

WINTER 2014

# HANO

## news



## BREAKING GROUND & CELEBRATING MILESTONES

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- HANO, HUD, State and City Celebrate Ground Breaking at Iberville
- Celebrating Milestones at Columbia Parc
- A New Beginning for the Florida Community

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*David Gilmore, Administrative Receiver*

Dear readers,

Thank you for picking up the Winter 2014 Edition of **HANO news**.

In this issue we highlight some impressive milestones achieved during the summer and fall months of 2013. From groundbreaking to grand openings HANO continues to build more sustainable communities as part of an extensive redevelopment plan.

We were excited to commemorate the start of construction of the new Iberville community with a special visit from HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, linking this development and revitalization of Tremé to the rejuvenation of downtown New Orleans.

Community leaders joined us to break ground at what will be the new Florida, signifying the start of construction after intense encouragement from former residents to bring their neighborhood back, and kicked off the much anticipated construction of Guste III.

Columbia Parc residents danced to the Rebirth Brass Band to celebrate the grand opening of Heritage Senior Residences. This facility gives our seniors a home equipped with an array of amenities specifically designed for them. The community also launched Educare New Orleans, the newest addition to the National Educare Learning Network focused on providing academics for at-risk youth and distinguished as the first of its kind in Louisiana and in the Gulf South Region.

It is not only important to build modern, sustainable and energy efficient communities, but to provide the necessary community supportive services accessible to all residents. In this edition we also highlight the success of our after school programs, homeownership and resource informational fairs hosted by the agency, and honor the life and service of Ms. Lillie Walker Woodfork; one of our great resident leaders who we miss dearly.

We are equally excited to announce that HANO scored as a standard performer in the Section 8 Management Assessment Program for two consecutive years, and initiated the sale of over 100 scattered site properties with hopes of returning them to commerce to provide more affordable housing throughout the City.

As always, I want to pay tribute to the extraordinary group of resident leaders who are our partners in everything we do. None of these accomplishments happens without them. I also want to salute one of the hardest working staffs I have every been associated with in my career. Thanks to you all.

But as you've heard me say in the past, our work is not complete. With many milestones left to achieve, we thank you for your patience and appreciate the trust instilled in us to make this agency the best that it can be and the most efficiently operating housing authority.

*—David Gilmore*



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# HANO, HUD, STATE AND CITY BREAK GROUND AT IBERVILLE

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan joins state and city leaders at groundbreaking ceremony

After two years of team planning meetings, public consultation, and the completion of the environmental and Section 106 historic review process, former residents and community leaders are celebrating the beginning of construction of the new Iberville neighborhood.

Demolition of 59 of the 75 buildings commenced in September, and a groundbreaking ceremony was held in October. Administrative Receiver David Gilmore joined Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan to celebrate the beginning of the full transformation of the Iberville Public Housing Development. “President Obama told



*Demolition of Iberville buildings*



*Receiver Gilmore greets Secretary Donovan*

us that New Orleans had to be a priority for this administration,” said Secretary Donovan. “I knew we had an opportunity to do something special and make sure that Iberville became the community that it should be, and that the residents deserve. This really is a great chapter in one of the greatest comeback stories in the history of this country.”

Mayor Landrieu, along with State of Louisiana Commissioner of Administration Kristi Nichols, Rochelle Trotter of the Iberville

Resident Working Team, New Orleans City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, and District “C” Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer offered remarks focused on the future of Iberville and its connection to redevelopment in the downtown New Orleans area.

“The revitalization of the Iberville housing site and the implementation of HUD’s \$30.5 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative will reenergize Iberville and Tremé,” said Mayor Landrieu. “The construction of new low, moderate, and market rate housing complete with retail, school, and public space improvements will strengthen these important neighborhoods that are at the heart of our city. By connecting residents with wrap around services like high quality resources,



*Construction at 1501 Canal Street*



*Rebirth Brass Band participates in Iberville Groundbreaking Ceremony*



*Former Iberville residents and Iberville Resident Working Team members Rochelle Trotter and Cody Marshall speak with Secretary Donovan*

programs, and training in workforce development, education, health, and transit, New Orleans will stand as a national model for redeveloping urban neighborhoods. This project will create better housing, safer streets, and economic development.”

