



News - Friday, February 1, 2008

### Help around the house

City's block grants go to Avenidas, which in turn funds handyman program for eligible seniors  
by Nicole Baldocchi

A senior day care center is collaborating with the city of Mountain View to provide free handyman-type work to senior residents who qualify.

The City Council has given Avenidas a \$30,000 grant to renew its handyman program, which has been going strong for several years. Through the program, Avenidas — which operates senior centers in Mountain View and Palo Alto — sends workers to do minor repairs and modifications in the homes of senior citizens, improving comfort, accessibility and safety for the residents, said Avenidas spokesperson Kari Martell.

"We would like to complete 300 jobs and help people make their residences safer and more accessible," said Martell of the organization's goals.

Normally, such services cost \$37 per hour plus a contractor's fee, according to the Avenidas' Web site. For eligible seniors in the Mountain View and Palo Alto areas, the service is free. To be eligible, seniors must have an income not exceeding a certain amount per number of residents in the household (see chart). Each household is limited to \$2,000 worth of modifications and minor repairs per year.

Avenidas' current handyman program officially began Jan. 1, organizers said, and will run through June 30. The council will decide on April 22 whether or not to approve another grant for the program. The grants are derived from CDBG, or Community Development Block Grants — federal money allocated to state and local governments to improve conditions for lower-income residents.

#### INFORMATION:

To make an appointment with a handyman or check eligibility, call (650) 289-5426. Applicants must make no more than the yearly income below, based on number of residents per household:

#### Residents per Household Total Income Limit

1. \$59,400
2. \$67,900
3. \$76,400
4. \$84,900
5. \$91,650
6. \$98,450
7. \$105,250
8. \$112,050

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