SUMMER 2020 ISSUE 71

Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter

HUD Recognized "High Performer"

BLESSINGS EVERYONE!

What is a Tenant Association? A Tenant Association is a group of Public Housing residents that organize themselves by having elections of officers and adopting by-laws that serve as a guide for conducting business and meetings. The goals of the Tenant Association are to communicate, inform and motivate residents to aspire a better quality of life in their community. All of our Public Housing Apartments have an active Tenant Association.

I am very proud to announce that the Los Vecinos Tenant Association in partnership with the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation raised $600.00 to award Scholarships to their graduating seniors. They had fundraisers such as lunch plates, raffles and played Loteria/Bingo. It's an honor and privilege to introduce the students that were awarded a Scholarship by the Los Vecinos Tenant Association.

Ruby Rose Mendiola graduated from Harlingen High School South. She plans to attend Texas A & M University College Station and obtain a degree in Biomedical Science. Her future career goal is to be a Veterinarian.

Desirae Hernandez graduated from Harlingen School of Health Professions. She plans to attend the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and obtain a degree in Biology. Her future goals are to continue her education and obtain a doctorate degree and become a Dentist.

Kassandra Navarro graduated from Harlingen High School South. She plans to attend the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and obtain a degree in Criminal Justice. Her future career goal is to work for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

The Harlingen Housing Authority would like to thank and recognize the Los Vecinos Tenant Association Officers. President, Maria Gutierrez; Vice-President, Gabriela Ruiz; Treasurer, Xochilt Amaya, and Secretary Fidencia Reza. They meet monthly via Webex or Zoom with the guidance of Ms. Angie Rodriguez, HHA Resident Events Coordinator.

It is people like the Los Vecinos Tenant Association that make a difference in our world.

Due to COVID-19 our office hours may change or vary at any time. Please visit our website at www.harlingenha.org for the latest news about our Housing Authority.

Stay safe,

Hilda Benavides,
Executive Director

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

HARLINGEN HOUSING AUTHORITY (HHA) EMPLOYEES ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THEIR CHILDREN

FELISHA LAUREN LUCIO

Ms. Felisha Lauren Lucio is the daughter of Ms. Cynthia Lucio, Public Housing Administrator. Felisha graduated from Brownsville Early College High School with 63 hours from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and obtain a degree in Psychology. She also received the Texas Housing Association (THA) Scholarship.

THE LUCIO FAMILY

JORGE DANIEL OLIVARES

Mr. Jorge Daniel Olivares is the son of Mr. Jorge L. Olivares, Administrative Assistant and Mrs. Elizabeth Zavala, Assistant Property Manager. Jorge graduated from Harlingen High School South. He plans to attend Lamar University at Beaumont. He will obtain a degree in Biology.

THE OLIVARES FAMILY

DIAMOND NICOLE ORTEGA

Ms. Diamond Nicole Ortega is the daughter of Mr. Luis Ortega, Maintenance B at Bonita Park. Diamond graduated from Harlingen High School. She plans to attend Texas State Technical College in Harlingen and obtain a degree in Computer Technology.

THE ORTEGA FAMILY

VICTORIA IMELDA PEREZ

Ms. Victoria Imelda Perez is the daughter of Mrs. Diana Perez, HCV/ Section 8 and Admissions Administrator. Victoria graduated from Harlingen High School South. She plans to attend Texas State Technical College in Harlingen and transfer to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley where she will obtain a degree in Education.

THE PEREZ FAMILY

Congratulations

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

EMPLOYEE 2020 of the QUARTER
Teamwork • Exemplary Performance • Motivation/Attitude • Innovative Thinking

July
August
September

Jorge Olivares

Congratulations Jorge Olivares, on being selected the "Employee of the Quarter", for the months of July, August & September 2020.

Your employment with us began on January 23, 2017 as Admissions Specialist and in December of 2017 you were promoted to Human Resources/ Accounting Clerk. In February of 2019 you were again promoted as my Administrative Assistant. You demonstrate a great deal of initiative by embracing the daily tasks of your position.

