SPRING 2024

Harlingen Housing Authority

On the Company of the Co

HUD Recognized "High Performer

MARKET DAYS ON JACKSON STREET, HARLINGEN, TEXAS

Market Days on Jackson Street in Harlingen, Texas is every 1st Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Harlingen Housing Authority in partnership with the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation and the Harlingen Downtown District provides spaces for community vendors at the parking lot between 209 & 219 East Jackson Street. Spaces are available for a monthly price of \$40.00. Vendors may reserve a spot by contacting us at 956-423-2521 Ext. 133 or emailing us at ngarza@harlingen-ha.com or dperez@harlingen-ha.com Spaces are available at first pay option and vendors can reserve their spot for up to 1 year in advance.

The Back-to-School Annual Event at Markets Days is scheduled on Saturday, August 3, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at our parking lot between 209 & 219 East Jackson Street. Social Service Agencies are welcome to join this event free of charge if they provide school supplies for school age children. Space is limited so reserve a spot by contacting us at 956-423-2521 Ext. 133 or emailing us ngara@harlingen-ha.com or dpere@harlingen-ha.com. Some agencies that participate are City of Harlingen, the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD), Jubilee Academy, Idea Public Schools, Southern Career Institute (SCI), NINOS Head Start Services, the Harlingen Boys & Girls Club, Job Corps, Driscoll Health Plans, MHP Salud, APC Homemaker Services, and others that are willing to donate school supplies such as backpacks, paper, pens, pencils, rulers crayons, markers, and other items needed by children to return to school.

The Book Rich Environment (BRE) book distribution is held at Market Days on Jackson Street. The Harlingen Housing Authority in partnership with the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation (HAHC) distributes free brand-new books to children during the Saturday Market Days event. Children can select the book they want from the selection of books provided by our Housing Authority. We provide free books for different age groups such as infants, toddlers, school age children, and teenagers. We distribute approximately 200 books, each Saturday during the Market Days event. The goal of the BRE Initiative is a collaboration aimed to transform Housing Authorities into book rich environments by providing diverse, high-quality books, and other literacy tools to children and families with limited resources.

Market Days on Jackson Street in Harlingen, Texas is an event that was established by the City of Harlingen and the Harlingen Downtown District. We invite everyone to join us every 1st Saturday of the month. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.



Best Regards,

Helda Berender

Hilda Benavides Chief Executive Officer





MARKET DAYS





















































EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations! Norma Serino

Harlingen Housing Authority

"Employee of the Year 2023-2024"

Mrs. Norma Serino began her employment on October 12, 2015, and currently she is the Property Manager at the Los Vecinos Apartments. She is doing a great job leading her team with the construction work taking place at the site. Mrs. Serino is very detailed with her daily construction updates, and she makes sure that everyone is well informed. It is a pleasure working with Mrs. Serino and seeing her grow with our agency. Mrs. Serino also attends Housing Authority trainings and conferences annually. She enjoys spending time with her family and is excited and anxiously waiting to be a 1° time Grandma. Her hobbies include traveling and gardening. She also enjoys serving the Harlingen community.

Shehas been recognized as employee of the Quarter several times & most recently for July, August, and September 2023.

The Harlingen Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Chief Executive Officer and Staff would like to recognize and thank Norma Serino for her hard work, dedication, loyalty and for a job well done.



Melissa Guajardo



MELISSA GUAJARDO



Ms. Guajardo with Board of Commissioners

Congratulations on being the "Employee of the Quarter" for April, May, and June 2024.

Ms. Guajardo's employment with the Harlingen Housing Authority began on October 12, 2015, as an Admissions Specialist for the Public Housing & HCV/Section 8 Programs. She has gained experience and promotions through the years. Currently, she is the HR/Accounting Coordinator where she assists employees with personnel matters, she takes the lead in conducting the maintenance meetings, and assists the accounting department with specific tasks such as payroll, leave tracking, and retirement allocations. Her hard work and dedication shows in her daily tasks. Ms. Guajardo's positive attitude and willingness to help others is a great asset to our organization. It is a pleasure working with her and we look forward to her continued growth with our agency.

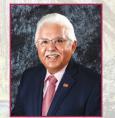
HARLINGEN HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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Norma Sepulveda



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Hilda Benavides



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Irma Sánchez Peña



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Maria I. Borjas



COMMISSIONER
Carlos Muñiz



COMMISSIONER

Bettina Elliott



Scholarships are available!

