

SPRING 2015

# HANO

## news



*The site of the new Bienville Basin (formerly Iberville) community*

## TRANSFORMING AN AGENCY

*through development and community participation*

### In This Issue:

HANO Breaks Ground on Site of New Senior Building

HANO Launches New Plan for Scattered Site Redevelopment

HANO Raises Approximately \$25,000 During Live Auction

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director	1
HANO, City, and HRI Properties Cut Ribbon at Marais Apartments	2
HANO Joins Mayor Landrieu's 2014 District Budget Meetings	3
Stakeholders Participate in Workshop Series	4
2015 College Tour	5
HANO Joins City to End Homelessness Among Veterans	6
Stop the Violence	7
HANO Breaks Ground on Site of New Senior Building at Faubourg Lafitte	8
HANO Launches New Plan for Scattered Site Redevelopment	9
Fischer Community Clean-Up	10
HANO Raises Approximately \$25,000 During Live Auction	11
NOLA Global Youth Week	11
Old Florida Buildings Demolished	12
Columbia Parc Celebrates its Fifth Anniversary	13
Spreading Holiday Cheer	14
Celebrating Black History Month	15
Lafitte's Save Our Sons Initiative	15
Crime Prevention Corner	16
Get Prepared for the 2015 Hurricane Season	17



*HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner speaks during staff meeting*

Dear readers:

Thank you for picking up the latest edition of the **HANO** news.

As HANO moves closer to the one-year anniversary of returning to local control, I want to acknowledge the absolute resilience of our residents and the dedication of the hard working employees. The task of continuing HANO's forward movement is not an easy one. Together, we have established a set of goals and objectives for the future of HANO and have already begun the implementation of many of them.

Providing more affordable housing opportunities for the residents of New Orleans remains the focus of the agency. With the recent completion of the Marais Apartments located in the heart of the City, and the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lafitte Senior Building, HANO will add 200 new, senior-only units to our portfolio.

The agency also celebrated the completion of phase I redevelopment at Marrero Commons, adding 410 units to the community.

Former Iberville residents will soon re-occupy their homes at the new Bienville Basin community in grand celebration as we commemorate its transformation. Furthermore, we will leverage public-private partnerships to kick-off an innovative strategy that will expand affordable housing in New Orleans. Our vacant scattered site properties will be redeveloped into a mix of public housing, and other affordable and market rate rentals and homeownership units, and will create a more sustainable stream of revenue for the agency.

A vital part of what happens at HANO is the inclusion of a substantial stakeholder foundation and participation. To build this foundation, HANO began hosting a series of workshops aimed to configure effective relationships with our partners. From our Section 8 voucher landlords, to third-party property managers and developers, we have engaged participants in honest and bold discussions, and solicited feedback that will help us continue to improve customer service.

But our work is not yet complete. We continue to build partnerships with community service providers to offer educational and recreational activities for our residents, and acknowledge the noble work of these providers. The agency refocused on higher educational activities by reinstating the college tour for high school students interested in furthering their education. Additionally, HANO joined forces with Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and a host of social service providers to end homelessness among veterans, an ongoing task of streamlining the leasing process so that our most vulnerable citizens are afforded decent and safe housing.

While there have been many accomplishments to celebrate, there is more to do as we continue our forward movement to 'Transform' this great agency. Stay tuned for more to come!

*—Gregg Fortner*



**Gregg Fortner**  
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# HANO, CITY, AND HRI PROPERTIES CUT RIBBON AT MARAIS APARTMENTS

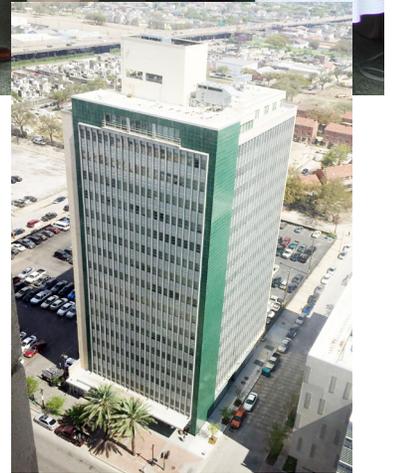
HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner joins city officials and local community leaders at dedication ceremony

**W**ith the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) kicking off the redevelopment of the Iberville Housing Development last year, former residents and community leaders recently gathered to celebrate the completion of the Marais Apartments, affordable housing for seniors ages 62 or older. HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner was joined by former Deputy Mayor Cedric Grant, New Orleans City Councilmember Nadine Ramsey, HRI Properties CEO Pres Kabacoff, Louisiana Office of Community Development Executive Director Pat Forbes, Louisiana Housing Corporation Executive Director Fred Tombar, and a number of community leaders and residents at the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the 17-story building, located in the heart of the city.

