

SUMMER 2016

HANO *news*



*Ongoing
Construction
at Lafitte Senior*

ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

In This Issue:

Criminal Background Policy Adopted by HANO Board

HANO Adds More Than 20,000 Families to the Section 8 Waiting List

HUD and Justice Department Award \$100,000 to Help Local Youth Find Jobs and Housing

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director	1
Criminal Background Policy Adopted by HANO Board	2
HANO Welcomes Joseph as New Board Commissioner	3
Faubourg Lafitte Hosts Resume Writing Workshops	3
HANO to Kick Off 2016 Summer Employment Program	4
Harvard Students Spruce Up Fischer's Community Garden	5
HANO Adds More Than 20,000 Families to the Section 8 Waiting List	6
Spreading Holiday Cheer	7
HUD and Justice Department Award \$100,000 to Help Local Youth Find Jobs and Housing	8
Artspace Campus Groundbreaking Brings More Affordable Housing to the City	9
Harmony Oaks' Annual Health and Resource Fair	9
After School Programs in Full Swing	10
Urban Strategies Hosts First Annual Health Fair and Open House	11
Senior Spotlight	11
HANO PD Joins U.S. Marshals Task Force to Capture the Nation's Most Wanted Fugitives	12
Parents as Educators	13
Program Spotlight: Faubourg Lafitte's Senior Program	14
The Phenomenal Women of Desire	15
Lafitte's Save Our Sons Initiative	15
Crime Prevention Corner	16
HANO to Host Free Fair Housing Training for HCVP Residents	17
Get Prepared for the 2016 Hurricane Season	17



HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner speaks during a press conference

Dear readers:

Thank you for picking up the summer 2016 edition of HANO news. Within the last year, we have reached several major milestones that garnered local and national attention, and are proud to share details on innovative projects that remain our focus as we continue the forward movement of this agency.

Following months of review and debate, the Board of Commissioners adopted the new Criminal Background Policy and Screening Procedures. This policy will assist in the removal of barriers preventing low-income residents from obtaining housing due to their past criminal history. The agency was also awarded HUD's Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program (JRAP) grant leveraging \$100,000 in partnership with the Department of Justice, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and Urban Strategies, Inc. to expunge juvenile records and provide other supportive services. The program gives youth in the juvenile justice system better opportunities to succeed during their transition back into the community. We are grateful to HUD's Principal Deputy

Assistant Secretary Lourdes Castro-Ramirez for traveling to New Orleans to make this announcement during National Reentry Week, and will continue our work with ex-offender and housing advocacy groups to grant that second chance to our residents.

HANO was also recognized by the White House as an Opportunity Hub for its youth and young adult programs. As a part of President Obama's youth initiative, the agency will participate in the 2016 Summer Opportunity Project to secure employment for at least 100 local youth across HANO communities, an initiative the agency launched in 2010.

The Department of Development and Modernization continues its focus on revitalizing HANO communities. While Bienville Basin is in its fourth phase of construction, the agency recently expanded the community's off-site component. A partnership with Artspace assures the addition of 79 low-income housing units for artists within the Choice Neighborhoods trapezoid. Nineteen (19) of those homes will be subsidized with project-based vouchers and will count toward the replacement housing units for the Iberville redevelopment project. The construction of the new Lafitte Senior building is nearing completion and we expect to start leasing this fall. It is anticipated that the official start of the redevelopment of HANO's scattered sites will kick-off this summer, bringing more affordable housing options to our city for low-income residents.

As we remain steadfast in our efforts to enhance programs for youth and families, the research and creation of more innovative techniques that will lay the foundation for economic sustainability will incite more progress as the agency moves forward.

—Gregg Fortner



Gregg Fortner
Executive Director

Lesley E. Thomas - Editor
Jessica Perrault - Designer, Photographer, & Contributor

4100 Touro St. New Orleans, LA 70122
www.HANO.org • (504) 670-3300

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND POLICY ADOPTED BY HANO BOARD

New applicant screening procedures developed for full implementation

In March, the HANO Board of Commissioners officially adopted the agency's Criminal Background Policy and Procedures following a series of stakeholder sessions and public meetings. HANO convened a group of housing and ex-offender advocates, resident leaders, landlords and third party property managers to conduct a thorough review of the policy originally written and adopted by the former administration.



HANO's Board of Commissioners listens to comments of a public housing advocate

The policy, written to remove barriers experienced by ex-offenders in receiving housing assistance and the subsequent separation of families, states that no applicant for HANO-assisted housing will be automatically barred from receiving housing assistance because of his or her criminal background, except when mandated by federal law. HANO is required by federal law to deny assistance to an applicant if any household member is a lifetime registered sex offender, has been convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine at a federally assisted facility, or has been evicted from housing due to criminal activity during the previous three years with the exception of those with eviction



A member of Stand With Dignity comments during the March 2016 Board Meeting

circumstances that no longer exists or have successfully completed supervised drug rehabilitation programs.

