

## 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  
 RAD Hotline (844) HACA-RAD

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](mailto:media@hacanet.org).

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



HACA does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. The following person has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in HUD's regulations implementing Section 504: Vice President of Housing & Community Development, 1124 S. IH 35, Austin, TX 78704, (512)477-4488; TTY: (800) 735-2989 or 711 Voice Relay.



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# September 2017

*Editor's Note: Scheduled meetings are subject to change.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Rent due  Resident Council 11 a.m. @ Georgian 1:30 p.m. @ Santa Rita	2
3	4 Labor Day HACA Closed	5 Resident Council 11 a.m. @ Coronado	6 Tentative: Resident Council 1 p.m. @ Bouldin	7 RAD Meeting Time TBD @ Chalmers	8	9
10	11 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Meadowbrook	12 Citywide 10 a.m.	13 Resident Council: 10:30 a.m. @ Northgate 2 p.m. @ Lakeside	14 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Gaston	15 Manchaca II/ Shadowbend RAD Celebration 1:30 p.m. @ Shadowbend	16
17	18 Resident Council 1 p.m. @ Thurmond	19 Resident Council 11 a.m. @ BTW	20 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ North Loop  RAD Meetings: 10:30 a.m. @ Gaston 4 & 5:30 p.m. @ Georgian	21 Resident Council: 10:30 a.m. @ Chalmers 1:30 p.m.  RAD Meeting 5:30 p.m. @ Goodrich	22	23
24	25	26	27 RAD Meeting 10:30 a.m. @ Gaston	28 RAD Meeting 4 & 5:30 p.m. @ Chalmers  Resident Council: 11 a.m. @ Goodrich 1:30 p.m. @ Man. 11 1:30 p.m. @ Man. Village 1:30 p.m. @ Shadowbend	29	30



# ONE VOICE

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## I-DADS HELPS SINGLE FATHER PAINT A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HIS SON

As a single father of a special needs child, Housing Choice Voucher client and Family Self-Sufficiency program participant Robert Sykes was in need of encouragement.

Robert instantly found what he was looking for in [I-DADS](#) (Involved Dads of Action, Developing and Succeeding), a HACA program designed to encourage fathers and father figures to recognize the importance of their role in the lives of their children.

“It was nice because my son and I could get out of the house together,” Robert said. “We could spend time in a place that was good for both of us. It helped me a lot because there were other men who were dealing with some of the same issues that I was going through.”

The I-DADS program usually has six to 12 men who attend two classes a week for five consecutive weeks. Participants work with Isaac Rowe, the founder of The Man in Me, to develop skills and resources to improve their finances, health, communication and job skills; anger management, making positive choices, developing self-esteem and confidence, and being a positive role model. The program also hosts a men-only field trip and a family focused graduation.

As Robert Jr. spent time coloring and playing, Robert Sr. was learning skills that were helpful to his life as a father, sharing experiences with other men and being encouraged to continue planting seeds of love into the life of his son.

“His mother isn’t involved in his life, so it’s just me,” Robert Sr. said. “It’s hard sometimes. Robert Jr. gets frustrated because he has special needs. It’s just really nice to be in a place where we can be together, but I can learn more at the same time.”

The night of I-DADS graduation last month at Booker T. Washington Terraces in East Austin, men in the cohort, along with their families, celebrated completion of the program by taking part in a Family Paint Night.

Robert Sr. and Robert Jr. sat together in front of their canvases and worked together to paint what was in their hearts. This is the spirit of the I-DADS program — men committed to the journey of being a good influence for their children, and a child having a hero — Dad.

“Robert Jr. had so much fun,” Robert Sr. said. “[My son] thought I was such a great artist.”

For more information about I-DADS, or to join the program, contact I-DADS Program Coordinator Joshua Banks at [joshuab@hacanet.org](mailto:joshuab@hacanet.org) or call (512) 767-7737.



## 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.*

## JOBS PLUS ATX MAKES COMMUTE A BREEZE FOR LUCKY PARTICIPANT



It's been an especially hot summer for Booker T. Washington Terraces (BTW) resident Reynaldo Sanchez Guerrero. Reynaldo has spent the last few months driving with no A/C to his job with the City of Austin building and grounds department. However, thanks to HACA, Reynaldo's future commute should be more comfortable.

Reynaldo recently won a 2001 Ford Crown Victoria during a year-two kick off drawing for HACA's [Jobs Plus ATX](#) program. The car was retired from HACA's fleet and donated to the Jobs Plus incentive program. Unlike Reynaldo's current vehicle, his new car has an air conditioner.

"I'm really happy," said Reynaldo, who has lived at BTW for about two years. "It means a whole lot because I have extra transportation to come and go. My first vehicle ... I do have some problems, and I have to fix them."

Jobs Plus ATX is a program that helps public housing residents like Reynaldo at BTW and Chalmers Courts access tools to work their way to long-term employment and self-sufficiency. Jobs Plus participants are eligible for Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard (JPEID), which means zero percent of increased earnings are counted when calculating rent.

For more information about Jobs Plus ATX, visit [www.jobspusatx.org](http://www.jobspusatx.org). Chalmers residents may contact Tiffany Middleton at (512) 766-1404 or [tiffanym@hacanet.org](mailto:tiffanym@hacanet.org). BTW residents may contact Murphy Roland at (512) 621-3105 or [murphyr@hacanet.org](mailto:murphyr@hacanet.org); and Nancy Garcia at (512) 762-5627 or [nancyg@hacanet.org](mailto:nancyg@hacanet.org).

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## STUDENT STILL UNDER SCIENCE'S SPELL AFTER SUMMER TRIP TO NY

Traveling to the U.S. Military Academy was a magical experience for young Georgian Manor resident and aspiring astrophysicist Joseph Williams.

"It was just sort of a castle," he said. "Something from Hogwarts in *Harry Potter*."

Before starting eighth grade at Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy last month, Joseph attended the 2017 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Workshop in West Point, New York. HACA helped pay for the trip, and Joseph and his mother Lenora say they are incredibly grateful for the opportunity.

"It was a good learning experience and I just thank all of the people that helped him get to and from New York," Lenora said. "It's just good to get out. It helped him come out of his shell."



Joseph Williams sits inside a BOD POD at the U.S. Military Academy's athletic department. The device determines body composition (fat vs. lean muscle) by measuring body weight using a very precise scale, and then calculating body density.



## HACA HELPS KIDS CELEBRATE SUMMER & PREPARE FOR SCHOOL



HACA finished out the summer by hosting its annual Youth Educational Success (YES) incentive trip to Austin's Park N Pizza and several Back-to-School giveaway events.

Almost 100 students who achieved A's and B's and/or perfect attendance during the 2016-2017 school year were rewarded by HACA with pizza and a day of laser tag, bumper boats, rock climbing, go-carts and arcade games.

School-age children at each of HACA's family properties received backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and all of the other supplies needed for a successful school year.



## GET IN TOP FINANCIAL SHAPE WITH A FREE SEMINAR NEXT MONTH

Are you struggling with financial fitness? Now's the time to get your budget in shape — for free!

Join the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Central Texas Chapter for the 7th Annual Financial Fitness Seminar from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Austin Community College Eastview Campus Building 8500 at 3401 Webberville Road.

For more information, contact Chapter President Sheri Marshall at (512) 461-8510 or email [president@naba-austincenex.org](mailto:president@naba-austincenex.org). You may also contact Chair Roger Davis at (512) 366-0483. You may also register online at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Door prizes and lunch will be provided for attendees.



## 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. Say the key word: "AUTUMN." The first 15 callers could win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to subsidized and public housing residents.