“We are excited to celebrate the opening of the Marais Apartments as the first completed housing component of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative,” said Fortner. “In addition to the restoration of this iconic and historic building, the completion of this project symbolizes the forward movement of the full transformation of Iberville and provides enhanced affordable housing opportunities for seniors.”



*HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner cuts ribbon with city officials and local community leaders at Marais Apartments*



*Marais Apartments*

The newly-renovated Marais Apartments features 12 studios and 100 one-bedroom units with energy efficient appliances, microwaves, carpet, and blinds. Residents now have access to a community room with a kitchen, multi-purpose room, computer room, laundry facilities, gardening terrace, exercise room and beauty salon. The building also includes intercom entry and offers 2,000 square feet of retail space fronting Canal Street.

The \$35 million restoration project was funded by a combination of low-income housing tax credits and tax-exempt bonds issued by the Louisiana Housing Corporation, along with a subordinate loan from the Louisiana Office of Community Development. Other financial partners include Chase Bank, AEGON USA Realty Advisors, LLC, and Stonehenge Capital Company, LLC.



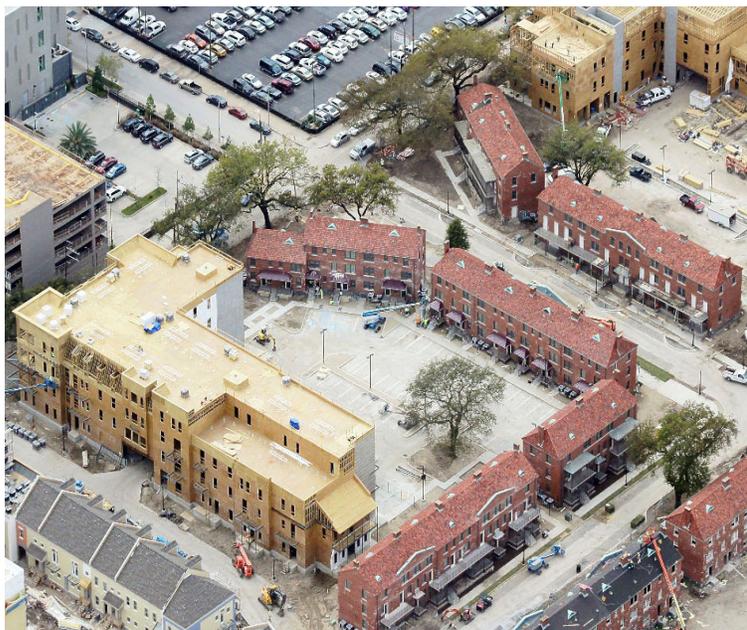
*Fortner speaks at Marais Apartments Dedication Ceremony*

“The Marais Apartments serves as a great first step in the Choice Neighborhoods development, providing safe, convenient housing for the elderly and repurposing this historic building from blight into a beautiful, wonderful new residence,” said Forbes. “The state is proud of our investment in this affordable housing effort right here in the heart of downtown New Orleans.”

HANO and the City, in partnership with HRI Properties and McCormack Baron Salazar, were awarded a \$30 million CNI grant to redevelop the 23-acre Iberville public housing site located behind the Marais Apartments, and to revitalize the Tremé neighborhood. Originally constructed in 1942, Iberville will be transformed into a mixed-income, mixed-use community.

HANO officials expect to complete the first two phases of the Iberville on-site redevelopment in the spring of 2015, and will include 227 of the approximately 800 planned new residential units. The reconstruction plan also includes reintroducing the historic street grid with new public rights of way, and the installation of new utilities. Bienville Basin will replace Iberville as the name of the new community.

In January, developers kicked off the construction of phase III to include 105 additional units on site. HANO also executed an option to purchase a portion of the property formally known as the Winn Dixie site located east of Iberville. Developers will construct approximately 200 housing units, of which 65 will count toward the 800 committed replacement units as a part of the off-site component.



*Aerial shot of construction at the new site of Bienville Basin*

# HANO JOINS MAYOR LANDRIEU'S 2014 DISTRICT BUDGET MEETINGS



*Mayor Landrieu's 2014 Budget Meeting in District "C"*

To kick off the City's 2015 budget preparation, HANO joined Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu at his council district budgeting for outcomes community meetings to discuss expenses and to gain input from residents on how to finance city improvements. Executive Director Gregg Fortner participated in frank discussions with New Orleans residents involving public safety and crime prevention, infrastructure improvement, property tax reform, blight removal and employment opportunities.

Several of the issues discussed were directly related to HANO and its scattered site properties across the city. HANO participated in discussions regarding the ongoing litigation of the Press Park community and the future of more than 200 scattered sites located across the city. A few of the attendees were interested in senior housing opportunities and requested a listing for HANO's communities with vacancies. Fortner also spoke with attendees and discussed any questions or concerns regarding the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) at the close of each meeting.

