



ONE VOICE

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RESIDENT COUNCIL LEADER NAMED HACA BOARD COMMISSIONER

Congratulations to Chalmers Courts Resident Council President Mary Apostolou on being sworn in as the newest resident commissioner for the Housing Authority of the City of Austin's Board of Commissioners!

Mary succeeds former Resident Commissioner Isaac Robinson of Lakeside Apartments, who has served on the HACA board since 2013.

Mary grew up on Rainey Street and worked in childcare for most of her adult life. Four years ago, Mary moved into Chalmers Courts. Always looking to improve lives, Mary began attending Resident Council meetings. Within four months, she was elected president.

As Resident Council president, Mary devoted herself to helping residents learn about the resources and opportunities available to them, like Jobs Plus ATX, through which Chalmers residents can take courses and apply for jobs.

Mary also ensures that everyone knows about upcoming events, such as the always popular bingo night. As a Spanish speaker herself,



(From left) HACA Commissioner Tyra Duncan-Hall, HACA Board Chairman Carl S. Richie Jr., Resident Commissioner Mary Apostolou, and HACA Commissioner Edwina Carrington. Richie and Apostolou were sworn in at the December 2017 Board of Commissioners Meeting at the HACA Central Office.

Mary makes sure that Spanish-speaking residents do not let language barriers keep them from becoming involved. Residents who cannot attend meetings — often because of work or school — know they can count on Mary to keep them informed.

For more information about the HACA Board of Commissioners, including upcoming agenda items and meeting schedules, visit www.hacanet.org/board.

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.

RESIDENTS PLAY SANTA AT SANTA RITA COURTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



(From left) Yolanda Huerta, Lupe Garcia, Elizabeth Lumbreras-Galaviz, and Pamela Newsom curl ribbons on care packages.

Santa Rita Resident Council President Lupe Garcia and council members Elizabeth Lumbreras-Galaviz, Yolanda Huerta and Pamela Newsom, distributed care packages to their neighbors before the holidays. Lupe started gathering items including toilet paper, blankets, shampoo, toothbrushes, and body wash from generous private donors last summer. Austin High School seniors and the Travis High School Rebels donated sporting goods for Santa Rita youth. “I didn’t expect this much, but I was overwhelmed by donations,” Lupe said. “It’s hard work.” All of Lupe’s hard work paid off when she and her helpers were able to pack and deliver one holiday bag to each of the 97 households at Santa Rita Courts.

BTW JOBS PLUS ATX MEMBER RINGS IN 2018 WITH A NEW CAREER

Well before it was time for New Year’s resolutions, Booker T. Washington Terraces (BTW) resident Rachell Hammond decided to make a change in employment so she could better provide for her children. However, she needed help paying for childcare.

About six months ago, Rachell’s property manager referred her to Jobs Plus ATX, a workforce development program open to BTW and Chalmers residents. Rachell was excited about the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard incentive that guarantees Jobs Plus members’ rents will not increase because of an increase in earned income.

“I participated in several events hosted by Jobs Plus ATX, and was inspired by other tenants getting jobs,” Rachell said. “My rent not going up helped me to focus on my budget and cleaning up my credit.”

Rachell was connected with Workforce Solutions, and received help with her resume and her job search. She continues to work with the Jobs Plus ATX staff with the goal of opening a bank account and improving her overall financial literacy.

Rachell now works in the hospitality industry at White Lodging Services, and both of her children are enrolled in daycare. Ultimately, she would like to help other parents find convenient, affordable childcare, no matter what their work schedules look like.

“It is difficult to find a daycare that opens in the evening for parents that work afternoon and evening shifts,” she said. “I have a passion to open up a daycare center that allows parents with unconventional work schedules to drop off their children while they work.”

For more information about Jobs Plus ATX, visit www.jobsplusatx.org or call (512) 477-4488 ext. 3415.



WORKFORCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFSITE TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Austin Area Urban League (AAUL) and HACA's Workforce Continuum will host free Workforce and Career Development Offsite Training beginning Jan. 8 to Feb. 15 at Coronado Hills, 1438 Coronado Hills Dr. Classes are 2 to 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Participants will attend a four-week computer training, health and wealth awareness workshops, professional development, soft skills, work ethics, cognitive behavioral therapy.

Everyone who completes the program will be invited to attend a graduation celebration. Job placement assistance also is available. For more information, please contact AAUL's Workforce staff at (512) 914-2707.

Other upcoming trainings:

- Georgian Manor: Feb. 20-March 24
- Thurmond Heights: April 3-May 5



HACA partners with several key organizations, like AAUL, to provide training, education and job readiness, search and placement assistance. Each program is free to residents, and many are located in property community rooms for convenient access.



Holidays
at HACA



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 phrase: "HAPPY NEW YEAR." The first 15 callers could win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to subsidized and 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
 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.

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



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Rent due New Year's Day HACA Closed	2	3	4	5 Resident Council: 11 a.m. @ Georgian 1:30 p.m. @ Santa Rita Courts	6
7	8 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Meadowbrook	9 Citywide 10 a.m. @ North Loop	10 Resident Council: 10:30 a.m. @ Northgate 2 p.m. @ Lakeside	11 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Gaston	12	13
14	15 MLK Day HACA Closed	16 Resident Council 11 a.m. @ BTW	17 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ North Loop	18 Resident Council 1:30 p.m. @ Rosewood/Salina HACA Board Meeting	19	20
21	22 Resident Council 1 p.m. @ Bouldin Oaks	23	24	25 Resident Council: 10:30 a.m. Chalmers 11 a.m. Goodrich 1 p.m. Shadowbend/ Man. Village/Man. 11	26	27
28	29 Resident Council 1 p.m. @ Thurmond	30	31			