

WINTER 2020

HANO news



Bienville Basin Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Cultivating a New Vision for Housing and Self-Sufficiency

IN THIS ISSUE:

HANO, HRI, and City of New Orleans Cut Ribbon on Final On-Site Phase of Bienville Basin Community

Bell Artspace in the Tremé Receives 2019 Historic Preservation Award

HANO Welcomes New Members of Board of Commissioners

CONTENTS



- 3 Letter from the Executive Director
- 4 NAR-SAAH Brings More Than 300 Affordable Housing Advocates to New Orleans
- 4 Urban Strategies Hosts Choice Means Choice Conference in New Orleans
- 5 HANO, HRI, and City of New Orleans Cut Ribbon on Final On-Site Phase of Bienville Basin Community



- 6 Sacred Heart at St. Bernard Apartments Receive Enterprise Green Communities Certification
- 6 Bell Artspace in the Tremé Receives 2019 Historic Preservation Award
- 7 People's Health & Second Harvest Host Thanksgiving Dinner for Fischer Senior Residents



- 7 HANO Participates in Dillard's 13th Annual Housing Fair
- 7 Pictorial: 2019 Night Out Against Crime at HANO Sites
- 8 Pictorial: KIPP Believe Opens New Charter School at Columbia Parc
- 8 Bienville Basin Hosts Annual Health and Safety Fair



- 9 NORA, HANO & the City Partner with Home by Hand to Provide Homeownership Opportunities
- 10 Crime Prevention Corner: Mardi Gras Safety Guide
- 11 HANO Welcomes New Members of Board of Commissioners
- 11 HANO Programming Updates
- 11 Community Meetings Coming Soon & HANO Re-launches Website



HANO Executive Director Evette Hester

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

Thank you for picking up the Winter 2020 Edition of *HANO News*. As the new Executive Director of the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), I am delighted to publish the Agency’s first newsletter since transitioning into this new role. I am proud of the Agency’s accomplishments over the past year and equally excited about its direction. The new year brings robust goals to continue to move the agency forward.

Since my arrival in this city of great people, food and culture, the community has welcomed me with sincerity, graciousness and unwavering support. Along with expanding the affordable housing footprint, I am devoted to engaging community leaders, housing partners and other stakeholders on various issues to ensure that HANO delivers services based on the needs and desires of the community and leadership of the City.

While sharing thoughts and ideas about moving HANO to the next level, it was not surprising that community leaders, residents, stakeholders and HANO staff alike have a common vision, shared core values and a steadfast desire to address the growing needs of affordable housing. It was also commonly agreed that direction should have an emphasis on providing tangible opportunities for residents and participants that create self-worth and housing equity, promote economic mobility and begin the cycle of creating generational prosperity.

Our vision also embraces enhancing the internal and external customer experience utilizing technology, expanding partnerships and improving the HANO brand. As we continue along this vitally important pathway, I welcome your feedback and look forward to building stronger communities.

The foundation is already in place, but there is still much work ahead!

- Evette Hester



Evette Hester
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NAR-SAAH BRINGS MORE THAN 300 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATES TO NEW ORLEANS

More than 350 public and assisted housing advocates, tax credit sponsors, employees and government officials from across the nation traveled to New Orleans to attend the 2019 National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing (NAR-SAAH) Conference. The three-day conference themed ‘Willing, Ready, and Able’, offered attendees a six-hour training on the fundamentals of housing advocacy for commissioners, and twelve capacity building workshops. NAR-SAAH also hosted a series of resident caucuses or town hall meetings to develop a national taskforce to recommend amendments to HUD regulations.



HANO's Client Services Director Angela Harper pictured with NAR-SAAH Board of Directors

The conference also included a variety of sessions focused on the future of public housing, history of the resident empowerment movement, expansion of resident services, creation of jobs and business opportunities through Section 3, development of programs to serve elderly and disabled residents, provision of mental health necessities for families, and self-care for resident leaders and program staff. During the conference, HANO hosted a housing tour of Columbia Parc, Lafitte Senior and Bienville Basin communities.

As a part of the luncheon program, HANO's Client Services Department was honored with the Resident Services Program of the Year Award.