Staff was on hand to assist with inquiries and to provide pertinent agency information in the City's Resource Center at each district meeting. The center was spearheaded by the Mayor's Office of Communications to provide public information, marketing and outreach materials for participating agencies.

# STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP SERIES

Late last fall, HANO's Executive Director Gregg Fortner met with Section 8 landlords from all areas of the city to discuss updated policies and procedures of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). The meeting was the first in a series of Stakeholder Workshops intended to encourage bold discussions with agency partners, property managers, vendors and contractors in an effort to build partnerships and effective relationships among stakeholders.



*HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner speaks with HCVP landlords during the agency's Stakeholders Workshop Series*

“In addition to providing affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents in New Orleans, we must work to reestablish public trust while instituting sound business practices,” said Fortner. “We are encouraging our partners to take part in a honest conversation about the future of HANO, and to build upon the relationships that have been established.”

HCVP Director Arthur Waller kicked off the workshop series with a discussion on the inspection process, rent reasonableness and affordability with private landlords



*HCVP Director Arthur Waller discusses landlord and tenant issues during the workshop*

participating in the tenant-based and project-based voucher programs. During these sessions, Waller presented significant information and solicited input on the guidelines that govern the program, and on changes implemented since HANO returned to local control. Attendees were afforded the opportunity to engage in

dialogue with agency staff about landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities, and challenges that they have endured while participating in the program, including reporting vacancies, eligibility referrals and the tenants right-to-move policies.

“We are asking our stakeholders to work with us on developing solutions to the challenges that they face daily,” said Fortner. “For example, some landlords have experienced a significant variance in the proper procedures of inspecting units according to the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) requirement. Because of this, we’ve created a new process of submitting the proper inspection requests directly to the Special Projects Manager, which will streamline the submissions and expedite scheduling.”

Since the first meeting, HANO staff hosted workshops with more than 100 private and project-based voucher landlords, as well as with a number of third-party property managers at the administration building. The stakeholder meeting with third-party property managers was hosted by the Department of Asset Management, the division that administers and monitors site management contracts associated with HANO communities. The scheduling of a quarterly meeting was implemented as well as the sharing of best practices between property managers and the agency. Topics of discussion included

preparation for REAC inspections, the need for consistent rent schedules according to bedroom size and tax credit units, and budget and resident management.

The discussion also focused on the impending Criminal Background Policy and its future implementation, which was developed and approved by the previous administration and Board. Fortner determined that HANO would further research the City's policies and procedures, and other housing best practices for guidance on creating screening criteria for the accessibility of housing and employment opportunities regardless of past criminal history. s“The meeting presented a great opportunity for property managers and HANO administrators to collectively develop consistent policies and procedures necessary to administer agency programs,” said Maggie Merrill, Director of Asset Management. “We also wanted to create a forum that would encourage each site’s administrative team to share benchmarks achieved, and facilitate consistency of client management regardless of subsidy type or amount, and communication and reporting between HANO and the property.”

The IT Department provided a Landlord Portal training to HCVP landlords. The Development and Modernization and Procurement and Contracts Departments have scheduled a workshop with current and potential developers and professional services contractors to take place in the next few weeks. Fair Housing trainings were also hosted by HUD and the HCV Program. HANO will continue to engage its stakeholders to ensure community participation.



HCVP landlords ask questions during the first Stakeholders Workshop meeting

# 2015 COLLEGE TOUR

This spring, HANO hosted a three-day college tour for over 30 high school students from HANO communities and the HCV Program.

Participating students visited colleges and universities in Louisiana and Mississippi, including Southern University in Baton Rouge, Northwestern State University, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana Tech University, Grambling State University, Jackson State University, and Alcorn State University. Students also attended seminars focused on life and leadership skills, and college readiness during the college tour.



High school juniors and seniors participate in the three-day college tour



Students sport Grambling University gear during tour



Participating students watch an informational video during tour

# HANO JOINS CITY TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

New Orleans becomes the first major city to surpass the federal goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2015

**H**ANO, in conjunction with Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and other local entities, fulfilled the city-wide challenge of ending veteran homelessness in New Orleans by the end of 2014. As part of First Lady Michelle Obama's Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, New Orleans is the first major city in the country to stop homelessness among veterans prior to the federal goal of December 31, 2015.

In January, Mayor Landrieu, along with members of the New Orleans Interagency Council on Homelessness, veterans, service members, military leaders, homelessness advocates and federal agency partners commemorated the City's historic milestone during a ceremony at the National World War II Museum.

Due to the tireless efforts of Mayor Landrieu and former Senator Mary Landrieu, along with HANO, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, the New Orleans Veterans Administration (NOVA), and Unity for Greater New Orleans, over 227 homeless veterans have obtained permanent housing in New Orleans.

HANO initially began providing more enhanced housing assistance for local homeless veterans in 2011. The agency partnered with the U. S. Department of Veterans Administration to distribute housing vouchers with an estimated value of over \$900,000 to homeless veterans through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, aiding the national call to offer clinical assistance to the men and women who serve our country.