Eligibility Criteria:

Must be a Harlingen Housing Authority participant (Public Housing or HCV/S8)

For Information contact:

Cristella Chavez, Counselor, cristella.chavez@hcisd.org Sandra Gonzalez, Counselor, sandra.gonzalez@hcisd.org

CELEBRATING DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY AT THE FAMILY LEARNING CENTERS



Senior Property
Manager:
Mary Prieto

The Harlingen Housing Authority Family Learning Centers celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday, March 4, 2024 through March 07, 2024. The student mentors and master teachers honored Dr. Seuss by reading a few of his classic books such as "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Cat in the Hat" (of coursel), "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!". The children also enjoyed creating a Dr. Seuss art project and enjoyed a snack while watching The Lorax movie and Horton Hears a Who.

The Family Learning Centers are located at four of our housing developments.

Los Vecinos Apartments – 702 S. "M" Street, Harlingen, Texas 78550

Bonita Park Apartments – 601 S. Rangerville Road, Harlingen, Texas 78550

Sunset Terrace Apartments – 1401 N. Sunset Drive, Harlingen, Texas 78550

Le Moyne Gardens Apartments – 3221 N. 25th Street, Harlingen, Texas 78550

The Family Learning Centers provide tutoring services to the residents and neighborhood children. They are open Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. They offer students a friendly learning experience and provide a safe environment for students to complete their homework assignments or other school projects. The Family Learning Center students also participate in

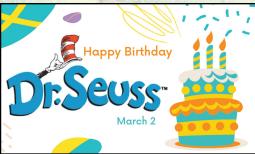
Art contests such as "What Home Means to Me" and "What Christmas Means to Me". The master teachers, student mentors, and counselors encourage the students to learn and read. Come on over and join the fun, it's absolutely free!

For more information, please contact the management team in your apartment complex.





Yummy Dr. Seuss treats



DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY AT BONITA PARK







LE MOYNE GARDENS

LOS VECINOS ENJOYS DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY EVENT









CELEBRATING AT SUNSET TERRACE







LOS VECINOS APARTMENTS



Property Manager: Norma Serino

Spring is here! Temperatures warm up and flowers bloom. Children enjoy going out into the fresh air. Every month the Los Vecinos Family Learning Center has different arts & crafts. For the week of March 4th through March 8th the children celebrated Dr. Seuss by reading The Cat in the Hat and creating a Cat in the Hat artwork. They also made One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish inspired Jello cups. The children were very creative with their activities.



Assistant
Property Manager:
Diana Cheramie

The Los Vecinos management team hosted Market Days on March 2, 2024. Dr. Seuss books were distributed to children along with Dr. Seuss erasers, pencils, bookmarks,d and hats. A total of 336 books were given away. We also hosted the Book Rich Environment (BRE) Initiative Facebook Story Time.

Facebook Storytime readings were posted on:

- March 2, 2024: Ms. Ariana Valle, Administrative Assistant for the Harlingen Housing Authority, read "The Shape of Me and Other Stuff" by Dr. Seuss
- March 4, 2024: Ms. Diana Alfaro, Library Media Specialist at Lamar Elementary, read "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss

 March 20, 2024: Mrs. Elva Mares, S8 Intake Coordinator/Inspector/Admissions Specialist for the Harlingen Housing Authority, read "Oh, the Things you can Think!" by Dr. Seuss

They all did an amazing job! Thank you for voluteering to read!

Great news everyone! On March 18, 2024 we received news that Pierce Street is ready for parking. Residents and staff are excited about the additional parking areas, wider streets, and new sewer lines.

Finally, I truly hope everyone enjoyed the Easter Holiday!