Your knowledge of computers and software has helped our Agency grow in the areas of computer technology and literacy. You took the lead with the power point presentation at the Annual Board meeting and also assisted me with the Texas NAHRO power point presentation of Scholarship awardees. You assist in updating our Website on a monthly basis and help with our quarterly Newsletter. Currently you have transformed our Regular Board Meetings to Remote Meetings via Telephone and Video Conference through WebEx and Facebook live stream.

Your positive attitude and willingness to help others is a great asset to our Agency. It is a pleasure working with you and seeing you grow to an outstanding employee.

You were recognized for your achievements by our Board of Commissioners. He received 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".

EMPLOYEE 2020 of the QUARTER
Teamwork • Exemplary Performance • Motivation/Attitude • Innovative Thinking

April
May
June

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 were recognized for your achievements by our Board of Commissioners. She received 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."

You did it! Congratulations

You did it! Congratulations

EDWIN GUERRA-CAMPOS

RICHARD CAMARGO

CLAUDIA BELMONTES

DEVIN DORADO

2020 HARLINGEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING CORPORATION

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation congratulates our 2020 Graduating Seniors for a job well done!!!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDE:
Vanessa Serna, President
Carlos "Charlie" Perez, Vice-President
Maria Ines Borjas
Julio Cavazos
Carlos Muñiz

Executive Director
Hilda Benavides

STEPHEN GARCIA

TIFFANY GUARDADO

DESIRAE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERRERA

EMELY LEANDRO

BLANKA LOZOYA

You did it! Congratulations

ALYSSA MORALES

CEBAZTIAN MEZA

RUBY R. MENDIOLA

MELISSA MURO

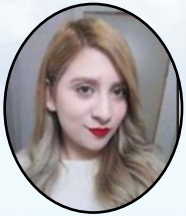
OUR SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS:

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby (Robin) Farris
Mr. & Mrs. Heriberto (Liz) Medrano
Mr. & Mrs. Brendan (Anne) Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Blas (Melinda) Cantu, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Denison
Ms. Hilda Benavides
Ms. Cynthia Lucio

KASSANDRA NAVARRO

YESENIA ZAMORA

Thank You for your support



SAMIRA SAEED

SUSANA VARGAS

YAZMIN VEGA

PUBLIC HOUSING & MODERNIZATION UPDATE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT PEOPLE, IMAGINATION, AND HOUSING

Cynthia Lucio
Public Housing Administrator

Calling all Youth Artists! HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing is hosting its first annual Art Competition, "Opening Doors and Unlocking Opportunities, through ***People, Imagination, and Housing".***

Young artists are encouraged to share their creativity by submitting original artwork that demonstrates what "Opening Doors and Unlocking Opportunities, through ***People, Imagination, and Housing***" means to them.

Select submissions will be displayed online at HUD.gov and at HUD's Headquarters in Washington, D.C.!

WANT TO ENTER? IT'S EASY!

1. Please review the important information below.
2. Enter your information and sign the competition agreement. Log in to HUD.GOV, search Youth Art Competition in the search engine or for more information call your community office manager.
3. You will receive a confirmation email after completing your entry form.
4. Forward your confirmation message WITH your artwork as an attachment to PIHART@HUD.GOV by **4:00 pm CST on July 31, 2020.**
5. That's it! We will make sure that we can open/view your artwork and let you know what comes next.

Good luck!

CONTEST INFORMATION:

Art pieces will be judged at the regional and national level, with all pieces being showcased in the HUD PIH Virtual Art Gallery display and select pieces showcased in the HUD HQ on-site exhibition.

To participate, you should:

- Be under the age of 25.
- Complete the entry form.
- Digitally submit your confirmation message and artwork to PIHART@HUD.GOV by 4:00 pm CST July 31, 2020.

To be displayed as part of the competition, your artwork should:

- Be two-dimensional.
- No larger than 26 inches high by 26 inches wide by 4 inches deep, including any frame.
- Weigh less than 15 pounds.

