

Harlingen Housing Authority Newsletter

HUD Recognized "High Performer"

"FOR ME, CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ENJOY EVERY MOMENT WITH FAMILY"

- Vianey Martinez, Age 15

"What Christmas Means to me in Harlingen, Texas" is a Christmas card activity that encourages the children, from the different apartment complexes, to think about the meaning of Christmas and express themselves through artwork, drawings and quotes. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Harlingen to accomplish our Christmas Card activity. The children's artwork and quotes display the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of a child. Christmas quotes are listed below.

"My poster is all about the day Jesus was born and the day Jesus was born is a special day."

- Francisco Aguilar, Age 13.

"What Christmas means to me is a day to celebrate Jesus' birthday and also mine. My Christmas means that it doesn't matter about the gifts, it's from the heart. For me it's to give to the ones you love."

- Mauricio Aguilar, Age 11.

"This Christmas is going to be fun. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."

- Ayren Contreras, Age 7.

"For me, Christmas means to enjoy every moment with family."

- Vianey Martinez, Age 15.

"Christmas to me means opening presents and having fun with my family. Many families around the world don't get to experience a joyful Christmas. I appreciate the fact that I get to spend Christmas with my loving family and eat delicious food. If you asked people what Christmas is, they may think that it's a Holiday, but in my opinion, Christmas is a feeling. It's the most wonderful time of the year."

- David Ruiz, Age 12.

The Christmas cards are featured and displayed on the following page. Please visit our website at www.harlingenha.org for the latest news about our Agency.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!



Yours Truly,

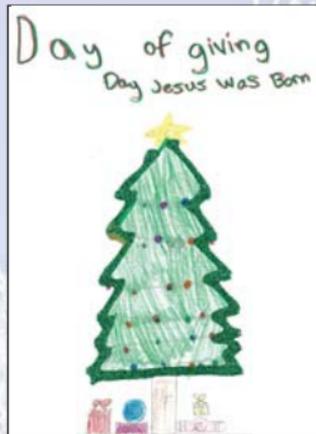
Hilda Benavides

Hilda Benavides

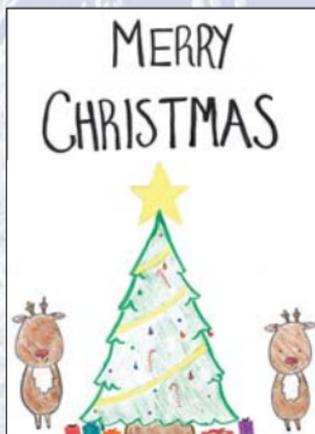
Executive Director



HOUSING AUTHORITY CHRISTMAS CARDS



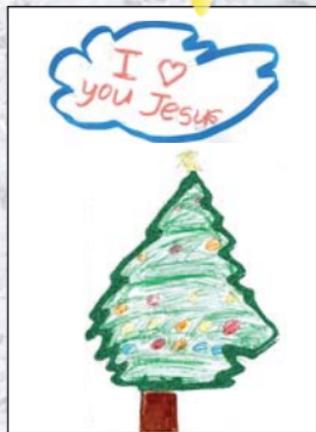
By: Francisco Aguilar, age 13,
Le Moyne Gardens Apartments



By: David Ruiz, age 12,
Sunset Terrace Apartments



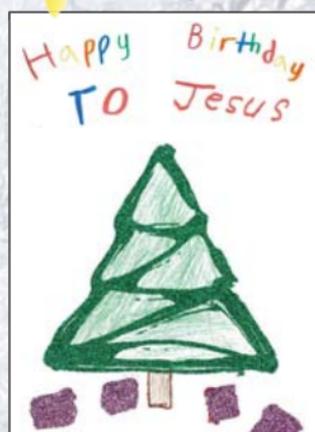
By: Vianey Martinez, age 15,
Le Moyne Gardens Apartments



By: Ayren Contreras, age 7,
Le Moyne Gardens Apartments



By: Mauricio Aguilar, age 11,
Le Moyne Garden Apartments



By: Mauricio Aguilar, age 11,
Le Moyne Gardens Apartments

2021 HHA EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS



ANNA MORALES

YOUTH COORDINATOR & PROPERTY MANAGER

Congratulations on being selected the "Employee of the Year" 2020-2021.

