

ONE VOICE

Housing Authority of the City of Austin
P.O. Box 6159
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www.hacanet.org



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



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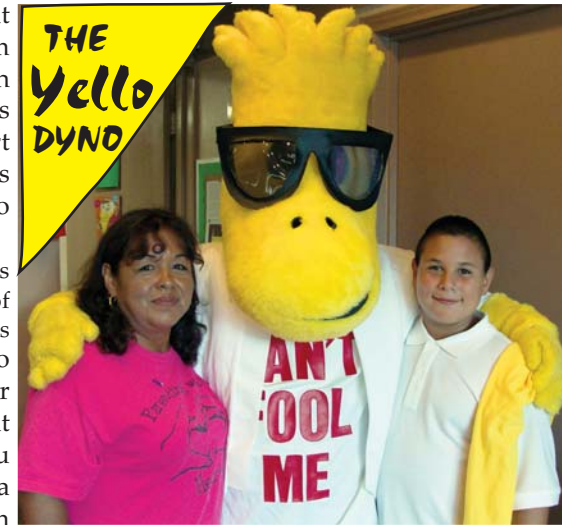
HACA PARENT LEADERS *and*

*"The most important thing you can do for your child is take a moment of your day to listen to them without any interruptions."
-Pam Willhoite, FamilyConnections*



The Parent Leadership Project has taken flight at various HACA properties. The group supplies parents with better tools for effective parenting. The HACA Parent Leadership Program partners with FamilyConnections to create a support network for parents to be a resource to each other.

Lourdes "Lulu" Cardoza of Santa Rita Apartments says, "We are able to get ideas from other parents and to vent to one another." Lulu says she has been a part of the program for a year. She enjoys it because she is



Lourdes "Lulu" Cardoza and Jesus Cardoza pose with the Yello Dyno at the Santa Rita Parent Leaders Child Safety Event

learning a more proactive approach to parenting. A few of the classes Lulu and others attend include: Parenting in the Early Years, The Importance of Play, Recognizing and Expressing Emotions, Setting Limits with Love, Balancing Work and Family, and Discipline, Rewards and Punishment.

The Parent Leadership Project is one branch of the parenting classes designed for adults to learn the techniques of efficient parenting. First, parents attend 6-8 monthly parenting classes and eventually graduate to become a parent leader. As a

parent leader, the parent takes on an active role in the community and organizes special events on-site. Once one becomes a parent leader, they are given a monetary stipend or community service hours for the time spent working on special projects.

Lulu has noticed an increase of parent leaders from two members to six active members at Santa Rita. Over 25 parents regularly attend the parenting classes or special events. Recently the parent leaders at Santa Rita organized The Yello Dyno Safety Camp

which not only attracted parents at Santa Rita, but also parents from Thurmond Heights and Georgian Manor Apartments. The event had a great turnout of parents and children alike as well as one yellow dinosaur! The Yello Dyno appeared as a mascot to help kids remember stranger danger. Meanwhile, the parents were shown a full-length video about keeping their children safe against child predators. One parent commented that the video was an "eye opener."

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Did you KNOW?



HACA will be closed for Labor Day September 1

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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

HACA 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.

REGISTER TO VOTE!

The Last Day to Register to Vote is Monday, October 6, 2008

Important 2008 Voter Election Dates

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 - Election Date

**** Last Day to Register to Vote- October 6, 2008 ****

First Day of Early Voting- October 20, 2008
(17th day before election day falls on a Saturday, first day moves to next business day)

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail- October 28, 2008
(must be received, not merely postmarked)

Last Day of Early Voting- October 31, 2008

2008 National Hispanic Heritage Month- "Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation"



Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The day of September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th (Diez y Seis) and September 18th, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12th, falls within this 30 day period.

Austin will celebrate the 30th Annual "Diez y Seis" at Fiesta Gardens Park, September 12-13, 2008. For more information visit www.diezysesis.org or call (512)-538-1351.

