SPRING 2020 ISSUE 70

Harlingen Housing Authority

Newsletter

HUD Recognized "High Performer"

HELLO MY HARLINGEN COMMUNITY:

The Harlingen Housing Authority is taking every precaution to protect our families, our community and ourselves. We have established a COVID-19 safety health protocol.

The purpose of the COVID-19 safety health protocol is for the safety, health, and well-being of everyone in our Harlingen community.

COVID-19 is a virus that can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may be at higher risk for severe illness or death. Older adults (65 and older) and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS FOR EMPLOYEES AND HARLINGEN COMMUNITY:

- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance and separation from others.
- Face covering for nose and mouth are required at all times for everyone.
- Wash or disinfect hands as often as possible.
- Wear gloves when receiving or obtaining information from others.
- All employees must clean and disinfect their work area and surrounding areas as often as possible.
- Employees will be required to stay home if they are not feeling well.
- Employee lunch schedules will vary.
- Office hours of operation will be limited and may increase or decrease.
- Employees may be allowed to work from home while in "Shelter in Place".

HEALTH PROTOCOL FOR OUR OFFICES:

- Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regular touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, computers, keyboards, desks and restrooms.
- Disinfect any items that come into contact with others.
- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant are readily available to employees and others.
- Visible signage at our offices will remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
- Face covering for nose and mouth will be available to all employees and must be worn in the presence of others.
- Face coverings for nose and mouth must be worn by anyone entering our buildings and offices.

Please note, COVID-19 safety health protocols and guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. We must stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support the safety, health, and well-being of everyone. For more information visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, www.cdc.gov and the April 27, 2020 Governor's Report to Open Texas. Visit our Website at www.harlingenha.org for the latest news about our Housing Authority.

Stay safe and healthy,

Hilda Benavides

Hilda Benavides,
Executive Director

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Spring

HARLINGEN 2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census is approaching us quickly.

LET'S MAKE HARLINGEN, TEXAS COUNT IN THE 2020 CENSUS!

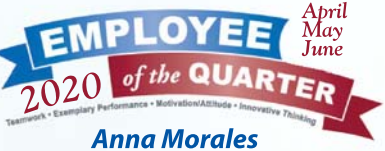
- Every 10 years the United States counts every resident and it is called the CENSUS.
- We need your help to count everyone in Harlingen, Texas.
- The information you provide is protected by law and is confidential.
- The City of Harlingen will receive millions in federal and state funding for every person counted. These funds are used for Housing, Transportation, Schools, Medical and other service programs.
- By April 1, 2020 you will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.
- You have 4 ways to respond to the Census
  1. Online – First day to respond was March 12, 2020
  2. Respond by Phone
  3. Respond by Mail – no P.O. Boxes
  4. In-person Interview
- The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our City, our population, where we live and so much more.
- **THE CENSUS BUREAU IS HIRING!** They need hundreds of thousands of employees to make this all happen. Jobs are available in every city across Texas. To learn more and apply visit www.2020census.gov/jobs or you can also call 1-855-JOB-2020.

Mayor Boswell joins the 2020 Census Walk.

Please visit our Website at www.harlingenha.org for the latest news about our Housing Authority and the 2020 Census. **LET'S MAKE HARLINGEN, TEXAS COUNT IN THE 2020 CENSUS!**

HHA Employees promoting 2020 Census.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS



Anna Morales

Congratulations Anna Morales, on being selected the "Employee of the Quarter" for the months of April, May & June, 2020.

Your employment with us began on February 3, 2014 as Admissions Clerk and currently you are the Property Manager at the Los Vecinos Apartments. You are courteous, respectful and always willing to take on added duties and responsibilities. Your communication and presentation skills are exceptional and you take the lead on many of our reading activities throughout our community. You assisted with the NAHRO Award of Merit Application for our "Little Free Libraries" and you also helped submit 6 scholarship applications for graduating seniors to the Texas NAHRO Scholarship Committee.

It is a pleasure working with you and seeing you grow with our agency. Your thoughtfulness and kindness in assisting others is greatly appreciated. You are a team player and you work well with others.