Reminders:

- The 2024 Parking permits are available
- Towing is enforced
- Spectrum fee is \$25.00
 - Rent is Due 1st of the month, no later than the 5th, late fee \$25.00
- Smoke-Free Housing is in full effect nationwide
- Yard Cutting and Pest Control are done monthly, please check your calendars for dates
- All visitors must be registered at the Los Vecinos office



CARLOS LOPEZ Lead Maintenance A



CHRISTIAN GALDAMEZ Lead Maintenance B

LOS VECINOS ACTIVITIES



Ariana Valle - Administrative Assistant at Harlingen Housing Authority



Elva Mares - Section 8 Intake Coordinator, Inspector, and Admissions Specialist



Los Vecinos Family Learning Center



Diana Alfaro - Library Media Specialist at Lamar Elementary



Procurement Specialist/ Property Manager: Cynthia De La Fuente

BONITA PARK, ARAGON & ARROYO VISTA COURT APARTMENTS

"Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is",
- Jessica Harrelson.

At Bonita Park, the flowers are blooming, and the grass is greener, that can only mean, Springtime is here! Bonita Park management would like to thank all our residents that are mindful and up to date with their beautiful yards filled with colorful flowers, for doing an amazing job. Your gardening integrity adds liveliness to our beautiful development, thank you, keep up the great work!



Assistant
Property Manager:
Evelyn Castillo

For the month of February, Bonita Park had two amazing guest readers whom were featured on our Facebook page as part of our Book Rich Environment partnership. We would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Monica Velazquez for reading her published children's book, "The Wait Until Sunday for Pan Dulce", and Cameron County Constable Adrian Gonzalez who read, "Happy Valentines Day Charlie Brown". Thank you both for all the hard work you do for our communities, may it continue to be blessed and recognized. Please visit our Facebook page for monthly story times with other guest readers, we hope you enjoy!

For the week of 3/4/24 through 3/8/24 our Learning Center celebrated Dr. Seuss by participating in fun activities, like wearing silv socks, wearing pajamas, and even wearing your favorite hat. Thank you to our Learning Center teachers, mentors, and counselors for your creativity. The Harlingen Public Library hosted an event in honor of Dr. Seuss, Hats off to Reading, on March 4th, 2024. The Bonita Park management team was able to attend this event from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, where we distributed 100 books to children along with Dr. Seuss erasers, pencils, and bookmarks. It was a very fun event with the children and other social service agencies, thank you to the Harlingen Public Library for the invitation! We hope we can join next year as well!

Thank you to the Tenant Association who hosted another Chalupa Scholarship Fundraiser on March 12, 2024, and all participants whom all together helped raise more funds for the upcoming 2024 senior graduate scholarships. All participants had a great time playing Chalupa and enjoying pan dulce while winning great prizes. The Tenant Association hopes to continue hosting other fundraisers in time for the scholarships. They also invite all residents to come out and join them at their meetings and other events for information and fun!



- Rent and Spectrum fee are due between the 1st through the 5th of every month
- All overnight visitors and guests are to be registered at the office between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday
- Towing is enforced
- Smoke-Free Housing is in effect nationwide, Federal Law
 Late fee is \$25.00



JOE ZEPEDA Lead Maintenance A



ADRIAN AZUA Lead Maintenance B

BONITA PARK ACTIVITIES

HATS OFF TO READING AND BRE STORYTIME ON FACEBOOK





Adrian Gonzalez, Cameron County Constable



Monica Velasquez, Author and Teacher at Zavala Elementary

TENANT ASSOCIATION LOTERIA FUNDRAISER





BEAUTIFUL YARDS



The Huerta Familiy





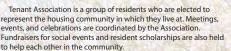
Senior Property Manager: Mary Prieto



Public Housing Clerk: Maria Mejia

LE MOYNE GARDENS APARTMENTS

Greetings everyone! As spring temperatures warm up and the days get longer, many of us enjoy going out for some fresh air and fun. Spring is the perfect time to pause and think about making a difference. A good way to start is by joining the Le Moyne Gardens Tenant Association.





Assistant
Property Manager:
Eneida Alonso

It's time to start and be involved. We would like to start a Tenant Association at Le Moyne Gardens. You may have received a brief survey regarding the Tenant Association. The survey is to collect detailed information on:

- What time of day is best for you to attend the meeting
- What day is best for you to participate in the meeting
- What type of presentations you would like to be featured at the meetings

Please make sure to complete the survey, together we can better serve our community. Please contact the Le Moyne Gardens Management team for more information.

hello * PRI

Reminders:

- The 2024 Parking permits are available at the office
- Overnight visitors/guest must be registered at the Le Moyne Gardens office
- Towing is enforced
- The Spectrum Internet fee is \$25.00
 - Pest Control non-compliance is a violation, the penalty fee is \$25.00
- Rent is due the 1st of the month no later than the 5th, the late fee is \$25.00
- Smoking in Public Housing is prohibited



JOSE MONTOYA Lead Maintenance A

TENANT ASSOCIATION SURVEY

Harlingen Housing Authority 2024 Tenant Association Participation Survey

This survey is to gather information on how together we can better serve our community.

