

# ONE VOICE

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

September 2016 • Volume 26 • Issue No. 9

## HACA's Rental Assistance Demonstration Project is Under Way

HACA has broken ground with a bold new initiative to preserve public housing in Austin and improve the lives of more than 4,300 Austinites like you who rely on that public housing.

### **RAD Overview**

RAD involves converting federal conventional public housing assistance into Section 8 rental assistance contracts. Once HACA changes to RAD, the agency will be able to pay for improvements to its public housing properties. These changes will improve residents' lives by preserving units, making needed upgrades, and creating more choices.

### **What RAD Means for Residents**

HACA likes to say RAD=PIC, which stands for Protections, Improvements, and Choice.

- **Protections:** Every resident has the right to stay in public housing and return to an upgraded unit in their original property. Rents will still be based on 30 percent of adjusted household income, and nobody will need to be rescreened for eligibility. HACA will maintain a high level of services for its residents.
- **Improvements.** Most properties will receive needed improvements, and many units will be thoroughly upgraded, modernized, and made more energy-efficient. Improvements may include washer dryers, ceiling fans, garbage disposals, and new kitchens and bathrooms. Residents have been included in planning these improvements to make sure their needs are met.
- **Choices.** Current residents and new applicants may now apply at [www.austin.apply4housing.com](http://www.austin.apply4housing.com)



*During the RAD process, many units will receive upgrades like new floors, doors, kitchens, paint and ceiling fans.*

to live at the specific properties of their choice, rather than being placed in the first available unit. Residents who remain in one RAD property for two years will be able to apply for a Housing Choice Voucher that will allow them to seek housing in the private rental market.

### **RAD Timeline**

RAD will unfold in multiple phases of work over the next two to 10 years. HACA has already held informational RAD resident meetings at all 18 public housing properties, with additional meetings to come. HACA will continue to work closely with residents to make RAD a success for everyone.

### **Learn More About RAD**

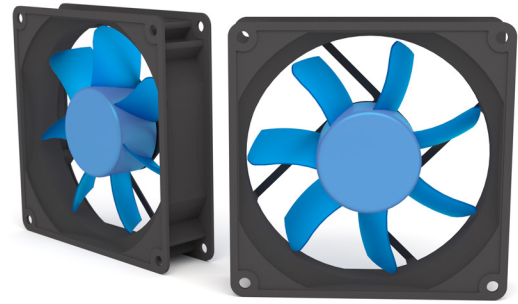
If you have questions about how RAD will impact you and your family, visit [www.hacarad.org](http://www.hacarad.org), call the RAD Hotline at 1-(844) HACA-RAD (422-2723) or email [hacarad@hacanet.org](mailto:hacarad@hacanet.org).

## Beat the Heat This Weekend at HACA's WiFi Café

Bring your electronic device or cell phone to HACA's WiFi café to stay cool and connected from noon to 6 p.m. most Fridays and Saturdays at Booker T. Washington Terraces.

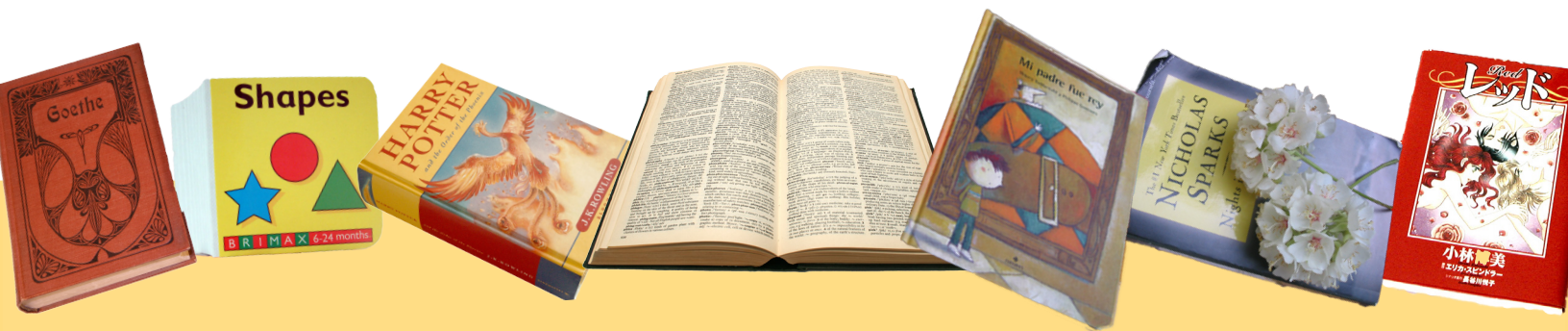
The café includes refreshments and the use of a state-of-the-art computer lab. In addition, trained members of the Lab Apprentice Program (LAP) will be on hand to assist with all your computer use needs.