You were named Employee of the Quarter for April, May & June of 2020 and also July, August & September of 2015.

Your employment with us began on February 03, 2014, as Admissions Clerk and currently you are the Youth Coordinator & Manager. 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 help organize and submit the NAHRO Award of Merit Applications and you also assist graduating seniors with scholarship applications.

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 have been recognized for your achievements by our Board of Commissioners and you will receive a wall plaque, a gift card and a reserved parking space. Your photo will be displayed in the Board Room with other "Employee of the Year" Honorees. Enjoy your new title and thank you for being an outstanding employee.

PATRICIA "PATTY" VEGA

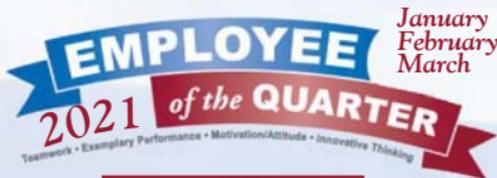
HCV/S8 INTAKE COORDINATOR & INSPECTOR

Congratulations on being selected the "Employee of the Quarter", for the months of January, February & March 2021.

On August 10, 2015, you were hired as an Admissions Specialist for the Low Rent and HCV/S8 Program. On November 4, 2016, you were promoted to HCV/S8 Intake Coordinator & Inspector. On April 18, 2018, you were reassigned as an Assistant Manager for the Low Rent Program where you had the opportunity to work at all the Public Housing sites and excel with the added duties and responsibilities. On November 16, 2020, you were transferred back to the HCV/S8 Program as Intake Coordinator & Inspector. Your knowledge and experience of both housing programs makes you an asset to our agency.

Your positive attitude and willingness to assist where and when needed shows great determination and leadership. Your hard work and dedication is displayed in your daily tasks. It is a pleasure working with you and seeing you grow to an outstanding employee.

You will be recognized for your accomplishments by our Board and you will receive a plaque, a gift card and a reserved parking space. You will get to compete with your colleagues for "Employee of the Year 2021-2022".



January
February
March





PUBLIC HOUSING & MODERNIZATION UPDATE

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM:

I would like to share with you, the Harlingen Housing Authority's Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals. Through these goals, we establish a Five year and Annual plan.

MISSION: The Harlingen Housing Authority provides and develops affordable housing opportunities, while encouraging self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization.

VISION: Serve others with the highest level of professionalism, integrity, honesty, fairness and equality.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. Motivate and empower families to improve their quality of life and achieve self-sufficiency.
2. Encourage our youth to reach their highest potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.
3. Preserve and improve existing affordable housing resources.
4. Expand affordable housing opportunities throughout our community.
5. Invest in our employees and establish a track record of integrity, accountability and strong customer service.

The Housing Authority's Five Year and Annual Plan process was initially established by Section 5A of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.1437 et seq) as apart of the U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Five year and Annual Plan is a comprehensive guide to the Harlingen Housing Authority's policies, programs, operations, goals and achievements. There are two parts to the plan, the Five Year plan and the Annual plan. The Five Year Plan is submitted to HUD once every five years and the Annual Plan is submitted to HUD yearly. This year the Harlingen Housing Authority submitted the Annual plan for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021.

The plan was updated with information that was gathered from every department including Accounting, Housing Choice Voucher, Low Rent, the residents of the Housing Authority, and also from the City of Harlingen. Our Mission and Vision Statements are included in the plan as well. The plan demonstrates our partnerships within our community and the importance of working together in order to offer valuable resources to our residents.

A Public Hearing was held on December 9, 2020. The Annual Plan draft was displayed at all the Low Rent offices, the Harlingen Public Library, the Administration office, and at the City of Harlingen. It was placed for a public comment period of 45 days. Future grant plans were shared with the residents as a part of the resident meetings that were held via Webex due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The residents comments were collected as a part of planning for the next year.

The plan contains goals and progress statements that help our community understand the work that is accomplished and the many wonderful partnerships that are established at the Harlingen Housing Authority. Thank you to our residents that help us in this planning process to improve our communities and keep them safe and beautiful.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and let's all welcome 2021 with open arms and big hearts!!