"Success Under the Spotlight"

The 11th Annual
Family Self-Sufficiency Banquet

Thursday, October 9, 2008

Each year the Housing Authority honors graduates and participants of the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program at an elegant banquet. FSS program members have worked for five years with their FSS Specialist to come to this important point in their lives. The members have had to identify and commit to a five-year plan documenting their personal and professional goals. The goals and accomplishments of each FSS member is announced and recognition is given to their future aspirations such as homeownership, education, or career. Established in 1993, the FSS Program links members to supportive services so they can support their family without public assistance.



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

America's Night Out Against Crime.

The TEXAS National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008. The National Night Out campaign involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials.

Imagine Art



The Imagine Art "Project Art" is a new program at the Booker T. Washington Terraces complex. Imagine Art works with disabled artists to help them integrate into the community. Project Art provides art education to youth while promoting art as a form of expression. Local artists will provide instruction and guidance with HACA youth in the Booker T. Washington Community Room.

William Betts, an artist in the Imagine Art Program, is also a HACA resident. He volunteers at Project Art helping the younger generation obtain an appreciation for the arts. Children who attend the Project Art classes learn watercolor and ink, drawing, painting, crafts and other art activities.

Research shows art has many positive impacts on children such as developing skills of observation, promoting creativity, developing problem-solving skills, working in groups both socially and artistically, increasing self-esteem and confidence, and improving dexterity.

Project Art will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays in August and Saturdays in September at BTW.

Parent Leaders continued

An eye opening experience is what Lulu and other parent leaders want bring to the forefront. She says, "This month our parent leaders are focused on teaching what is good touch/ bad touch, next month it may be the bully system. It's all about raising awareness and giving knowledge to the parents."

The HACA Parent Leadership Project and parenting classes are active at Santa Rita, Rio Lado, Chalmers, Booker T. Washington and Meadowbrook Apartments. New programs are starting at Bouldin Oaks and Thurmond Heights Apartments. Parent Leaders provide outreach to parents at their respective property and are available for anyone to ask questions.

FamilyConnections says the parenting classes are a great way to connect with other parents, be a leader in your family, and be a leader in your community. For more information about the HACA Parent Leadership Project call Barbara Jackson at 512-477-4488 ext. 2145 or visit www.hacanet.org. For information about FamilyConnections call Pam Willhoite at 512-478-5725 ext.204 or visit www.familyconnections.org.

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

- **Playground Improvements—Rosewood**—In negotiation with equipment manufacturer, for pricing on components and work needed to improve existing small playscape.
- **Interior Unit Renovations—BTW**—Interior renovations to first two multi-family buildings of BTW, including kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring repairs and cabinet replacements. Currently in design.
- **Parking Lot Improvements—Northgate**—Resurfacing of entire parking and drive area with curb cuts for accessibility and re-striping of all spaces. Proposals requested from Contractor to allow HACA to weigh benefits. Work will complete in approximately 90 days, after start.
- **Exterior Site Grading, Erosion Controls and Retaining Walls—BTW**—Large scale project to remove excess soils, regrade site areas for proper drainage, repair sidewalk areas, and replace retaining walls on the site. Plan-sets expected in approximately 1-2 weeks, prior to solicitation.
- **Walkway Repairs—Gaston**—Address of existing 2nd and 3rd floor exterior walkways to repair surface cracks and handrails attachments. Currently in design.

Citywide Advisory Board Notes



Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held August 12, 2008 at the Central Office.

The CWAB president, Thelma Pannell conducted the meeting. Resident Council members provided updates on each property's activities for the month.

CONGRATULATIONS
HACA Community 3 properties all have active Resident Councils.

The next Citywide Advisory Board meeting will be held September 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at HACA's Central Administration Building. Breakfast is provided.

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

Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager
James Bean

LAUNDRY TIP

About 90% of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water. There are two ways to reduce the amount of energy used for washing clothes--- use less water and use cooler water. Unless you're dealing with oily stains, the warm or cold water setting on your machine will generally do a good job of cleaning your clothes. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut a load's energy use in half.