“The exciting thing about this project is that it is a major link to the larger aim - the rejuvenation of downtown New Orleans on and about Canal Street and through to the historic Tremé community,” said Receiver Gilmore. “The potential is almost beyond imagination and the CNI grant helps transport that potential closer to reality. That’s why this wonderful program was created in the first place and no other city deserves it more or will make better use of it than New Orleans. I’m proud to have been a part of it.”

During the event, Rochelle Trotter, a former resident of Iberville and a member of the Iberville Resident Working Team, thanked Secretary Donovan and Receiver Gilmore for the opportunity to fully participate in the planning and design process. “Mr. Gilmore, you told us that it would be hard, it has been hard, but it has also been fair and I thank you very much for all of the time we’ve shared to turn Iberville into a great community,” said Trotter.

The \$30.5 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) grant was awarded to HANO and the City of New Orleans to transform Iberville, replacing all 821 dwelling units both on-site and in the surrounding neighborhood. Phase I and II of the onsite redevelopment plan include 227 mixed-income rental units; 81 public housing, 49 workforce and 97 market rate. The plan also includes the soon to be completed elderly-only 112 unit facility located at 1501 Canal Street, and the revitalization of Tremé. HANO and the City will also preserve up to 16 of the original buildings on site. To date, 19 buildings have been demolished and eight have been preserved.



*Secretary Donovan and Mayor Landrieu pictured with HANO Resident Leaders*



*Receiver Gilmore speaks with City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson*

# CELEBRATING MILESTONES AT COLUMBIA PARC

New early learning school launched and elderly-only building completed



*Educare New Orleans*

**R**esidents of Columbia Parc at the Bayou District and the surrounding Gentilly neighborhood are celebrating two significant milestones as an Atlanta-based developer continues the quest to build the most inclusive community of its kind in New Orleans.

In October, Columbia Parc launched Educare New Orleans as part of a nationally-acclaimed early learning school, using evidence-based strategies to prepare 150 at-risk young children and their families for academic success.

Kicking off the first school year fully enrolled, the facility is open to Columbia Parc residents and neighbors. “Educare facilities normally would not open fully enrolled, but the need was so great in this community that we were able to fill the slots quickly,” said Educare School Director Rafel Hart.

Educare New Orleans is the first of its kind in Louisiana and in the southern region of the United States. The 27,000-square-foot facility sits in a combination of newly built structures, and three former St. Bernard Public Housing Development buildings, which were provided by the Housing Authority of New Orleans. HANO contributed \$3 million to renovate the old buildings from top to bottom, providing a safe learning environment for program participants.

“This facility sends a clear message of the importance of making a significant investment in early childhood education,” said Hart. “The aesthetics and size of the

building along with our 33 very capable teachers and three master teachers provide strong elements of the Educare program.” Educare utilizes what is called a “creative” curriculum, which includes heavily researched-based strategies that allow teachers to adjust daily lessons according to the expressed interest of the children.

“The power of the Educare model is derived from core features working together in a comprehensive, intentional and sustained way



*An Educare teacher reads a book to a four year old student*

to achieve a high-quality early childhood learning experience that helps children from birth to age 5 grow up safe, healthy and ready and eager to learn,” said Educare New Orleans Chairman Gerard Barousse, Jr.

HANO and the Bayou District Foundation, along with The Educare Learning Network, The Buffett Early Learning Fund, Kinsley House, Total Community Action, Kellogg Foundation, Bounce Early Learning Network, Capital One Bank, and Weinberg Foundation partnered to open the new \$9 million facility.

Educare New Orleans, one of 19 schools in the national Educare Learning Network, is managed by Kinsley House. The facility offers classroom slots for 32 children between the ages of 0-3 years, and 118 slots for children ages 3-5.

Columbia Parc also plans to break ground on an adjacent Kindergarten-through-eighth grade charter school with hopes of making academics the center of the community.

In December, the community also celebrated the grand opening of Heritage Senior Residences. The new building, owned by HANO and managed by Columbia Residential, adds 120 elderly-only homes to Columbia

Parc.

Administrative Receiver David Gilmore, Mayor Mitchell Landrieu, Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, State Representative Jared Brossett, FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Robinson, and Noel Khalil, founder and CEO of Columbia Residential, were on hand to cut a bright yellow ribbon symbolizing the grand opening of what resident Marie Collins calls “a New Orleans legacy.”