For those not barred by federal law, criminal convictions will be assessed to determine the safety risk and well-being of the community. Applicants whose convictions do not suggest a significant level of risk will be deemed admissible for housing assistance. Those that suggest a significant level of risk will be reviewed by a panel of HANO officials or its agents to determine whether the applicant should be admitted to housing or denied. Risk assessment criteria used during the review process is detailed in the Criminal Background Screening Procedures and can be viewed at www.HANO.org.



March 2016 Board Meeting well attended by public housing advocates, local media and concerned citizens

HANO WELCOMES JOSEPH AS NEW BOARD COMMISSIONER

Adding to Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu's appointment of the first full board established in over a decade, Debra Joseph, a family service counselor at the Mount Olivet Cemetery, was recently selected as Board Commissioner representing over 8,000 landlord participants of the Housing Choice Voucher program. Joseph joins Board of Commissioners Dwayne G. Bernal, Alice Riener, Toni Hackett Antrum, Glen M. Pilié, Vonda Rice, Donna Johnigan and Cantrese Wilson.

Joseph has served as a Family Service Counselor at the Mount Olivet Cemetery for the past four years. She also previously worked for the State of Louisiana as a Clinical/Administrative Dietician and a Programmatic Auditor for over 30 years.

She is the owner of several local businesses, including Joe's Catering Service and DJoseph Properties, LLC. Within her community, Joseph has a number of leadership roles, including president of the Gentilly Sugar Hill Resident Association and secretary of the Advisory Committee. Joseph is also a member of the Landlord



Board of Commissioner Debra Joseph

Advisory Committee, and was a landlord for 25 years. She graduated from Southern University at Baton Rouge with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Nutrition.

FAUBOURG LAFITTE HOSTS RESUME WRITING WORKSHOPS

Residents showcase their job skills and qualifications

This spring, the Faubourg Lafitte community began hosting free resume writing workshops at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. The workshops are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm to 6pm, and is open to Lafitte residents and its surrounding community.

During the introductory workshop, Faubourg Lafitte Tenant Association member Caroline Yarbrough teaches the basics on creating a professional resume, including how to write and format a resume properly. The workshop will also introduce effective resume styles, resume building tips, and tailoring your resume to specific job openings.

For more information on Lafitte's Resume Writing Workshop, contact the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center at (504) 227-3019.



An instructor assists a Lafitte resident with creating a professional resume (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)

HANO TO KICK OFF 2016 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Agency expands access to employment opportunities for local high school and college students

In June, the Housing Authority will kick-off the Summer Employment Program to provide high school and college students, between the ages of 14 and 21, with job opportunities during the summer break. The eight-week employment program, held annually, offers hands-on experience in a professional work environment, and an opportunity to develop vital job skills in a variety of career fields, specifically government, medical, legal and insurance. This summer, HANO expects to employ 115 students in partnership with several local private and non-profit organizations.

“We continue to prioritize the engagement of our youth during summer months to keep them focused while on school break, and to afford them with opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable. Continuing to fund this program is vital to this goal and has been recognized on the national level, leading to HANO’s designation by the White House as a Summer 2016 Opportunity Hub for youth employment, and solidifies our commitment to employing 100 youth and young adults for the next few months,” said Executive Director Gregg Fortner.



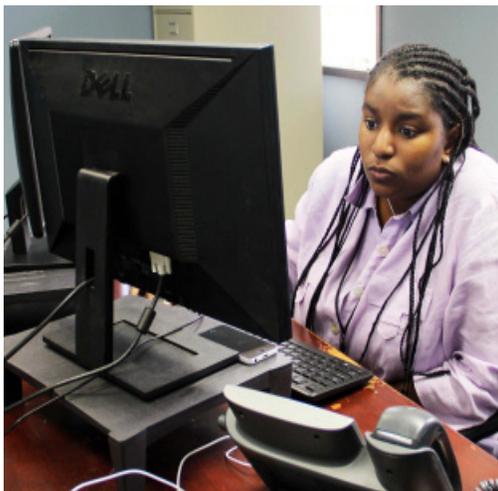
Junior Accountant Hall joined the Finance Department staff in 2015

Recently, HANO was designated by the White House and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an Opportunity Hub for President Obama’s Summer Opportunity Project. The initiative provides access to jobs, educational opportunities, and skills training for youth; a program HANO launched in 2010.

Former program participants Christopher Hall and Jasmine Lewis were featured in a blog written by HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Lourdes Castro-Ramírez announcing the project and acknowledging their career success. Hall and Lewis enrolled in the Summer Employment Program in 2011 to develop work ethics and skills, and to gain additional knowledge of the fields of their choice. Both ultimately landed full-time positions with the agency after graduating from college.

