

Harlingen Housing Authority

Newsletter

HUD Recognized "High Performer"

BLESSINGS EVERYONE!

The Harlingen Housing Authority in partnership with the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation (HAHC) Scholarship Program awarded (6) \$500.00 scholarships to outstanding students throughout our Harlingen community. Students receiving a Scholarship reside in our Public Housing Apartments or participated in the HCV/Section 8 Program and will enroll as a full-time student in a College or University. I had the honor of reviewing and awarding scholarships. Highlighted are the plans and future goals of each student.

***SANTIAGO GONZALEZ** graduated from Harlingen High School South, May 2025. He plans to attend Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Harlingen, Texas, and major in Mechanical Engineering. He plans to further his education with a bachelor's degree and possibly a master's degree. *"In five years, I see myself as a master of my craft and having a good paying job where I can apply all my skills that I was taught during college."* Santiago

***LEILAH HERNANDEZ** graduated from Harlingen High School, May 2025. She currently has dual enrollment at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) where she is pursuing a degree in the health science field. This will allow her to explore the healthcare field further and possibly ease her journey into medical school. *"In five years, I see myself getting accepted into medical school and pursuing my career aspirations in becoming an Anesthesiologist."* Leilah

***ISABELLA MAYDON** graduated from Harlingen High School, May 2025. She plans to attend Texas A & M Corpus Christi and major in Biology. She is pursuing a college degree to further her education and work towards her goal of becoming a special need, Nurse. *"In five years, I see myself at the beginning of my career as a special needs Nurse. By then, I will have graduated from college and gained the credentials and training I need to step into the healthcare field with confidence."* Isabella

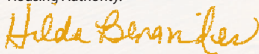
***ERNESTO RAMIREZ** graduated from Harlingen High School South, May 2025. He plans to attend Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Harlingen, Texas and major in Cybersecurity. *"In five years, I see myself growing in many ways. First, I will earn my college degree, which will help me move up as a Cybersecurity Analyst. I want to learn more about stopping cyber-attacks and keeping data safe."* Ernesto

***AILYN SANCHEZ** graduated from Harlingen High School South, May 2025. She plans to attend the University of Texas in Austin, majoring in and obtaining a degree in Accounting. Ailyn wants to go above and beyond in pursuing her higher education and in doing so paving a path for further generations. *"In five years, I see myself on the path to success, having already graduated and received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting."* Ailyn

***JULIET QUILANTAN** graduated from Harlingen High School South, May 2025. She currently has dual enrollment at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) where she is majoring in Biology and the medical field. She wants to help find cures and treatments to help people overcome their disorders and illnesses. *"In five years, I see myself with my bachelor's degree and applying to college again to take a crack at my master's degree to further my education in the biological science."* Juliet

Our Scholarship Program is made possible by caring individuals that contribute to the future of our youth. Thank you for your continued support of the Scholarship Program.

Please visit our website at www.harlingenha.org for the latest news about our Housing Authority.



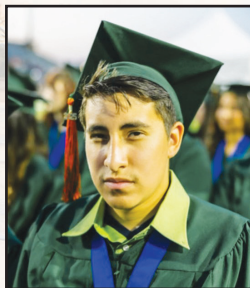
Best Regards,
Hilda Benavides,
Chief Executive Officer



HAHC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Scholarship recipients and HHA Commissioners



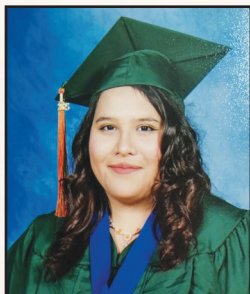
Santiago Gonzalez



Leilah Rose Hernandez



Isabella Belin Maydon



Juliet Quilantan



Ernesto Ramirez



Ailyn Sanchez

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025



YVONNE LATOUR

Congratulations to Ms. Yvonne Latour on being selected "Employee of the Quarter" for the months of July, August & September 2025.

She is the Eligibility Specialist, HCV/S8 Intake Coordinator/Inspector for the HCV/S8 Program. Her willingness to learn the different duties and responsibilities of the HCV/S8 Program has given her the ability to expand her knowledge of HUD rules and regulations. Her positive attitude and willingness to assist others is a great asset to the agency. Ms. Latour's hard work and dedication are shown in her daily tasks. It is a pleasure working with her and we look forward to her continued progress within the agency.

Congratulations!