"We are proud to be a part of the City's efforts to end homelessness among veterans. Through the HUD-VASH program and partnerships with community-based organizations and service providers, HANO has continually supported the City's initiatives to provide needed housing opportunities for those who served our country in our armed forces," said Gregg Fortner.

For the past three years, the Obama Administration



*Mayor Landrieu hosts press conference to celebrate ending veteran homelessness by 2014 at the World War II Museum*

worked closely with governors and other political figures to decrease and eliminate homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015. Mayor Landrieu accepted the challenge along with 76 mayors and other government officials across the country, and set a more aggressive goal of ending homelessness in New Orleans by December 2014.

To achieve this goal, the federal government provided resources to enhance housing assistance programs. They include providing permanent supportive housing opportunities without barriers or unnecessary prerequisites, coordinating outreach efforts to identify and engage every veteran experiencing homelessness, leveraging housing and additional resources that can assist veterans that are ineligible for some of the Veterans Affairs programs, providing access to preventive services for at-risk veterans and their families so that they can remain in a stable housing condition, and to closely monitor progress toward the goal of ending veteran homelessness and the programs put in place to achieve it.

# STOP THE VIOLENCE

HANO communities and Police Department promote peace

The HANO Police Department continues to join forces with residents to take a stand against crime and violence throughout the city.

Last September, The Estates case management staff and HANO PD hosted the Night Out for Peace event to combat crime in their community. Night Out for Peace began with an anti-violence walk and fellowship among The Estates residents. Attendees also used this opportunity to connect with representatives from local organizations and to sign-up for programs provided within the community.

“The HANO PD and The Estates case management staff strive to strengthen police-community partnerships and heighten crime prevention awareness through the Night Out for Peace event,” said HANO PD Captain Granetta Harris. “By partnering with The Estates case management staff for anti-crime events, the HANO PD can get residents involved in their community issues while sending the message to our residents that we care about their quality of life and are working to better their community.”

The Housing Authority’s focus on crime prevention continued last October with the 2014 National Night Out Against Crime. Throughout the city of New Orleans, HANO communities and neighbors joined HANO PD and the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) to strengthen police-community partnerships and promote crime prevention. The Guste community began the evening with a “Walk for the Cure” in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Residents of Harmony Oaks also observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month by donning pink for the night. In Gentilly, Columbia Parc encouraged its residents to meet their neighbors during their Night Out event. Other participating HANO communities included River Garden, The Estates, Fischer, Faubourg Lafitte, and Marrero Commons.



Residents join HANO PD for an anti-violence walk in The Estates community



Residents and their children enjoy snowballs after the anti-violence walk at The Estates



Young residents of Lafitte express their hope for a safer community (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)



Crimestoppers Safety Tips



HANO residents celebrate the 2014 Night Out Against Crime at the Harmony Oaks Community Center

# HANO BREAKS GROUND ON SITE OF NEW SENIOR BUILDING AT FAUBOURG LAFITTE

Community leaders, city, state and federal officials celebrate addition of 100 senior-only homes in Lafitte

Lafitte residents and Tremé community members recently celebrated the start of construction on the latest addition to the Faubourg Lafitte site. HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner along with city, state and federal officials posed for pictures while wearing hard hats and holding shovels to break ground on the Lafitte Senior building.



HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner joins community leaders, city, state, and federal officials to break ground on the site of the new Lafitte Senior community

Developer Lafitte Senior LLC, a partnership between Providence Community Housing and Enterprise Community Partners, began the construction of the 96,000 square foot building in late January. The \$22 million redevelopment project, funded by HANO, HUD and FEMA, includes public housing and project-based Section 8 voucher assisted homes that are federally subsidized.

The building will accommodate 89 one-bedroom and 11 two-bedroom apartments ranging in size from 615 to 900 square feet. Each unit will contain Energy Star appliances, in-unit microwaves, and cable and internet service connections. Residents will have immediate access to community space with audio/visual capability and multiple laundry rooms within the facility.

“The provision of affordable housing and enhancement of quality of life for the residents of New Orleans remain the priorities of this agency,” said Fortner. “We are grateful for this public-private partnership that will assist in continuing the redevelopment of the Faubourg Lafitte community, and that supports one of our long-term goals of building essential and efficient homes with accessibility to supportive services and



Fortner speaks during the Lafitte Senior groundbreaking

programming for our seniors.”

District “C” Council Member Nadine Ramsey also offered remarks on the importance of providing affordable housing for seniors. “The Lafitte Senior Housing project represents an important step in providing new and affordable housing for those who have given so much to us,” said Councilmember Ramsey. “Our seniors are a vital part of the fabric of New Orleans, and the sacrifices they have made in the past are responsible for the bright future New Orleans is enjoying now.”

