

ONE VOICE

Housing Authority of
the City of Austin
P.O. Box 6159
Austin, TX 78762-6159
www.hacanet.org



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.

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



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GRAMMY Camp:

A Chance of a Lifetime



Dertrick Winn Jr. is a part of a unique summer program that combines teenage youth with outstanding artists and music industry professionals—and even some Grammy Winners! Grammy Camp is a two-week long camp designed to immerse students in all aspects of the music industry. Grammy Camp is an interactive and highly collaborative summer music experience.

Only 63 students in the nation were chosen to attend Grammy Camp. Only four students were from Texas, and only one from the capital city—Dertrick Winn, Jr. When asked what Grammy Camp meant to him, 14-year-old Dertrick smiles and says, “It’s huge! I love music.” Dertrick’s love for music runs deep; his father and mother are also music enthusiasts as well as his management team. The entire family will travel with Dertrick when he attends Grammy Camp in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California. At Grammy Camp, Dertrick will focus on Media Journalism, one of the 10 music industry tracks Grammy Camp provides. He will receive six hours of instruction a day and a daily dinner symposium where all the students will come together and intermingle with artist, musicians, and special guests.

Dertrick Winn has been recognized for his many accomplishments as an honor student, performing artist, journalist, songwriter, filmmaker, graphic artist, and as a

childhood cancer survivor. Dertrick’s parents, Dertrick and Canetra Winn, were teenagers when he was born. Trials hit early on when Dertrick was diagnosed with a childhood cancer. The cancer was first discovered when his parents noticed a small circle beginning to grow in his pupil. Doctors later found 5 malignant tumors attached to the retina of 15-month-old Dertrick’s eye. After months of treatment as an infant, Dertrick suffered a relapse when he was 3-years-old. Now, Dertrick is a healthy individual using his triumphant story as a cancer survivor to inspire others.



Dertrick Winn, 14

Dertrick participates in many school activities. Three years of studying the Japanese language have allowed him to write a blog for a Japanese website. His regular writing posts have developed a fan base of readers. Dertrick was a member of his Fulmore Middle School Choir for three years and held the office of Media Historian. Also, Dertrick was chosen by the South by Southwest Film Festival to participate in a two-day camp to compose music for a film. His mother, Canetra, says she has always supported and encouraged Dertrick’s talent and wants him to attend a performing arts high school to prepare for college and his career.

To learn more about Grammy Camp visit www.grammyintheschools.com

Did you KNOW?

Federal Regulations require that all public housing authorities conduct an annual review of their utility allowance schedules and to post any proposed revisions for a thirty-day public comment period.

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ATTENTION PARENTS: BACK-TO-SCHOOL NEWS

MAIN EVENT- FRIDAY AUGUST 8, 2008

FOR A/B HONOR ROLL AND PERFECT ATTENDANCE

The annual incentive trip to congratulate students who made the A/B Honor Roll or who had Perfect Attendance for the previous school year will be at Main Event.

*Students will need socks for bowling. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Permission slips must be returned to your FSS Specialist before August 8th.

Bus pick-up at properties approximately 9:30 a.m. and drop-off 3-3:30 p.m.
Please have students ready at their property office for pick-up.

For more information contact Barbara Jackson at 512-477-4488 ext. 2145

SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

Various HACA housing developments will be distributing school supplies on property. Items will include basic supplies and a drawstring handbag. Children must be on the lease and the Head of Household must be present. Please bring some form of ID.

Dates and times are subject to change. Please look for flyers on your property or contact your FSS Specialist for details.

Property	Date	Time	Staff
BTW	Mon. 8/18	1-4 pm	Eboni
Bouldin Oaks	Tues. 8/19	10-2 pm	Mary Helen
Chalmers	Fri. 8/22	1-4 pm	Keisha
Coronado	Thur. 8/21	11-1 pm	Sandra
Georgian	Tues. 8/19	11-1 pm	Sandra
Goodrich	Tues. 8/19	11-1 pm	Ralph
Manchaca II	Thurs. 8/21	2-4 pm	Ralph
Manchaca Village	Wed. 8/20	2-4 pm	Ralph
Meadowbrook	Fri. 8/15	1-5 pm	Mary Helen
Northgate	Wed. 8/20	11-1 pm	Sandra
Rio Lado	Wed. 8/20	5-7 pm	Keisha
Rosewood (at BTW)	Wed. 8/20	1-4 pm	Eboni
Santa Rita	Mon. 8/18	1-4 pm	Keisha
Shadowbend	Fri. 8/22	2-4 pm	Ralph
Thurmond	Mon. 8/18	11-1 pm	Sandra

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

It pays to do well in school. Students 10 years old and older who made the A/B Honor Roll the entire year were eligible to attend their choice of a one-week long camp this summer. Nineteen students were eligible and five students attended various camps in the city.