Cynthia Lucio
Public Housing
Administrator

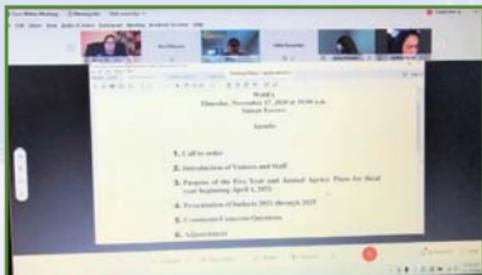




Annual Plan Public Hearing Virtual Meeting.



Resident Meeting from Los Vecinos.



Resident Meeting from Sunset Terrace.



HARLINGEN
Housing Authority

The Housing Authority of the City of Harlingen
Announces a **PUBLIC HEARING**

for the FIVE-YEAR and ANNUAL AGENCY PLANS for Fiscal Year beginning April 1, 2021

DATE: **Wednesday, December 9, 2020**
TIME: **2:30 PM**
VIA: **Remote Meeting via telephone and video conference**

Notice is hereby given that the Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA) will hold a Public Hearing of the Five-Year and Annual Agency Plans for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. remotely via telephone (Toll-free 888.865.8888 address route 4107900) and by video conference (hha.my.webex.com, Meeting #: 126 139 1989, Password: hha12920, join by phone 406-418-9388, Password 44212920).

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain input from city residents in reference to the Five-Year and Annual Agency Plans for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021. This Five-Year and Annual Agency Plans must be submitted and approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The estimated funds allocated for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 are **\$2,041,624.00** for Operations and **\$1,222,104.00** for Capital Needs. All Public Housing residents and Harlingen community are encouraged to attend.

Copies of the Five-Year and Annual Agency Plans and supporting documents are available for review Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 12:06 P.M. starting October 26, 2020 through December 09, 2020 at the following locations:

219 E. Jackson Street, Harlingen, Texas 78550 #HHA Main office
Los Vecinos, 702 South "M" Street, Harlingen, Texas 78550
Bonita Park, 601 South Rangerville Road, Harlingen, Texas 78552
Sunset Terrace, 1401 N. Sunset Drive, Harlingen Texas 78550
Le Moyne Gardens, 3221 North 25th Street, Harlingen, Texas 78550
410 - 76th Drive, Harlingen, Texas 78550 (Public Library)

Written comments must be submitted at the locations listed above by December 09, 2020.

Due to COVID-19, locations and times to review the Five-Year and Annual Agency Plans may change.

For further information please contact Hilda Benavides, Executive Director at (956) 423-2521 ext. 110.





LOS VECINOS

Manager:
Anna Morales

Happy Holidays to everyone from the Los Vecinos staff. As the holiday season nears, we ask that everyone be safe, especially during this Covid-19 Pandemic. If you plan on celebrating with family and friends, please wear your masks and wash your hands often, make sure there is enough air circulation inside your home. There should be no more than ten people during festivities as per county officials. Remember you can gather virtually. Virtual meetings are a great way to stay connected.



Asst. Manager:
Norma Serino

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT LOS VECINOS:

- Security Meetings are held through Webex every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month.
- Los Vecinos Tenant Association meetings are held through Webex every 2nd Tuesday of every month. This is a good opportunity for the Tenant Association members to become familiar with technology.
- During the Tenant Association meetings residents discuss ideas on how to raise money for the Los Vecinos Tenant Association Scholarship for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.
- The Tenant Association is also busy with the community garden. They harvest organic vegetables throughout the year.
- The Little Free Libraries are available for the children of Los Vecinos to enjoy. They are refilled weekly and when needed by Mrs. Angie Rodriguez.

As the days go on, we would like to showcase our very own In-House Police Officer, Mr. Robert Mendiola. He is the Courtesy Police Officer for the Harlingen Housing Authority at Los Vecinos. He began his assignment with us on July 29, 2015. As a courtesy officer he needs to complete 20 hours of community service, patrol the development, address any community concerns, attend resident events, and report to the Los Vecinos office. Mr. Mendiola started working as a police officer in 2004. He worked for the Harlingen Police Department from 2004-2015. After that, he worked for Palm Valley Police Department from 2015-2018. He is currently working with Judge Cano as a bailiff. On behalf of the Harlingen Housing Authority, the Los Vecinos Staff, and community members, we would like to thank Mr. Mendiola for all his hard work and dedication to the city and community.