*State and local officials join Heritage Senior resident Collins for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Heritage Senior Residences*

“This is a modern structure with beautiful architecture and New Orleans flavor that is all its own,” said Ms. Collins. “This facility is second to none, and what was once considered an eyesore is now a focal point that enhances this entire area.”

Heritage, located at the north end of Columbia Parc, provides an array of amenities for senior residents



*Heritage Senior Residences*

offered by Kingsley House and The Council on Aging. The residents have immediate access to social services that support recreational and physical fitness, health and dental care programs, congregate dining services, educational trainings, and senior-focused activities. The facility houses a private movie theater, community room with warming kitchen, and fitness center with a Wii room for virtual fun!

Each pristine apartment is equipped with Energy Star and LEED Certified appliances to ensure water and energy efficiency. The one and two-bedroom homes are set within three cottage buildings and one larger multi-family building. Each resident has a private front porch and balcony and access-controlled vehicle parking.

# SCATTERED SITES UP FOR SALE

**H**ANO recently moved to decrease its scattered site property portfolio after issuing a Request for Bids (RFB) in October to sell over 100 properties located throughout the City.

HANO issued the RFB for the individual and cluster sale of 107 properties, some of which are vacant lots and others containing boarded-up buildings. The agency received bids on 86 of the 107 properties. Forty-five bids were received for 32 individual properties and 13 property clusters. The agency solicited affordable and/or market housing bids. Of the 86 properties that received bids, 38 or 44 percent received bids for affordable housing redevelopment. Another 48 or 56 percent received bids for market rate development.

Administrative Receiver David Gilmore estimates that the agency stands to profit about \$1.48 million in revenue from the sale of the scattered sites. “The solicitation process to sell hundreds of properties scattered throughout New Orleans was a very complicated but a highly successful process,” said Administrative Receiver David Gilmore. “This is a major accomplishment for HANO, and we are now focused on executing several sales transactions as soon as possible.”

The highest bidders received letters from HANO alerting them of their award. They are required to provide a down payment of 10 percent of the purchase price of each property, and will sign a Conditional Sales Agreement. Property closings will be scheduled following the negotiation of an Agreement to Purchase and Sell.

For buyers proposing affordable housing development, the highest bidder will also have to deposit the difference between their winning bid prices and the greater of the full fair market value or highest market bid received, plus one dollar. The winning bids must show affordable housing financing commitments for the awarded property within 12 months of the sale, or they will lose the escrowed funding.

Crescent Affordable Housing Corporation, a subsidiary of HANO that stands to bring in \$1.3 million in revenue, recently solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the sale of the Mazant Royal property located in the Ninth Ward Bywater area of New Orleans. Five proposals were received for mixed-income residential redevelopment.

# 2013 NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

HANO communities and neighbors joined forces with the NOPD for the 30th Annual Night Out Against Crime to forge police-community partnerships and decrease criminal activity throughout the City. The Guste community began the evening with a "Walk for the Cure" in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month followed by a balloon release by participants at the finish line. In Gentilly, Columbia Parc joined in the Night Out festivities with live jazz entertainment for the adults and Bayou Games for the children. Other HANO communities, such as B.W. Cooper/ Marrero Commons, Faubourg Lafitte, Harmony Oaks, Fischer, and River Gardens also hosted Night Out events to meet and greet with NOPD and HANO PD officers.



# AFTER SCHOOL

HANO communities kick off programs for youth

As the 2013-2014 school year began, seven HANO communities continue to provide after school enrichment programs for over 100 students across the City. HANO sites offer after school programs to youth between the ages of five and fourteen years old,



*Fischer After School Program:  
Photo by Fischer Community Center*

and provide a variety of educational and extracurricular activities. “It is important for our agency to assist students in academic activities necessary to keep them active and productive after the school day comes to an end,” said Administrative Receiver David Gilmore. “Our Client Services Department recognizes the need for such programs and works directly with site managers and community supportive services contractors to make sure that they are not only academically challenging but also include extracurricular activities to keep the students engaged and excited.”

Each site assists 30 students daily within the afterschool program. They not only offer after school assistance to children on site, but also to children in the surrounding community.



*African Dance class at Lafitte:  
Photo by Providence Community Housing*

“Although every student responds to the program differently, they are all surging forward in their studies. Some participants work on their homework assignments while others have shown an interest in becoming more physically active,” said director of the after school program at River Gardens Brandt Lewis. “Ultimately, the program gives the students opportunities to develop an identity and

express themselves.”