You will be recognized for your achievements by our Board of Commissioners. You will receive a plaque, a gift card, and a reserved parking place. You will get to compete with your colleagues for "Employee of the Year 2020-2021."

Adolpho Maldonado

Congratulations Adolpho Maldonado, on being selected the "Employee of the Quarter", for the months of January, February & March 2020.

Your employment with us began on April 18, 2016 as a Maintenance Aide B at the Los Vecinos Apartments. You have demonstrated your dedication in completing your work in a timely manner. You take pride in the work you do and it shows when you prepare units for our families. Your quality of work is outstanding and you display it when you assist us at the main office.

You were recently added to the Maintenance On Call rotation and you have embraced the added duties and responsibilities. It is great to see you grow with our agency. You are a team player and you work well with others.

You will be recognized for your achievements by our Board of Commissioners and you will receive a plaque, a gift card, and a reserved parking place. You will get to compete with your colleagues for "Employee of the Year 2020-2021".

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN

HUD Recognized "High Performer"
Established 1949

TO: Harlingen Housing Authority HCV/S8 Landlords &Participants

FROM: Diana Perez, HCV/S8 Administrator

DATE: June 01, 2020

RE: New Office Schedule due to Corona Virus (COVID-19)

The Harlingen Housing Authority is taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our participants. All HHA offices will continue to be opened Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Our office staff will be able to communicate through email; phone calls, facebook and our website, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our website is www.harlingenha.org

We encourage everyone to call us at 956-423-2521 or email us at:

Diana Perez:	956-423-2521 Ext #126 email dperez@harlingen-ha.com
Maggie Garcia:	956-423-2521 Ext# 132 email mgarcia@harlingen-ha.com
Dalia DeLucio:	956-423-2521 Ext# 115 email ddelucio@harlingen-ha.com
Ariana Valle:	956-423-2521 Ext# 113 email avalle@harlingen-ha.com
Nancy Garza:	956-423-2521 Ext# 133 email ngarza@harlingen-ha.com
Anita Navarro:	956-423-2521 Ext# 114 email anavarro@harlingen-ha.com
Jorge Olivares:	956-423-2521 Ext# 110 email jolivares@harlingen-ha.com

All HAP and Utility allowance checks will be mailed.

All resident events and activities are CANCELLED until further notice.

The Harlingen Housing Authority is committed to the safety and well-being of everyone we serve.

Scan QR Code or visit: https://harlingenha.org

Diana Perez
HCV / S8 Program Administrator

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER / SECTION 8 PROGRAM

The Harlingen Housing Authority HCV/S8 Program would like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Ricardo M. Garcia on becoming our first homeowners for the HCV/S8 Homeownership Program. The Garcia family finalized all required paperwork and were able to move in to their new 2 bedroom 2 bath home on March 1, 2020.

Mr. Garcia attended the HCV/S8 Homeownership Conference held January 23, 2018. Mr. Garcia received vital information to start the process of homeownership. The Harlingen Community Development Corporation assisted Mr. Garcia with homeownership counseling and closing costs.

The Harlingen Housing Authority HCV/S8 Homeownership program is looking for new participants interested in Homeownership.

The Garcia family is proud of their new home.

THE HCV / SECTION 8 HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

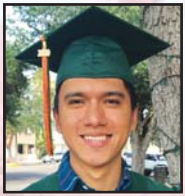
- Income and employment (elderly and disabled families are exempt).
- Family must be a first-time home buyer.
- Homeownership Counseling is required.
- May need to meet other eligibility requirements.

YOU TOO CAN BECOME A HOME OWNER!

If interested in homeownership, please contact Diana Perez at dperez@harlingen-ha.com or by phone at (956) 428-4026 ext. 126.