Ke’Shod Winters, another successful participant, was given the opportunity to develop marketable job skills and professional work experience. Winters also joined the program in 2011 while studying mechanical engineering at the University of New Orleans (UNO). Over a three-year period, Winters interned at HANO, The Estates Management Office, and Claude Bean’s Body Shop.

During his third year in the program, Winters was able



HANO’s Junior Programmer Lewis begins completing her tasks for the day in the IT Department

to apply his mechanical engineering knowledge while assisting the lead mechanic at Claude Bean's Body Shop. "After enrolling in 2011, I wanted to get the most out of the summer employment program by learning new job skills. That opportunity came when I interned at Claude Bean's Body Shop and assisted with basic tune ups, oil changes, and car alignments," said Winters.

Winters is currently working part-time at The Estates Management Office while pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree from UNO. His primary responsibilities include replying to correspondence, creating work orders, and assisting the community's maintenance team as needed.

He is not only grateful for the valuable work experience from HANO, but also to the Michael's Organization for the \$14,000 scholarship award which funded his college education. "The scholarship was a big help because I did not have to stress about how to pay for college. Now, I can actually focus on school and get a part-time job to gain work experience," Winters said.

Visit HUD's official blog, The HUDDle, at <http://blog.hud.gov/> to read more about Hall and Lewis' achievements during and after the agency's summer employment program.

To learn more about HANO's Summer Employment Program, visit www.HANO.org.



Winters works part-time at The Estates Management Office while studying mechanical engineering at UNO

HARVARD STUDENTS SPRUCE UP FISCHER'S COMMUNITY GARDEN



Harvard University volunteers pictured with Dillard University's Nick Harris

This spring, HANO partnered with Dillard University's Office of Community Relations to host a community service project for Harvard University students at the Fischer Senior Village community.

For two consecutive years, Harvard University students bypassed their spring break vacation and utilized the HUD-ROSS grant to bring healthy food choices into Fischer Senior Village's backyard. A team of nine Harvard students planted vegetable seeds and other plants to encourage residents to maintain a healthy diet, and to address youth and adult obesity. Harvard students also completed volunteer projects at City of New Orleans Youth Study Center, Bethany United Methodist Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and Historic St. James A.M.E. Church.

The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grant. The grant was awarded to Dillard University's Office of Community Relations in 2013 to provide self-sufficiency services to the residents of Fischer, Guste and Marrero Commons/B.W. Cooper.

HANO ADDS MORE THAN 20,000 FAMILIES TO THE SECTION 8 WAITING LIST

Over 10,000 applicants also added to public housing waiting list

After seven plus years of closure, HANO re-opened its Section 8 waitlist, accepting more applicants for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). The agency announced its re-opening of the waiting list due to the reduction in the number of applicants on the list that had been closed since 2009. HANO advertised the reopening of the list by distributing public notices through media outlets, local and minority newspapers and on the agency website. More than 24,000 applications were submitted online.



The Housing Authority of New Orleans

HANO's original Section 8 waiting list which closed in 2009 included over 30,000 applicants, recently decreasing to a meager 6,000. Staff expects to eliminate the original list by the end of the summer, and will then shift the focus of distributing vouchers to the new applicants. A lottery to select priority numbers for the new applicants will take place within the next few months.

For about two years, HCVP staff attempted to contact applicants that remained on the 2009 waiting list with an 18 to 20 percent success rate. The administration believes that many of the applicants probably did not respond because of relocation and failure to update contact information, or due to a lack of interest in housing assistance. Executive Director Gregg Fortner also says that the agency experiences an attrition rate of up to 10 percent each year, necessitating re-issuance of about 1,700 vouchers from the current inventory. Additionally, the project-based voucher program has had a sizeable number of vacancies of the larger bedroom sized units, making it difficult to attract interest from current applicants.

HANO also opened its public housing waiting list to attract applicants for scattered site vacancies and to occupy the New Florida community. The advertisement of

new, vacant units attracted more than 10,000 applicants, bringing the total of families applying for public housing assistance to 15,404. HANO expects to begin occupying 51 new homes in New Florida by the end of 2016. Applicants will be notified of vacant units according to the date and time of their completed application submission.

Applications will be lotterized at the end of July to determine applicant positions. HANO staff will contact applicants for a program eligibility review when the application is reached. Beginning in July, visit HANO's website at www.HANO.org to check your application status. Applicants must update any changes in contact information via e-mail at info@hano.org.



The New Florida Housing Community

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Residents and staff celebrate the 2015 holiday season

During the holiday season, The Estates management, in partnership with HANO employees and the HANO Police Department (HANO PD), hosted its Second Annual Adopt-A-Child Program for participating students in its After School Program.

“Many parents face financial hardship especially during the Christmas season. The Client Services staff understands the importance of each child having the opportunity to experience holiday joy,” said The Estates’ Senior Case Manager Nzinga Talbert. “While the Adopt-A-Child initiative is available to active students in The Estates’ After School Program, our hope is that every child in our community will have a joyous

Christmas.”