For the 2013-2014 school year, River Garden, The Estates, Fischer, B.W. Cooper/Marrero Commons, and Iberville offer after school tutoring, homework assistance, and study



*River Garden After School Tutoring Program:  
Photo by River Garden*

group sessions to the students. Faubourg Lafitte and Columbia Parc encourage participation in extracurricular activities, including sports, band, dance, and drama. Other HANO communities offer exercise classes, martial arts, gymnastics, cheerleading and much more.

For more information about HANO’s after school enrichment program, contact the Department of Client Services at (504) 670-3300.



*Fischer After School Program:  
Photo by Fischer Community Center*

# A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE FLORIDA COMMUNITY

Receiver Gilmore joins state and local officials to break ground in the Ninth Ward



*The new Florida Community Groundbreaking Ceremony*

**A**s former residents and community leaders of the Ninth Ward gathered at the site of the old Florida Housing Development, shovels were lifted and dirt was turned over to symbolize a new beginning. In July, HANO Administrative Receiver David Gilmore was joined by Deputy Mayor Cedric S. Grant, Louisiana State Senator Edwin R. Murray, New Orleans City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, New Orleans City Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, State Representative Jared Brossett, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Louisiana Recovery Office Executive Director Mike Womack, Resident Leader Dianne Conerly, and a host of community leaders to celebrate the beginning of construction.

"This is truly a momentous event made possible only due to the strong support from the former residents," said Administrative Receiver David Gilmore. "Their patience,

encouragement and diligence have made the redevelopment of this community that has been vacant since Hurricane Katrina into a reality, and I want to thank the residents for standing firm on the need to return Florida to this neighborhood."

After several years of lobbying with past HANO administrations, resident leaders expressed great demand and enthusiasm to redevelop Florida. HANO held consultation meetings with former residents of the community in January and October of 2012 encouraging the approval from Receiver Gilmore to move forward with the plans to bring the community back.

"We are all very excited about this project and have been waiting a long time to start construction on our new homes," said Florida Resident Leader Dianne Conerly. "This event marks our homecoming."

In March, HANO contracted Parkcrest Builders, LLC to redevelop the community utilizing the agency's Capital Fund Program and FEMA dollars. HANO worked diligently with FEMA to identify redevelopment opportunities at the "Big Four" properties and other HANO sites impacted by Hurricane Katrina. FEMA contributed \$6.6 million to construct new affordable housing units in the Florida community. The project cost



*Construction at the new Florida community*

is estimated at approximately \$14 million.

“We are proud to contribute public assistance dollars to support a project that will provide affordable homes for the residents of this community,” said FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office Executive Director, Mike Womack. “As projects like these move forward, New Orleans families continue on the path toward recovery.”

The new site will include 51 affordable housing units and a management office within 26 duplex structures. Each one, two, and three bedroom homes will contain Energy Star appliances, will be pre-wired for cable and wireless internet services, and include energy efficient storm windows and insulated doors. More than five percent have been designated for disabled residents.

“I’m happy construction is starting at the Florida Housing Development to allow residents to return to their community,” said Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell. “As an educator, I’m excited that these units will be wired for high-speed internet; enhancing access to information is key to helping our children feed their curiosity. I’m also happy that these quality homes will have Energy Star rated appliances and insulation. Not only does this promote environmental sustainability, but it also reduces utility costs, promoting fiscal sustainability for the families.”

Florida, a former 734 unit public housing development, was originally built in 1946 and consisted of two and three story brick buildings constructed around large public courtyards. In 2001, HANO demolished a portion of the Florida buildings and kicked off a \$23 million redevelopment plan. One hundred twenty-seven units were completed and occupied by 2004, but the units were severely damaged due to Hurricane Katrina. Plans for further development were halted at that time.

Construction of the new units is estimated to be completed by summer 2014.



*Construction at the new Florida community*



*All For One Brass Band entertains attendees*



*Florida Resident Leader Dianne Conerly celebrates with New Orleans City Council President Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson*



*The new Florida Community Rendering  
Photo by Perez, APC*

# CALLIOPE THROUGH THE YEARS

HANO celebrates the rich history of the former Calliope Housing Development through exhibit and film



An attendee views the “Beyond the Bricks: A History of the Calliope Housing Development” exhibit

Last summer, Administrative Receiver David Gilmore joined former residents of the B. W. Cooper Public Housing Development along with KBK Enterprises, McCormack Baron Salazar and community leaders at the Ashé Cultural Arts Center to preview an oral history project exhibition and documentary highlighting the past, present and future of what was once called “the Calliope.”

