

ONE VOICE
Housing Authority of the
City of Austin
P.O. Box 6159
Austin, TX 78762-6159
www.hacanet.org



ONE VOICE



Creating and sustaining healthy communities that promote individual responsibility, economic growth, human dignity and hope for the future.

June 2011

www.hacanet.org

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Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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June is HOMEOWNERSHIP Homeownership Month

Tarsha Fowler has participated in the Housing Choice Voucher Program at HACA for seven years. Her new home in South Austin is complete and she is ready to move in with her three year old son, Ernest. "I am so glad to have a place to raise my son and I can pass this home on to him in the future."



Tarsha Fowler (right), stands in front of her new home with HACA staff, Paige Oliver.

Tarsha initiated the homeownership process because her rent was more than a house payment. She talked to her HACA housing counselor and then she called Habitat for Humanity. Tarsha says, "The process started almost two years ago, it has been a long road, but I never gave up." Tarsha faced obstacles such as credit repair and completing 400 sweat equity hours by physically building her

own home and her neighbors' homes in the community. "I know most of my neighbors because we have helped build each other's homes," Tarsha says.

Tarsha also wisely saved her funds to apply towards the downpayment at closing. Now Tarsha's 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom home is move-in ready. She plans on upgrading the blinds and fixtures once she moves in and changing the storage into a clubhouse.

Tarsha would like to thank those who motivated her through this journey: HACA staff, Paige Oliver and Henrietta Washington, Habitat for Humanity, her mother, grandmother, and aunt.

For more information contact, Suzanne Schwertner, Homeownership Coordinator, at 512-477-4488 ext. 2118 or email suzannes@hacanet.org.

The June Board of Commissioner's Meeting will be held at the HACA Central Administration Building, 1124 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78704 on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 12:00 pm.

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Our Mission

The **Housing Authority of the City of Austin** is a public agency whose business is to:

- ◆ Ensure that safe, quality affordable housing opportunities exist for families of low income,
- ◆ Break the poverty cycle by serving as a catalyst for our residents to become economically self-sufficient,
- ◆ Create meaningful partnerships to maximize available community resources for our residents,
- ◆ Efficiently and effectively meet federal, state and local mandates

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin will pursue entrepreneurial opportunities to address emerging trends and respond to the challenges of the future.

Important Phone Numbers

HACA Administration	477-4488
24 Hour Resident Hotline	495-1897
Maintenance Work Orders	477-8518
Section 8	477-1314
Fire/Police	911
Non-Emergency Police	311
Poison Center	800-764-7661

ONE VOICE Newsletter

Published by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin
Judy Paciocco, Sr. Director of Operations

Comments, articles and photographs are welcomed for the One Voice newsletter. E-mail submissions to Monique Hennington.

moniqueh@hacanet.org
Or by mail to:
HACA, Attn: Media Relations
P.O. Box 6159
Austin, TX 78762

*All submissions must have a name and phone number to be considered. Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to reject or edit copy as necessary.
Taxpayer dollars were not used for the production of this publication.*

Communities in Schools' Best of Texas Awards



Photographer, Albert Jimenez

L-R Jami Herrera & Reyna Rivera

Reyna Rivera, a resident at Bouldin Oaks, was awarded the Communities in Schools (CIS) Best of Texas-Parent Award, a statewide award.

Jami Herrera, CIS staff says, "I nominated Ms. Rivera because after working with her oldest son and family for two years, she has been one of the best parents to work with. Ms. Rivera is always supporting her children in any way. She gets the younger ones off to school and picks them all up, and has made her work schedule fit around her family. Ms. Rivera is supportive of her children being in CIS. She sends them on a field trips with

us whether it's to a college or a play at the Paramount. Ms. Rivera is at every parent event and I have seen her encourage others to attend and to ask questions. Ms. Rivera is not afraid to come to the school and check on her children if she feels like it's needed. It has been a pleasure working with Ms. Rivera and her family for the past two years and I look forward to spending another year with them."

Public Comment Period and Public Hearing for Proposed Changes to the HACA's 2011 PHA Annual Plan

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) will have a public comment period for its proposed changes to its 2011 PHA Annual Plan regarding the proposed application for the demolition/disposition of the Rio Lado Apartments located at 2989 E. 51st Street Austin, TX 78723. There will be a forty-five day public comment period commencing at 8:00 a.m. on May 27, 2011 through 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2011. All comments should be made in writing and delivered to 1124 S. IH-35 Austin, TX 78704 and made to the attention of James Hargrove, President/CEO.