During the Christmas program, the children performed a festive rendition of the “Twelve Days of Christmas” for their sponsors. Santa took pictures with each of the participating students and their sponsors, and provided them with a certificate of appreciation for their generous donations. The students were treated with special gifts, which included a winter hat and glove set, an educational book, and a toy of their own choice. Gift donations were provided by HANO employees, The Estates management team, and a member of Delgado Community College (Sidney-Collier campus).

HANO PD also provided a monetary donation to the children, which funded the refreshments for the Christmas program. Last December, HANO PD Officers Mullins and Boskent continued the holiday giving and adopted two needy families in The Estates community.

Nine children received a variety of Christmas gifts, including bikes, remote control cars, a makeup kit, a baby laptop and a keyboard game.

For more information on how to adopt a family for the next holiday season, contact HANO’s Department of Client Services at (504) 670-3300.



Senior Case Manager Nzinga Talbert pictured with Santa and her adopted child for Christmas (Photo Credit: The Estates)



Santa distributed Christmas gifts to each of the participating children during the Christmas program (Photo Credit: The Estates)



Young residents from The Estates donned elf ears while performing a Christmas carol (Photo Credit: The Estates)



HANO PD Officers shop for holiday gifts for two needy families in The Estates community

HUD AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARD \$100,000 TO HELP LOCAL YOUTH FIND JOBS AND HOUSING

Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program to reduce barriers to housing, jobs and education

In an effort to help young people involved in the justice system find jobs and housing, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced a \$100,000 grant to the Housing Authority of New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services to address the challenges that justice-involved youth face when trying to find work and a place to call home.

The announcement was delivered by HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing Lourdes Castro-Ramirez, U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite, Deputy Mayor for Citywide Initiatives Judy Reese-Morse, Councilmember Jared Brossett and HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner during a press conference at the Educare school, located in the Columbia Parc community.

Under the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program (JRAP), which is funded through DOJ's Second Chance Act funds, HUD and DOJ are teaming up to help young Americans who have paid their debt to society to rehabilitate and reintegrate back into their communities. JRAP funding is awarded to public housing agencies that have a partnership with a non-profit legal service organization with experience in providing legal services to juveniles.

“Reconnecting young people who have paid their debt to society to decent jobs and housing allows them to turn the page and become active, productive members of their communities,” said HUD PDAS Castro-Ramirez. “These grants offer a helping hand to those who deserve a second



HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner makes remarks during press conference

chance so they have a real opportunity to reach their full potential.”

This announcement is consistent with HUD's recently released guidance on the application of Fair Housing Act standards to the use of criminal records by providers of housing and real estate-related transactions, and the recent guidance for public housing authorities and owners of federally assisted housing on excluding the use of arrest records in housing decisions.

To help alleviate collateral consequences associated with a juvenile or criminal record, JRAP assists young people up to age 24 residing in public housing, or who would be residing in public housing but for their record, by:

- Expunging, sealing, and/or correcting juvenile or adult records, as permitted by state law;
- Assisting targeted youth in mitigating/preventing collateral consequences such as reinstating revoked or suspended drivers' licenses;
- Counseling regarding legal rights and obligations in searching for employment;
- Providing guidance for re-admission to school; and
- Creating or modifying child support orders and other family law services, and more.

To learn more about the JRAP Program, visit www.HUD.gov.



HUD PDAS Castro-Ramirez announces the \$100,000 grant awarded to the Housing Authority and Southeast Legal Services

ARTSPACE CAMPUS GROUNDBREAKING BRINGS MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO THE CITY

As event attendees danced to the sounds of trumpet extraordinaire James Andrews and drummers from the neighborhood, others gazed at embellished shovels designed by local artists that lined the stage as a symbol of the inspiration and vision of the Artspace project.

In April, Executive Director Gregg Fortner joined Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, Councilmembers Latoya Cantrell, Jared Brossett and Susan Guidry along with development, funding and community partners to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Artspace Campus, the most recent addition to the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) housing component.

In partnership with Artspace Projects and CNI co-grantee, the City of New Orleans, Artspace will refurbish the old Andrew J. Bell Junior High School located in Tremé, and transform the site into 79 affordable housing units. Nineteen of those units will be subsidized with project-based vouchers provided by HANO, which will be counted toward the CNI replacement housing units goal.



Executive Director Fortner and Mayor Landrieu joined local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony at the Artspace Campus

In 2015, HANO purchased the property from the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) with the intent of selling it to Artspace to offer housing opportunities for local artists. The acquisition of Bell School was included in the CNI application to redevelop the Iberville public housing development and transform Tremé.

Developer Providence Community Housing will begin construction this spring with an expected completion date of September 2017.