Construction on the Lafitte Senior building began in January and is expected to be completed in approximately 18 months.

**FAUBOURG LAFITTE**

100 Senior Apartments coming in Summer 2016.

**Lafitte Senior Housing Features:**

- Certified green building
- Community space
- Energy Star appliances
- In-unit microwaves
- Cable and internet connection
- Laundry facilities
- Located one block from new Lafitte Greenway

Lafitte Senior building rendering

# HANO LAUNCHES NEW PLAN FOR SCATTERED SITE REDEVELOPMENT

HANO's Scattered Site Strategy expands affordable housing opportunities in New Orleans

Blight eradication and the preservation of vacant land has been one of several priorities of Gregg Fortner since his first day on the job as HANO's first hired Executive Director since 2002. The expansion of affordable housing for New Orleans citizens and the necessity to create a stream of sustainable revenue are the main objectives of a new Scattered Site Strategy that will launch this spring.

“Currently there are about 18,000 applicants on our waiting lists for Section 8 vouchers and public housing units. Most of these families have been on the lists for several years, proving that there is an unmet need for housing in our City,” said Fortner. “We also hope to build sustainable revenue streams in partnership with private developers that will help create ongoing resources to reinvest in affordable housing.”

The strategy will increase opportunities for low-to-moderate income families through redeveloped housing stock which will include a mix of public housing, and other affordable and market rate rental and homeownership units. The agency will also pursue commercial development beneficial to the affected communities depending on the best use of the properties.

A situation analysis and housing needs assessment was conducted to determine the key factors in developing the strategy. Pertinent information collected by local and state organizations was also reviewed by HANO's administration to determine affordable housing needs in New Orleans. The agency researched and reviewed common misconceptions, and developed a response report that will be shared with the public.

HANO owns 232 vacant properties; some with buildings on them. These parcels range in size from 1,300 to 158,000 square feet and are located across the city. The agency will kick-off the demolition of the uninhabitable buildings within the next few weeks with plans to redevelop the land, prioritizing low-income individuals and families. A pool of 20 qualified developers was approved by the Board of Commissioners to implement the strategy as potential projects are defined. HANO plans to issue Requests for Proposals from the pool to begin defining potential projects.



*Existing Scattered Site at Mazant Royal property*



*Existing Scattered Site at 5312 Constance Street*



*Rehabilitated Scattered Site at 4235 Tchoupitoulas Street*



*Rehabilitated Scattered Site at the Hende Home property*

# FISCHER COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Residents work closely with Dillard University volunteers to spruce up their neighborhood

As part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grant, Dillard University continued its community outreach efforts in the Fischer neighborhood with a clean-up last autumn. The \$243,000 grant was awarded to Dillard's Office of Community Relations to provide self-sufficiency services to the residents of Fischer, Guste, and Marrero Commons for the next three years.

In September, Fischer residents along with Dillard University students and the staff of District "C" Councilmember Nadine Ramsey organized a neighborhood clean-up of Fischer and the surrounding Algiers community.

Led by Dillard's ROSS Coordinator for Community Leadership Nick Harris, the Fischer clean-up began with over 40 volunteers disposing of trash and debris littered throughout the community, followed by the planting of vegetable seeds in the Fischer Community Garden. The community's first edible garden was originally constructed by a team of 10 Harvard College students last year, and features bell peppers, tomatoes, and a variety of herbs.

As a result of his efforts to promote healthy eating and a clean environment for low-income residents, the New Orleans City Council presented Harris with a proclamation of excellence in community service. "It is important that we bring students and the community together to gain a better understanding of the needs that



*Fischer residents and Dillard University volunteers at the Fischer community  
(Photo Credit: Nick Harris)*



*Volunteers dispose of trash and debris in the Fischer community  
(Photo Credit: Nick Harris)*

exist in neighborhoods and to share the resources available through corporate partnerships to improve lives," said Harris.

For more information on the HUD-ROSS grant, visit <http://portal.hud.gov>.



*Harris pictured with New Orleans City Council members after receiving a proclamation of excellence in community service  
(Photo Credit: Nick Harris)*

# HANO RAISES APPROXIMATELY \$25,000 DURING LIVE AUCTION

The Housing Authority hosted its first public auction in several years to raise funds for the agency by selling 135 lots containing multiple items to approximately 50 registered attendees. The United Country Brown's Auction & Realty Co., LLC conducted the live auction on March 28th at HANO's warehouse located on Townsend Place in Eastern New Orleans. Vehicles, industrial mowing equipment, tools, building materials, computers and other electronics, office furniture, household items and much more were sold to the highest bidders, raising approximately \$26,000 for the agency.



*HANO's live auction begins at the agency's warehouse location*



*A potential bidder registers for HANO's live auction*



*HANO auctions off a washer and dryer during the auction*

## NOLA GLOBAL YOUTH WEEK

College and career readiness seminars lifts youth academic and social profiles

*Written by Lisa Green-Derry, PH.D*

*Education Director of Urban Strategies Inc.*

In March, Urban Strategies and Culture Shock International, LLC. hosted the NOLA Global Youth Week for more than 60 middle and high school students within the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) footprint.

