

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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“Work Hard, Play Hard” Georgian Manor’s Ground Breaking Celebration

Building a playground is hard work... just ask the children at the Georgian Manor’s ground breaking ceremony. With hard hats and shovels in tow, the children broke ground to celebrate the coming of their new playground.

The ground breaking ceremony was a success because of the combined efforts of the Housing Authority staff, Georgian Manor’s Resident Council, community partners, and the children and parents of the community. Rachel Martinez, Georgian Manor’s Resident Council President, says it was a great idea to have a ground breaking ceremony to get all the kids and parents involved. The ground breaking brought the kids and parents together to encourage a sense of ownership and accountability.

Brenda Winter has been a resident of Georgian Manor for six years and she says, “I voted for the new playground. The children need a safe environment to play. Parents should supervise their children as they play.”

Linda Tyler of “We Build Fun”, a commercial playground building company, says, “Children are the highlight of our company. We asked the children what they wanted to see installed and they all said, ‘we

want swings!’” With a little effort, swings were added to the plans for the playground. Linda says “Sometimes adults forget what it was like to be a kid.” This is the fifth time Linda’s company has built a playground for HACA properties. These properties include Booker T. Washington Terraces, Northgate, Rosewood, Thurmond Heights, and a shade structure at North Loop Apartments.

“We Build Fun” will remove the outdated playscape and install the new playground. Jimi Teasdale, HACA’s Planning and Development Director, says the new playground installation will be completed in approximately three weeks. The new playground will include a bongo climber, ball catcher, swings, spring riders, benches for parents, re-coating of the basketball court, and a new sidewalk. Additionally, there will be one picnic table with wheelchair access. Teasdale says, “A playground is nothing without safety.” He advises parents to be watchful of the safety of their children before, during, and after the playground’s installation.



Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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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.

The upcoming Board of Commissioner’s meeting will be October 15, 2009 12:00 p.m. at Thurmond Heights Apartments, 8426 Goldfinch Court, Austin, TX 78758. HACA reserves the right to change the meeting date and time to ensure a quorum and to meet deadlines.

See PLAYGROUND, inside



It's HACA's 10th year celebrating National Night Out! Join us at public housing properties across the city to support the nation's fight against crime.

Show your neighborhood spirit and get to know your neighbors October 6, 2009. Check your property office for signs that will announce what time your property is celebrating on October 6th.

You can help prevent crime in your community by participating in your Resident Council, attending AROW meetings, and partnering with the local police officers.

The Twelfth Annual Family Self-Sufficiency & Homeownership Banquet will honor program participants and graduates who have achieved many personal and financial goals. The banquet will be held October 1, 2009.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) was established by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin in 1993. The goal of the program is to help Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher tenants achieve economic independence. The FSS Program links members to education, job training programs and supportive services to better prepare them for today's competitive job market. In turn, they have the tools to earn an income that can support their family without public assistance.

Through the Down Payment Assistance/Homeownership Program, HACA provides a loan of \$10,000 on a first come, first serve basis to residents qualified for homeownership. After five years of good standing in the home, the homeowner is not required to pay back the loan amount. At the banquet, HACA will celebrate its first homeowner to have his loan forgiven, Nestor Rosas. There have been 50 homeowners since the inception of the program.



Nestor and his family

PLAYGROUND: Georgian Manor's Playground Ground Breaking Celebration

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Christianique Sistrunk, a Barrington Elementary 3rd grader, says she plays at the current playground almost every day after school. She says, "I'm excited about the swings, but my favorite part is the slide."

Pastor Karl Gronberg of Gethsemane Lutheran Church says Georgian Manor Apartments is a close neighbor in the community and he supports the new playground. He says, "Playing benefits the child holistically; mind, body and spirit." Kids have a chance to run off energy and receive beneficial exercise. Parents are able to socialize with one another as they watch their children play.



If the weather permits, the Georgian Manor community will have a new playground by the end of October. Look for new photos in the upcoming newsletter!

Takeitha Sistrunk, says both of her children, Christianique and Trevon, love to play at the current playground. She says, "I lived at Coronado Hills Apartments for seven years and that playground had swings. When we moved to Georgian, the kids missed the swing set. I'm glad we will have swings at this playground now."

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearings for HACA 2010 FY Annual Plan and Five-Year Plan

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) will have a public comment period for its Annual and Five-Year Plans commencing October 19, 2009. There will be a forty-five day public comment period commencing at 8:00 a.m. on October 19, 2009 through 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 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. Three Public Hearings regarding the draft plans will be held on the following dates/times and locations:

- November 19, 2009 12:00 p.m.
HACA Central Office 1124 S. IH-35 78704
- December 1, 2009 5:30 p.m.
Booker T. Washington Terraces 905 Bedford 78702
- December 8, 2009 11:00 a.m.
HACA Central Office 1124 S. IH-35 78704

Additionally, the final opportunity to present comments regarding these plans before the Housing Authority of the City of Austin Board of Commissioners will be conducted during the December 17, 2009 Board of Commissioners Meeting. This meeting will commence at 12:00 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 plans at this meeting.

On October 19, 2009, copies of the plans and supporting information will be 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 plans 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.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN'S PUBLIC HOUSING LEASE

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) will receive written comments regarding the proposed modification to HACA's dwelling lease for all public housing units during a thirty-day comment period to commence October 1, 2009 through October 30, 2009. Copies of HACA's dwelling lease will be available to review at the HACA Central Office located at 1124 S. IH-35 Austin, TX 78704, all public housing properties, Legal Aide, and at Austin's Tenant Council.

All written comments are to be mailed or hand delivered to the following address:

Housing Authority of the City of Austin
Attn: Vice-President of Housing and Community Development
1124 South IH 35
Austin, TX 78704

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin will take comments into consideration prior to the proposed modifications becoming effective. If you should have any questions pertaining to the proposed lease modification, please call (512) 477-4488.

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—Replacement of approximately 301 water heaters across multiple developments to provide the most economical and efficient equipment. Sites include Chalmers, Rosewood, Goodrich, Northgate, Shadowbend, Manchaca II, Manchaca Village. The contract approval will go before the Board at the October meeting and work should begin in November.
- HVAC Replacements—Goodrich— Replacement of 16 furnaces in 1BR units of the site, that have not been upgraded, previously. The contract approval will go before the Board at the October meeting and work should begin in November.
- Roofing Replacements—Bouldin Oaks—Re-roofing underway on all units and the management building of the site. Re-roofing of 13 Single Family Units now complete. Completion is scheduled in approximately 6 more weeks, if the weather permits, at Bouldin Oaks.

Citywide Advisory Board Notes

The next meeting is October 13, 2009 at 9:30 am

Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held September 8, 2009 at the Central Office.

Eileen Schrandt, HACA Grants Manager, spoke to the Citywide Advisory Board about the ROSS Service Coordinator Grant opportunity. The motion was passed to move forward and apply for the grant.

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.

Energy Conservation Tips
by Energy Manager James Bean

The City of Austin has entered into Stage 2 Watering Restrictions. Hose-end sprinklers, soakers: Before 10:00 A.M. or After 7:00 P.M. Please find your property and watering days from the list below. The City of Austin's fines up to \$500.00 per violation.

Lakeside, Salina, Gaston properties are Tuesday only.
North Loop is Friday only.
Coronado Hills
Odd Addresses: Saturday only
Even Addresses: Sunday only
All other properties
Odd Addresses: Tuesday only
Even Addresses: Friday only