Please take a few minutes to answer the survey questions.

You may return the completed survey at your apartments management office

Tenant Association: A group of residents who are elected to represent the housing community in which they live at. Meetings, events, and celebrations are coordinated by the Association. Fundraisers for social events and resident scholarships are also held to help each other in the community.

me:	Apartment No
nail:	Phone number:
T	Do you know what a Tenant Association is and what they do in your community?
1.	a. Yes b. No
	Would you like to become a Tenant Association member? a. Yes
	b. No
	Would you like to participate in Tenant Association meetings and presentations? a. Yes
4.	b. No What type of presentations would you like to attend?
	a. Education & Financial awareness
	b. Health & Fitness awareness
	c. Financial awareness
	d. Self-defense
	e. Social, Holiday events (Easter, summer, Christmas, etc.)
5	f. Other:
5.	a. A.M.
	b. P.M.
6.	What day is best for you and your family to attend? (Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday)
	a. Tuesday
	b. Wednesday
	c. Thursday
7.	How can we improve the Tenant Association participation?

We appreciate your feedback!

SUNSET TERRACE APARTMENTS



Procurement Specialist/ Property Manager: Cynthia De La Fuente

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

On March 4,2024 thru March 8, 2024, the Sunset Terrace Learning Center participated in celebrating Dr. Seuss Birthday. The children participated in fun-filled activities all week long, Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss.

It is important to have good housekeeping inside and outside of your apartment. Please make sure to report all repairs in a timely manner. Below are a few Spring-Cleaning Tips:

- Keep storage spaces and cabinets organized
- Spray down the windows and dust
- Organize and deep clean fridge
- Wipe down walls
- Take out trash daily

The Sunset Terrace Learning Center is open Monday-Thursday from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Mrs. Aguirre, master teacher and student mentors are available to help children with one-on-one tutoring. Children also have access to computers, Wi-Fi, and many books to read.

We strongly encourage all our residents to stay active in our community and attend the monthly Tenant Association meetings. Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Topics vary from Sunset Terrace Scholarship to fundraisers and activities. If you have any questions or want to be a part of the Association, please contact the Sunset Terrace Management.



Assistant

Property Manager:

Evelyn Castillo

Reminders:

- The 2024 Parking permits are available at the office
- Overnight visitors/guest must be registered at the Supset Terrace office
- Towing is enforced
- The Spectrum Internet fee is \$25.00
- Pest Control non-compliance is a violation, the penalty fee is \$25.00
- Rent is due the 1st of the month no later than the 5th, the late fee is \$25.00
- Smoking in Public Housing is prohibited



JOE ZEPEDA Lead Maintenance A



ADRIAN AZUA Lead Maintenance B

SUNSET TERRACE ACTIVITIES





Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration at Sunset Terrace









Hats Off to Reading

Family Learning Center at Sunset Terrace



HCV/S8 and Admissions Administrator: Diana Perez

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

Hello everyone! We hope everyone is enjoying Spring! "Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul." — Luther Burbank

Inspections play a large and important role in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. Inspections are required by HUD and take place annually throughout tenancy. The purpose of inspections is to ensure that decent, safe, and sanitary housing is available for families.

TYPES OF INSPECTIONS:

Initial/Move-In Inspections: The PHA conducts an initial inspection to approve a unit for participation in the HCV program. The unit must pass the inspection before any Housing Assistance Payments can be paid to the owner. Therefore, it is best if the family does not move into the unit before approval.

Annual Inspections: HUD requires the PHA to inspect each unit under lease annually to confirm that the unit continues to meet criteria. The inspections may be conducted in conjunction with the family's annual reexamination but is twoically conducted before.

Special Inspections: A special inspection may be requested between annual inspections by the owner, the family, or a third party because of problems identified with a unit between annual inspections.

