

ONE VOICE

A monthly publication of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin

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Austin High School Students Create an Oasis in a Food Desert

If you live at Meadowbrook, you now have a beautiful new community garden right in your own back yard! The new garden is located near the swing sets on the playground. Austin High School students Ana O'Quin, Caterina Rosario and Claire Freeby, with the help of several volunteers, recently built the garden as part of a capstone project in the Academy for Global Studies program. The purpose of the project was to give public housing residents easy access to fresh, local foods - like homegrown fruits and vegetables - for free, or for a low cost. More than 38 percent of the population in Travis County is considered food insecure, according to a study conducted by the City of Austin. That means not all people in Austin have access to enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle. Residential areas where there is a shortage of fresh, healthy, and affordable food are called "food deserts." These are usually found in urban neighborhoods and rural towns. Meadowbrook's desert oasis is a 60-foot by 75-foot garden that features several raised flower beds for planting flowers, vegetables and fruit, an irrigation system and a few benches. For more information about how you can get involved with the Meadowbrook community garden, contact ROSS Specialist Nancy Garcia at (512) 477-4488 ext. 3412 or email nancyg@hacanet.org. In addition, O'Quin, Rosario and Freeby will be back to help Meadowbrook residents maintain and set up the funds necessary to continue the garden long after they graduate. HACA would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to these students for all of their hard work!



Opportunity for Public Comment on HACA Plan Revisions

HACA will have a public comment period for proposed 2016 PHA Annual Plan, Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan revisions. There will be a 45-day public comment period now through 5 p.m. on July 6 for the revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan. There will be a 30-day public comment period now through 5 p.m. June 21, for the revisions to both the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. All comments should be made in writing and delivered to: 1124 S. IH-35 Austin, Texas, 78704, and made to the attention of Michael Gerber, President/CEO. A Public Hearing to present comments regarding all proposed revisions will be conducted at 10 a.m. June 14 at Santa Rita Courts, 2341 Corta St. The HACA Board of Commissioners will vote on the proposed revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan, Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy and Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan at noon July 22 at Chalmers Courts, 1801 E. 4th St. A forum will be available during Citizens Communication to voice your concerns. Copies of the proposed revisions to the 2016 PHA Annual Plan; the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy, and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan are available at the HACA Central Office, 1124 S. IH-35, or 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.

Congratulations Class of 2016!

Two HACA alumni recently crossed the stage at local colleges during graduation season, earning degrees along their journeys to self-sufficiency.

FSS member and former public housing resident Tinesha Durr earned an associates degree in liberal arts from Huston-Tillotson University. She is pursuing a career in information technology.

Meadowbrook resident Angelica Piña graduated from Austin Community College with an associates degree in graphic arts technology. In 2015, Piña earned an associates degree in visual communications graphic design.

Congratulations to both of you!



(From left) FSS Coordinator Becky Summersett, Tinesha Durr, and Angelica Piña.

Coming Soon: Site-Based Waiting Lists

As part of the improvements being planned for public housing families through the Rental Assistance Demonstration, HACA is pleased to announce that starting July 5, the agency will offer property-specific (site-based) waiting lists for its public housing program. What does this mean for you? You'll have a chance to pick where you want to live! For example, if you live at a HACA property in south Austin, but want to live at a HACA property in north or east Austin, you will soon have the opportunity to apply online for housing in those areas of town. You may choose more than one property, but must meet each property's pre-screening criteria before being placed on its waiting list. Details about how to apply online will be included in the July One Voice. HACA's site-based waiting lists will also be available to the general public.



Pathway to Home Ownership

THINKING OF BUYING A HOUSE? GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO BECOME A HOME OWNER! LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE AND LEARN THE STEPS YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE ON YOUR JOURNEY!

PRESENTED BY: SUZANNE SCHWERTNER, HOME OWNERSHIP COORDINATOR

Thursday,
June 16th 2016



LUNCH & LEARN
Come have lunch on us!
noon to 1:30 p.m.
June 16
@ the HACA main office
1124 S. IH-35
Austin, Texas 78704

HOME BUYING

Register: <http://hacanet.org/residents/fss.php> or call Angie at (512) 767-7655.



**Thank y'all for making our
24th Annual Mayfest a
rootin' tootin' success!**



Save the Date: Jobs Plus Kickoff

Chalmers Courts and Booker T. Washington residents are invited to attend an official kickoff event for the new Jobs Plus program from 10 a.m. to noon June 30 at Chalmers Courts, 1801 E. 4th St. Come and learn about this exciting place-based program that can help you find a job, increase your income, and achieve self-sufficiency. For more information, email Barbara Jackson at barbaraj@hacanet.org, or call (512) 477-4488 ext. 3404.



Digital Ambassadors Join the Twitterverse

Digital Ambassadors and Lab Apprentices recently hosted an Unlocking the Connection table at the inaugural Digital Resource Fair at the Austin Community College Highland campus. The public event, hosted by HACA partners Austin Free-Net and the City of Austin, was free and was aimed at exposing the Austin community members to technology. HACA residents also participated in a national #digitalinclusion Twitter Town Hall where they shared personal stories about how technology has affected their lives and posed questions about national digital policy.



GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY

Are you reading One Voice? For a chance to win a \$10 gift card, call (512) 477-4488 ext. 2601, and leave a message with your name, phone number, property name and unit number. Mention the key word, "summer." The first 15 callers will be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to public housing residents.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

HACA Administration	(512) 477-4488
Resident Call Center	(888) 842-4484
Maintenance Work Orders	(512) 477-8518
Section 8/Housing Choice	(512) 477-1314
Fire/Police	911
Non-Emergency Police	311
Poison Center	(800) 222-1222
Quit Smoking	(877) 937-7848

One Voice is published by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin. Submit comments, articles and photos to One Voice via email at: media@hacanet.org.

All submissions must include a name and phone number to be considered. Copy may be edited because of space limitations.

OUR MISSION & VISION

To cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self-reliance, growth and optimism. We envision neighborhoods where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy and safe, and all people can achieve their full potential.



@hacanet

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Rent due	2 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	3	4
5	6	7 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	8	9 Resident Council Gaston 1:30 p.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	10	11
12	13	14 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	15	16 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	17 Resident Council 3 p.m. Santa Rita	18 Juneteenth
19 Father's Day	20 Resident Council Thurmond 1 p.m.	21 Resident Council BTW 11:30 a.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	22	23 Resident Council Shadowbend, Manchaca, Man. Village, Goodrich Rosewood/Salina 11 a.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	24	25
26	27 Resident Council Meadowbrook/Bouldin 1:30 p.m.	28 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	29	30		