

# 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.

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Housing Authority of the City of Austin

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## Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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Vice President of  
Southwest Housing  
Compliance Corporation

## April is FAIR HOUSING MONTH



HACA is strongly committed to ensuring all families are afforded an equal opportunity to access affordable housing and housing assistance. On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or familial status.

The Admissions Department encourages equal opportunity in several ways. Housing applications, which may be downloaded via the HACA website, are available in English and Spanish, applications are mailed to the elderly and disabled upon request, and interpreters are provided for interviews and other required appointments when requested by the applicant. Additionally, the agency's Orientation Video is

available in both English and Spanish versions. HACA's dedicated Planning and Development department modifies apartment homes to fit reasonable modifications requested by residents. Examples of reasonable modifications include widening doorways to make rooms more accessible to persons who use wheelchairs or installing a ramp to provide access to a public or common use area, such as a meeting room.

Last year, the Fair Housing Seminar was held at the HACA Central Office to enlighten guests and refresh others of Fair Housing Laws. This year, many of the same great presentations will be made including those by Legal Aid, Austin Tenants Council, City of Austin (Equal Employment and Housing Office), and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin.

Fair Housing Seminar  
Thursday, April 30, 2009  
HACA Administration Office  
1124 South IH-35,  
Austin, TX 78704  
For more info. call  
Pilar Sanchez at  
512-477-4488  
ext. 2112

## 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 Duvall.  
moniqued@hacanet.org

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

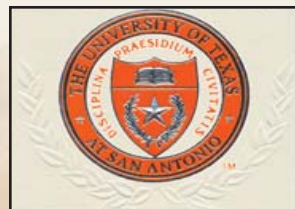
All submissions must have a name and phone number to be  
considered. Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to  
reject or edit copy as necessary.

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## Resident Spotlight Page

### PRESIDENT'S LIST

Leonardo Mejia was awarded the honor of the President's List at UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO in recognition of outstanding scholarship for achieving a 4.0 grade point average while registered as a full-time student during the Fall 2008 Semester.



Congratulations to the 2009 African American Heritage Award recipients. This academic honor is awarded each year to the top African American male and female student with the highest grade point average in their grade level. Two HACA students received the award from two separate schools. Keiman Reynolds, 12, was selected by the staff of Bedicheck Middle School. Malachi Williams was selected out of his ninth grade class at Travis High School. The students were presented their awards from former Superintendent, Dr. Pascal Forgione and members of the Board of Trustees. The Austin Independent School District's 26th Annual African American Heritage Celebration Banquet aired on AISD Cable Channel 18 and 22. Keiman is the son of Umeka Tucker at Shadowbend Apartments. Malachi is the son of Karen Marie at Georgian Manor Apartments. Congratulations to both of the students and HACA wishes you continued success.



Keiman Reynolds

## HACA Idol II Mayfest '09

Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 11-1 pm

Join the singing craze and show your talent at Mayfest '09 "HACA Idol II"! HACA is rewinding the hit maker HACA Idol from last year's Mayfest. Our annual Mayfest event honors our elderly and disabled residents and their contributions to our society.

**YOU COULD WIN GREAT PRIZES!**

### Rules for HACA Idol II:

- Karaoke songs only, no originals
- No instruments allowed
- Only HACA residents (seniors and disabled)
- Must have fun!

If you would like to be a contestant to sing at HACA Idol II, contact your FSS Specialist or Resident Specialist on your property. The judges hope to see many contestants, so ask how to sign up today!

## Citywide Advisory Board Notes

The next meeting is April 14, 2009 at 9:30 am

Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held March 10, 2009 at the Central Office.

The CWAB voted and approved a luncheon for its members. The luncheon, held on March 25th, was a success. Residents, FSS Specialists and Resident Service Specialists rose to address the audience about events taking place at their properties.

Transportation is provided. Call at least 1 day in advance. North properties call Mary Gonzales at 589-7451. South properties call Angie Cortez at 589-7985

## FSS Member of the Quarter

Trisha Castillo, is the new FSS Member of the Quarter. Nominated by Gaynaye Jenkins, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Trisha received high accolades for her achievements. Gaynaye says, "Trisha stands out and amazes me with her determination and dedication to make her dreams become a reality." Trisha attends Austin Community College, studying to obtain a degree in Biotechnology. As a busy mother and student, she also works part-time. Gaynaye says, "When Trisha sets her mind on a goal, she focuses on the goal and does what it takes to achieve the goal."

Trisha hopes to obtain her degree in Biotechnology by the end of the 2009 Spring Semester and has already applied to St. Edward's University in an effort to obtain a degree in Forensic Science. After graduation, she will be helping law enforcement to solve crimes and ensure justice to victims. Trisha says she hopes to set an example to her children and young Latina women everywhere. She encourages young girls to achieve their dreams.

## Education Corner

### Scholarships Available

#### Deadlines:

Southwest NAHRO

April 3, 2009

Housing Authority Insurance Group

April 17, 2009

Ignore the date and submission address on these application forms because these applications require HACA certification to be valid. Please submit your application directly to HACA by the deadline shown.

The scholarships are available on a competitive basis and the award amount varies from year to year, depending on the availability of funds.

Download and print the applications online at <http://www.hacanet.org/services/scholarships.php>. For questions call Barbara Jackson, Youth Educational Success Coordinator, at 512-477-4488 ext. 2145.

### Attention Students, Parents & Educators!

The Austin Area Alliance of Black School Educators Sponsors:

### 2009 Spring Education Summit

Participate in the numerous workshops designed to Raise Student Graduation Rates, Create a College-Bound Culture and Increase Student Achievement.

Saturday, April 18, 2009  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Connally High School  
3212 North Lamar

The event is Free & lunch is provided with registration. Register Online at [www.aabse.org](http://www.aabse.org) or Call 512-414-0024

## HACA

### Property Improvements

The Planning and Development team is dedicated to making the Housing Authority of the City of Austin a place residents are proud to call home. The following are improvements that are either currently under way or are scheduled for the near future:

- **Playground Improvements**—Rosewood, Georgian, Northgate—Currently in design for replacements and improvements to playscape areas.
- **Interior Unit Renovations, Phase I**—BTW—Interior renovations to first two multi-family buildings of BTW, including kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring repairs and cabinet replacements. Currently underway, with approximately 90 days to complete.
- **Interior Unit Renovations, Phase II**—BTW—Interior renovations to approximately 200 Units of the site now planned, accomplished with the 2009 ARRA CFCP. Work scope identical to Phase I, but with pier and beam foundation repairs, as necessary. In design.
- **Community Center Improvements**—Thurmond—Renovations and improvements to the undeveloped area of existing Community Room, to expand HACA services for computer lab and associated educational activities. Currently underway, with approximately an additional 2 weeks for completion.

### Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager James Bean

Taking a five minute shower uses less than half the water as a tub bath.

If your shower head is not working properly, our maintenance department will replace it for free.