I hope this information was useful, until next time. If you have any questions, you may contact us at:

 If you have any questions, you may contact us

 Diana Perez
 956-428-4026 ext. 126

 Nancy Garza
 956-428-4026 ext. 133

 Anita Navarro
 956-428-4026 ext. 114

 Elva Mares
 956-428-4026 ext. 117

 Yyonne Latour
 956-428-4026 ext. 132

Natalie Arcos 956-428-4026 ext. 113
Roxanne Davis 956-428-4026 ext. 115

email dperez@harlingen-ha.com email ngarza@harlingen-ha.com email anavarro@harlingen-ha.com email emares@harlingen-ha.com email ylatour@harlingen-ha.com email narcos@harlingen-ha.com



Eligibility Specialist: Natalie Arcos



Eligibility Specialist:



Eligibility Specialist:
Roxanne Davis



Admissions Coordinator: Nancy Garza



Section 8 Intake Coordinator / Inspector / Admissions Specialist:



Section 8 Intake Coordinator: Anita Maldonado

HARLINGEN



HCV/Section 8 Homeownership Program

"Home Ownership" Are you interested? We are here to help



For more information contact:
Diana Perez, HCV/Section 8 & Admissions Administrator
956-428-4026 ext. 126
dperez@harlingen-ha.com



SPECTRUM HIGH-SPEED INTERNET



Spectrum-

improve your web experience

As of January 1, 2024, the Harlingen Housing Authority will charge a \$25.00 monthly fee for Spectrum High Speed Internet per household. The fee is due the 1st of each month and no later than the 5th of each month. Only checks, money orders and online payments will be accepted. No Cash.

\$25.00 Per month

Online payments can be processed at www.rentpayment.com



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





Spectrum Internet Services:

Harlingen Housing Authority 2024 Internet update Survey

This survey is to gather information on utilization of internet services.

Please take a few minutes to answer the survey questions. You may return the completed survey by email or drop it off at the management office or drop box.

Services charged to tenant at a discount rate of \$25.00 for high-speed internet.

Name:	Apartment No
Email:	Phone number:
1.	Do you use the spectrum internet services?
	a. Yes
	b. No
2.	How many school age children do you have utilizing the internet service?
	a. 1-2
	b. 3-4
	c. 5-6
	d. 7 or more
3.	Do you use your internet service to pay bills, apply for services, and receive medical services?

5. Do you own a laptop, desktop, smart phone, or tablet?

4. How many adults live in your household?

a. Yes

b. No

a. 1-2 b. 3-4 c. 5-6

- b. No
- 6. Is your internet service essential for your children's school needs?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

We appreciate your feedback!

Harlingen Housing Authority Nettyslefter

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

Aragon Apartments 1810 & 1814 Aragon Drive 956-423-2341

Arroyo Vista Court Apartments 505 Arroyo Vista Court 956-423-2341

Bonita Park Apartments 601 South Rangerville Road 956-423-2341

Le Moyne Gardens Apartments 3221 North 25th Street 956-425-4248

Los Vecinos Apartments 702 South M Street 956-423-6213

Sunset Terrace Apartments 1401 North Sunset Drive 956-423-7353

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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Employee Service Awards

Board of Commissioners

HHA Staff

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Melissa Guajardo

Yvonne Latour

Carlos Lopez

Cynthia Lucio

Elva Mares

Anita Maldonado

HARLINGEN



Housing Authority

Thanks

Hilda Benavides Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Carlos "Charlie" Perez Chairperson Irma Sánchez Peña Vice-Chairperson Carlos Muñiz Maria I. Borias

SPECIAL THANKS: The Honorable

Bettina Elliott

Norma Sepulveda, Mayor City of Harlingen

Boys and Girls Club Executive Director: Gerald Gathright Family Learning Centers Staff: Sylvia Gonzalez

Family & Community Engagement
(FACE) Director
Bonita Park
Norma Cavazos. HCISD Master Teacher

Sunset Terrace
Julia Aguirre, HCISD Master Teacher
Le Moyne Gardens
Jesse Leal, HCISD Master Teacher

Los Vecinos
Connie Cano, HCISD Master Teacher
HHA & HCISD Counselors
Cristella Chavez,
Sandra Gonzalez

Tenant Association Representatives:

Ana Tovar

Le Moyne Gardens

Vacant

Sunset Terrace

Vacant

Los Vecinos

Maria Gutierrez

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