In 2007, HANO and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made the decision to demolish the historic “Big Four” public housing developments in New Orleans, and to redevelop them into more sustainable, mixed-income and mixed-use communities. As a result of negotiations between HANO, HUD, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and local stakeholders, each HANO housing development was required to conduct an oral history project.

The project primarily focuses on the rich and deep history of the Calliope Housing Development through photography and film. The exhibit, “Beyond These Bricks: A History of the Calliope Housing Development,” recounts impactful historical events, from its inception in 1939 to its renaming to B.W. Cooper in 1981 and its transformation post-Katrina to the new Marrero Commons. Other subjects covered included the history of public housing and architecture, life and culture in the early years of the Calliope, noteworthy residents, and the challenges associated with demolition and re-building. The accompanying film, *To Me It Will Always Be*

*the Calliope*, also details the history and significance of the Calliope using oral history interviews to weave the story together.

Donna Johnigan, longtime resident of B.W. Cooper since 1970, says that this project is an important part of the entire redevelopment and transition to the new community of Marrero Commons. “We have to know our history and the changes that have occurred throughout the years, but we also need to understand that this will always be the Calliope to us,” said Johnigan. “The residents have shed a lot of sweat and tears to advocate for change, and are proud of the vital role that they will continue to play in the redevelopment by utilizing their own hands to rebuild this community. Our young men and women will leave a legacy because of the HANO and Section 3 program.”

The exhibition was developed, in part, from over fourteen interviews of past and present residents that were videotaped in 2011 and 2012. DLJ Consulting of Washington, D.C. was responsible for managing and producing the project. Dillard University provided four student interns to assist with the videotaped interviews and historical research. HANO played a significant role in researching and documenting the development’s history.

“Beyond These Bricks” will permanently reside on display at Marrero Commons. The oral history interviews and the film will be archived at the Louisiana State Museum located at 751 Chartres Street.



Members of the Cooper family proudly pose beside a plaque dedicated to the late Benjamin W. Cooper (Photo by KBK Enterprises)

# CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT GUSTE

In a Central City neighborhood, residents of Guste Homes are witnessing the completion of the site's redevelopment.

In December Parkcrest Builders, LLC began the vertical construction of 155 new units at Guste Homes as a part of phase III of the redevelopment plan. The \$50 million project is funded by a combination of HANO and FEMA dollars along with tax-exempt bonds and tax credit equity.

When it was time to plan for the completion of the Guste community, Resident Leader and President of Guste Homes Resident Management Corporation Cynthia Wiggins was anxious to meet with HANO and Parkcrest to discuss specific details on architectural design, bedroom size, flooring and landscaping.

“Some of our current residents in Guste I and II which were recently rebuilt have offered suggestions as to how to make it a better living environment,” said Ms. Wiggins. “I want Guste Homes to have the look of a cohesive community and not something you pass by and still view as a project. When we are finished, visitors will want to know the name of this community as they would when they pass along the French Quarter, Tremé, St. Charles Avenue, and the Garden District.”

Sophia Washington, a long time resident of Guste Homes, was overwhelmed with joy and emotion when she heard the talk of redevelopment of a community that she lived in most of her life. “I love Guste. My mom is a part of Guste, and we can't wait to see what our new community will look like when it is finished,” said Ms. Washington. Her mom moved into the Guste High-rise in the 1960's and has been a resident ever since she was eight years old.

Other former residents are also looking forward to moving back into the community, and have offered their design opinions. “We have received a large volume of calls from previous residents who want to come back, especially after seeing the completion of the second phase, which is what they love the most,” said Wiggins. “They want Guste to look more like a community rather than apartments.” HANO is also planning a multi-



*The site of the new Guste III Community*

family building and a community center within the neighborhood.

Phase III will include duplex and townhome units with Energy Star Appliances and washers and dryers. The units will be pre-wired for cable and internet, and will have ceramic tile bathroom floors. The one, two, three and four bedroom homes are designed as New Orleans traditionally styled architecture with large porches and narrow tree-lined streets. Construction on Guste III is expected to be completed by April 2015.