Yvonne Latour and HHA Commissioners



Yvonne Latour and Diana Perez, HCV / S8 and Admissions Administrator

HARLINGEN HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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Norma Sepulveda



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Hilda Benavides



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Carlos "Charlie" Perez



VICE-CHAIRPERSON
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COMMISSIONER
Maria I. Borjas



COMMISSIONER
Carlos Muñoz



COMMISSIONER
Bettina Elliott



Attention High School Graduates

Class of 2026



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

**YOU MUST BE A HARLINGEN HOUSING AUTHORITY PARTICIPANT
(PUBLIC HOUSING OR HCV/S8)**

For more information contact:

Cristella Chavez, Counselor—cristella.chavez@hcisd.org

Sandra Gonzalez, Counselor—sandra.gonzalez@hcisd.org





**Senior Property
Manager:**
Mary Prieto

PUBLIC HOUSING UPDATES

Greetings everyone! Summertime is always the best time to start something new! It is when the days get longer, the stars shine brighter, the water gets warmer, and life gets better!

The Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA) would like to recognize a very special person, Mr. Travis Whitehead.

Travis volunteers his time at the Le Moyne Gardens Boys and Girls Club. He has created a wonderful butterfly garden where he spends his time teaching the children in the community about butterflies. He proudly refers to the garden project as the Le Moyne Gardens Living Laboratory. Travis enjoys watching the children learn about butterflies. They also plant flowers and shrubs that attract butterflies such as Sunflowers, Frog Fruit, Betany Mistflower, Red Sage, Mexican Hat and Zizote. It is amazing to witness the children see the fruits of their labor and giggle with excitement when they see the butterflies fluttering around them.



Travis Whitehead

Travis, thank you so much for the wonderful job you do. It is outstanding and you bring inspiration to the children in our community. May God bless you for your tremendous initiative. Thank You!



Did you know that butterflies:

- have taste receptors on their feet
- can see a range of ultraviolet colors invisible to the human eye
- they get essential nutrients by drinking from mud puddles
- they are unable to fly if they're cold
- a newly emerged butterfly can't fly
- they only live a few weeks

LE MOYNE GARDENS LIVING LABORATORY



LOS VECINOS APARTMENTS



Property Manager:
Diana Cheramie

Summer is here! Congratulations to all 2025 Graduates! It has been challenging but remember that you have the tools you need to succeed no matter where life takes you.

A special Thank you for the Los Vecinos Tenant Association (LVTA). They raised funds for their scholarship program. I am happy to say that our very own Annette Vasquez received the Los Vecinos Tenant Association Scholarship. This scholarship is particularly unique because it is specifically for the Los Vecinos residents. Not only that, but the amount awarded is matched by the Harlingen Affordable Housing Corporation (HAHC). Thank you LVTA and HAHC for all that you do!



*Assistant
Property Manager:*
Jeovanna Martinez

Fun, Fun, Fun, is what Los Vecinos is all about. Presenters from Cameron County Public Health, APC Home Care, Grace Fellowship Church, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Su Clinica Familiar Mobile Unit and many more hosted fun educational events. Snacks, refreshments, toys, diapers, prizes, and other items were given to families. Families also enjoyed the Los Vecinos Family Learning Centers Fun Friday held on June 27, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Construction on Buchanan Avenue is ongoing. Our primary focus is the safety and well-being of the Los Vecinos community. The renovations include more parking, wider streets, and new sewer lines. Weekly progress meetings are held between the Harlingen Housing Authority (HHA), the City of Harlingen, and Harlingen Waterworks Systems (HWS) on the progress. For the safety of our residents, security personnel patrol the construction site from 5:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. daily. We ask that parents help by making sure their children do not go near the construction areas.

Thank you for your patience as Buchanan Avenue continues to be closed. Parking for residents with parking permits is available on Filmore, Mitchell, and Pierce Avenue. We are all anxiously waiting for street repairs to be completed.

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone to be safe this summer. Drink plenty of water, stay cool, and wear sunscreen.