You can submit many types of art, including:

- Drawings
- Paintings
- Photographs
- Printwork
- Digital Art
- Mixed Media

Timeline for PIH Youth Art Competition:

- Submit Art to PIHART@HUD.GOV by 4:00 pm CST on July 31, 2020.
- Judging and notification of winners will take place during August 2020.
- Artwork to be displayed on-line due date TBD.

NATIONAL NAHRO AWARDS

The **National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Award of Merit** is a showcase for Public Housing Authorities to demonstrate their ingenuity and grit and the industry's best practices for the communities they serve. The Harlingen Housing Authority was awarded two 2020 NAHRO Awards of Merit. The Little Free Library program in our communities and the "What Christmas Means to Me" Christmas cards project were awarded. The second tier of the NAHRO awards program are the **Awards of Excellence**, they are selected from the Award of Merit winners nominated for an Award of Excellence by the Regional Juries. The Little Free Library Program was nominated for an Award of Excellence.

Thank you to Mr. Alejandro Muñiz and his AP European History class (HCISD, 2017) for partnering up with us to establish and implement the Little Free Libraries class project. The kids and families enjoy sharing books.

Thank you to our children that participate in the "What Christmas Means to Me" Christmas card project. The community enjoys your art work while accepting well wishes on Christmas.

Little Library Ribbon Cutting at Sunset Terrace.

The AP European History Class volunteers at the Ribbon Cutting of the Little Free Library at Le Moyne Gardens.

Little Free Library at Bonita Park.

The AP European History Class volunteers building a Little Free Library at Los Vecinos.

Diana Perez
HCV / S8 Program Administrator

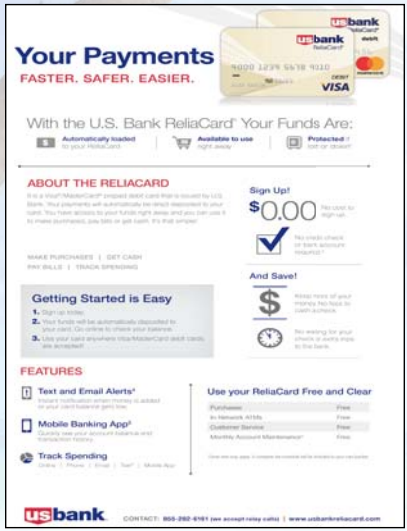
HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER / SECTION 8 PROGRAM

The Harlingen Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)/Section 8 Program continues to find better ways to serve our community. HCV/Section 8 program will be transitioning from paper checks to debit cards. This new change will be beneficial to tenants, landlords, and our agency - no more lost or misplaced checks. This will eliminate having to go to the bank and deposit or having to wait in long lines to cash the check. Tenant and Landlords will receive a VISA Pre-paid card from US Bank. The ReliaCard is a reloadable, pre-paid debit card. Once funds are added to the card account, it can be used to make purchases, pay bills and make online payments. If you have not yet enrolled to receive this card, please call our office to get signed up.

Due to COVID-19 the Harlingen Housing Authority office hours may change or vary at any time. We take every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our participants, HHA staff and Harlingen Community. County Commissioners' Court has ordered that all businesses and commercial entities in Cameron County must require that all employees and visitors to the premise or other facilities utilize a facial covering for nose and mouth. So we ask all our participants that need to come to our offices to please wear your facial covering for nose and mouth.

We continue to take changes via email or phone call. Our phone number is 956-423-2521 and emails are as follows:

Diana Perez/HCV/S8 Administrator	ext. 126	dperez@harlingen-ha.com
Margarita Garcia/Intake Coordinator	ext. 132	mgarcia@harlingen-ha.com
Nancy Garza/Admission Specialist	ext. 133	ngarza@harlingen-ha.com
Ariana Valle/Admission Specialist	ext. 113	avalle@harlingen-ha.com
Anita Navarro/Admission Specialist	ext. 114	anavarro@harlingen-ha.com



DEBIT CARDS FOR RESIDENTS AND LANDLORDS

The Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA) is transitioning from paper checks to debit cards. You will be issued a debit card for utility reimbursements and HAP payments. Attached is an enrollment form for you to complete. Your completed enrollment form can be faxed to (956) 421-2767, mailed, or emailed to the email addresses listed above.

