

Apartment Owners Association News Commended for Preventing Lead Poisoning

On **July 30, 2004** the **Apartment Owners Association News** was presented with a commendation plaque from Steven M. Schwartzberg, the Director of the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, in front of Alameda City Hall at 2263 Santa Clara Avenue for their work in helping to prevent lead poisoning in the community.

The Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program reports that most cases of lead poisoning in Alameda County are caused by deteriorating paint in older homes. Unsafe methods of removing paint and conducting renovations can also cause exposure to extremely hazardous levels of lead dust. Children under six years old living in these homes are most at risk for suffering the adverse neurological effects of lead. People working on older homes can also be at risk for lead poisoning.

The Alameda based Apartment Owners Association News, which serves rental property owners and managers, works in conjunction with the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to educate their clientele about working safely with old lead-based paint. Staff at the Apartment Owners Association News are educated in lead safe painting awareness and are knowledgeable of local resources to help, including environmental testing services and classes on lead safe painting. They have promoted the prevention of lead poisoning through articles in their magazine as well as providing educational literature at their office located at 1128 Lincoln Avenue in Alameda.

They are also active members of the State Department of Health Services inter-agency working group to develop the California State Plan to Eliminate Lead Poisoning.