

ONE VOICE

Housing Authority of the
City of Austin
P.O. Box 6159
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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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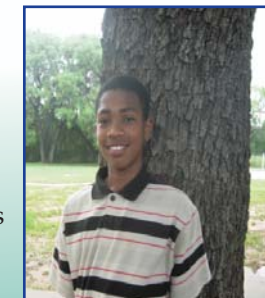
Michael Cummings
Vice President of Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation

Choose to Be GREAT

G.R.E.A.T. Program - Gang Resistance Education And Training

People, programs, and partnerships are the cornerstone of the Housing Authority of the City. One of the newest programs introduced to HACA residents is the G.R.E.A.T. Families Program. G.R.E.A.T. stands for Gang Resistance Education And Training. G.R.E.A.T. is a national program operating under the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Chalmers Courts was the first site to host the G.R.E.A.T. Families Program. Meadowbrook families are currently participating in the program. The program lasts for six weeks at each property. APD's Gang Coordinator, Katherine Houlton says, "We will try to offer the program to as many properties as possible." The goal of the G.R.E.A.T. Families is to strengthen families by engaging parents and youth. The facilitators are APD officers trained to teach the G.R.E.A.T. Families curriculum. Hank Moreno, HACA's APD Liaison, is one of the co-facilitators. Moreno says, "The program also wants families and children to create relationships with law enforcement." Interacting with a police officer in a learning environment, opens a path of communication and creates a positive experience. The curriculum covers a wide range of issues facing today's families. Each family goes through a family needs assessment, which helps to identify the daily

concerns that specific family faces. One parent in the G.R.E.A.T. Families Program, Kyoto Harrison, says, "The issues I face as a parent are sex, early pregnancy, gangs and drugs." Kyoto is the mother of seven children including Da'Clayvin Joiner who has many positive comments about the program. He says, "The G.R.E.A.T. Program helps me in school and in life because it teaches lessons about things we should not do." Da'Clayvin is twelve years-old and a Fulmore Middle School Student. He says G.R.E.A.T. Families has taught him against drug abuse and against crime, to listen to his parents and to not be disruptive in school. He enjoys the activities the G.R.E.A.T. Families Program provides saying, "We get into groups and are given a subject like what to do if a girl is shoplifting. Then we write down the consequences." His mother, Kyoto finds that G.R.E.A.T. reinforces the connection between communication and gang prevention. She says, "Having the line of communication open lets the children know they have someone to talk to." Kyoto gives advice to other parents saying, "If you don't want them to get involved in gangs, start teaching them while they are young." For more information visit www.great-online.org.



Sixth grader, Da'Clayvin Joiner says he enjoys participating in the G.R.E.A.T. Program

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.



HACA will be closed Monday, May 25, 2009, in Observance of Memorial Day.

HACA Idol II Rewind!

Mayfest '09
Friday, May 8th 11-1 pm

**YOU COULD WIN
GREAT PRIZES!**

Join the singing craze at Mayfest '09 "HACA Idol II REWIND!" 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.

Rules for HACA Idol II REWIND!:

- 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 REWIND!, contact your FSS Specialist or Resident Specialist on your property. The judges hope to see many contestants, so ask how to sign up today!

Transportation is provided through sign up sheets!

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) effectively and fairly measures the performance of a Public Housing Agency (PHA) by using the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS).

PHAS is designed to measure HUD standards that are objective and uniform to effectively measure the performance of public housing agencies. HACA has been a recurring "High-Performer" with consistently high PHAS scores.

2009 PHAS Scores on a 100 point basis	
Shadowbend/Manchaca II	99a
Goodrich/Manchaca Village	99a
Georgian Manor	100b
Northgate/Coronado Hills	99a
Bouldin Oaks	99a
Thurmond Heights	98b
Rio Lado	99a
Gaston Place	99a
Lakside	99a
Northloop	99a

The letter "a" is given if no health and safety deficiencies were observed. The letter "b" is given if one or more non-life threatening health and safety deficiencies were observed.

The Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (TX NAHRO) held its 33rd Annual Conference & Trade Show last month, April 19 - 22, 2009, in Galveston, TX.

HACA was honored with awards and two students were recipients of the TX NAHRO Scholarship.



From Left to Right:
Polo Brown and
Karla Berrones
Scholarship Winners



Commissioner Tyra Duncan-Hall, HACA staff, students and parents display awards from the TX NAHRO Conference.

AWARDS:

1. Best Newsletter, Large Housing Authority
2. Best Other Publications "2009 Calendar," Large Housing Authority
3. Awards for Media Recognition, Category A & B, Large Housing Authority

Citywide Advisory Board Notes

The next meeting is
May 12, 2009 at
9:30 am

Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held April 14, 2009 at the Central Office.

The CWAB voted and approved Alice Merida as the new Vice President of the CWAB. Attorney Nelson Mock, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aide, talked to the audience about Fair Housing Rights. Afterwards, each property in attendance, discussed activities taking place on property.

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

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:

- **Water Heater Replacements**--Reviewing best-case scenarios for replacement of over 400 water heaters across multiple developments for most economical and efficient equipment, given contract opportunities, new technologies and available rebates. In design.
- **Mailbox Replacements**—Santa Rita & Georgian--In design stages for replacement of existing clusters with new sets.
- **Sidewalk Repairs**—PHA Wide-Assisting various Public Housing sites with sidewalk reviews, planning and replacement efforts. Santa Rita, Gaston, Georgian, Northgate, North Loop, Coronado Goodrich and Rosewood complete.

Upcoming Projects:

- **Roofing Replacements**—Thurmond & Bouldin Oaks--Combining two re-roof projects for both developments for expediency and better pricing. Currently in design.
- **Park & Drive Improvements**—Manchaca Village—Crack seal, seal coating of entire parking and drive area with re-stripping of all spaces.

Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager
James Bean

Don't Peek

Every time you open the oven door to look at the food, the oven temperature is lowered by 25 to 75 degrees. Use a timer if your oven door does not have a window.

A New Look INSIDE for Booker T. Washington Apartments

The U.S. Department of HUD has received stimulus funding under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), to accomplish underfunded and backlogged work items. ARRA Stimulus Funds are for already underway projects. Public housing agencies across the country will share nearly \$3 billion in funding to improve infrastructure and to stimulate the economy. HACA will receive \$3,912,362, as its share of these modernization funds. Interior Renovations at Booker T. Washington, Phase II, a large project that will include the remodeling of 200 units of the site, renovating the interiors with new tubs/showers, new kitchen and bath cabinet work, new tile floors, ceiling fans, foundation repairs and new paint work. The funding from the ARRA will allow HACA to complete the work in approximately 2 years, what would have taken 4-5 years to finish.



Austin Partners in Education

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin will be recognized as an Austin Partners in Education Chair at the Salute: A Community of Heroes event on May 5th. Chairs are recognized for their major contribution to the development, growth, and sustainability of quality APIE partnerships.

HACA strives to break the cycle of poverty by enriching the lives of the residents it serves through dropout prevention and education. The Housing Authority funds services annually to ensure an array of educational opportunities exist for low-income families.