Reminders:

- Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Rent is due the 1st – 5th of the month, after a \$25.00 late fee is incurred
- Payments can be made via money order, check, or online at rentpayment.com
- 2025 Parking permits are available – Towing is enforced
- Overnight visitors/guests must be registered at the Los Vecinos office
- Pest Control is every 2nd Tuesday of the month, non-compliance fee is \$25.00
- Yard Cutting is every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month
- Spectrum Internet Fee is \$30.00
- Smoke Free Public Housing

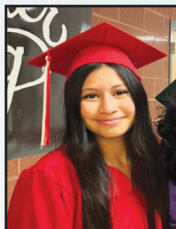


ADRIAN AZUA
Maintenance Aide A

LOS VECINOS PICTURES



Adrian Azua read Go Green Energy by Abrams Appleseed



Los Vecinos Tenant Association Scholarship recipient Annette Vasquez



Grace Fellowship Church Pastor Roberto & Gloria Candelario



Grace Fellowship Church activities



Cameron County Public Health



Grace Fellowship Church



Cameron County Public Health



Methodist Healthcare



Methodist Healthcare



APC Home Care



*Resident Events
Coordinator/
Property Manager:*
Norma Serino

BONITA PARK, ARAGON & ARROYO VISTA COURT APARTMENTS

With summer in full swing, children enjoy a well-deserved break filled with outdoor play, creative exploration, and quality time with family and friends. This season provides valuable opportunities for learning beyond the classroom, encouraging physical activity, social interaction, and imaginative fun.

A recap of Spring 2025, the Bonita Park community came together to celebrate two heartwarming occasions – Easter and Mother's Day. The Bonita Park Tenant Association and residents,

alongside our Resident Event Coordinator/Property Manager, Norma Serino, came together to host an Easter egg hunt for the children. The children shared laughs, candy, and hot dogs. For Mother's Day, we honored the community's elderly mothers with a small token of appreciation delivered straight to their door. These celebrations not only recognized fun Easter traditions and our elderly moms but also reminded us of the power of community.

Shortly after, end of school year 2024 – 2025 occurred. With that, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all graduates, from our youngest learners in Head Start to the accomplished seniors completing high school. Each milestone represents dedication, growth, hard work, and achievements. Your future is bright and here at Bonita Park we are proud to cheer you on.

We continue to encourage all tenants to attend our upcoming tenant meetings, which are designed to be informative, educational, and engaging. These bi-weekly meetings provide valuable updates, helpful resources, and an opportunity to voice ideas or concerns. Your participation helps strengthen our community and ensures everyone stays informed and involved. We look forward to seeing you here!

An important reminder, for the safety of all residents, please remember that pools, bouncy houses/ water slides, and additional playground equipment are not permitted on the property. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

Reminders:

- Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Rent is due the 1st – 5th of the month, after, \$25.00 late fee is incurred
- Payments can be made via money order, check, or online at rentpayment.com
- 2025 Parking permits are available – Towing is enforced
- Overnight visitors/guests must be registered at the Bonita Park office
- Bonita Park Pest Control is every 2nd Wednesday of the month, non-compliance fee is \$25.00
- Aragon and Arroyo Vista Apartments Pest Control is every 2nd Monday of the month, non-compliance fee is \$25.00
- Yard Cutting is every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
- Spectrum Internet Fee is \$30.00
- Smoke Free Public Housing



*Assistant
Property Manager:*
Brianna Caldwell

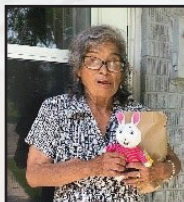


JOE ZEPEDA
Maintenance Aide A

BONITA PARK PICTURES EASTER PARTY & EGG HUNT



MOTHER'S DAY GOODIE BAGS



SUNSET TERRACE APARTMENTS



*Procurement
Specialist /
Property Manager:*
Cynthia de la Fuente

The Sunset Terrace staff would like to wish everyone a safe Summer. We hope everyone enjoys this weather. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids and stay hydrated.

Residents, please maintain good housekeeping inside and outside of your apartment. Maintaining our yards makes our community look good. Don't forget to report all repairs needed promptly. Below are a few Summer Cleaning Tips:

- Keep all cabinets clean and organized
- Organize and deep clean fridge
- Dispose or donate items that you no longer need
- Take out the trash daily



*Assistant
Property Manager:*
Brianna Caldwell

The children were excited to celebrate Easter with an Egg hunt during the Easter holiday. Our community joined and made this celebration successful with their support and donations of plastic eggs, candies, Easter baskets, etc. They also served hot dogs with all the trimmings and cupcakes. While the children ate, the student mentors went outside and hid the eggs.

A big thank you to all the mothers who came together as a community and celebrated. We enjoyed an assortment of food and desserts. They played bingo; everyone was a winner and took a prize home.