Alexis Garza
(BTW) attended Entrepreneur Camp
Miguel Velasquez
(Bouldin Oaks) attended Entrepreneur Camp
Robert Gonzales
(Northgate) attended Entrepreneur Camp
Brandon Flores
(Thurmond Heights) attended Texas Student Television Production Camp
Corrina Hernandez
(Goodrich Place) attended Girl Start Camp- Surfin' Safari

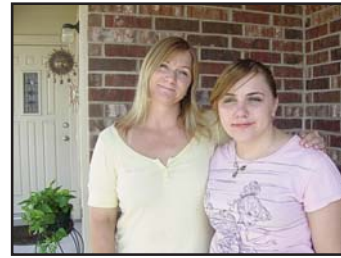
CLOTHING SALES TAX HOLIDAY

August 15-17, 2008

Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales taxes on August 15, 16 and 17 - the state's annual tax holiday. Lay-away plans can be used again this year to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.

The law exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Backpacks under \$100 and used by elementary and secondary students are also exempt.

For more information visit:
http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/tx98_490.html



Shannon and her daughter Kristen

Shannon Hamilton and her three children have a new place to call home. While living in assisted housing for the last six years, Shannon never gave up on her dream of becoming a homeowner. She finally realized that dream and moved into her 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home in December of 2007.

Shannon, who works as a secretary for the Health and Human Services Commission, was originally looking at purchasing a home in Jarrell, Texas. However, she decided to bring her search closer to Austin. She turned to craigslist.com, a web-

site of classified advertisements, where a listing that boasted no down payment caught her eye. The house, located in Kyle, Texas, was exactly what she was looking for. Shannon contacted the realtor and began making her dream come true for her and her children.

Shannon takes pride in caring for her new home and enjoys planting flowers and landscaping the yard. She likes the peace and quiet that comes with living outside the city. "There is no hustle and bustle here—no little hum. It's so peaceful." Most importantly, Shannon feels it is a benefit to her children Ashley, 17, Joseph, 13, and Kristen, 11. Shannon says her motivation comes from other people who have worked hard to overcome obstacles to reach their goals. Her advice to others striving to obtain their own home is, "Everything will be okay, just don't give up!"

Congratulations to all the 2008 Scholarship Recipients. HACA supports our recent high school graduates and traditional/ non-traditional college students who are continuing their education and striving toward success and self-sufficiency. The scholarship recipients serve as role models to their families, neighborhoods and communities.

2008-2009 HACA Scholarship Award Recipients

Richard Albitzer	Mariama Konneh
Darrell Caldwell	Veronica Lockett
Sharon Caldwell	Daniel Longoria
Lakeisha Chambers	D'Via Martin
Brandy Clark	Amanda Martinez
Thresa Cowan	Ochana Mathis
May Davis	Thomas McAndrews
Mary Doomes	Sylvia McDade
Rhonda Douglas	Christopher Mims
Youssef El Hage	Tarronda Neal
Kendra Ester	Camille Porter
Pamela Filip	P.J. Qolas
Norvella Haywood	Kendra Queen
Tracy Haywood	Monica Roussett
Wanda Hood	Anissa Stovall
Frank Huerta	Rachel Telles
Xavier James	Christina Thomas
Kabba Kamara	Maria Vargas
	Anahi Villanueva
	Noel Warren
	Tiffany Wilson

Citywide Advisory Board Notes



Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held July 8, 2008 at the Central Office.

The CWAB voted to provide brunch for upcoming meetings until the end of the fiscal year. Resident Council members provided updates on each property's activities of the month.

The next Citywide Advisory Board meeting will be held August 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at HACA's Central Administration Building.

NOTICE OF NO PROPOSED CHANGES IN YOUR UTILITY ALLOWANCE

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) Board of Commissioners will vote on remaining with the current utility allowances schedule for all public housing residents on August 21, 2008, at 12:00 p.m. The Board of Commissioners meeting will be held at the Lakeside Apartments located at 85 Trinity, Austin, TX 78701. There will be an opportunity for any resident to voice his/her concerns at the board meeting. If approved by the board, the utility allowances schedule will become effective September 1, 2008.

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

- **Lead-Based Paint Abatement (LBP)**—*Santa Rita*—Abatement of LBP on approximately 60 entry doors/frames at Santa Rita, thereby improving safety for residents and HACA staff. **Complete.**
- **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 approx. 90 days, after start.
- **Sidewalk Repairs**—*PHA wide*—Assisting various PH sites with sidewalk reviews, planning, and replacement efforts. **Santa Rita, Shadowbend, Manchaca Village and Coronado Hills complete.** Assessing conditions for priority and planning needs for next development.

Energy Conservation Tips

by Energy Manager James Bean

COOLING TIP

Consider using an interior fan in conjunction with your window air conditioner to spread the cooled air more effectively through your home without greatly increasing your power use.

Don't place lamps or TV sets near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.