URBAN STRATEGIES HOSTS CHOICE MEANS CHOICE CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

In November, HANO participated in the Choice Means Choice Conference in New Orleans hosted by Urban Strategies, Inc. The three-day conference featured networking and professional development opportunities for Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) planning and implementation grantees.

HANO's CNI Administrator April Kennedy joined HUD's Deputy Director of Choice Neighborhoods Luci Blackburn, Ellen Lee from the City of New Orleans, Josh Collen of HRI Properties, and former Iberville resident Cody Marshall to lead a detailed discussion on the “ABC's of Housing: Bienville Basin Case Study.”

Urban Strategies, Inc., a national leader specializing in supportive services, provides development, planning, and strategy implementation as part of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization. The organization currently provides community supportive services to the residents of Harmony Oaks and Marrero Commons, and is a partner and service provider through HANO's CNI program at Bienville Basin.

For more information on Urban Strategies, visit www.urbanstrategiesinc.org.



HANO's CNI Administrator April Kennedy joined the City of New Orleans and HRI Properties to discuss the ABC's of CNI planning and implementation (Photo Credit: Urban Strategies Inc.)



Attendees visited the “Undesign The Redline” exhibit during the Choice Means Choice Conference (Photo Credit: Urban Strategies, Inc.)



HANO Executive Director Evette Hester, along with city, state, and federal officials and community leaders, celebrated the completion of the Bienville Basin community

HANO, HRI, AND CITY OF NEW ORLEANS CUT RIBBON ON FINAL ON-SITE PHASE OF BIENVILLE BASIN COMMUNITY

HANO Executive Director Evette Hester, along with city, state, and federal officials and community leaders, recently commemorated the completion of the mixed-income, mixed-use Bienville Basin community with a ribbon cutting at the former Iberville Public Housing development site.

The transformation of the former Iberville community was achieved through a public-private partnership with HANO, the City of New Orleans, and HRI Properties under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) \$30.5 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI). New Orleans was one of five cities to receive a CNI implementation grant in its inaugural round in 2011.

“The completion of Bienville Basin is an example of HANO’s commitment to creating healthy and sustainable

communities coupled with wrap-around supportive services for our residents,” said Hester. “We have an essential mission to provide affordable housing in New Orleans, and the completion of this journey that began in 2011 with the award of \$30.5 million through HUD’s CNI grant, solidifies our commitment and provides us with an opportunity to expand upon this success through our off-site housing component.”

Attendees toured the modern, energy-efficient community, which features 227 market rate apartments, 151 workforce housing units, and 304 public housing replacement units, including a 51-unit senior housing component.

Residents of Bienville Basin also enjoy a wide array of amenities, including three fitness centers, a computer learning center and outdoor technology patio powered by Dell, retail shops featuring a café and yoga studio, community

rooms, an early childhood reading room to promote youth literacy, an outdoor dining area including picnic benches, BBQ grills, food truck parking, gardens tied to nutritional education programs, two playgrounds, and off-street, gated parking. The entire neighborhood was also wired for fiber optics, offering the fastest internet and cable services in the city.

Financial partners of this redevelopment project include Louisiana Office of Community Development, Louisiana Housing Corporation, U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation, Stonehedge Capital, Boston Capital Finance, Barings Multifamily Capital, and Community Development Trust.

For more information on the Bienville Basin community, visit www.bienvillebasinapartments.com.

SACRED HEART AT ST. BERNARD APARTMENTS RECEIVE ENTERPRISE GREEN COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION



Sacred Heart at St. Bernard, a former church converted into affordable housing within the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) footprint, was awarded a Green Communities Certification from Enterprise Green Communities (EGC).

In order to achieve green status with EGC, the Sacred Heart Apartments were constructed with sustainable building materials and HVAC systems that provide excellent energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

Columbia Residential partnered with SK Collaborative to certify the 53-unit project under EGC, one of the strictest green rating systems in the country. The certification's standards include requirements under energy efficiency, operations, maintenance, resident engagement, materials, healthy living environment, site improvements, water conservation, integration in design, location, and neighborhood fabric.