This information is required and may delay your future utility reimbursement or HAP payments.

Debit cards will be mailed to the address provided on your enrollment form within 5 to 7 days. The Housing Authority will directly deposit your utility reimbursement or HAP payments monthly.

You will be able to use your debit card for any monetary transaction. Additional information will be provided at the time of enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or if you require a Reasonable Accommodation completing or returning the enrollment form, please contact us at (956) 423- 2521 or email us at the above emails. We appreciate your cooperation in this process.

ReliaCard®

ENROLLMENT FORM

Your card will be mailed to the address provided in 5-7 business days.

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Social Security Number:

Date of Birth:

Email Address:

Important Information About Procedures For Opening A New Account

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person who opens an account. What this means for you: when you open an account, we will ask for your name, address, date of birth, and other information that will allow us to identify you. We may also ask to see your driver's license or other identifying documents.

I hereby authorize my government agency to initiate credit entries (deposits) and to initiate, if necessary, debit entries and adjustments for any credit entries in error to my ReliaCard. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by me with written notification to my government agency.

Signature:

Date:

The ReliaCard is issued by U.S. Bank National Association pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. or MasterCard International Incorporated. MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. © 2017 U.S. Bank. Member FDIC.

LOS VECINOS

Manager:
Anna Morales

Asst. Manager:
Norma Serino

Hello Los Vecinos residents and surrounding community members. Summer is here! May the long time sun shine upon you, all love surround you, and the pure light with in you guide you on your way on.

Los Vecinos Staff is delighted to be working from the office. Due to COVID-19, our office hours may change or vary at any time. We will continue to practice social distancing. Face coverings for nose and mouth are required when entering our offices. For your protection children will **NOT** be allowed to enter the office until further notice. Los Vecinos staff installed a door slot to the office door and a drop box for your convenience. Both the door slot and drop box are secure and are monitored with our security cameras. Receipts will be sent to your household once payments have been processed. We would like to ensure that all residents and surrounding communities stay safe and protect themselves during this pandemic.

Graduates of 2020, our Los Vecinos staff would like to congratulate each and every one of you on your prestigious achievement. You did it! As this chapter in your life ends, a brighter brand new experience awaits you. Enjoy all your experiences big or small, for these obstacles will mold you to the person you are destined to be.

We would like to recognize several special individuals from our community. Our 2020 graduating seniors are as follows: Ms. Ruby Mendiola has been awarded the Texas NAHRO, Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation, and the Los Vecinos Scholarship. Ms. Desirae Hernandez has been awarded the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation and the Los Vecinos Scholarship. Ms. Kassandra Navarro has been awarded the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation and the Los Vecinos Scholarship. Ms. Jaqueline Herrera, Ms. Blanka Lozoya, Ms. Yessenia Zamora, Mr. Edwin Guerra-Campos, and Ms. Melissa Muro have all been awarded the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation Scholarship.

The Harlingen Housing Authority has received the National Merit Award for the Little Free Libraries. We strongly encourage all families to engage in reading. Our Little Library located in front of the Los Vecinos office where all books are free to the community.

Thank you, Dad, for believing in me,
Thank you for taking my side,
Through all the ups and downs of life,
And every bumpy ride! Happy Father's Day to all,
celebrate today and always!

REMINDERS:

- Smoke Free Housing is in Full Effect nationwide.
- Tenants please register your guests at the office, only one visitor is allowed due to COVID-19.
- Payments and work orders can be made online at www.harlingen.housingmanager.com.
- Residents please maintain your yards clean and cut.
- Tenant Calendars are distributed monthly to guide you on happenings at your community. Important phone numbers, Pest control dates, and Inspection dates are listed.

