

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.



A monthly publication of the
Housing Authority of the City of Austin

February 2009

www.hacanet.org

Volume 19 ■ Number 2

Inside This Issue: Public Notices

Digital TV Transition

Scholarships for Residents

New APD Officer Takes Position as Law Enforcement Liaison to HACA

After nearly four years, Officer Mike Crumrine, will be leaving his position here at HACA. Officer Crumrine has served HACA since 2005. He will be promoted to detective in the Austin Police Department and will not be able to continue his position as the Housing Authority's APD Liaison. Officer Crumrine has planted a firm relationship as liaison between HACA and APD. He says, "I understand the need APD has in having a viable, working relationship with HACA." Officer Crumrine takes his hat off to HACA for stepping up their crime prevention efforts. He says he is humbled to be apart of such efforts and has seen a significant decrease in crime since the partnership has been established. "Our mission is to keep communities safe. I've seen government assisted housing improve one million times better. All communities benefit and it has made our job easier." Officer Crumrine will be replaced by Officer Hank Moreno.

Officer Moreno has served in the Austin Police Department for ten years. He is bilingual and has extensive knowledge with Hispanic crimes. He helped to form the community initiative, Immigrate Outreach. The program establishes a relationship between immigrants and the police. Immigrate Outreach also educates immigrants on how to open a bank account to house their funds safely. Officer Moreno says, "Many immigrants were being robbed and murdered. With the help of Immigrate Outreach over 20,000 bank accounts have been opened and a trusting relationship between the immigrants and the police has been formed." Officer Moreno is involved in APD's Recruiting Division, Critical Incident Negotiation Team for hostage negotiation, Blue Santa, Cub Scout Board Member and is the former President and current Liaison of the Hispanic Police Officer's Association. Before working in Austin, Officer Moreno served with the San Antonio Park Police and worked with the San Antonio Housing Authority. Officer Moreno says, "I look forward to continuing what Officer Mike has done and I'm very committed to keeping the communities worry-free and safe."

Officer Crumrine's service at HACA will be remembered. He notes that one of his special memories at HACA is National Night Out saying, "I enjoy seeing the residents smile and interact with the officers in their community." He also mentions the Annual Resident Scholarship Program Ceremony. "Seeing the people who have pulled themselves up by the bootstraps to better themselves is a great achievement." Other highlights include being apart of forming programs such as Operation Strike Out, the Criminal Trespass Project, and creating Drug Free Zones at the HACA properties. In 2008 Officer Crumrine was awarded the Southwest NAHRO's Special Achievement Award for a law enforcement officer. Farewell to a very committed officer to HACA, Officer Mike Crumrine, who actively works to keep our communities safe.



L to R: Officers Hank Moreno and Mike Crumrine

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.

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

HACA will pursue entrepreneurial opportunities
to address emerging trends and respond to the
challenges of the future.

**Housing Authority
Board of
Commissioners**
Henry Flores
Chairman

Carl S. Richie, Jr.
Vice Chair

Dr. Tyra Duncan-Hall
Second Vice Chair

Charles Bailey
Board Member

Thelma Pannell
Board Member

**Housing Authority
Directors**

James L. Hargrove
President and CEO

Thomas Cherian
Vice President and CFO

Lisa Garcia
Vice President of
Assisted Housing

Sylvia Blanco
Vice President of
Housing & Community
Development-District I

Veronica W. Macon
Vice President of
Housing & Community
Development-District II

Ron Kowal
Vice President of
Housing Development/
Asset Management

Michael Cummings
Vice President of
Southwest Housing
Compliance Corporation

February is...



A major figure of Black History celebrated every year is the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He is best remembered for his non-violent efforts to end racism and disparities against African-Americans. Last month, many of the properties at HACA celebrated his legacy with events such as inspirational reading and the viewing of Dr. King's docu-drama of his life titled, "Man of Peace in a Time of War."

Q: When did we begin celebrating Black History Month?

A: In 1915, Historian Carter G. Woodson first pushed for the celebration of a "Negro History Week" to honor and recognize Black Americans. In 1926, his dream became a reality.

Q: Why do we celebrate Black Americans in February?