BELL ARTSPACE IN THE TREMÉ RECEIVES 2019 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD



Representatives from Artspace, HANO, and the Louisiana Office of Community Development received the Historic Preservation Award; pictured with HUD Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public and Indian Housing R. Hunter Kurtz.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) announced Bell Artspace in the Tremé neighborhood as the recipient of the 2019 ACHP/HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

HANO, Artspace, and the Louisiana Office of Community Development were presented the award at a ceremony at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. This annual award recognizes developers, organizations, and agencies for their success in advancing the goals of historic preservation, while also providing affordable housing and/or expanded economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

Bell Artspace is a former middle school campus consisting of five Gothic Revival buildings, which sat abandoned and deteriorating for a decade after being devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

“Natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina do not have to mean the end for historic buildings like Bell Artspace campus,” ACHP Chairman Aimee Jorjani said. “Through strong community support

and valuable partnerships, Artspace was able to preserve the gorgeous historic architecture while creating affordable housing options for the creative sector.”

Construction at the Bell Artspace Campus began in April 2016, and was completed two years later at the cost of \$37.4 million. The new Bell Artspace facility consists of 60 affordable units for artists and 19 units for HANO residents. In addition, the community has 2,000 square feet of space for community, non-profit, and creative enterprise partners as well as green space.

Many sources of funding were utilized to complete the project, including the HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Loan, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Federal Historic Tax Credit, State Historic Credit, and a number of philanthropic and financing partners.

For more information on the Bell Artspace Community, visit <https://www.artspace.org/bell>.

PEOPLES HEALTH & SECOND HARVEST HOST THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR FISCHER SENIOR RESIDENTS



Peoples Health & Second Harvest hosted a festive holiday meal for senior residents in the Fischer community

During the holiday season, Peoples Health joined forces with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana to celebrate Thanksgiving with Fischer seniors.

Peoples Health volunteers served turkey dinners to 70 residents at the Fischer Senior Village. The turkey dinners

included cornbread stuffing, green beans, and butternut squash with cranberries.

“Peoples Health and Second Harvest are working together to combat food insecurity, especially during the holiday season,” said Peoples Health’s Director of Community Relations Leslie Louviere Keen. “For some seniors, the group meals provided through the Meals for Seniors program are an opportunity for much needed social engagement during the holiday season.”

Peoples Health is a proud sponsor of the 8th Annual Second Harvest Thanksgiving Meals for Seniors program, which provides traditional Thanksgiving meals to 6,000 needy seniors in the Greater New Orleans area. Meals are prepared at the food bank’s Community Kitchen and distributed to locations across the city.

HANO PARTICIPATES IN DILLARD’S 13TH ANNUAL HOUSING FAIR



HANO’s Homeownership Counselor Carol Griffin and FSS Coordinator Anjel Butler met with prospective candidates at Dillard’s 13th Annual Housing Fair

Last fall, HANO joined more than 70 vendors from housing, insurance, banking, and health care industries for Dillard University’s 13th Annual Housing, Health, and Community Resources Fair held at the Professional Schools Building.

Representatives from HANO’s

Client Services Department met with prospective applicants for the agency’s Homeownership and Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) programs to provide more resources and information. To date, the Homeownership Program has assisted 464 families in becoming first-time homebuyers. This number includes 342 HCVP participants and 31 families utilizing the public housing program, as well as 91 families assisted through other homeownership and development programs.

For more information on HANO’s Homeownership and FSS programs, visit www.HANO.org.



A resident shared her vision for a healthier environment in the Faubourg Lafitte Community



Residents of the Bienville Basin Community learned more about programs and events offered by the New Orleans Public Library



Senior residents in the Marrero Commons Community played bingo during the 2019 Night Out Against Crime

PICTORIAL: 2019 NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME AT HANO SITES



The new \$23.5M charter school has 42 classrooms, a cafeteria, gym, band and art rooms, science labs, and teacher work areas



A teacher assists a student at the KIPP Believe School in the Columbia Parc Community (Photo Credit: KIPP Believe)



KIPP Believe students pictured in the computer lab (Photo Credit: KIPP Believe)

PICTORIAL:

KIPP BELIEVE OPENS NEW CHARTER SCHOOL AT COLUMBIA PARC

BIENVILLE BASIN HOSTS ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR



A representative from Blue Bikes NOLA spoke with a Bienville Basin resident during the Health and Safety Fair

Recently, Urban Strategies, Inc. hosted its annual Health and Safety Fair at the Bienville Basin Community.