HEALTHY PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19):

- 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 out in public

Los Vecinos drop box is provided as a convenience for residents making rent payments.

Lamar Elementary Kindergarten and 5th Grade Drive-By Graduation.

Lamar Elementary Teacher holding Graduation Poster.

Lamar Elementary School Teacher parade participants encouraging the students.

Los Vecinos Family Learning Center is shut down during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Anna taking every precaution necessary.

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

Manager:
Cynthia Aguilera

Asst. Manager:
Patty Vega

The Bonita Park Staff is pleased to be back at the office working during this pandemic. Due to COVID-19, our office hours may change or vary at any time. We are working and available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We continue to practice social distancing and we are required to wear face coverings for the nose and mouth. For your safety, only one person will be allowed in the office. Please keep your children at home. For your convenience a door slot has been added to the Bonita Park office door; and a Drop Box has been installed at Sunset Terrace. Both the door slot and the drop box are secure and monitored by security cameras for your safety. Payments and correspondence are accepted. We would like to ensure that all residents stay safe and protect themselves from COVID-19.

On June 1, 2020, the HCISD free meal distribution program started at Bonita Park and Sunset Terrace. Parents are given 6 breakfast and 6 lunches for each school aged child. On June 11, 2020, The RGV Food Pantry donated 168 bags of non perishable food for our residents. It is wonderful to see all the community helping one another at this difficult time. Thank you!

The Harlingen Housing Authority will receive two awards of merit from NAHRO for the Little Free Libraries and the "What Christmas Means to Me" Christmas cards. We strongly encourage all children to engage in reading. Please stop by The Little Library located in front of Bonita Park and Sunset Terrace office, books are free to all children in our community.

Bonita Park is highlighting a very helpful tenant Mr. Roman Chaires; he is always volunteering in resident events, distributing tenant notices and flyers. Thank you for all you do, Mr. Chaires.

Ms. Carolina Vera also deserves a great big Thank you! She is a Patient Care Tech at the hospital. Thank you for helping treat the people that are suffering from an illness. You are very much appreciated.

2020 Census is happening now. Keep funding coming to the Rio Grande Valley, get counted today! You may fill out your Census online, by telephone, or by mail. For more information go to the website my2020Census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020.

Tenant Calendars are distributed monthly to guide you on happenings at your community. Important phone numbers, Pest control dates, and Inspection dates are listed. Post them on your refrigerator so that it may help keep you informed.

"A Father's smile has been known to light up a child's day" by Susan Gale. We would like to wish all the Fathers a very Happy Father's Day.

Resident Gilbert Perez receiving RGV Food Bank donation.

REMINDERS:

- Smoke Free Housing is in Full Effect nationwide.
- Tenants please register all visitors at the Bonita Park office to ensure they have a safe and enjoyable stay.
- For your convenience payments are accepted online at www.harlingen.housingmanager.com. It's safe and easy to set up your account. Work orders can be done online as well.
- Residents please maintain your yards mowed and beautiful.

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 coverings for nose and mouth when out in public

Roman Chaires cleans the Little Free Library Displays.

Patty Vega and Eduardo Moreno practicing COVID-19 precautions.

Marina and Jordan Rodriguez enjoy playing outside on a nice summer day.

Alexander Hernandez and Eduan Pinon playing outside while the playground equipment is off limits during COVID-19 pandemic.

Sunset Terrace drop box is provided as a convenience for residents making rent payments.

Adan Garcia and Encarnacion Espinoza take a walk around Bonita Park grounds.

LE MOYNE GARDENS

Manager:
Mary Prieto

Asst. Manager:
Elizabeth Zavala

Hello Le Moyne Gardens! We are very pleased that the shelter in place order was lifted and we were able to return to the office. Our office continues to practice social distancing and coverage of nose and mouth continue to be required. For your family's protection only one person is allowed to visit the office until further notice. We are taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our residents. We continue to communicate with our families through telephone calls, emails, and website. We have our online payment system at https://harlingen.housingmanager.com available for rent payments and to request work orders. We have installed a drop box located in front of the Le Moyne Gardens office for rent payments and correspondence.