During the seminars, participating students had the opportunity to hear panelists from Xavier University, Loyola University, Southern University at New Orleans and the Office of Mayor Mitchell Landrieu share stories from their educational pursuits while also giving advice about perseverance and life choices. Students also engaged in discussions about academic programs and careers with representatives from Regions Bank, The Network for Economic Opportunity, Claude Beane Body Shop, College Track, Delgado Community College, and many more.

Attendees also participated in dining etiquette and event production activities hosted by Dooky Chase Restaurant, located in the Tremé neighborhood.



*Students meet with representatives from Xavier University and Southern University at New Orleans*

# OLD FLORIDA BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED

HANO kicks off demolition of townhomes and duplex structures on the former site



*Demolition of the remaining Florida buildings*

Unoccupied since Hurricane Katrina, the blighted remains of the former Florida Public Housing Development are finally coming down. HANO began the demolition of the remaining 77 townhome units and 25 duplex building structures on the site after receiving approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Special Application Center (SAC) in December 2013, and demolition work is expected to be completed by May 2015.

In 2001, HANO demolished a portion of the Florida buildings and kicked off a \$23 million redevelopment plan for the housing development. One hundred and twenty-seven units were completed and occupied by 2004, but the units were severely damaged as a result of Hurricane Katrina, halting the plans for continued redevelopment.

While the old Florida buildings remained vacant, local artist Brandan Odums brought new life to the blighted remains in August 2013. Known as "Project Be," Odums used the interior of the old Florida buildings as his canvas and painted graffiti-style portraits of civil rights activists on the walls. Prior to the demolition of the Florida buildings, Harold Sylvester, an actor and New Orleans native, funded the removal and preservation of the extraordinary artwork that has been featured by several media outlets.

Adjacent to the former Florida Housing Development,

the construction of 51 new affordable housing units and a management office is nearing completion. Construction at the new community was funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and HANO's Capital Fund Program.



*The new site of the Florida community*

# COLUMBIA PARC CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Columbia Parc highlights the various housing options and amenities offered to its residents

*Written by JT Hannan*

*Director of Public & Governmental Affairs  
The Bayou District Foundation*

**C**olumbia Parc at the Bayou District, a mixed-income residential community which is a partnership of HANO, Bayou District Foundation and Columbia Residential, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary in operation in February.

In 2010, Columbia Parc opened with 466 housing units and was also the largest Low Income Tax Credit transaction in U.S. history. Since its opening, Columbia Parc has provided 217 additional housing units to its residents, including the stunning 121-unit Heritage Senior Housing at Columbia Parc. The community consists of 683 apartment units. Complementing the housing are 10 newly constructed city streets to link Columbia Parc to the surrounding area, a swimming pool, two theaters, three playgrounds, two business centers with fully outfitted computer labs, a play field, and community garden.

Columbia Parc secured the Libby Milton Champion for Children Award in 2010, Affordable Housing Project of the Year in 2011 by National Homebuilders Association, the Charles Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award in 2011, the Multi-Housing Pro-Pillar Industry Award in 2012, and the Zurich Cares Award in 2014.

Major additions to Columbia Parc have included the development of Educare New Orleans, an early childhood education center operated by Kingsley House on St. Bernard Avenue. Educare hosts 167 children in an 11 month, full day early childhood education program. This community houses the first Educare in the southern United States, and also is the 19th in a national network of 20 Educare facilities. St.



*Educare at Columbia Parc*



*Columbia Parc at the Bayou District*

Thomas Health opened a neighborhood medical clinic in Columbia Parc in 2014, and is already seeing record numbers of patients and families. In addition, Bayou District Foundation is making excellent progress on the development of a K-8 grade school, and McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School is scheduled to open near Columbia Parc in August 2015.

The community continues to have an outstanding safety record and is known as a wonderful, family friendly neighborhood. It has hosted over 50 U.S. cities and six foreign nations as other communities look to New Orleans as a model for neighborhood development.

Columbia management looks forward to continued success and the development of additional amenities for the residents of the community, and the surrounding neighborhoods in the years to come.



*St. Thomas Health Clinic in the Columbia Parc community*

# SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Residents and staff celebrate the 2014 holiday season

**D**uring the 2014 holiday season, families from the Fischer community were treated to special surprises and gifts in celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Eric Gordon of the New Orleans Pelicans hosted a Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Gordon along with the Pelicans cheerleaders distributed turkey dinners to 30 Fischer families. Each family received a reusable Winn Dixie bag which included a turkey, four cans of vegetables, and a pumpkin pie. Gordon also distributed tickets to a December Pelicans game against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Following the turkey giveaway, Fischer families enjoyed a bingo game at the Fischer Senior Village Community

Center, while Gordon called out the lucky winning numbers. Prizes included two pairs of Gordon's sneakers and a basketball jersey signed by the NBA star.