HARMONY OAKS' ANNUAL HEALTH AND RESOURCE FAIR

Health and Resource Fair provided access to a number of community supportive services for its residents

In February, Harmony Oaks hosted its annual Health and Resource Fair for local residents at its community center. The fair connected residents of the Harmony Oaks community to representatives that provide a number of supportive services for low-income residents.

More than 20 local organizations and vendors participated in the fair, including American Heart Association, Daughters of Charity, Odyssey House, WellCare, Planned Parenthood, YAYA, Inc., Cox Communications, LSU AgCenter, Luke's House Clinic, Kingsley House, and many more. Representatives from American Heart Association led a food demonstration and provided tasty parfait desserts for the attendees. In a private room, Odyssey House's OHmega program offered free HIV and Hepatitis C testing during the fair. Daughters of Charity's mobile van was also stationed outside of the community center, providing free blood pressure and glucose checks.



Harmony Oaks' Annual Health and Resource Fair (Photo Credit: Harmony Oaks)

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN FULL SWING

HANO communities kick off after school enrichment programs for youth

As the 2015-16 school year began, five HANO communities continued to host after school programs for more than 100 students across the city. HANO sites offer after school programs to children and youth of all ages, and provide a variety of educational and extracurricular activities.

Each site assists up to 40 students daily during the after school program. They not only offer homework assistance to the children on-site, but also engage with the participating students through mentoring, youth development, sports, and arts and crafts.

During the academic school year, Faubourg Lafitte, Marrero Commons, and The Estates offered after school tutoring, homework assistance, and study group sessions to the students. In an effort to continue the regular school day, the River Garden community focuses on the importance of literacy with a visit from the Books to Kids Mobile Reading Van, a mobile library that offers access to a wide variety of books for youth of all ages. Students at Fischer's after school program worked closely with tutors to complete their math, reading and English homework, followed by creative arts and crafts activities.

For more information about HANO's after school enrichment program, contact the Department of Client Services at (504) 670-3300.



River Garden's After School Program hosted the Books to Kids Mobile Reading Van for participating students (Photo Credit: River Garden)



Students at River Garden's After School program enjoyed arts and crafts activities (Photo Credit: River Garden)



Tutors at Lafitte's After School Program provided homework assistance to its students (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)



A tutor provided homework assistance to participating students in Lafitte's After School Program (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)



Fischer's After School Program participants decorated eggs in celebration of the Easter holiday at the Fischer Senior Village Community Center (Photo Credit: Constance Haynes)

URBAN STRATEGIES HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR AND OPEN HOUSE

Written by Mia Ford

Case Manager at Urban Strategies, Inc.

To continue supportive services in the Bienville Basin community, Urban Strategies Inc. recently hosted its First Annual Health Fair and Open House. The event provided residents with practical tips for healthy living, specifically related to diet and exercise, in their everyday lives.

“This year, Urban Strategies launched its ‘With Every Heartbeat is Life’ initiative in partnership with The American Heart Association. The focus was to introduce residents to a healthier lifestyle to combat life threatening health concerns such as high blood pressure and diabetes. With this in mind, participating vendors gave individuals a holistic approach to health awareness,” said Urban Strategies’ Case Manager Mia Ford.

During the health fair, representatives from Pulp and Grind, a local juice bar, distributed healthy juice beverages to showcase healthy alternatives to meet their recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables. Participating residents enjoyed a healthy breakfast, lunch, and dinner courtesy of The Taylored Chef, American



A fair participant samples a healthy beverage with Pulp and Grind (Photo Credit: Urban Strategies)

Heart Association, and Diva Dawg Food Truck. Other participating organizations included HANO’s Homeownership Program, Ekhaya Youth Project, Harper’s Family Counseling, Catholic Charities, Odyssey House, Goodwill Industries, Planned Parenthood, and Kingsley House.

Through continued partnerships with LSU Agriculture Center, Tulane Goldring Center, and Sprout NOLA, residents will soon have the opportunity to learn more about healthy cooking, and how to cultivate and grow organic vegetables utilizing the garden space located within the new community.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

HANO celebrates seniors across its communities for their dedication to serving their fellow residents

Across HANO communities, the Housing Authority is proud to recognize some of its most dedicated and hardworking residents who serve their community. This month, HANO recognizes Cheryl Davis, a resident of the Fischer Senior Village community, for her significant contributions to her community.

For the past two years, Davis has volunteered her time to provide assistance to seniors in the Fischer community. She truly shows her willingness to serve her community through her volunteer efforts tutoring the students in the After School Program, distributing meals to seniors through the Second Harvest Food Bank, assisting seniors with transportation to the voting polls, conducting senior bingo games, and much more.

“Volunteering in my community really keeps me going and occupied on a daily basis. While working in the community, I am able to get around and see new things while also helping other senior citizens in my community,”



Davis (pictured third from left) pictured with Fischer Resident Leader Constance Haynes (far left) and Fischer seniors (Photo Credit: Fischer Senior Village Community)

said Davis.