In the month of June the children of our community received free meals. On June 1, 2020, HCISD began distributing breakfast meals for children who registered. Parents picked up a total of 6 breakfast meals for each child every Monday from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. On June 8, 2020, the Le Moyne Gardens Boys and Girls Club began serving hot meals to children Mondays through Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. We also received grocery bags from the RGV Food Pantry for all our residents of non perishable foods. What a blessing! Thank you RGV Food Bank, HCISD, and Boys and Girls Club at Le Moyne Gardens for bringing much needed help to our residents.

As we move forward during this pandemic, I would like to take the time to thank all our essential workers. Our maintenance workers, nurses, home health providers, contractors, security teams, police officers, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel. Thank you for all that you do!

Great news residents! The Harlingen Housing Authority was awarded two Merit awards. One award is for the Little Free Libraries and one is for the "What Christmas means to me" Christmas cards. The awards are for having innovative programs. We are happy to have wonderful books in our Little Free Library for our children to enjoy. It is very important to keep our children engaged in reading for a bright future. Speaking of bright futures, congratulations to our very own Emely Leandro and Susana Vargas! These fabulous girls were awarded scholarships and a laptop computer. On the journey to achievement you must be learning all the time.

June is the month we celebrate the men in our families. There is a saying from Pam Brown, "Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story tellers and singers of song". Happy Fathers Day to all the wonderful Dads in our community!

Last but not least, I'd like to announce that Le Moyne Gardens is in the process of installing a new security system with cameras. The security system and the cameras will deter crime and keep our community safe. Your safety and well being is important to the Harlingen Housing Authority.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

The 2020 Census is still underway! Responding to the Census helps shape resources for children and our community over the next decade. If you did not receive a Census form you may contact them through telephone; for English call 1-844-330-2020, for Spanish call 1-844-468-2020, or go online to my2020census.gov. Please make sure you call and let us know you have completed the survey for a chance to win a gift card. This information is confidential and will not affect your housing assistance.

Asst. Manager:
Julia Garcia

The playground at Le Moyne Gardens remains closed. We have sectioned off the Playground with netting. Please keep your children away. This is for their safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers deliver RGV food bags to the elderly.

Jesus Ramirez and his daughters enjoy a beautiful Father's Day.

HPD Officers with their children on Father's Day.

Julia Garcia at the Le Moyne Gardens office is wearing a face covering, using hand sanitizer and practicing social distancing.

Le Moyne Gardens staff member Joe Montoya is practicing COVID-19 safety measures.

Le Moyne Gardens drop box is provided as a convenience for residents making rent payments.

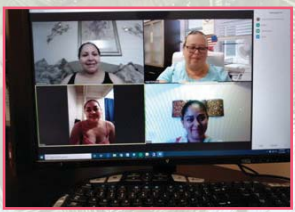
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Angie Rodriguez
Resident Events Coordinator

First and foremost Congratulations Class of 2020! I wish you the best in all your future endeavors. As Dr. Seuss once said "You're off to great places! Your mountain is waiting so get on your way!"

Residents get involved and stay informed. We welcome you to be part of our tenant associations. Think of the goals that can be achieved when we all work together. Join your Tenant Associations NOW!!.

Tenant associations meet twice a month via Zoom Conferencing. Some of the topics discussed include community involvement, healthy lifestyles, family violence awareness and scholarships.



The Los Vecinos Tenant Association was glad to see everyone via Zoom for the first time after the Shelter in Place Order was established.

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 was matched by the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation. The Los Vecinos Academic Scholarship for High School Seniors awarded a total of $600.00. We would like to Congratulate Ms. Ruby Mendiola, Ms. Kassandra Navarro and Ms. Desirae Hernandez on being awarded the Los Vecinos Academic Scholarship for 2020.

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. via Zoom. A total of 10 residents enjoy the classes. Classes will end on Thursday, June 25, 2020. Congratulations to all that participated.