*A Fischer resident pictured with New Orleans Pelicans player Eric Gordon after winning a prize*

In December, Fischer also held a breakfast and dinner with Santa Claus for 20 young girls at the Fischer Senior Village Community Center. During their day with Santa, the girls took pictures and also

participated in a number of holiday-themed games. Their special day ended with a Christmas story told by Santa Claus.

Seniors in Fischer and Guste also celebrated the holidays with a wreath decorating class hosted by the Guste Resident Management Council (RMC). Twenty seniors created festive holiday wreaths for their doors in an effort to spread holiday cheer to their neighbors. Thanks to the Guste RMC, Fischer and Guste seniors were provided with all of the supplies needed to make their holiday wreath, and were also served lunch at the end of the class.

Employees at HANO delivered the spirit of Christmas to less fortunate children in Orleans Parish through the Toys for Tots Program. Throughout the months of November

and December, employees donated new, unwrapped toys for local children to celebrate Christmas. Employees donated board games, a drum set, wooden foosball table, activity building blocks, action figures, drawing supplies, and much more.



*Fischer and Lafitte seniors participate in a wreath decorating class*



*Young girls from Fischer tell Santa Claus about their holiday wish list*



*HANO employees donate toys to the 2014 Toys for Tots Drive*

# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



*A youth choir sings "Lift Every Voice and Sing" during the program (Photo Credit: The Estates)*

To observe Black History Month, The Estates case management staff hosted a program, "The Black Community – Where do we go from here?," in celebration of the many achievements and contributions of influential African Americans.

"Black History Month programs provide children with a view of the sacrifices and successes of those that came before them. In order to appreciate becoming a lawyer, they have to know the journey of Thurgood Marshall. In order to be an activist, they need to know the journey of

Dr. Martin Luther King," Case Manager Betty McGill said.

During the Black History program, 20 neighborhood youth paid homage to their predecessors with inspirational performances, including African dance, music, and spoken word. The program kicked off with three students discussing the impact of African American inventions in our country's history. A student also highlighted the accolades of educational activist Ruby Bridges after reading her life story and also meeting her personally. A youth choir closed the program on a moving note with a performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." As a result of their efforts, the New Orleans City Council issued a proclamation recognizing the program participants as African American Students of Promise of Desire.

Participating students from 9th to 12th grade also observed Black History Month by participating in an essay contest based on the theme of the program. For their participation, students received gift cards donated by Broadmoor, LLC and BRC & Associates. Refreshments were also donated by two local Subway franchises.

## LAFITTE'S SAVE OUR SONS INITIATIVE

*Written by Andreanecia M. Morris, Vice-President of Homeownership & Community Development at Providence Community Housing*

In partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Providence Community Housing hosted a Save Our Sons event at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center for over 30 sons and fathers in Faubourg Lafitte and the surrounding community. The purpose of the event was to strengthen bonds between fathers and sons, and to encourage them to spend quality time together.

"Save Our Sons is dedicated to affecting change in the young men of our community. Faubourg Lafitte is home to over 200 boys and young men, and Providence Enterprise and our youth service partners are taking every opportunity to engage the youth and give them access to opportunities," said Andreanecia M. Morris, Vice President of Homeownership and Community Development at Providence Community Housing.



*Members of the True Love Movement speak with a father from the Lafitte community (Photo Credit: Providence Community Housing)*

During the event, fathers and sons listened to inspirational speeches from Derek Shack and Willie Muhammad from the True Love Movement, a program that empowers African Americans to achieve optimal health and wellness through education and community activism. Shack spoke directly to the fathers on the role of the P.E.D.A.L (Protection, Education, Demonstration, Allegiance, and Love) model, which focuses on their relationship with their sons.

# CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

HANO PD Officer Emanuel Smith shares safety tips for the upcoming festival season and summer vacation

## Festival Safety Tips

Outdoor activities are now in full swing throughout the city. One of the most common outdoor activities for families is to enjoy local festivals. Festivals are full of fun-loving people who want to have a good time, but they are also considered targets for thieves and opportunists. During the festival season, the most common crime is theft, but attendees can also fall victim to assault. Here is a list of common safety tips provided by experienced festival organizers to help you have a relaxed and crime-free festival season.