Mr. Mendiola,
In-House Police Officer.



Webex Resident Meeting.

REMINDERS:

- Smoke Free Housing is in Full Effect nationwide as of July 30, 2018.
- Due to the Pandemic, yards sales are not allowed by the City of Harlingen.
- The Los Vecinos office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- For your convenience payments can be made online at www.harlingen.housingmanager.com or left in our drop box.
- Residents please maintain your yard free from trash, debris, indoor furniture, and overgrown vegetation. We appreciate you keeping Los Vecinos beautiful.
- Please check your monthly calendars for community updates.
- 2021 Parking permits are now available, please come re-new today.



Community Garden at Los Vecinos.



Exterior Painting of the Building.



Juarez Family received gifts from Toys for Tots.



Perez Family received gifts from Toys for Tots.



Yazmin Vega is a Scholarship Recipient.

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



Manager:
Cynthia Aguilera

As 2020 comes to an end, let's remind ourselves of all the moments we have shared with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We hope each and every one of you enjoyed your time with loved ones. May this year be more promising than the year before! Spread the happiness all around you! Merry Christmas to you and your family.

The office at Bonita Park and Sunset Terrace will continue to remain open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Face coverings must be worn, and only one person is allowed at a time in the office. For your convenience a door slot has been added to the Bonita Park office door, and a Drop Box is available at Sunset Terrace. Both the door slot and the drop box are secure and are monitored by security cameras for your safety. Payments and correspondence are accepted. We would like to ensure that all residents stay safe and protected from COVID-19.

If you are in need of an internet connection or are having a slow connection due to multiple children using the same hotspot; please contact Mrs. Angie Rodriguez our Resident Events Coordinator, she will assist you and your family with T-Mobile Hotspots.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our In-House Police Officer, Oscar Freitag at Sunset Terrace. Detective Freitag shared some words of encouragement with our youth; **"No matter what you decide to do, put all your heart into it"**. We are honored to have you living at Sunset Terrace. Thank you for your service to our community.

Thank you to Ms. Juana Herrera for making sure your children practice safety measures by wearing a face covering and following hand sanitizing guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

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



Officer Oscar Freitag.

"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future" by Agenes M. Pahro. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Alexander Hernandez and Elijah Guzman
from Bonita Park.**

REMINDERS:

- Smoke Free Housing is in Full Effect nationwide.
- Tenants please register all visitors at the Bonita Park Office (this includes visitors to Sunset Terrace, Aragon, and Arroyo Vista) to ensure they have a safe and enjoyable stay.
- 2021 Parking Permits are now available in the office.
- 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, thank you for maintaining 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 covering when out in public



HCISD Food Distribution at Bonita Park.



Art Cuin doing ground maintenance.



Jordan Rodriguez doing her homework.



Marina Rodriguez showing her computer skills.



Natalie Verdines, Stephano and Reyli Herrera using hand sanitizer.



Manager:
Mary Prieto

LE MOYNE GARDENS

Season's Greetings Everyone! We hope each of our wonderful residents treasured and enjoyed the holidays with family and friends amidst these challenging times. Our office continues to be opened Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: office hours may vary due to COVID-19. A drop box is located in front of the Le Moyne Gardens office for rent payments and correspondence. We also accept payments and work orders online at www.harlingen.housingmanager.com.



Asst. Manager:
Elizabeth Zavala

The Boys and Girls Club of Harlingen at Le Moyne Gardens does an exceptional job. Ms. Hilda Gathright and Ms. Sophie Cantu diligently serve the children in our community. They ensure kids continually develop leadership skills by keeping them engaged in activities such as reading, art projects, and sports. The children are given the opportunity to participate in these different activities:

- **TEXAS-AIM PROGRAM OFFERED BY SYLVAN LEARNING:** The Texas-AIM Program helps children strengthen their reading skills. This program is offered twice a year.
- **HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PROJECT:** The children carved and decorated their own pumpkin. Pictures of the pumpkins were posted on Facebook. Ms. Melany Tudon received 1st place in the youth category and Ms. Mariana Reyes received 1st place in the teen's category. Congratulations girls, great job!
- **HUD'S FIRST ANNUAL PIH YOUTH ART COMPETITION: "Opening Doors and Unlocking Opportunities, through People, Imagination, and Housing".** Ms. Sophie helped us with this art competition. A total of 9 children from Le Moyne Gardens participated. Children that participated received a gift card. Ms. Valeria Tudon Avila was selected as the winner for this competition. Her artwork is being displayed at the HUD field office in Washington D. C. Congratulations Valeria! We are proud of you!
- **VOTING DAY:** Children participated in a voting activity where they learned about their rights to vote. They also learned how important it is, every vote counts.
- **THE HARLINGEN HOUSING AUTHORITY'S "WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME" ART CONTEST:** Ms. Sophie helped us once again with this art competition. This time around a total of 15 children from Le Moyne Gardens participated. The art from this project was turned into Christmas cards and was distributed to our Board of Commissioners, employees, and community leaders.

Thank you very much Boys and Girls Club of Le Moyne Gardens! We truly appreciate all you do for our community.

Speaking of appreciation, I would like to take the time thank our In-House Courtesy Police Officer, Mr. Hector Villegas. Mr. Villegas is a former United States Marine; he was employed with the Harlingen Police Department for 9 years and lived at Le Moyne Gardens for 4 years. Mr. Villegas served as a Patrol District Representative, Detective and a SWAT Team Operator. His commitment, perseverance and service to our country and community are top-notch. Mr. Villegas always took the time to speak with the tenants and management. He attended meetings and always helped us with events. We wish you the best in all your future endeavors. Thank you!



Asst. Manager:
Julia Garcia

We are pleased to introduce our new In-House Courtesy Police Officers, Mr. Joe Gonzalez and Mr. Tony Tamayo. Mr. Gonzalez has been employed with the Harlingen Police Department for 17 years and is a Training and Public Information Officer for the department. Mr. Tony Tamayo has been employed with the Harlingen Police Department for 15 years and is a Training Officer. Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Tamayo have volunteered to help keep our community safe. Welcome Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Tamayo, we are very fortunate to have you in our community.

COMMUNITY STARS:

Shining bright is what you might say when you hear of these residents:

- Ms. Alicia Jarvis, we thank you for keeping your yard looking great! She is always on the go caring for her child, caring for her home, and continuing her education. She volunteers her time in our community and diligently makes time for the wonderful care of her yard. This Halloween, she along with children from the community decorated the yard with spooky skulls, skeletons, ghosts, pumpkins, and graves. If you look closely you might even see Michael Meyers ... scary stuff!
- Ms. Odilia Castañeda, we thank you for keeping your yard looking great! She is always on the go looking after her teenage daughter, caring for her home and working a full time job. She diligently makes time for the wonderful care of her yard. She is preparing her yard for the Christmas holiday with bright lights and shiny candy canes.

Thank You, Ms. Jarvis and Ms. Castañeda!



**Boys and Girls Club Pumpkin Project
at Le Moyne Gardens.**

COMMUNITY UPDATES:

2020 parking permits expired on December 31, 2020. Please come by the office to register your vehicle to receive the 2021 parking permit. There is no fee for the permit as long as you present the following:

- The Title of the vehicle or Bill of Sale. (Dealership or notarized statement from the owner of vehicle if vehicle is not under the resident's name).
- Proof of current State Registration of the vehicle.
- Proof of current Insurance for the vehicle.

Curfew - all minor children should be off PHA streets, sidewalks, and common grounds no later than 10:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday. Minors will be permitted to return to their homes after these times, but cannot remain outside the buildings for any extended time.

Federal Law - No Smoking on property - If you choose to smoke, it must be done 25 ft. off the property. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pets - pet permits are required. Come and register your pet as soon as possible. Pets must be kept on a leash and everyone must clean up after their pets. DO NOT feed stray animals.

Gatherings - No groups of more than 10 persons (including children) may assemble socially whether indoors or outdoors. This is for the protection of your family and others during COVID-19 Pandemic; please follow the county's rules and curfew guidelines.

Finally, the staff at Le Moyne Gardens would like to wish every one of our wonderful residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May your days be merry and blessed! May each day of the coming year be vibrant and full of new beginnings!



**In-House Courtesy Officer
Hector Villegas.**



**In-House Courtesy Officer
Tony Tamayo.**



**In-House Courtesy Officer
Joe Gonzalez.**

YOUTH COORDINATOR

'Tis the season to wish one another joy, love, and peace. Happy Holidays everyone.