*Rendering of Guste III (Photo by Perez, APC.)*

# IN MEMORIAM

Lillie Walker Woodfork, the former resident leader for HANO's scattered site properties, entered into eternal rest on October 7, 2013.

Ms. Lillie was a much-loved and respected presence around the HANO building, especially at the board meetings where it was her nature to "tell it like it is." No matter the issue, her first concern was always HANO residents. She was steadfast in protecting them against those she believed were not acting in their best interest, and was always quite loving and respectful toward those who got it right.

Ms. Lillie was also a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is survived and remembered by a host of relatives and friends, and the HANO community at large.

God speed, Ms. Lillie!



# SANTA WITH THE SMITHS

Kingsley House joins forces with New Orleans Saints' Will Smith to spread holiday cheer



Smith and his wife, Racquel, with Columbia Parc resident Tasha and her daughter, Dominique  
Photo by Terrell Haynes

Families from Columbia Parc receive a surprise gift from New Orleans Saints Player Will Smith. Kingsley House partnered with Smith and his wife, Racquel, to assist families in need as part of their annual “Santa with the Smiths” holiday event at the Saints Training Facility.

Kingsley House’s Community Supportive Services Program selected twenty families from Columbia Parc to participate in the event, and also requested each family to create a wish list for Christmas.

During the event, the families were treated to a holiday feast in the Saints cafeteria, a private tour of the Saints Training Facility, pictures with Santa, and loads of gifts.

Thanks to Kingsley House, 18 families from Columbia Parc received financial assistance from Capital One Bank to end the year, four families received Christmas surprises from the Kingsley House Leadership group along with partners of Kingsley House, and four families were treated to a Christmas dinner sponsored by the United Way of Greater New Orleans.

Visit [www.KingsleyHouse.org](http://www.KingsleyHouse.org) for more information.

## RESOURCE & INFORMATION FAIR

Promoting upcoming job and training opportunities for HANO residents

In December, HANO, in conjunction with Urban Strategies, Inc. and the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, hosted the Resource and Information Fair at the Tremé Recreation Center. The fair connected public housing and Housing Choice Voucher participants to representatives from construction companies, training providers, and community supportive services.

A number of construction companies, such as Durr Heavy Construction and Woodward Design + Build, were on hand for one-on-one discussions, and to promote upcoming employment and training opportunities. Training providers, including Urban Strategies and Delgado Community College, offered assistance in training opportunities focused on workforce development and technical education.

Attendees also participated in various seminars. Topics covered included enhancing job and interview skills, business opportunities, and much more.



Homeownership Counselor Audrey Williams and Carol Griffin speak with fair attendee

# HANO PARTICIPATES IN HOUSING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

Agency utilizes local outreach opportunities to promote Homeownership Program

**O**n September 28, HANO took part in Dillard University's 7th Annual Housing and Home Improvement Fair to promote the agency's Homeownership Program to public housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) participants.

Meeting with over 50 attendees, HANO's Client Services Department utilized the fair as an opportunity to inform HANO residents about the importance of homeownership, and the valuable technical and financial resources offered by the staff throughout the home buying process.

"HANO's Client Services Department and Homeownership Department participated in the housing fair as an additional mechanism to reach more clients and to further assist the population we serve," said Client Services Director Dawn Domengeaux.

Since 2001, HANO's Homeownership Program has assisted 295 families in becoming first-time homebuyers. This number includes 186 HCVP participants and 30



*Counselors in the Homeownership Department speak with attendee*

families utilizing the Public Housing program, as well as 79 families assisted through other homeownership and development programs. Last year, HANO assisted 32 families in purchasing their homes.

For more information on how to become a first-time home buyer or to view the homeownership brochure, visit [www.HANO.org](http://www.HANO.org).

## INTERGENERATIONAL GARDEN

Forging partnerships between Faubourg Lafitte residents young and old



*The Lafitte Greenway  
Photo by Austin Shea*

Gardening has a rich tradition in the Faubourg Lafitte community, and as the summer of 2013 ended, resident leaders began a number of green space projects to pass along the art of gardening to the community's youth.

Lafitte residents young and old, and California volunteers worked together to build the first community garden on the Lafitte Greenway at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. The new intergenerational edible garden is the work of the Faubourg Lafitte Tenant Association leaders, who strive to bring seniors and youth

living in the Lafitte community together around food-growing on the Greenway.