The LAP has been operating at the computer labs at Booker T. Washington Terraces, Meadowbrook and North Loop. Applications for new LAP members will be announced this month. All LAP members must have proof of completion of a digital inclusion class, be in good standing with the manager and able to commit to all trainings and requirements of the stipend volunteer position.



The program will expand to Gaston Place and Lakeside Apartments once all training completed. This is in partnership with Skillpoint Alliance and funding from the City of Austin.

For more information about the LAP program, contact Michelle Akers, Workforce Development Manager, at (512) 767-7826.



## Kids Lunch & Learn with BookSpring

This summer HACA continued its longtime partnership with Central Texas Food Bank to provide lunches to children living at HACA properties. Over the 11-week program, more than 9,000 lunches were distributed to children at Booker T. Washington Terraces, Bouldin Oaks, Georgian Manor, Manchaca Village, Northgate, Rosewood Courts, Santa Rita Courts and Shadowbend Ridge. On Fridays, local nonprofit BookSpring provided books and read to the children at lunch. Overall, about 1,800 books were distributed. For more information about BookSpring, visit [www.bookspring.org](http://www.bookspring.org).



## 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 title of your favorite book. The first 15 callers will be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to public housing residents.



## YES Participants Have a Ball at Main Event

Everyone was a winner during HACA's annual Youth Educational Success (YES) incentive trip to the Main Event Entertainment Center last month.

More than 80 students who achieved A's and B's and/or perfect attendance during the 2015-2016 school year were rewarded by HACA with pizza and a day of bowling, laser tag, arcade games, and miniature golf.

The YES program is offered at HACA's family properties to keep HACA kids in school and to support citywide programs for youth during school hours, after school and in the summer.

HACA's YES program also coordinates with local providers of quality after-school enrichment programs to ensure HACA's children are engaged in healthy, safe and meaningful activities outside of school hours.



## Resident Council Helps Students Get Ready for Back to School



Members of the Santa Rita Resident Council went above and beyond last month to make sure school-age children at their property had a great first day of school.

Beverly Arnold, Lupe Garcia, and Pamela Newsom purchased and distributed school supplies and served ice cream to children at Santa Rita Courts. Thank you for helping your young neighbors!



### Join HACA to Celebrate

# 1 YEAR

## Smoke-Free

With

### RAFFLE PRIZES FOOD & DRINKS

HACA would like to honor public housing residents who have reduced their tobacco use or quit smoking. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know for his or her smoke-free accomplishments, please share with your property manager why you chose your nominee. All nominees will be entered into a drawing for gift cards and prizes. Thank you for helping to keep our properties smoke free!

### SEPTEMBER RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

CONTACT YOUR MANAGEMENT STAFF FOR DETAILS

## 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.*

## 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

[facebook.com/hacanet](https://facebook.com/hacanet)

# SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Rent due	2	3
4	5 Labor Day HACA Closed  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	6	7  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	8  Resident Council Gaston 1:30 p.m.	9	10
11 Patriot Day	12  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	13  Citywide Advisory Board Meeting 10 a.m. @ Lakeside	14  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	15  HACA Board Meeting Noon @ 1124 S. IH-35	16  Resident Council 3 p.m. Santa Rita	17
18	19 Resident Council Thurmond 1 p.m.  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	20  Resident Council BTW 11:30 a.m.	21  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	22 First Day of Fall  Resident Council Rosewood, Salina, Shadowbend, Manchaca, Manchaca Village, Goodrich 11 a.m.	23	24
25	26 Resident Council Meadowbrook 1:30 p.m.  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	27	28  Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	29	30	