The fair kicked off with a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new playground in the Bienville Basin Community. The Housing Authority of New Orleans' Police Department joined youth in the community's After School Program to cut the ribbon on the playground.

The fair also offered a number of health and wellness resources to residents in the Bienville Basin Community. Representatives from Blue Bikes NOLA offered residents a healthy and affordable way to travel to work everyday. The New Orleans Public Library offered free computer classes and workforce development training to Bienville Basin residents. Other participating organizations included Bike Easy, Metropolitan Human Services District, and 504 Health Net.

For more information on the Bienville Basin Community, visit www.bienvillebasinapartments.com.



Youth enjoyed the new playground in the Bienville Basin Community



HANO PD and NOPD officers pictured with Bienville Basin Property Manager Valerie Miller

NORA, HANO & THE CITY PARTNER WITH HOME BY HAND TO PROVIDE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The mission of HANO expands far beyond providing affordable housing opportunities through the distribution of Section 8 vouchers and redevelopment of public housing units. It encompasses magnifying economic self-sufficiency for the more than 20,000 families served. Most recently, the agency assisted in celebrating a first-time homeowner in a cozy seventh ward neighborhood that is located within the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) trapezoid, and is part of the agency's transformation plan for the community.

Home By Hand has partnered with HANO, the City of New Orleans, Regions Bank, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA), and Colectivo to assist Christina Smothers in

purchasing her first home. Ms. Smothers and her daughter recently cut a ceremonial ribbon as part of a grand celebration, accomplished through the use of a joint 2016 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) grant for soft second mortgage dollars.

HANO's Board of Commissioners recently approved the sale and transfer of six scattered site properties to Home by Hand for 10 percent of the appraised value for each property to develop affordable homeownership opportunities.

Home By Hand is a local non-profit affordable housing developer that works to create neighborhoods of opportunity by redeveloping vacant and blighted properties throughout the city. The organization plans to construct two and

three bedroom single family homes, and will sell them to first-time homebuyers earning 80 percent or less of the Area Median Income (AMI). Public housing and Section 8 program participants will be given preference in purchasing these homes.

For more information, visit www.homebyhand.org.



NORD APP IS HERE!

- Access program schedules
- View class descriptions
- Receive alerts like cancellations, closures, etc.
- Find NORD locations near you
- FREE download for iOS and Android smart phones.

MARDI GRAS SAFETY GUIDE

The 2020 Carnival Season is in full swing across New Orleans! Whether you choose to attend parades on St. Charles Avenue or enjoy the festivities in the French Quarter, keep these safety tips in mind to have a fun and safe Mardi Gras:

TRAVELING TO THE PARADE:

- Be very careful driving or walking near parades and/or parade routes. Make sure to arrive at the parade early, and find a legal parking spot.

WHILE YOU'RE AT THE PARADE:

Unoccupied homes and parked cars are tempting targets for burglars during Mardi Gras, especially during parades.

- Take measures to secure personal property, specifically locking doors and windows to the house and garage.
- Inform your neighbors of your absence and request they report to the police any suspicious person(s) or activities.
- Don't leave valuables visible in the interior of your vehicle. Always make sure to place all valuables in your trunk.

BEADS AND THROWS SAFETY:

- Be alert for beads and trinkets thrown during the parade.
- Wear sunglasses during the day to protect your eyes from sun and throws.
- Keep all beads, small trinkets, and plastic bags out of reach of small children.



PARADE FLOAT SAFETY:

- Do not hang from floats or vehicles in the parade.
- Do not encourage the crowd to run alongside floats for throws.
- Never reach under a float for a throw.
- Do not approach the horses in the parade unless the rider indicates it's okay.
- Do not approach a float or other vehicle until it comes to a complete stop.
- Respect the directions of bands and marching unit chaperones, as well as NOPD.
- Piggybacking for throws is dangerous.