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 75 residents at our communities with T-Mobile hot spots.

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

- By the Butterfly Garden at Le Moyne Gardens
- Across the Office at Los Vecinos
- In front of the Learning Center at Bonita Park
- In front of the Office at Sunset Terrace

Our 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 replenished with new books every week. They are sanitized and cleaned daily. The Little Free Libraries are an excellent resource to keep families engaged in reading during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Harlingen Housing Authority has partnered with South Texas Literacy Coalition. Their mission is to enhance and enrich the quality of life of our region with literacy outreach programming through community partnerships that lead to more literate communities. Together we strive to bring down the literacy barriers.

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 beets, carrots, spinach, squash, radishes and many more. Planting and harvesting organic vegetables have helped our residents make healthier choices. If anyone is interested in planting organic please contact me at (956) 425-4248 ext. 306.

The Rio Grande Valley Food Bank (RGV Food Bank) has donated a total of 500 non-perishable food bags for our families at all our communities. At Le Moyne Gardens, with the help of the Boys and Girls Club, we distributed 208 food bags. At Bonita Park, Aragon and Arroyo Vista Court, we distributed 128 food bags. At Sunset Terrace, we distributed 20 food bags. At Los Vecinos, we distributed 144 food bags.

In partnership with the Harlingen CISD Nutrition Department we are now a Summer Food Program distribution site. As of June 1, 2020, Bonita Park, Sunset Terrace and Le Moyne Gardens have been serving breakfast and lunch to our families.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE FOR THE SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM:

- Los Vecinos are distributed at Lamar Elementary from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Bonita Park, 601 S. Rangerville Rd. from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Sunset Terrace, 1401 N. Sunset Drive from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Le Moyne Gardens, 3221 N. 25th Street (Breakfast meals only) from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Le Moyne Gardens Boy's and Girl's Club (hot meals only) from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is a virus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness. As a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the managers and I continue to work closely to make sure our elderly and our families are doing well in this pandemic. We have been in constant communication via phone and email with our elderly residents and our families. Some care packages have been distributed to elderly residents as needed. We care about our families and would like for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

The 2020 Census provides critical data used to fund our cities and state. Lawmakers, business owners, teachers, Housing Authorities and many others benefit from funding in order to provide daily services, products, and support for everyone in our community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. We continue to conduct a survey to estimate how many residents have completed their 2020 Census. As of July 1, 2020 a total of 57% of our residents have completed their 2020 Census. You can respond online, by telephone or by mail. If you did not receive a questionnaire, you may 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.

Food bags donated to the Harlingen Housing Authority by the RGV Food Bank.

Thank You

Ms. Torres from Bonita Park is happy to take home the HCISD Summer Meals.

The Palacios family is thankful for the care package given to them by the HHA.

CRIME PREVENTION

We encourage you to join us at our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020, meeting will be held remotely by telephone and video conference at 10:00 a.m.

APOYANDO EL CENSO DEL 2020

ASEGURA

Asegura la distribución equitavita de los fondos federales. Las resultados del censo ayudan a distribuir de manera justa entre estados y localidades cerca de $800 mil millones de fondos federales cada año.

DEFINE

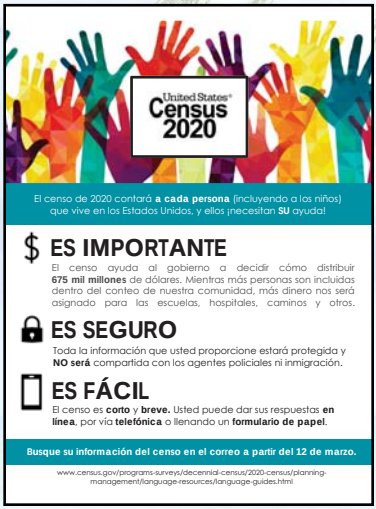
Define la cantidad de representantes por estado en el Congreso. Los senadores y representantes son tu voz en el poder. Ellos representan tus intereses y los de tu comunidad.