A Public Hearing to present comments regarding these revisions will be conducted on June 16, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. during the HACA Board of Commissioners meeting. The location of the hearing will be the HACA Central Office

located at 1124 S. IH-35, Austin TX 78704. The Housing Authority of the City of Austin Board of Commissioners will vote on the adoption of the proposed revisions to the plan on Thursday, July 21, 2011, at the HACA Chalmers Courts located at 1801 E. 4th Street, Austin, Texas 78702 at 12:00 p.m. A forum will be available during Citizens Communication to voice your concerns.

Copies of the proposed revisions to the 2011 PHA Annual Plan are available for review and inspection at the HACA Central Office located at 1124 S. IH-35 Austin, TX 78704 or an electronic versions are available online at www.hacanet.org.

HACA is committed to compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 477-4488 ext 2112 for assistance.



Last month's CWAB meeting was held May 10, 2011 at the Central Office.

Capital Metro representative, John Cortez, addressed CWAB about the new changes for bus routes and special transit. Upcoming physical inspections on property were also addressed by both district vice presidents.

NEW! YOU MUST SIGN THE LIST FOR TRANSPORTATION AT YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE BY 5:00 P.M. ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE CITYWIDE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.



Caritas of Austin Upcoming Life Skills Classes

Caritas of Austin offers two free class series open at all HACA Public Housing Residents. All Classes are offered in English and Spanish. No registration is required, and all public housing residents will receive a free **\$50 gift card for each series they complete (a possible \$100)!**

Manchaca Village/Goodrich - June 2011

My Money, My Life Series / Serie Mi Dinero, Mi Vida

Class / Clase	English	Español
Personal Finances / Finanzas personales	June 13, 10am	Jun 27, 10am
Savings / Ahorros	June 14, 10am	Jun 28, 10am
Avoiding Scams / Estafas	June 15, 10am	Jun 29, 10am
Energy Conservation / Ahorro de Energia	June 2, 12pm	Jun 2, 12pm
Smart Shopping / Comprador Astuto	June 16, 10am	Jun 30, 10am

Tools for Wellbeing Series / Serie Herramientas para el Bienestar

Class / Clase	English	Español
Take Charge / Toma el Control	June 6, 10am	Jun 20, 10am
Self Esteem / Autoestima	June 7, 10am	Jun 21, 10am
Goal Setting / Establecer metas	June 8, 10am	Jun 22, 10am
Time Management / Manejo del Tiempo	June 9, 10am	Jun 23, 10am
Find a Job / Encuentra un trabajo	June 1, 10am	Jun 1, 3pm



Juneteenth is an annual celebration recognizing the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865. This day is remembered on June 19th each year.

HACA communities will have Juneteenth celebration events. Please see the notices for events posted around your property or community. Also ask your ROSS or Resident Specialist for more detailed information.

BTW (Community Room)

Monday, June 20th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Food from various cultural traditions will be provided.
- Cultural diversity and tolerance will be emphasized while celebrating the achievements of various historical figures and their work to achieve freedom.
- The Urban League and the Wright House Wellness Center have been invited to participate.

Rosewood/Salina (Salina Community Room)

Thursday, June 16th from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Food from various cultural traditions will be provided.
- Cultural diversity and tolerance will be emphasized while celebrating the achievements of various historical figures and their work to achieve freedom.
- LifeWorks, Girl Scouts, and TAP have been invited to participate in activities that focus on the youth presenting information related to emancipation.

Community 2 (hosted at Chalmers Courts)

Thursday, June 16th 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- Caritas will promote classes being held at Santa Rita in July
- Educational Activities
- Food will be provided

Meadowbrook/Bouldin

Friday, June 17th at 2:00 p.m.

This event will be held at the Bouldin Oaks community and will include youth and teen events, games, and food as well as Resident Council recruitment.

Community 3 (hosted at Georgian Manor)

Friday, June 24th from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of the freedom festival is to educate residents about the different Independence Day celebrations while encouraging tolerance and respect for cultural diversity. Emphasis will be placed on self-sufficiency and pride of self-contribution by using examples of individuals who where proactive in affecting change in the U.S.

2011 Scholarship Ceremony July 7, 2011



2010 Scholarship Recipients

HACA will award \$108,500 to 54 diligent students to use towards continuing their education at HACA's Annual Scholarship Ceremony.

If you participate in the Housing Choice Voucher or Public Housing Programs, you can apply for the next allotment of scholarships in 2012. Scholarship eligibility requirements and detailed information are available at <http://www.hacanet.org/services/scholarships.php>.

Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager
James Bean

Our homes gain heat during the summer months in three different ways: conduction, convection, and radiation. Radiation is the easiest to control. You can reduce radiation by closing the curtain on the West and South sides of your home. This small act will make a large difference in the comfort of your home and your electric bill.