HANO is truly fortunate and grateful to have such dedicated volunteers who serve their communities. Thank you for your service, Ms. Davis!

HANO PD JOINS U.S. MARSHALS TASK FORCE TO CAPTURE THE NATION'S MOST WANTED FUGITIVES

The Housing Authority's police officers were recognized by the United States Marshals Service for their participation in a national initiative to capture 8,000 fugitives. Operation Violence Reduction, otherwise known as OVR12, was conducted over six weeks in all 94 judicial districts with a special focus on 12 select locations. New Orleans was designated as a priority city by the United States Department of Justice.



HANO PD Officer Jerald Holmes pictured with members of the Operation Violence Reduction team

HANO PD participated in the Eastern District of Louisiana operation, resulting in the arrest of 151 fugitives, gang members, sex offenders and violent criminals who met the OVR12 operation criteria. The success of the initiative closed 211 warrants, including 40 for homicide, 35 for robbery, 27 sex offenders, and 19 weapon violations.

“Our officers are very proud to provide the necessary assistance to rid our City’s streets of some of the most violent offenders,” said HANO Director of Public Safety Robert Anderson. Lieutenant Tyrone Martin, Officers Marcus Dubuclet and Jerald Holmes were among several federal, state, regional and local law enforcement professionals of the Eastern District of Louisiana operation, and were recognized during a press conference to announce the success of the task force for their valued participation.

The U.S. Marshals Service utilized a multi-jurisdictional investigative authority and fugitive task force to arrest 648 gang members and others wanted on various criminal charges including 559 for homicide and 946 for sexual offenses. Investigators also seized 463 firearms, \$390,360 in currency, more than 71 kilograms of illegal narcotics and recovered 17 children who had been abducted and reported missing across the nation.



HANO PD Officer Holmes joins forces with State Police to capture local wanted fugitives



OVR12 Operation Team enter a home in pursuit of a wanted criminal

PARENTS AS EDUCATORS

Kingsley House launches new early head start program to enhance child development at home

*Written by Tiffany Cossich
Development and Communications
Coordinator at Kingsley House*

Kingsley House recently launched the Parents as Educators program, a new early learning program for low income families in Orleans Parish. This program provides high-quality and thorough child development and parenting information to assist parents in creating safe, stimulating home environments.

The program is free to eligible parents and will take place in the family's home with parents leading the curriculum. Kingsley House's Parent Educators visit the homes for 90 minutes, twice a week to partner with parents and to support them in Head Start research-based practices to become their child's first teacher. The program facilitates and models positive interaction between parent and child, encourages language-rich communication and ensures families are connected to medical, dental, mental health and other social service supports.

"Abolitionist Frederick Douglass once said, 'It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.' The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and to provide the foundation for future success," said Tiffany Cossich, development and communications coordinator at Kingsley House. "Kingsley House's Parents as Educators program will provide information, support, training and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during these crucial early years."

Eligibility requirements for the Parents as Educators program consist of the following:

- Pregnant mothers and children between birth and three years of age
- Must be a resident of Orleans Parish
- Must have a qualifying income based on the Federal Poverty Guideline
- Parent must have a valid ID (Driver's License or state-issued identification)
- Must have the child's birth certificate
- Medicaid card and food stamp print out
- Previous current check stubs and/or other source of income



*Participants of Kingsley House's Parents as Educators program
(Photo Credit: Kingsley House)*



*A young participant of the Parents as Educators program
(Photo Credit: Kingsley House)*

"With the demands of school being so high, the expectations for children entering school are so high. A foundational education from birth to three years of age is critical, so that these children are prepared for success in school and life," said Parents as Educators Specialist Joycelyn Jenkins. "Through this new home-based childcare program, parents learn how to be their child's first teacher, ensuring school-readiness and building a vital foundation for their future."

For more information or to enroll in the Parents as Educators program, call (504) 523-6221 ext. 192 or visit www.KingsleyHouse.org.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FAUBOURG LAFITTE'S SENIOR PROGRAM

Faubourg Lafitte seniors ages 55 and older stay engaged and active throughout the year

In an effort to keep its residents engaged throughout the year, Providence Community Housing provides a number of exciting and enriching activities for Faubourg Lafitte seniors ages 55 and older at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center (STNC). Lafitte's Senior Program is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm, and is open to Lafitte residents and other neighboring senior housing facilities in the Lafitte footprint.

The Senior Program hosts over 80 seniors who participate in community supportive programs focused on health, nutrition, exercise, mental health, social outings and arts and crafts. Throughout the year, the Senior Program keeps seniors active with a computer training class



A Lafitte senior program participant proudly displays her decorating skills during a wreath decorating class (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)

hosted by AARP, chair fitness with Lady D, arts and crafts projects during the holidays, bingo, and much more. Participating seniors also enjoy a healthy lunch during the program, and seniors ages 60 and older can also pick up commodities at STNC every third Friday of the month. Participants who currently live in surrounding senior assisted living communities are also provided transportation by Providence Community Housing.