## Personal Safety

- Festivals attract large crowds - do not get irritated by an accidental push or if someone steps on your toes
- Do not leave your drink unattended - soft drinks can be spiked as well
- Remember, alcohol or drugs can affect your ability to make safe judgements
- Completely charge your mobile phone to use in the case of an emergency
- Organize a meeting place with your family and friends to meet up at least three times during the event
- Do not flash your valuable items, and always keep them hidden - pick pocketing is very common at festivals
- Do not keep wallets or money in back pockets - place any valuable items in a pocket with a zipper

## Protecting Your Valuables

- Do not leave any valuables in your car
- Split your cash and cards into two separate compartments in the event that either is lost or stolen
- Bring only the cash or credit cards you need, and be certain to make a note of your bank's emergency number to call if your credit card is stolen

## Summer Vacation Safety Tips

The school year is almost over, and summer vacation is a couple of months away. For children and teens, summer time is often split between time home alone, working a summer job, hanging out with friends, or traveling. Even though their summer schedules may allow for more freedom than during the school year, young children and teens still need to follow the rules and understand that

negative choices will continue to bring negative consequences. Here are a few helpful tips to share with your children to keep them safe during their summer activities.

## Tips for Staying Safe When Home Alone

- Keep all doors closed and locked - an open door is an invitation for potential intruders
- Alert police on any unusual activity in your neighborhood
- If you use the internet, remember to engage in friendly and legal behavior - do not give any personal information, including your address or telephone number, to anyone you meet online
- Never disclose that you are home alone, and never let anyone into your home without your parent's permission - if an emergency occurs, call a trusted adult or law enforcement officer to help you

## Tips for Parents

- Provide a list of phone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends that your child can call during an emergency
- Require that your child check in with a parent before leaving the house and when returning home



*Keep an eye out for future issues of HANO news, the Crime Prevention Corner is a permanent feature educating readers on important safety tips.*



# GET PREPARED FOR THE 2015 HURRICANE SEASON

HANO provides hurricane preparedness tips for its residents

## BEFORE:

- **Prepare a plan**

Discuss evacuation plans with family.

- **Sign up for NOLA Ready text alerts**

To register, go to [www.nola.gov/ready/alert](http://www.nola.gov/ready/alert).

- **If eligible, sign up for the City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP)**

Dial 311 or (504) 658-2299.

For TTY, dial (504) 586-4475.

- **Research special needs assistance**

Consult physicians, counselors, home health care agencies, and service providers to arrange care for your evacuation needs. Remember to also arrange suitable transportation.

- **Don't forget your pets!**

Pack all necessities. Include up to date vaccination information.

## DURING:

- **You must evacuate if:**

Mayor declares a mandatory evacuation.

- **Pack a small emergency bag**

Include all necessary medications and prescriptions, identification, important papers, a few changes of clothing, and cash.

- **CAEP pick-up locations**

Dial 311 or (504) 658-2299.

Visit [www.nola.gov/ready/evacuspots](http://www.nola.gov/ready/evacuspots) for information.

- **For Your Information**

New Orleans Info Station: WWL (870 AM) and WLMG (101.9 FM)

Baton Rouge Info Station: WJBO (1150 AM) and WFME (102.5 FM)

Follow the blue evacuation route signs and head in the direction opposite of the storm track.

## Helpful Links...

City of New Orleans :: [www.nola.gov](http://www.nola.gov)

Sign up for Emergency Text Messages from the City of New Orleans ::  
<http://new.nola.gov/ready>

Get helpful tips on Emergency Preparedness :: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Download Contraflow Evacuation Maps :: [www.dotd.louisiana.gov](http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov)

Find information and federal resources on natural disasters ::  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

# Sign Up Tod@y!



Receive updates on  
HANO programs & services  
directly to your email!



Create an  
account  
& receive  
24-hour access  
to your  
information!

food, friends, fun!

## Free Summer Meals

All children 18 and under

No application required. Free breakfast and lunch served.

TEXT NOLAfood TO 877-877

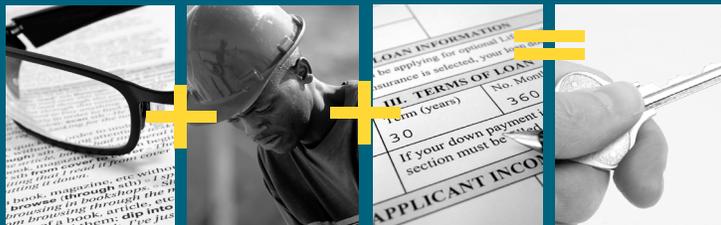
[NoKidHungry.org/NewOrleans](http://NoKidHungry.org/NewOrleans)

1-866-3 HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479)



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Main Office	(504) 670-3300
Harmony Oaks	(504) 894-8828
The Estates	(504) 940-3060
Faubourg Lafitte	1-855-523-4883
Guste Homes	(504) 529-3392
Marrero Commons	(504) 524-9011
Fischer Homes	(504) 266-2503
River Garden	(504) 412-8216
Columbia Parc	(504) 284-4769
Florida	(504) 821-8861
Scattered Sites	(504) 821-8861
HANO PD Hotline	(504) 670-3372
Public Housing Hotline	(504) 670-3446
HCVP Hotline	(504) 708-2800



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