet others struggling with the same issues and learning from their experience may be just what you need to get ahead.

**TGIF...I need help with the computer!**
Every Friday Ernesto is here to help residents in the computer lab. It is not a structured class but you can drop in and find he has a wealth of knowledge to assist you with your computer skills. Can not find that file you saved? Want to know how to convert a word document to a pdf? Need to set up an email account? Bring your questions, we can help.

Friday afternoons you can get help preparing for your GED in our Study Lab. It is not a class but it offers dedicated time where you can get assistance on your GED studies. We will help you find resources online that can help with assessment and studying or you can borrow our GED preparation books to study on your own.

**Thanksgiving Feast**
The holidays are in full swing and the giving spirit is in the air! The Long Beach Masonic Lodge and Hope Worldwide paired up once again to bring the Thanksgiving spirit, as well as all the food and trimmings you can imagine to the many Veterans here at CVC. Mike Selix, VA Representative for the Masonic Service Association and organizer of the Thanksgiving tradition at CVC, is no stranger when it comes to giving back to our nation’s Veterans. He has worked closely with U.S.VETS and CVC for six years to make sure that during the holidays, Veterans are well fed and appreciated.

As Mike said, “this is my way of giving back to those who have given so much.” On November 27th, over 100 volunteers took over the U.S. VETS’ Kitchen and Dining Hall to cook up a brilliant feast for all the Veterans here at CVC. Along with turkeys donated from Costco and beverages from Pepsi, they even roasted up three whole pigs! The dining hall was transformed into a beautifully decorated community Thanksgiving paradise with the most beautiful thing being all the smiles on each of the residents as they came together to celebrate and give thanks.
NEW STORE HOURS
Mon— 7am to 8pm
Tues— 7am to 8pm
Wed— 7am to 8pm
Thurs— 7am to 8pm
Fri— 7am to 9pm
Sat— 7am to 9pm
Sun— 9am to 8pm

December 2014
CANTEEN SALE

NEW NESCAFÉ CHOICES
Coffee   $1.25 $1.50
Latte    $2.00 $2.50
Cappuccino $2.00 $2.50
Mocha    $2.00 $2.50
Espresso Shot $1.00 $1.50
Hot Chocolate $2.00 $2.50

NEW FREEZER ITEMS:
Hungry Man Dinners (Assorted)   $4.00
Marie Callender Dinners (Assorted) $4.50
Celeste Microwave Pizzas        $1.50
Banquet Pot Pies (Assorted)     $1.75

NEW REFRIGERATOR ITEMS:
Hot Dogs, Sliced Meats, Boiled Eggs and More

FOOTBALL TV MENU
Tortilla Chips and Salsa
Popcorn (Cheese and Regular)
Kettle Chips (Different Flavors)
Assorted Mini-Candy Bags
Nestle Ice Cream Varieties
Peanuts in the Shell
ALL YOUR FAVORITE SODAS!

HELP
LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP CARRYING YOUR GROCERIES BACK HOME
WE CAN HELP!

EBT ACCEPTED ON ALL DELI ITEMS
from WILL’S KITCHEN
(now available at the Canteen)
Roasted Turkey Sub—Whole $5.00/Half $3.00
Roast Beef Sub—Whole $5.50/Half $3.50
BIG RICKEY’S Fried Chicken—Assorted Packets

SPECIAL ALL DECEMBER
SALAD BAR $3.99/lb
open 10:30 am to 6 pm—Monday thru Friday

CLIP THIS COUPON
FREE CANTEEN TOTE
With purchase of $20.00 or more
While supplies last!

CLIP THIS COUPON
FREE CAN OF SODA
(or Small Bottle of Water)
With purchase of NACHOS & CHEESE
Good Through December 31, 2014

NEW FREEZER ITEMS:

NEW NESCAFÉ CHOICES

HELP

LOOK FOR SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFTS —Choices from $5 to $25 —Holiday cards available

XMAS AT THE CANTEEN

Look for our new selection of Ben & Jerry’s and Haagen-Daz Ice Cream!

LOOK FOR SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFTS —Choices from $5 to $25 —Holiday cards available
A big thank you to all our donors!
Our work depends on your support!