A: Woodson chose the second week of February for "Negro History Week" because two people he felt had greatly influenced Black Americans were both born during this month: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Q: Who is Frederick Douglass? (pictured above with President Barack Obama)

Frederick Douglass was one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery within the United States in the decades prior to the Civil War. Douglass served as an adviser to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and fought for the adoption of constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights and other civil liberties for African-Americans.

CITY SOLICITS PUBLIC INPUT FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Help prioritize housing and community development needs in Austin



The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office invites you to provide feedback on the Fiscal Year 2009-14 Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Plan will be used to identify community priorities to fund housing, community development, economic development, and public service needs. The City encourages you to participate in one or all of the opportunities listed below to have your voice heard.

Public Hearings: The City of Austin invites you to provide feedback at any upcoming public hearings. For a list of public hearings, please visit the City's website at www.cityofaustin.org/housing.

Written Comments: Please send your written comments to Neighborhood Housing and Community Development
Attn: Kate Moore
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
Email: kate.moore@ci.austin.tx.us

Surveys: Please fill out an online survey at www.cityofaustin.org/housing. Surveys are also available at Consolidated Plan public hearings and all City of Austin libraries.

Public Comment Period and Public Hearings for Proposed Changes to the HACA Admissions Policy and 2009 Public Housing Authority (PHA) Annual Plan

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) will have a public comment period for its proposed changes to its Admissions Policy and revised Annual Plan commencing January 20, 2009. There will be a forty-five day public comment period commencing at 8:00 a.m. on January 20, 2009 through 5:00 p.m. on March 5, 2009. 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 during the March 6, 2009 Board of Commissioners Meeting. This meeting will commence at 3:00 p.m. The location of the meeting will be the HACA Central Office located at 1124 S. IH-35, Austin TX 78704. The Board of Commissioners will take action regarding the approval of the revised Admissions Policy and 2009 PHA Annual Plan at this meeting.

Copies of the proposed revisions to the Admission's Policy and 2009 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 version of the plan is 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.

2009 Resident Calendars are now Available!

If you have not yet received your calendar, contact your property manager.



RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Help fund your education! Scholarships exclusively for residents of public housing and Section 8/Housing Choice (with approximate 2009 application deadlines):

- **Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA) Scholarship - **February 2, 2009**
- **Texas NAHRO - **February 12, 2009**
- HACA Resident Scholarship - **March 13, 2009**
- **Southwest NAHRO - **April 3, 2009**
- **Housing Authority Insurance Group- **April 9, 2009** (estimate only, 2009 application not yet available)

The date and submission address on these applications are not applicable 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.

Citywide Advisory Board Notes

Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held January 13, 2009 at the Central Office.

Alejandro Dominguez, Community 3 Director, presented the agenda schedule for the 2009 AROW meetings.

Mary Gonzales, Resident Outreach Specialist, addressed the CWAB to inform them about participation funds and what items Resident Councils can purchase with the funds.

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

Digital Television Transition February 17, 2009
FREE TV Converter box coupons are available upon request.

The coupons are administered by the federal government, the program will provide coupons worth \$40 each toward the purchase of up to two converter boxes.

Coupons expire 90 days after they are issued and, once expired, cannot be replaced.

How to get a FREE converter box voucher:
Call 1-888-DTV-2009 or
www.DTV2009.gov



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:

Current Project Status

Water Softener System Repairs—Working with HACA Master Plumber to identify repairs needed to bring all idle systems back on line. Rosewood site complete, Chalmers scheduled, then Santa Rita.
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.

Upcoming Projects:

Community Center Improvements—*Santa Rita*—Renovation of existing spaces to improve services and appeal of these resident oriented facilities.
Water Heater Replacements—Reviewing best-case scenarios for replacement of over 200 water heaters across multiple developments for most economical and efficient equipment, given contract opportunities, new technologies & equipment and available rebates.
Mailbox Replacements—*Santa Rita* & *Georgian-In* design stages for replacement of existing clusters with new sets.
Fencing—In planning stage to address various fencing needs at multiple developments. The first site, Northgate, is complete.

Energy Conservation Tips
by Energy Manager James Bean
Heating Tip

Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter.
Clean your air registers as needed and make sure they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.