“Many seniors live alone and they do not have relatives nearby to interact with on a daily basis, and the program is needed to keep them ‘whole.’ The Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center serves as a hub for socializing and developing friendships while meeting the needs of an elderly person,” said Providence Community Housing’s Adult/Senior Services Coordinator Claudette Austin.

The current Lafitte Senior Program was launched in 2010 as part of Community Services at STNC, and was merged into Providence’s Community and Supportive Services Program plan in 2012 after Providence assumed

operational responsibility for STNC from Catholic Charities. To learn more about the Senior Program at the Lafitte community, contact Claudette Austin, Providence’s adult/senior services coordinator, at (504) 227-3009.



Lafitte seniors stay fit with an exercise class with instructor Lady D (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)



Lafitte seniors take a field trip to a nearby Whole Foods store within their community (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)



Participating seniors enjoy planting seeds in the community garden (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)

THE PHENOMENAL WOMEN OF DESIRE

First Women's Group joins forces to bring positive change in their community



The Phenomenal Women of Desire pictured with The Estates' Senior Case Manager Nzinga Talbert (Photo Credit: The Estates)

In partnership with HANO's Department of Client Services, six matriarchs within The Estates community were honored for their contributions to the First Women's Group, also known as The Phenomenal Women of Desire, at a luncheon hosted by The Estates' Community Supportive Services (CSS) team.

"The Phenomenal Women's Group is very important in our community because it allows women to engage

in meaningful and rewarding activities, identify with other women in the community, and also develop healthy and supportive relationships with residents in the community," said The Estates' Senior Case Manager Nzinga Talbert.

This year, the Phenomenal Women of Desire were honored for their personal efforts and completion of twelve sessions based on the "Exploring Relationships with Married and Fragile Families" curriculum. The luncheon began with each of the honorees being escorted on a red carpet, followed by a celebratory lunch with their family and friends. Honorees also received a certificate of completion and were presented with a stiletto pendant.

Launched in 2012, the First Women's Group was designed to encourage women of all ages to develop positive change in their community through the creation of positive ideas and activities. Meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information on the First Women's Group, contact The Estates' CSS office at (504) 940-3060.

LAFITTE'S SAVE OUR SONS INITIATIVE

The Save Our Sons initiative strives to empower the father and son bond in the Lafitte community

The Annual Save Our Sons Program, hosted by Providence Community Housing and AmeriGroup, was held at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center in March to strengthen bonds between fathers and their sons. The purpose of this annual initiative is to designate a day for fathers, godfathers, grandfathers, stepfathers and father figures to strengthen their relationship with their sons, and to encourage them to spend quality time together.

During the event, participating fathers and sons heard inspirational speeches from Ameer Baraka and Brother Derek Shack of the True Love Movement, a program that empowers African Americans to achieve optimal health and wellness through education and community activism. Young men from the Lafitte community also learned how to tie a necktie from their father, and had an opportunity to win gift cards for their participation in the event.

To learn more about the Save Our Sons initiative, contact the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center at (504) 827-9963.



Young men from the Lafitte community learn the basics of tying a necktie during the Save Our Sons event (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)

CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

HANO PD Officer Marshall Pierre shares safety tips to utilize in your everyday life

Crime Prevention Safety Tips

Preventing violence is a vital part of promoting the health and safety of citizens within our communities. Lack of resources for our youth during the summer has greatly contributed to violence in our community. It will take every effort to regain control of youth violence and/or irresponsible adults to substantially decrease violence in the community.

The Housing Authority of New Orleans Police Department (HANO PD) is currently developing a Youth Violence and Prevention Program to help youth better understand their roles in the community. There are a number of youth programs presented by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as well as other federal partners that can be researched at www.safeyouth.gov/Pages/home.aspx.

Here are a few things you can do to stay safe:

While Walking:

- If possible, never walk alone.
- If you absolutely have to walk alone, walk on well-lit, well-traveled walkways and plan your route ahead of time.
- If anyone follows you, look confident and let him or her know you are aware of their presence.

While driving:

- If someone follows you and is persistent or becomes obscene, write down the license number and report it to the appropriate police agency as soon as possible.
- Make sure that all of the car doors are locked whenever you leave your vehicle.
- When returning to your car, have your keys ready so you can enter your car quickly and be aware of your surroundings.

On buses and subways:

- Use well-lit, busy stops.
- Stay alert! Don't doze or daydream.

Preventing thefts from vehicles:

- Always lock the doors and leave the windows rolled up.
- Keep all valuables out of sight. Expensive items in full view invite theft even if the vehicle is locked.
- Place valuable items in your trunk, not in the front or

key ring, and try to park in well-lit areas and walk along lit walkways.

