

Alchemy and augury

By SN&R Staff

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008

The Alchemist Community Development Corporation may have a hard time topping last year's successes. The nonprofit organization inaugurated an Urban Farm Stand in Alkali Flats and was awarded a 30-month grant to expand the stands to new locations in Sacramento County, bringing healthy produce to people who may not have access otherwise. Still, co-founders Wendy Carter and Lisa Nelson see even more good times ahead.

"The grassroots movement for sustainable communities will grow stronger. Community gardens will become more common throughout the city and front-yard gardens will dot the urban landscape," they said.

True, Carter and Nelson predict the declining housing market will continue to have serious implications in 2008.

"The effect of the troubled housing market will become visible at the neighborhood level, especially in older neighborhoods and low-income communities."

But new approaches to housing—including land trusts and "limited equity co-ops" will emerge in response to the growing numbers of bank-owned, boarded-up houses and devastated families.



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