The Sunset Terrace Learning Center is closed for the Summer. We hosted our Fun Fridays at each of our sites. The Fun Friday for Sunset Terrace was on July 11, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I hope you registered your child for the event.

Thank you! Cameron County Public Health for hosting a presentation on "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia." We appreciate all the information and helpful tips you give us. We continue to hold Tenant Association Meetings twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays. If you have questions or want to join the Tenant Association, please contact Sunset Terrace Management.



Reminders:

- Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Rent is due the 1st – 5th of the month, after, \$25.00 late fee is incurred
- Payments can be made via money order, check, or online at rentpayment.com
- 2025 Parking permits are available – Towing is enforced
- Overnight visitors/guests must be registered at the Sunset Terrace office
- Pest Control is every 2nd Monday of the month, non-compliance fee is \$25.00
- Yard Cutting is every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
- Spectrum Internet Fee is \$30.00
- Smoke Free Public Housing



JOE ZEPEDA
Maintenance Aide A

SUNSET TERRACE PICTURES EASTER PARTY & EGG HUNT





Property Manager:
Eneida Alonso



**Public Housing
Clerk:**
Maria Mejia

LE MOYNE GARDENS APARTMENTS

What a fantastic day to celebrate together! This moment is more than just a ceremony; it represents a heartfelt connection to something much larger than us. Each of you has traveled a unique path to reach this milestone, and today we unite in joy and solidarity. As you leave here, I hope you carry not only your achievements but also a deeper understanding of your incredible strengths. You are capable, creative, and compassionate individuals ready to thrive. The journey ahead will bring both challenges and victories, but remember, every step has shaped the amazing person you are today, and there's so much more growth to come! To our brilliant graduates: Cherish your memories, stand tall, and take pride in all you've accomplished. You are more than prepared for what lies ahead. Congratulations, Class of 2025!

We celebrated summer at the Le Moyne Gardens Family Learning Center! Fun Friday was exciting! We had a day full of activities, games, crafts, movies, and delicious snacks. This wonderful event was on June 13, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I hope your children were able to attend.

At Le Moyne Gardens, we gather for our tenant association meetings twice a month, and it's a fantastic chance for everyone to come together! Enjoy a lively game of Loteria while sharing ideas on how we can enhance our community together. If you're looking for more fun, join us in our vegetable garden every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. It's a great way to get involved and earn community service hours, too! Don't forget to check out the monthly calendars for all the upcoming Tenant Association Loteria game days and vegetable garden meetings. We can't wait to see you there!

You may have noticed all the exciting projects we have in the works! We're kicking things off with the installation of metal roofs, replacing the water heater and storage doors, and constructing a brand-new parking lot. This is all part of our commitment to improving our community! Stay aware of your surroundings; your safety is our priority!

The Le Moyne Gardens office was closed on May 26, 2025, for Memorial Day, a special period dedicated to honoring and remembering the brave military personnel who have sacrificed their lives while serving our country. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the military men and women who serve and have fought for our freedom. Your courage and sacrifices allow us to enjoy the incredible privilege of living in the land of the free. We honor you and express our deepest gratitude!

Reminders:

- Office Hours: Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Rent is due the 1st – 5th of the month, after a \$25.00 late fee is incurred
- Payments can be made via money order, check, or online at rentpayment.com
- 2025 Parking permits are available – Towing is enforced
- Overnight visitors/guests must be registered at the Le Moyne Gardens office
- Pest Control is every 3rd Wednesday and Thursday of the month, non-compliance fee is \$25.00
- Yard Cutting is every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month
- Spectrum Internet Fee is \$30.00
- Smoke Free Public Housing



**Procurement Specialist/
Property Manager:**
Cynthia De La Fuente



JOSE MONTOYA
Maintenance Aide A



ANDRES DELGADO
Maintenance Aide B

LE MOYNE GARDENS PICTURES



*Fun Friday at
Le Moyne Gardens*



*Fun Friday at
Le Moyne Gardens*



*Fun Friday at
Le Moyne Gardens*



Le Moyne Gardens parking project



Le Moyne Gardens roofing work



Le Moyne Gardens Tenant Association meeting & loteria



Le Moyne Gardens Tenant Association meeting & loteria





HCV/Admissions
Administrator:
Diana Perez

HCV/S8 PROGRAM

Salutations from the Harlingen Housing Authority HCV Section 8 Program!

I hope everyone had a blessed and joyous Spring season. As we prepare for the summer months, the Harlingen Housing Authority would like to thank all owners participating in our program.