SUSTAINING SPONSOR
($20,000 and above)
Long Beach Community Action Partnership
Tesorco Corporation

SUPPORTING SPONSOR
($5,000 – $9,999)
Fairfield Foundation
Gumbiner Foundation
Walton Construction Services

FRIEND ($1,000 – $4,999)
Libby and Alec Nedelman
Awesome Foundation
KPFF

PARTNER ($100 – $999)
Adrienne Taylor
American Multifamily, Inc.
Anonymous
Beth Manke
Carina Sass
C.J. Carty
Fern and Walt Hendrickson
Groundwork Fitness
Gubb & Barshay LLP
Helen Fagian
Jenny Baker
Joan Greenwood
Joanne Conley
Ken Solge
Kimberly Crawford
Larry Adamson
Mary Kaiser
Park Bixby Corp
Sandra Madden
Steve Colman
Suzanne Padilla
Tammie Kyle
Victoria Weiss

HELPING HAND
(up to $100)
Anonymous
Brian D’Andrea
Christine Houston
Donna Ferraro
Geralyn Maddern
Gina Petrella
Marlene Forstrom
Mary Sramek
Seyed Jalali
Stella Ursua
Visiting Angels Long Beach

Join the list of donors making a difference in the fight against homelessness at centuryvillages.org/donate

WORKSHOPS
OASIS COMMUNITY CENTER
2112 W. Willard St. 562.388.8080.
We have changed the schedule and added some classes. See the article on the back of the newsletter.

Monday–Friday, 9am–12pm
OPEN COMPUTER LAB

Monday, 1:30pm–3pm
NEW! SPECIAL EVENT CLASS
See monthly flyers for details

Tuesdays, 1:30pm–3pm
PARENTING

4th Tuesday Healthy Active Long Beach Nutrition and Cooking Class.

Wednesdays, 10am–11:30am
NEW! SHAKE IT WITH CHERISSE

Wednesdays, 1:30pm–3pm
CAREER PLANNING

Thursdays, 1:30pm–3pm
FINANCIAL LITERACY

Fridays, 10am–12pm
ASSISTED COMPUTER LAB
Come for one-on-one help.

Frías, 1:30pm–3pm
NEW! GED STUDY LAB

Wednesday, December 10, 3:30pm–5:30pm
VILLAGES AT CABRILLO WINTER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AND TREE LIGHTING
Join us for a fun filled Winter Holiday Festival featuring activities, crafts, free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, cookie decorating, hot chocolate, and many more surprises. The first annual tree lighting ceremony will be at 5pm during the festival. Open to everyone...kids and kids at heart should come and join the fun!

Saturday, December 13, 5pm–7pm
DAISY AVENUE CHRISTMAS TREE LANE PARADE
Bring your blankets, chairs and don’t forget to bundle up. The parade runs along Daisy Avenue between Burnett Street and PCH.

Nov. 21–30, Dec. 2-7, Dec. 9–Jan. 4 & 8-11
THE QUEEN MARY’S CHILL
www.queenmary.com/chill or call 866.554.0013

September 5–December 26, 6pm–9pm
SHARK LAGOON NIGHTS
Get up close with the ocean’s ultimate predators for free. 562-590-3100 or aquariumofpacific.org.

Sunday, December 21, 11am–5pm
MUSEUM OF LATIN AMERICAN ART
Gallery tours and workshops free for all ages. 628 Alamitos Ave, Long Beach, 90802. Call 562.216.4190

On Going Meetings—Everyone Is Welcome

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On Going Meetings—Everyone Is Welcome

TEN WEEK Step, ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT (AA) 6:30am, Daily, Social Hall
WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAP (AA) 7:30pm, Wednesday, Social Hall
NEW LIFE (AA) 7:30pm, Friday, Social Hall
IT TAKES A VILLAGE (CA) 4:30pm, Saturday, Social Hall
SELF-HELP RECOVERY MEETING 6pm, Tuesday, VVRC
CHANGING SPIRITS AA MEETING 7pm, Sunday, Changing Spirits

Winter Anagrams
Rearrange these letters to make an anagram for each Winter word.

BOOST CLOD COULD HATE SMITTEN
RISE PAROL REHEAT RIPPLES WHAT

(Answers are on the bottom of the back page.)