2020 HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH GRADUATES

CLAUDIA BELMONTES
TSTC



EDWIN GUERRERO CAMPOS
TSTC

STEPHEN GARCIA
UTRGV

TIFFANY GUARDADO
TSTC

JACQUELINE HERRERA
UTRGV

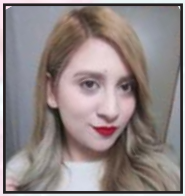
BLANKA LOZOYA
TSTC

RUBY MENDIOLA
TEXAS A&M

ALYSSA MORALES
TEXAS A&M

MELISSA MURO
TSTC

KASSANDRA NAVARRO
UTRGV



SAMIRA SAEED
TSTC

YESENIA ZAMORA
TSTC

You did it!
Congratulations

2020 HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

DEVIN DORADO
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

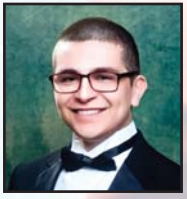
EMELY LEANDRO
ST. EDWARDS UNIVERSITY

SUSANA VARGAS
TSTC

YAZMIN VEGA
TSTC

2020 HARLINGEN SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

DESIRAE HERNANDEZ
TSTC



CEBAZTIAN MEZA
TSTC

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Let's take a look back at our past high school graduates and scholarship awardees.

What are they up to now?

DONALDO ALMAZAN graduated from RICE University in 2018 and is currently working as a Chemical Engineer in Houston. He is a 2014 Harlingen High School graduate.

RICE

FRANK MUÑOZ graduated from UTRGV with a Bachelors Degree in Mass Communications in 2018 and is currently working for KRGV as a news editor for the morning broadcast. He is a 2014 Harlingen High School graduate.

KRGV 5NEWS abc

DEBORAH CUELLAR is attending Texas Tech University and is studying Chemical Engineering. She is a 2017 IDEA Academy graduate. "Wreck 'em Tech."

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY.

"Do not be afraid to ask for help; celebrating every victory - big or small. Be kind to yourself."

– by Deborah Cuellar

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

JOHN MUÑOZ is attending UTRGV and is studying Clinical Laboratory Science. He is a 2018 Harlingen School of Health Professions graduate.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

EDUARDO MURO is proudly serving our country in the Army. Thank you for your service. He is a 2018 Harlingen High School South graduate.

U.S.ARMY

JORGE VIDALES is attending Texas A&M Kingsville studying Mechanical Engineering. He is a 2018 Harlingen High School South graduate.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY KINGSVILLE

"Even though times get hard, keep pushing and stay consistent with your studies."

– by Jorge Vidales

ISELA HENRIQUEZ will be attending her 2nd year of college in San Antonio. She is a 2019 Harlingen High School South graduate.

"Continue going to school, times might get hard but you can make it through."

– by Isela Henriquez

LOS VECINOS

Manager:
Anna Morales

"Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade (Charles Dickens)." Los Vecinos residents, we hope each and every one of you are in good spirits and are enjoying every new day. Families big and small, we encourage all you to go outside and see what our community has to offer. Our development has a basketball area, playground, and a beautiful vegetable garden that everyone can share.

In January, Los Vecinos hosted the quarterly Crime Prevention Meeting. Los Vecinos staff would like to thank the Harlingen Police Department, property managers, administrative staff, and in house courtesy officers for your dedication to our residents. Because of you, our communities continue to remain safe for everyone.

Asst. Manager:
Norma Serino

In the month of February, Mayor Chris Boswell, Commissioner De La Rosa, and other community leaders joined together to inform our residents and surrounding areas about the upcoming 2020 Census. Door knockers, event flyers, and other information was given about the importance of making sure everyone gets counted. As of right now, we currently have 42% of our Harlingen Community counted. Great job Los Vecinos families. If you haven't completed your Census packet, you may still complete your Census surveys online, by phone, or mail. Get counted today.

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try (Dr. Seuss)." On March 3, 2020, Los Vecinos staff including participants from the Family Learning Center enjoyed our Book Rich Environment (BRE) Dr. Seuss birthday celebration. Ms. Julia Garcia, Assistant Property Manager, read a Dr. Seuss book to all the students in attendance. Children received cupcakes, juices, and book marks to decorate. Happy birthday Dr. Seuss!

Los Vecinos management would like to recognize Resident Commissioner, Ms. Maria Ines Borjas. Ms. Borjas, we would like to thank you for keeping your yard and home clean at all times. You are a great inspiration and role model to all those around you. On behalf of the Los Vecinos team, we thank you for everything you do. Thank you for also serving on the Housing Authority Board.