Owners and landlords are very important to the Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 Program as they help provide safe, decent, and sanitary shelter to families who qualify for HCV/S8 Vouchers. Owners' responsibilities are essential to the HAP contract, lease, and HUD regulations.

The owner is responsible for the following:

- Performing all management and rental functions for the assisted unit, including selecting a voucher holder to lease the unit and deciding if the family is suitable for tenancy
- Maintaining the unit following Housing Quality Standards (HQS), including performing ordinary and extraordinary maintenance
- Complying with equal opportunity requirements
- Prepare and furnish the PHA information required under the HAP contract
- Collecting from the family any security deposit, the family rent to the owner, and any charges for unit damage by the family
- Enforcing tenant obligations under the lease and paying for utilities and services unless paid for by the family under the lease

The Housing Authority has implemented Direct Deposit on all Housing Choice Voucher/S8 rental and utility payments to landlords and tenants.

We have teamed up with US Bank to offer debit cards. With US Bank ReliaCard, it's fast, safe, and easy. Signing up is free; no credit check or bank account is required to receive this card. It is easy to sign up! Please stop by our office to pick up an enrollment form. If you prefer to use your bank account, that is no problem. Please stop by the office to bring us the bank information to set you up.

The Harlingen Housing Authority office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



NANCY GARZA
Admissions
Coordinator



ELVA MARES
Eligibility Specialist/
S8 Intake
Coordinator/
Inspector



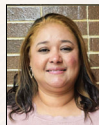
ANITA MALDONADO
S8 Intake
Coordinator/
Inspector



NATALIE ARCOS
Eligibility Specialist/
S8 Intake
Coordinator/
Inspector



YVONNE LATOUR
Eligibility Specialist/
S8 Intake
Coordinator/
Inspector



NORMA TOME
Eligibility Specialist/
S8 Intake
Coordinator/
Inspector



ANGELITA SANCHEZ
Eligibility Specialist/
S8 Intake
Coordinator/
Inspector



Harlingen Housing Authority

FALL FAIR

Thursday, October 23, 2025

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Los Vecinos Apartments

702 S. "M" Street

Harlingen, Texas 78550

Fun & Games



In Case of Rain, the Fall Resource Fair will be held on October 30, 2025



Attention Public Housing Residents!

The Spectrum High Speed Internet monthly fee will increase to
\$30.00 starting January 1, 2025.

The fee is due on the 1st of the month no later than the 5th of the month.

Only checks, money orders and online payments are accepted.

No cash payments.

The Harlingen Housing Authority is committed to the safety
and the wellbeing of everyone we serve.

¡Atención residentes de viviendas pública!

La tarifa mensual de Internet de alta velocidad de Spectrum aumentará a
\$30.00 a partir del 1 de enero de 2025.

La cuota vence el día 1 del mes a más tardar el día 5 del mes.

Solo se aceptan cheques, giros postales y pagos en línea.

No se aceptan pagos en efectivo.

La Autoridad de Vivienda de Harlingen está comprometida con la seguridad
y el bienestar de todas las personas a las que servimos.

Online payments at: www.rentpayment.com



\$30.00*
PER MONTH*



\$30.00*
PER MONTH*

HARLINGEN



Housing Authority



OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

**You can reach us at
956-423-2521**

Dial 7 for Public Housing Department



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
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.

HHA Staff

Hilda Benavides

Eneida Alonso

Natalie Arcos

Adrian Azua

Brianna Caldwell

Diana Cheramie

Cynthia De La Fuente

Andres Delgado

Nancy Garza

Melissa Guajardo

Yvonne Latour

Cynthia Lucio

Anita Maldonado

Elva Mares

Jeovanna Martinez

Maria Mejia

Jose Montoya

Diana Perez

Sarah Perrill

Mary Prieto

Angelita Sanchez

Norma Serino

Norma Tome

Ariana Valle

Patricia Vega

Jose Zepeda

HARLINGEN



Housing Authority

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Thanks

Hilda Benavides
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Carlos "Charlie" Perez
Chairperson

Irma Sánchez Peña
Vice-Chairperson

Carlos Muñoz
Maria I. Borjas
Bettina Elliott

SPECIAL THANKS:

The Honorable
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:

Bonita Park

Ana Tovar

Le Moyne Gardens

Vacant

Sunset Terrace

Vacant

Los Vecinos

Maria Gutierrez