PERMITE

Permite la injecución basados en cifras reales. El censo le permite a nuestros lideres tomar decisiones informadas para inventir en educación para tu hijos, vias e infraestructura, dobertura medica, empleo y mucho mas.

GARANTIZA

Garantiza la protección de los derechos civiles. El saber quienes somos, donde estamos y como vivimos nos permite identificados y ser identificados como dividuos con dibered y derechos.



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF HARLINGEN

HUD Recognized "High Performer"
Established 1949

Commissioners:
Vanessa Serna, Chair
Carlos Perez, Vice-Chair
Maria Ines Borjas
Julio Cavazos
Carlos Muñiz

Counselor:
Law Office of
Brendan Hall

Executive Director:
Hilda Benavides

July 1, 2020

Harlingen Housing Authority &
Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation Partners and Participants
219 E. Jackson Street
Harlingen, Texas 78550

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

Dear Harlingen Community,

The Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA) is taking every precaution to ensure the health and well-being of our residents, participants, staff and Harlingen Community. Effective Friday, June 19, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr. ordered, in consensus with the County Commissioners' Court, that all businesses and commercial entities in Cameron County must require that all employees and visitors to the premise or other facilities utilize a facial covering when in an area and/or performing an activity where the social distancing requirement of six (6) feet is not feasible.
HHA offices will continue to open Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Office hours are subject to change Due to COVID-19. Staff will be able to communicate with residents and the community through email, phone calls, facebook and website Monday – Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Our website address is www.harlingenha.org

The Administrative & Accounting Staff contact information is as follows:

Jorge Olivares:	956-423-2521 Ext #110	email jolivares@harlingen-ha.com
Cynthia Lucio	956-423-2521 Ext #119	email clucio@harlingen-ha.com
Diana Perez	956-423-2521 Ext #126	email dperez@harlingen-ha.com
Oscar Sandoval	956-423-2521 Ext #129	email osandoval@harlingen-ha.com
Rosie Lucio	956-423-2521 Ext #109	email rlucio@harlingen-ha.com
Melissa Guajardo	956-423-2521 Ext#124	email mguajardo@harlingen-ha.com
Ben Sabado	956-423-2521 Ext #123	email bsabado@harlingen-ha.com

The Harlingen Housing Authority is committed to the safety and well-being of everyone we serve. For further information, please contact me at 956-423-2521 Ext #110.

Sincerely,

Hilda Benavides

Hilda Benavides,
Executive Director

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

Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter

P.O. Box 1669 • Harlingen, Texas 78551
Phone: (956) 423-2521
Fax: (956) 425-0455

Aragon Apartments
1810 & 1814 Aragon Drive
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

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

Hilda Benavides
Executive Director
Brendan Hall
Legal Counsel

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Vanessa Serna
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

Bonita Park
Norma Cavazos

Sunset Terrace
Julia Aguirre

Le Moyne Gardens
Jesse Leal

Los Vecinos
Alma Becerra

Tenant Council Representatives:

Angie Rodriguez
Resident Events Coordinator

Bonita Park
Gabriela Guardado

Le Moyne Gardens
Vacant

Sunset Terrace
Gloria Vega

Los Vecinos
Maria Gutierrez

HHA Staff

Cynthia Aguilera
Hilda Benavides
Arturo Cuin
Julia Garcia
Margarita Garcia
Ruben Garcia
Nancy Garza
Celedonio Gonzales
Melissa Guajardo
Carlos Lopez
Cynthia Lucio
Rosalinda Lucio
Adolpho Maldonado
Jose Montoya
Anna Morales
Anita Navarro
Jorge Olivares
Luis Ortega
Diana Perez
Mary Prieto
Angie Rodriguez
Ben Sabado
Oscar Sandoval
Elijio Sanchez
Cruz Sosa
Norma Serino
Ariana Valle
Patricia Vega
Elizabeth Zavala
Joe Zepeda

HARLINGEN
Housing Authority

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