Lastly, 2020 is our year to be great. HUD REAC inspections will be held this year in the upcoming months. We like to promote good housekeeping inside your homes and surrounding areas. Please report any deficiencies your unit might have. These inspections will determine future funding for our community.

REMINDERS:

- Smoke Free Housing is in Full Effect nationwide.
- For your convenience payments can be made online at www.harlingen.housingmanager.com.
- Residents, it is your responsibility to maintain your area free from trash, debris, indoor furniture, and overgrown vegetation. Please check your monthly calendars to see when yard cutting and inspections have been scheduled.
- Like us on Facebook and find us at our website: harlingenha.org
- Help STOP Coronavirus. Wash your hands often. Do NOT touch your face. Keep a safe distance (social distancing), and stay home if you can.

NEW TO LOS VECINOS!

We installed a drop box and a door slot for rent payments and correspondence. Only checks or money orders are accepted. Please pay to the order of the: Harlingen Housing Authority, sign and add your apartment number on the check or money order, make sure your name and apartment number are visible. A receipt will be sent to you. We would like to ensure that all residents stay safe and protect themselves from COVID-19.

2020 Census Walk at Los Vecinos.

Ms. Garcia reading at Dr. Seuss event.

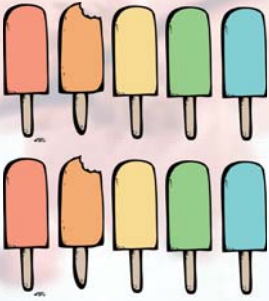
Los Vecinos Dr. Seuss event.

Los Vecinos Learning Center residents created Valentine's Day crafts.

Mr. Cavazos at the Dr. Seuss Event at Los Vecinos.

Drop Box installed for rent payments at Los Vecinos.

A door slot was installed for rent payments at Los Vecinos.



BONITA PARK, SUNSET TERRACE, ARAGON & ARROYO VISTA COURT APARTMENTS

Manager:
Cynthia Aguilera

Asst. Manager:
Patty Vega

The Bonita Park staff would like to wish everyone a very happy Spring Season. Hope each and everyone of our wonderful residents are enjoying this beautiful weather. Parents, take advantage in taking your children to the playground for some healthy exercise.

2020 Census is here! The main goal is to have everyone counted. National Census began April 1, 2020 and will continue until August 14, 2020. All information is confidential, everyone counts.

Residents at Sunset Terrace enjoyed attending a 6 week nutrition class given by La Cocina Alegre. The nutrition class emphasized the importance of the preparation of fresh, seasonal foods that are nutritious, economical and delicious. After the 6 week course, a healthy cookbook was given to all who participated. The cookbook contains several healthy recipes. Thank you Sunset Residents for participating and learning the benefits of eating healthy.

On March 3, 2020, the Bonita Park Learning Center held a Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration BRE Event. Children enjoyed a story read by our maintenance, Luis Ortega, "Green Eggs and Ham". Children enjoyed some cupcakes and juice. Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss.

I would like to take this time to congratulate Ms. Olga Dominguez. She takes great pride in maintaining her home clean. It is a great privilege to have a tenant like Olga living in our community. On behalf of the Bonita Park staff, we would like to thank Olga for outstanding housekeeping practices. Keep up the great work.

Last, but not least, Bonita Park will soon undergo a HUD REAC inspection. This inspection will determine funding for our apartments. It is important to have good housekeeping inside and outside of your apartment. Please make sure to report all repairs in a timely manner. A big thank you to all staff at Bonita Park, whose hard work and dedication make a difference in our community.

REMINDERS:

- Smoke Free Housing is in Full Effect nationwide.
- All visitors must register at the Bonita Park office, to ensure they have a safe and enjoyable stay.
- For your convenience, payments can be made online at www.harlingen.housingmanager.com.
- Residents, please maintain your area free from trash, debris, indoor furniture, and overgrown vegetation. Please check your monthly calendars to see when yard cutting is scheduled.