So much has happened during this quarter. We have learned to be strong, to adapt and accept change in many forms during this pandemic. During the summer, many of our youth in our communities had the opportunity to participate in People, Imagination and Housing Youth Art Competition offered by the Housing and Urban Development. This year's theme was, "Opening Doors and Unlocking Opportunities, through People, Imagination and Housing". The Housing and Urban Development also known as HUD and its many organizers wanted to host an exciting event to foster a positive experience for youth under the age of 25 that participate in the Public and Indian Housing programs nationwide. A judge panel selected several pieces to be displayed on the HUD website with others chosen to be displayed at the HUD Head Quarters office in Washington DC. One of our very own talented individuals' art piece was selected to be displayed at the HUD Head Quarters in Washington DC. Let us all give a great round of applause to Ms. Valeria Tudon Avila, age 12 from Le Moyne Gardens. We, the Harlingen Housing Authority, Board of Commissioners and surrounding community members are beyond proud of Ms. Valeria's achievement.

On another great note, the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) has been one of our many blessings during these trying times. Since the school year began, Good to Go Bus-Hub, graciously comes to several of our properties (Los Vecinos, Bonita Park, Le Moyne Gardens, and Sunset Terrace) to provide meals (breakfast, lunch and a mid-day snack) for our children to enjoy. Each site has different service times that fall between 11:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. for food distribution pick up. The HCISD Child Nutrition Service plans to continue their curbside meal distribution for all families. Thank you HCISD for your wonderful partnership.

In the month of December, the Harlingen Housing Authority hosted its annual "What Christmas Means to Me" poster art contest. This contest is held to excite, motivate, and encourage our children to share their thoughts and Christmas stories with us. Each child that participated was given markers, crayons, poster boards and paper to write a short summary on what Christmas means to them. All participants received a gift card and goodie bag for their great art pieces. Each and every one of the children did such an amazing job; I look forward to seeing all the great things that the children will accomplish as they get older.



Anna Morales
Youth Coordinator



Valeria Tudon Avila, age 12
from Le Moyne Gardens.



Toys for Tots at Los Vecinos.

Lastly, all families that have high school seniors, scholarship time is upon us. Please be on the lookout for flyers being sent to you regarding scholarship opportunities. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance in completing a scholarship application, please feel free to contact me at 956-423-6213, 956-423-7353 or at amorales@harlingen-ha.com. I look forward to meeting all of our future leaders of tomorrow.

Once again,
Happy Holidays to all.





Good To Go Bus Hub at Sunset Terrace.



Good To Go Bus Hub at Le Moyne Gardens.



Harlingen Police Officers distribute Toys for Tots at Le Moyne Gardens.



Reyna Family helps with distribution.



David Ruiz displays his Gift Card and Christmas Poster Design.



Vianey Martinez is proud of her Christmas Poster and awarded Gift Card.



Francisco and Mauricio Aguilar proudly display their Christmas Posters and Prizes.



Angie Rodriguez

*Resident Events
Coordinator*

RESIDENT EVENTS COORDINATOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our wonderful residents! May Peace, Joy, Hope, and Happiness be with you during this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Our tenant associations from Los Vecinos, Bonita Park, Sunset Terrace, Le Moyne Gardens, Arroyo Vista Court, and Aragon participate in several monthly meetings via Webex. Ms. Maria Zepeda with MHP and Ms. Jen Ortega with DentaQuest held presentations with our residents offering health and wellness programs. Ms. Mary Prieto, Property Manager presented the Five Year and Annual Plan to the residents.

I encourage all our residents to join the associations. Bi-monthly Tenant Association Meetings are held virtually for each site on the following days:

- Los Vecinos residents meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.
- Sunset Terrace residents meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month.
- Bonita Park residents meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.
- Le Moyne Gardens residents meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

The Le Moyne Gardens community held a nominee meeting on January 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Webex. We are in need of an Association President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

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 5 residents are enjoying the classes.

In partnership with ConnectHomeUSA and T-Mobile, we continue to offer T-Mobile hot spots to residents at our communities. We have a total of 108 hot spots distributed, 15 at Sunset Terrace, 23 at Bonita Park, 16 at Los Vecinos and 32 at Le Moyne Gardens as a part of this initiative.