Last August, 20 volunteers from local tree-planting non-profit, Hike for KaTREENa, helped Lafitte seniors and youth build six raised gardening beds. The wooden beds in varying heights accommodate both small children and wheelchair bound seniors to tend the garden.

The following month, Lafitte's Tenant Association worked with the students in the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center's after school program to plant new beds of vegetables, including mustard greens, broccoli, eggplant and tomatoes.

To learn more about the Lafitte Greenway, visit [www.faubourglafitte.com](http://www.faubourglafitte.com).

# CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

Captain Granetta Harris of HANO PD shares tips on protecting your home from a burglary

**B**urglary is one of the most common crimes impacting homes today. According to the United States Department of Justice, a burglary is committed every 15 seconds.

When you become a victim of burglary, you not only lose many valuable possessions, but it also has an impact on your sense of safety and well being. Here are some tips to boost your home security:

## 1. Do Not Advertise Leaving Your Home

Before a burglar commits a break-in, they usually choose a home with no visible activity. The key is to make your house appear occupied while traveling, and as a result most burglars will simply bypass it. To make your home less vulnerable to a burglary, remember to lower the volume of your telephone ringer and forward all calls to your cell phone.

If you plan to travel for more than one day, ask a friend, family member, or a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and newspapers. In addition, ask them to place your trash can on the curb on trash day and to remove it once it is emptied. Also remember to never leave notes on the door as this may serve as a sign of a vacant home.

## 2. Make a Break-In More of a Challenge for Burglars

Prior to a break-in, a burglar always looks for easily accessible homes. The harder it is for a burglar to get into your home, the less likely they are to burglarize it. Remember to always keep your home secure by never leaving doors or windows unlocked. More importantly, never hide a key to your house outside where it can be easily found. Homeowners should consider installing window stops that prevent them from being opened more than six inches. If your home has sliding glass patio doors, use a metal or wooden rod in the track to prevent them from sliding open.

The exterior of your home should also be protected from potential intruders. Never leave a ladder that can access the roof or a second story window visible outside or in an unlocked shed. To avoid the possibility of potential thieves hiding behind trees and shrubs, remove tree limbs that hang over the roof or lower branches next to your

home. Also, trim or remove any shrubbery next to doors or windows. Always use outside security lighting to illuminate every access door. The main entrance should be lit with a fixture that has two light bulbs just in case one bulb burns out.

## 3. Get to Know Your Neighbors

The best home security comes from neighbors who look out for one another. Make an effort to meet your neighbors so that they can keep an eye on your home while you are away.

If your neighborhood does not already have a neighborhood watch program, consider organizing a watch group. The HANO Police Department can assist in the planning and organization of a neighborhood watch program.

To anonymously report a crime, please call the HANO Police Hotline at (504) 670-3372.



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

# SUMMER 2013 AT A GLANCE

## HANO SUMMER CAMPS



*A Lafitte summer camp participant practices on a drum*



*Summer camp participants at B.W. Cooper stay cool with water activities and games*



*Young campers participate in B.W. Cooper's Family and Friends Day*



*Youth at the Lafitte summer camp learn basic cheerleading and dance techniques*



*The Estates' campers showcase their talents to close camp activities*



## HANO SUMMER CAMP GAMES



Campers from B.W. Cooper and Fischer compete in sack race



Young campers participate in the egg relay race



HANO Summer Camp Games Participants



Campers from HANO communities participate in a hoolah hoop competition

## URBAN LEAGUE HEAD START CENTER OPENING



Students enjoy a number of educational activities at the Urban League Head Start Center located in The Estates community



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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Main Office	(504) 670-3300
Harmony Oaks	(504) 894-8828
The Estates	(504) 940-3060
Iberville	(504) 529-1591
Faubourg Lafitte	1-855-523-4883
Guste Homes	(504) 529-3392
B.W. Cooper	(504) 821-5151
Marrero Commons	(504) 524-9011
Fischer Homes	(504) 266-2503
River Garden	(504) 412-8216
Columbia Parc	(504) 284-4769
Scattered Sites	(504) 529-1591
HANO PD Hotline	(504) 670-3372
Public Housing Hotline	(504) 670-3446
HCVP Hotline	(504) 708-2800



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