

ONE VOICE

Housing Authority of
the City of Austin
P.O. Box 6159
Austin, TX 78762-6159
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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JUNE is HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

"I have a good job and nice home, now my focus is on school to advance my career."

Kizzy Simmons' success story started many years ago with her determination and willingness to succeed. The right attitude partnered with planning for the future equals progression. Simmons and her family recently moved into their home in Manor. It was not easy, but she did it. "I couldn't even believe I'd gotten approved for the house! I was on eggshells."



Kizzy Simmons and her family in front of their home in Manor, TX.

In obtaining a home, there are five basic steps; find a realtor, locate a home, get approval for a loan, bid on the home, then close on the purchase of the home. Now, those five steps are a rough outline of the many things buyers encounter and every person will have a

different story of their road to becoming a homeowner.

The one thing that sets many people apart is their positive attitude to never give up. Simmons wanted to buy a home since she was 21 years old and her new home was a 30th birthday present to herself. She says one of the obstacles she faced was finding permanent employment. She now works for The

Dept. of Health and Human Services working to help other families receive basic needs assistance. She understands their plight in the struggle to live, saying, "I've been on their side, I can write the book."

Simmons chose her 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home because the location was close to her family in Elgin, TX. She is most excited to announce with a smile, "Welcome to my home."

She encourages others to pray hard and stay determined because it will happen. "If you get frustrated, remember to set your eyes on the goal."

Contact Homeownership Coordinator, Julie Loredo, at 512-477-4488 ext. 2190 or email juliel@hacanet.org. For more details logon to http://www.hacanet.org/services/homeownership_programs.php

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.

Did you KNOW?



Celebrate Father's Day Sunday, June 15th.

INSIDE

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Are you DTV Ready?

You turn on your television and find a blank screen. That is what could happen on February 17, 2009, to people who depend on analog broadcasting—TV's using outside antennas or "rabbit ears" or those lacking a cable or satellite connection.

FREE TV Converter box coupons are available now upon request. Remember you only need the coupon if your TV uses antennas or "rabbit ears" to get the picture on the screen.

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 DTV2009.gov



SAFETY

"Georgian Manor, Northgate Apartments, and Community 4 will have their first ARROW meetings in the month of June, and the existing watch groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis."

WATCH

HACA Communities Partner with Austin Police Department

The AROW program (Apartment Residents on Watch) is in full swing in Community 3. In May, Northloop hosted its second safety watch meeting. The featured guest, a property manager from the neighboring property, came to discuss trespassing initiatives. In addition, Coronado Hills and Thurmond Heights had their first meetings in May. Five officers from the Austin Police Department visited the Coronado Hills meeting (including the NE Area Commander and District Representative), along with a representative from the Coronado Hills Neighborhood Association. The APD District Representative for Thurmond Heights visited their meeting and provided the group with a personal security video tape as a gift. Georgian Manor, Northgate Apartments, and Community 4 will have their first AROW meet-

Scholarship Ceremony Thursday, July 10, 2008



Noel Warren, pictured to the left, received a scholarship to continue her education at the 2007 Scholarship Ceremony.

This year 41 HACA residents were approved for the HACA Resident Scholarship totaling \$75,500. The ceremony will be held at Booker T. Washington Terraces Neighborhood Network Center.

TX NAHRO Scholarship Recipients

Three students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships at the Fort Worth TX NAHRO Conference. These dedicated students have not only excelled academically, they also participate in many extra-curricular activities and in HACA student programs.

From L-R: D'via Martin, Mariama Konneh, Kabba Kamara



JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth (June 19th) is celebrated to commemorate the freedom of slaves in Texas who were not told of their freedom until two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863.

Please watch for flyers on property or contact your FSS Specialist for details of Juneteenth activities.

ings in the month of June. The existing watch groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis. Thus far, the attendance at the meetings has been great (averaging 20-30 people) and HACA is optimistic that more residents will want to get involved in this great new program!

-Contributed by Alejandro Dominguez
Community III Director



NEW Homeowner!



Denise Collins is a proud new homeowner! She and her son Calvin, 10, will move into their new home in Manor, TX. She is currently working and attending school to become a registered nurse. Collins lived in assisted housing for six years before moving into her 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 2-car garage home. Collins says the main obstacle she faced was a misunderstanding with her first realtor and lender. She

advises everyone to be careful in choosing their lender or realtor, saying, "Don't settle; when in doubt always get a second opinion." All in all, Collins says her home is just what she wanted because it is located in a nice neighborhood. Her motivation comes from her child and her parents who are very supportive. The most exciting aspect of her home is knowing that it is her own and she can do whatever she wants!

Capital Metro: Increased Fares Probable

A recent article in the Austin American Statesman cites city transit rates may double in fares. Capital Metro hopes to begin charging 75 cents a ride in 2009 and raise that to \$1.00 in 2011. The current fare is 50 cents. Only people with severe disabilities would still receive free rides. The fare increase is still subject for approval.

The 2008 mayfest was a huge success with the largest turnout of residents ever in attendance!



Venetia Frazier, HACA Idol Winner!

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 Heater Replacements**—Gaston—Replacement of 300g system with "tankless" WH system, to reduce energy costs. **Complete.** Now planning for descale of existing lines to improve temperature balance on water loop.
- **Playground Improvements**—Upgrades to Santa Rita, and Bouldin, in combined package. **Substantially complete.** Basketball courts at Santa Rita still need court painting, but delayed by rain chances. Completion expected in 1-2 weeks, pending weather.

Upcoming Projects:

- **Siding Replacements and Painting**—Manchaca Village—Removal of existing siding and replacement with cementitious siding prior to full paint.
- **Community Center Improvements**—Santa Rita—Renovation of existing spaces to improve services and appeal of these resident oriented facilities.
- **Interior Renovations**—Rio Lado & BTW—Beginning stages of design for renovations to kitchens and baths of each site.

Citywide Advisory Board Notes

Last month's Citywide Advisory Board meeting was held May 13, 2008 at the Central Office.



The Citywide Advisory Board speaker this month was Tonia Gooden, Community Outreach Specialist, from The Austin Academy. The Austin Academy is a non-profit Adult Educational Services Agency.

Austin Academy Programs offered:

- * GED Preparation
- * Computer Literacy
- * Workplace Competency

EMI: call 512-326-8655 or logon to www.austinacademy.org

The next Citywide Advisory Board meeting will be held June 10th at 9:30 a.m. at HACA's Central Administration Building.

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

Warm air leaking into your home during the summer and out of your home during the winter can waste a lot of your energy dollars. One of the quickest dollar-saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal, and weatherstrip all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside. You can save 10% or more on your energy bill by reducing the air leaks in your home.