We are excited to announce that the Harlingen Housing Authority has partnered with Spectrum to bring high speed internet services to our residents. Spectrum has begun installing coax cable in the apartments at Le Moyne Gardens. The installation is 98% complete. Our goal is to connect all families with Internet.

As part of our Book Rich Environment (BRE) Initiative, a partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, we read a book weekly on Facebook so that all children could enjoy. We also invite guest readers. All books that are shared are available at our Little Free Libraries.

These are a few books we've shared with the children:

- *"Bitty Bot's Big Beach Getaway"*
- *"When I Grow Up"*
- *"Llama llama and Friends"*
- *"Sweet Dreams, Dulce Sueños"*
- *"Tito Puente Mambo King/El Rey del Mambo"*
- *"Jack and Jill A Halloween Nursery Rhyme"*
- *"PJ Masks to the Cat Car"*
- *"Here George!"*
- *"PJ Masks Meet Owlette"*
- *"Duck for Turkey Day"*
- *"All is Merry and Bright"*
- *"Little Deer Lost!"*
- *"The Broken Ornament"*

Adult Continuing Education (ACE)



FREE English Classes
Clases de Inglés gratis

ESL (English as a second language)

Family Literacy

GSI (Computer Literacy)

Intensive class for Professionals

MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist)

Le Moyne Gardens
Remote Classes / Clases por Internet

Please call us at
956-548-8175

On December 21, 2020, Mr. Carlos "Charlie" Perez read **"The Best Parts of Christmas"**, as our guest reader. Mr. Perez serves on our Board of Commissioner as our Board Chair. Thank you for sharing the reading fun with our children.

Just a friendly reminder, please visit our Little Free Libraries located in our communities. We replenish our Little Free Libraries twice a week with a variety of books for all ages. We are refilling an average of 30 books weekly at all our sites.

Our community vegetable gardens play an important role in helping our families maintain a healthy lifestyle. Los Vecinos and Le Moyne Gardens have planted several yummy veggies like cabbage, squash, and radishes. Planting and harvesting vegetables has helped residents enjoy homegrown organic vegetables. Garden beds are available, if you would like to participate please contact me. Gardens fees are being waived at this time, please come and enjoy the fun.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our residents for keeping our communities safe and beautiful.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes

WELCOME BACK MR. VILLARREAL!



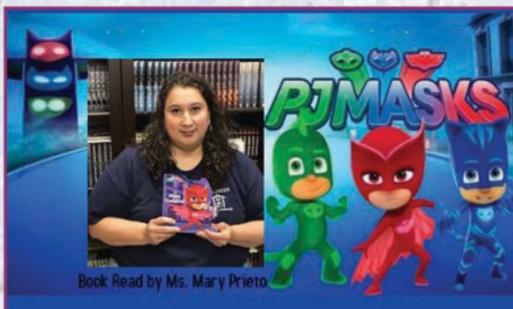
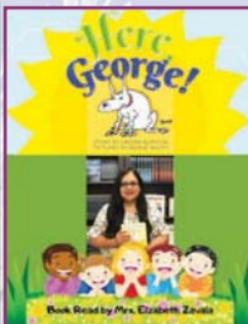
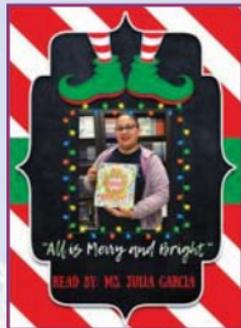
Mr. Villarreal is excited to be back at Le Moyne Gardens teaching his students English via Zoom!



Harlingen Housing Authority LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES



STORY TIME WITH ANNA AND GUESTS



VIRTUAL TENANT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS



Sunset Terrace Tenant Association Meeting.



Le Moynes Gardens Tenant Association Meeting.



Los Vecinos Tenant Association Meeting.



Bonita Park Tenant Association Meeting.



CRIME PREVENTION

On Tuesday, October 27, 2020, a Crime Prevention meeting was held via Webex. Attendees were In-house Police Officers, G Force Security, Harlingen Police Department, the Harlingen Housing Authority staff and the Bonita Park Tenant Association President.