HEALTHY PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CORONA VIRUS:

- Wash hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wear a face covering for nose and mouth when sick.

MAKE A SCHEDULE

- What areas need the most work?
- What areas do you skip during routine cleaning?

DE-CLUTTER

- Organize your closets, pantry, bedrooms, etc.

CLEAN AND WORK FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

- If you have a vacuum cleaner with an extension hose, use it to get cobwebs and dust from your ceilings and fans first.
- Dust all furniture and behind TV.
- Clean refrigerator, stove & oven.
- Clean windows & all doors.

Children play at the Bonita Park playground.

City of Harlingen employees are striping the street intersections and curbs.

Children are playing football at Sunset Terrace.

NEW TO BONITA PARK & SUNSET TERRACE!

- We installed a door slot for rent payments and correspondence at Bonita Park.
- We installed a drop box for rent payments and correspondence at Sunset Terrace.

Only checks or money orders are accepted. Please pay to the order of the: Harlingen Housing Authority, sign and add your apartment number on the check or money order, make sure your name and apartment number are visible. A receipt will be sent to you. We would like to ensure that all residents stay safe and protect themselves from COVID-19.

A new door slot for rent payments installed at Bonita Park.

Drop Box installed for rent payments at Sunset Terrace.

LE MOYNE GARDENS

Manager:
Mary Prieto

Asst. Manager:
Elizabeth Zavala

Le Moyne Gardens has been a very busy place. Activities such as the 2020 Census, preparations for the upcoming HUD REAC inspections, window replacements of all units, water heater closet repairs, tree trimming, and foundation painting has really kept us on our toes.

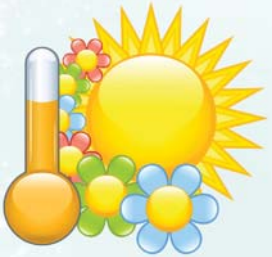
2020 Census is here! The primary goal is to count everyone. National Census Day was held on April 1, 2020. You may respond to the Census online, by phone or on a paper application. It is completely confidential and will not affect your housing assistance in any way. Please complete it today, everyone counts! Let's continue to assure that our community gets the funding it needs to take care of all our Harlingen residents. The Census Count continues until August 14, 2020.

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday. Ms. Anita Navarro, Le Moyne Gardens Assistant Manager, cheerfully read the book "Fine Feathered Friends: All About Birds" to the children at the Family Learning Center. Shortly after, the children enjoyed cupcakes and fruit punch. Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!!

The Harlingen Health Department & UTRGV students continue to monitor mosquito traps around our community. These traps contain zero chemicals and are not harmful to humans or animals. Every building has about three labeled traps and every three weeks the students come to collect mosquitoes from the traps. We kindly ask for your help in keeping these mosquito traps safe and untouched by children so that the process is effective.

On March 25, 2020 a shelter in place order was issued for Cameron County. Our office and playgrounds were closed. We continued to communicate through email, phone calls, facebook and website. On May 1, 2020 the shelter in place order was lifted and we were able to return to the office. At the offices, social distancing continues to be practiced, coverage of nose and mouth is required and for your family's protection, no children are allowed to visit the office until further notice. We are taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our residents.

I would like to remind everyone of our community service requirements. If you fall under the criteria and must do community service, it is extremely important that you comply. Preparations for our upcoming REAC inspections are the perfect opportunity to catch up on your hours should you need too; any and all help is greatly appreciated. Many tenants have begun by cleaning their apartments inside and out. You may also participate by growing your own garden vegetables; or becoming a Tenant Association member. The Tenant Association will soon hold elections for a new Tenant Association President. A special thanks to everyone for their hard work and dedication.



We would like to highlight the Claudio Family of Le Moyne Gardens. Ms. Claudio keeps her yard looking great! She proudly displays the American Flag and the U.S. Army Flag in honor of her two sons. Joel Claudio Jr. and Jorge Claudio are currently in the military serving our country. We thank you and your family for your service and sacrifice. Thank You for being great role models.

Last but not least … Hurray for the Class of 2020! This big day won't be the last one; the sky is the limit, so keep moving. Congratulations on your graduation.