PROHIBITED ITEMS AT PARADE:

- Open containers of glass or metal are not permitted.
- Public laws prohibit spraying silly string or throwing objects at or near parades.
- Animals are prohibited within 150 feet of parade route.
- No open flame heating or cooking devices on parade route.
- It is unlawful to ride on or use skates, skateboards, roller blades, or bikes within fifty (50) feet of parade routes (Jefferson Parish).



CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

HANOPD Hotline: (504) 670-3372

HANO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Last fall, Mayor LaToya Cantrell appointed Bill Rouselle and Carol George Johnson to HANO's Board of Commissioners.



Commissioner
Bill Rouselle

Bill Rouselle is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Bright Moments, LLC., a public relations firm that has provided marketing and advertising services to various clients for more than 35 years. He is one of the city's leading

political strategists, and has managed successful campaigns for several political candidates, public schools, and city millage elections. Rouselle has hosted radio and television shows, and led the effort to ensure citizen participation and dialogue in rebuilding schools and hospitals, creating a Master Plan for land use and new Comprehensive Zoning ordinances as well as numerous redevelopment efforts. Rouselle is a graduate of Xavier University.



Commissioner
Carol George Johnson

Carol George Johnson is known for making homeownership a reality for local families. She began her career as a real estate agent about 40 years ago, and was the first African American woman in the nation to lead a municipal housing finance authority. In 1993, she opened her own mortgage brokerage firm, Johnson Mortgage, which was acclaimed by HUD as one of five top lenders in the United States and recognized for providing first-time homeownership opportunities for single, African American female heads of households. Johnson Mortgage has received multiple recognitions from the City of New Orleans and is lauded a champion for affordable housing by real estate professionals and non-profit organizations. She is a graduate of the University of New Orleans.

For more information on HANO's Board of Commissioners, visit <http://www.hano.org/board/commissioners.aspx>.

HANO PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Resident Entrepreneur Training Initiative (RETI)

Since 2018, HANO's 10-week Resident Entrepreneur Training Initiative (RETI) program, in partnership with Start Smart LLC., has hosted nine training sessions, and graduated 46 new business owners, with 32 participants' businesses officially incorporated. Graduates of the RETI program have launched start-up businesses in a variety of fields, including janitorial services, graphic design, transportation, cosmetology, catering, real estate, social services, and information technology.

Applicants for the RETI program must be a HANO client, and can complete the online application at www.retiprogram.org.

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

HANO was awarded a \$64,949 Family Self-sufficiency grant to fund the hiring of an FSS Coordinator. The new position will assist with client outreach, recruitment, enrollment, and goal establishment. Currently, there are 204 program participants, 156 of which have retained escrow balances.

CNI Scholarship Program

HANO has awarded scholarships in the amount of up to \$2,000 to 70 qualified voucher and public housing clients interested in enrolling in an accredited two or four year college or technical school through the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Scholarship Program. For requirements and applications, visit www.hano.org.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS COMING SOON!

HANO officials will begin visiting several neighborhoods throughout the City to meet with HCVP participants and landlords. The purpose of the meeting is to educate Section 8 voucher holders and landlords on the program guidelines and tenant/landlord responsibilities, provide updates on policies and procedures, and to offer an opportunity for on-site inquiries. Program participants and landlords will be notified of meetings scheduled within their community in advance of each meeting.

HANO RE-LAUNCHES WEBSITE



INNOVATIVE & MOBILE FRIENDLY WEBSITE!



VISIT HANO'S WEBSITE AT
WWW.HANO.ORG

CONTACT US

Bienville Basin	(504) 522-9078
Columbia Parc	(504) 284-4769
Faubourg Lafitte	(504) 821-6687
Fischer	(504) 266-2503
Guste Homes	(504) 529-3392
Harmony Oaks	(504) 894-8828
Marrero Commons	(504) 524-9011
New Florida	(504) 558-4664
River Garden	(504) 412-8216
The Estates	(504) 940-3060
Scattered Sites	(504) 558-4664
Main Office	(504) 670-3300
HANO PD Hotline	(504) 670-3372
Public Housing Hotline	(504) 670-3446
HCVP Hotline	(504) 708-2800
PBV Hotline	(504) 670-3468
E-mail	info@hano.org



**CREATING COMMUNITIES.
BUILDING TRUST.**