The Harlingen Police Department held a presentation on safety measures on car theft and vandalism.

We reviewed the Crime Statistic Reports for all communities. We discussed and shared ideas on how to prevent crime in our neighborhoods. Working together, we can ensure our communities continue to be safe.

Our next meeting was on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. via Webex.



Harlingen Housing Authority CRIME PREVENTION CALENDAR

All meetings will be held remotely by telephone and video conference at 3:00 p.m.

January 26, 2021

April 27, 2021

July 27, 2021

October 26, 2021



Diana Perez
HCV / S8 Program
Administrator

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER / SECTION 8 PROGRAM (HCV/S8)

The Harlingen Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)/Section 8 Program continue to find different ways to better serve our community during this time of COVID-19 Pandemic.

One of the new changes during this time of COVID-19 Pandemic, the HCV/Section 8 program has been transitioning from paper checks to debit cards. This new change has been most beneficial to tenants, landlords and our agency. It allows you to receive your rental and utility allowance payment in a safe and reliable method.

Inspections are being done via telephone or video call with tenants and landlords. This process is being done for new move-ins, transfers, and annual re-exams. No physical inspections are being done during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This process has been working very well and is keeping our inspectors and our clients safe.

We continue processing annual re-examinations, transfers, or portables by appointment only. We ask that all our participants wear their masks at all times and not to bring their children to the appointments. We take every precaution to ensure the health and well being of our participants.

Changes can still be reported via email or phone call. Harlingen Housing Authority office hours continue to be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Our phone number is 956-428-4026 and emails are as follows:

Diana Perez, HCV/S8 Administrator
Margarita Garcia, Intake Coordinator
Patricia Vega, Intake Coordinator
Nancy Garza, Admission Specialist
Ariana Valle, Admission Specialist
Anita Navarro, Admission Specialist

ext. 126
ext. 132
ext. 117
ext. 133
ext. 113
ext. 114

dperez@harlingen-ha.com
mgarcia@harlingen-ha.com
pvega@harlingen-ha.com
ngarza@harlingen-ha.com
avalle@harlingen-ha.com
anavarro@harlingen-ha.com

Harlingen Housing Authority

HCV/Section 8 Homeownership Program

“Home Ownership”
Are you interested?
We are here to help

Applications still continue to be taken online. The HCV/S8 program continues to accept 20 applications on the 2nd Thursday of each month, starting at 8:00 a.m. The Low Rent program also continues to accept applications online Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The online application website is www.harlingen.housingmanager.com. Should you need assistance or have questions, please call the Admissions Dept option #3.

On behalf of the HCV/S8 Program and the Admissions Department, we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA)
2021 Schedule for
HCV/Section 8 Program
Applications
Available online at
www.harlingen.housingmanager.com

Due to Covid-19 our office hours are 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Only 20 online applications are accepted every 2nd Thursday of each month starting at 8:00 a.m.
Should you need assistance or have a question, please call the Admission Dept. at
956-428-4026 option 3

Year 2021

Date	Day of the Week	Location	Time
January 14, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
February 11, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
March 11, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
April 08, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
May 13, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
June 10, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
July 08, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
August 12, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
September 9, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
October 14, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
November 11, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.
December 09, 2021	Thursday	219 E. Jackson St.	8:00 a.m.

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 Rangelville 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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Carlos "Charlie" Perez
Chairperson
 Carlos Muñiz
Vice-Chairperson
 Julio Cavazos
 Maria I. Borjas
 Vanessa Serna

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

Boys and Girls Club
Executive Director:
 Gerald Cathright

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
 Coach Cavazos

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 Cuiñ
 Julia Garcia
 Margarita Garcia
 Nancy Garza
 Celedonio Gonzales
 Melissa Guajardo
 Carlos Lopez

Cynthia Lucio
 Rosalinda Lucio
 Adolpho Maldonado
 Jose Montoya
 Anna Morales
 Arina Navarro
 Jorge Olivares
 Luis Ortega
 Diana Perez
 Mary Prieto

Angie Rodriguez
 Oscar Sandoval
 Elijio Sanchez
 Cruz Sosa
 Norma Serino
 Ariana Valle
 Patricia Vega
 Elizabeth Zavala
 Joe Zepeda

HARLINGEN



Housing Authority