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CENTRAL STATION'S LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS PLAN TO SET UP A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN AND LEARN GARDENING TECHNIQUES AT A SPECIAL EVENT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Ventura, CA – Henry David Thoreau is quoted as once saying: "Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders." Residents at the Central Station community in Fillmore are expecting wonders to happen in the coming weeks after they prepare a new "above ground" community garden tomorrow afternoon.

On Friday, August 19, from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Central Station residents will strategically place 12 (approximately 4' x 4') planter boxes in the property's common areas to receive the maximum amount of sunlight. The planter boxes have been donated by the Valley Crest Tree Company, a local Fillmore grower. Tomorrow, the residents also will fill the planter boxes with soil and plant organic seeds which have been donated by the County of Ventura. Special instructors from the County of Ventura will come to teach residents gardening techniques from 4 to 5 p.m.

"I think having a garden at our property will motivate the residents to eat more fruits and vegetables," says Monica Campos, Resident Manager at Central Station. "The garden will allow residents to come together and create an even more united community."

Central Station is an affordable rental and ownership development completed last year by the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC). The community is located at Mountain View Drive and Main Street and is home to farmworkers and local lower-income families, and features a mix of affordable rental and ownership homes.

The development has a total of 29 homes – 21 are affordable rental homes and eight other townhomes are ownership homes recently sold to families living in the Fillmore area and earning between 30-50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). The homes have three bedrooms and two bathrooms each, and range in size from 1,140 to 1,337 square feet. The development also features a community room, five courtyards, a tot lot, and on-site garage parking. A landscaped bike path runs alongside the community with a decorative railing to match the existing bike path near Fillmore City Hall. The site is two blocks east of the city's downtown center, close to shopping, transportation and other services.

The rental portion of the community is professionally managed on-site by CEDC's Property and Asset Management Division, which manages each of the CEDC's 16 other apartment communities in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

CEDC is a private non-profit affordable housing and community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, and the Santa Maria area. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,400 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, manages 715 affordable rental units, and has assisted more than 8,000 individuals and families with homeownership education, counseling and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 230 community development and affordable home developers. This year marks CEDC's 30th year of operation.

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