NEW TO LE MOYNE GARDENS!

We installed a drop box for rent payments and correspondence. Only checks or money orders are accepted. Please pay to the order of the: Harlingen Housing Authority, sign and add your apartment number on the check or money order, make sure your name and apartment number are visible. A receipt will be sent to you. We would like to ensure that all residents stay safe and protect themselves from COVID-19.

Asst. Manager:
Julia Garcia

Mosquito traps have been placed at Le Moyne Gardens.

Le Moyne Gardens is producing some amazing vegetables.

Drop Box installed for rent payments.

Claudio family proudly displays the American & Army flags.

Anita Navarro, Assistant Manager, reads a Dr. Seuss book to the children.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Angie Rodriguez
Resident Events Coordinator

Welcome, Spring Time!

Residents, get involved, stay informed, we welcome you to be part of our tenant associations. Just think of the goals that can be achieved when we all work together. Join your tenant associations now.

Tenant associations meet twice a month, some of the topics discussed include community involvement, healthy lifestyles, family violence awareness, and scholarships. Several local agencies are invited to the tenant association meetings for presentations on their services.

Congratulations to the Los Vecinos Tenant Association! The Association raised a total of $300.00 from raffle sales, food plate sales, and snack sales. This money will be matched by the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation. The Los Vecinos Academic Scholarship for High School Seniors from Los Vecinos will have a total of $600.00 to award. Hard work and determination will make great things happen and Congratulations Seniors.

In partnership with Brownsville ISD, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are held Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Le Moyne Gardens Learning Center. A total of 10 residents are enjoying the classes.

CONNECTHOMEUSA creates a platform for our community leaders, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private industry; together they produce locally-tailored solutions for narrowing the digital divide. ConnectHomeUSA extends affordable access to low-income families ensuring that high-speed internet follows our children from their classrooms to their homes. In partnership with CONNECTHOMEUSA and T-Mobile, we are able to offer T-Mobile hot spot internet to eligible residents at our communities at a low rate of $15.00 per month. We are proud to say that we have a total of 64 residents at our communities with T-Mobile hot spots.

On Saturday, February 22, 2020, we participated in the City of Harlingen's Health Day event at the Harlingen Community Center. We had a total of 120 people visit our booth.

Thania with La Cocina Alegre is assisting Gloria, a Sunset Terrace resident, with making a healthy burger.

AS PART OF THE BOOK RICH ENVIRONMENT (BRE):

- On Monday, March 2, 2020, we participated in the United Way of Southern Cameron County Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration event at the Harlingen Public Library. A total of 482 books were distributed to the children. Popcorn and water was shared with all who attended.
- On Tuesday, March 3rd through Thursday, March 5, 2020, the Harlingen Housing Authority Family Learning Centers held Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration events at our communities. A total of 161 books were distributed to the children.

Claudia, a Sunset resident, helps Jessica with La Cocina Alegre, make Gazpacho.

WE ALSO HAVE LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AT FOUR OF OUR SITES:

- Le Moyne Gardens by the Butterfly Garden.
- Los Vecinos across from the office.
- Bonita Park in front of the Learning Center.
- Sunset Terrace in front of the office.

A Little Free Library is a free book exchange, anyone can take a book to read or bring a book to share.

The Little Free Libraries are an excellent resource to keep families engaged in reading during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Little Free Libraries are replenished with new books every other week. They are sanitized and cleaned daily.

Our community gardens play a significant role in helping our residents live and enjoy a healthy lifestyle. Los Vecinos and Le Moyne Gardens have planted several tasty vegetables like lettuce, beets, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, radishes, and many more. Planting and harvesting organic vegetables have taught our residents to make healthier choices.

I have been meeting with the Healthy Harlingen-Nutrition Workgroup Community Gardens Project on a monthly basis. Some of the community partners are Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation, HCISD Food Service, Su Clinica Familiar, City of Harlingen Parks and Recreation and Texas A & M AgriLife. We discussed future funding and plans for our Community Gardens at Le Moyne Gardens and Los Vecinos.

HHA Staff participated in the Dr. Seuss Birthday Event.

The Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre is where people come together to share skills, learn new recipes, laugh, cook, and enjoy food. We envision a future where everyone participates in the local food system through cooking and healthy eating, and we believe that developing cooking skills and nutrition knowledge are an important foundation. Our Sunset Terrace residents participated in a six week cooking and nutrition course. The course featured delicious and healthy recipes from the "Fresh Seasonal Recipes Cookbook", with an emphasis on local, seasonal produce and affordability. Ms. Jessica and Ms. Thania held the cooking classes at Sunset Terrace. They taught the residents how to make better health decisions, such as choosing whole grains and how to read nutritional fact labels. The residents made a delicious Mexican rice salad, fresh gazpacho, healthy migas, and pancakes. The importance of fiber, blood sugar control, healthy substitutions, soda facts, and trans fats were emphasized in the lessons. On the last day of class, the residents made a healthy guacamole, some cauliflower rice, fruit cups, and a rice pudding to share with one another. All participants received a "Fresh Seasonal Recipes Cookbook," and a total of 8 residents graduated the class at Sunset Terrace.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness. Managers and I have been working closely to make sure our families are doing well in this pandemic. Care packages have been distributed to elderly residents as needed. We would like for everyone to be safe.

The 2020 Census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide services to our community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. Please make sure that you fill out and return the Census 2020 forms. If you did not receive one, here are some phone numbers you can call; for English call 1-844-330-2020, for Spanish call 1-844-468-2020, or go online to my2020census.gov.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our residents for shinning bright. Your community involvement helps keep our communities safe and beautiful.

CRIME PREVENTION

Our Crime Prevention Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at Los Vecinos Family Learning Center.

Attendees were Harlingen Housing Authority Management and Administration, In-house Police Officers, Harlingen Police Department Officers and Public Housing residents.

The crime statistics for each of our communities were reviewed and ideas were shared on how we can improve safety measures amongst our residents. Working as a team, we can ensure our communities continue to be a safe and comfortable place to live.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 10:00 am via telephone and by video conference.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Juan Saldaña is helping Mireya Nava with the garden beds at Los Vecinos.

Maria and her children getting ready for Spring planting.

Maria Zepeda is weeding the vegetables at Le Moyne Gardens.

Aitana Amaya excited for all the carrots her mother Xochilt harvested.

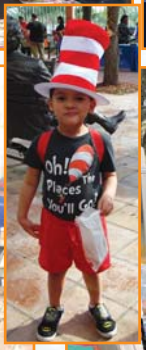
COVID-19 CARE PACKAGES

Yolanda Aguirre at Le Moyne Gardens received fresh vegetables.

Felipa Rodriguez received a care package during Covid-19.

Raquel Lopez appreciated her care package during Covid-19.

DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY EVENT



Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter

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423-2341

Arroyo Vista Court Apartments
505 Arroyo Vista Court
423-2341

Bonita Park Apartments
601 South Rangerville Road
423-2341

Le Moyne Gardens Apartments
3221 North 25th Street
425-4248

Los Vecinos Apartments
702 South M Street
423-6213

Sunset Terrace Apartments
1401 N. Sunset Drive
423-7353

Spring

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The Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter informs residents of current and upcoming events and enhances communication between residents, the Harlingen Housing Authority staff, and friends of the Authority.

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Thanks

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Executive Director

Brendan Hall
Legal Counsel

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

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Chairperson

Carlos "Charlie" Perez
Vice-Chairperson

Julio Cavazos
Maria I. Borjas
Carlos Muñiz

Special Thanks To:
The Honorable
Chris Boswell , Mayor
City of Harlingen

Boys and Girls Club Executive Director:
Gerald Gathright

Family Learning Centers Staff:

Jose Luis Cavazos, Ph.D.
Parental Involvement Director

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Norma Cavazos

Sunset Terrace
Julia Aguirre

Le Moyne Gardens
Jesse Leal

Los Vecinos
Alma Becerra

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Resident Events Coordinator

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Gabriela Guardado

Le Moyne Gardens
Vacant

Sunset Terrace
Gloria Vega

Los Vecinos
Maria Gutierrez

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Housing Authority

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