- Carry your keys and access cards in your hand when you are approaching the appropriate doors, keeping them readily available.

Crimestoppers Increases Reward for Information about the Fatal Shooting of Officer James Bennett, Jr.

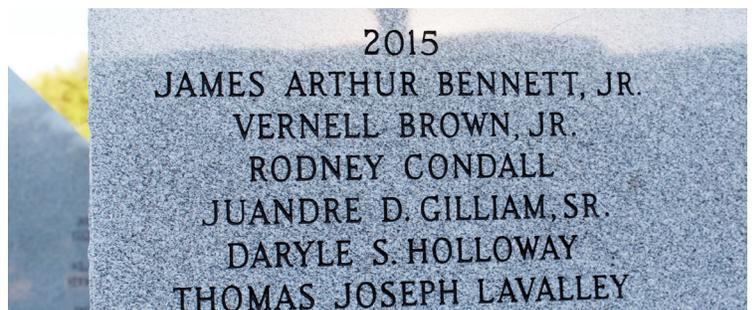
In January, Crimestoppers, along with New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Superintendent Michael Harrison and ATF New Orleans Division Special Agent in Charge Constance Hester, held a press conference to increase the reward from \$10,000 to \$35,000 for information in the fatal shooting of HANO Officer James Bennett, Jr.

Officer Bennett was honored at several memorial services this May. He was recognized for his service at the Louisiana Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at Lakelawn Cemetery and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The shooting of Officer Bennett remains unsolved. If you have any information, please call Crimestoppers at (504) 822-1111.



HANO PD officers attend a memorial ceremony in Washington, D.C.



HANO Officer Bennett among deceased police honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony

Keep an eye out for future issues of **HANO news**, the Crime Prevention Corner is a permanent feature educating readers on important safety tips.

HANO TO HOST FREE FAIR HOUSING TRAINING FOR HCVP RESIDENTS

In August, HANO and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s New Orleans Field Office will host a free fair housing training for Section 8 residents at the Helen W. Lang Memorial Board Room. The training will be held on Friday, August 26th from 10am to 12:30pm, and is limited to the first 100 registrants ages 18 and older due to space restrictions.

During the training, residents will learn more about rights, remedies and responsibilities in relation to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in rental housing based on race, disability or familial status.

To sign up for the training, register via e-mail at amtturner@hano.org by Monday, August 22, 2016. For any additional assistance, contact the HCVP Office Manager Aysia Turner at (504) 670-3293.



HANO's Free Fair Housing Training



GET PREPARED FOR THE 2016 HURRICANE SEASON

BEFORE:

- **Prepare a plan**

Discuss evacuation plans with family.

- **Sign up for NOLA Ready text alerts**

To register, go to www.nola.gov/ready/alert.

- **If eligible, sign up for the City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP)**

Dial 311 or (504) 658-2299.

For TTY, dial (504) 586-4475.

- **Research special needs assistance**

Consult physicians, counselors, home health care agencies, and service providers to arrange care for your evacuation needs. Remember to also arrange suitable transportation.

- **Don't forget your pets!**

Pack all necessities. Include up to date vaccination information.

DURING:

- **You must evacuate if:**

Mayor declares a mandatory evacuation.

- **Pack a small emergency bag**

Include all necessary medications and prescriptions, identification, important papers, a few changes of clothing, and cash.

- **CAEP pick-up locations**

Dial 311 or (504) 658-2299.

Visit www.nola.gov/ready/evacuspots for information.

- **For Your Information**

New Orleans Info Station: WWL (870 AM) and WLMG (101.9 FM)

Baton Rouge Info Station: WJBO (1150 AM) and WFME (102.5 FM)

Follow the blue evacuation route signs and head in the direction opposite of the storm track.

Sign Up Tod@y!



Receive updates on
HANO programs & services
directly to your email!



HANO
LANDLORD
PORTAL

Create an
account
& receive
24-hour access
to your
information!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Main Office	(504) 670-3300
Harmony Oaks	(504) 894-8828
The Estates	(504) 940-3060
Faubourg Lafitte	1-855-523-4883
Guste Homes	(504) 529-3392
Marrero Commons	(504) 524-9011
Fischer Homes	(504) 266-2507
River Garden	(504) 412-8216
Columbia Parc	(504) 284-4769
Bienville Basin	(504) 522-9078
Florida	(504) 821-8861
Scattered Sites	(504) 821-8861
HANO PD Hotline	(504) 670-3372
Public Housing Hotline	(504) 670-3446
HCVP Hotline	(504) 708-2800



Find Your Path to Self-Sufficiency
(504) 670-3300 • www.HANO.org



HANO
HOUSING
CHOICE CONNECT

HANO
Housing Authority of New Orleans

**CREATING COMMUNITIES.
BUILDING TRUST.**