



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CLASSES CONTINUE TO CREATE SUCCESS

Leadership Development classes taught by Austin Interfaith, and community interest and skill-building seminars presented by HACA and community partners, have provided a great start to the Rosewood Courts Apprenticeship program.

The 11 apprentices are training to become leaders at Rosewood Courts and in the community. They are learning to gather information to speak on their own behalf and on behalf of other interested residents regarding the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and other important community issues.

As part of these classes, the apprentices have taken action! They've attended community, church

and other civic meetings and continue to be a proud part of Rosewood Courts.

Recently, they put their newly learned skills to work by drafting a letter to Dr. Fred McGhee and the Texas Historical Commission. Doctor McGhee is the author of a nomination to place Rosewood Courts on the National Historic Register. The letter, which was endorsed by all of the apprentices, explains their support of the nomination. It also expressed their intention to become more involved in the recognition of Rosewood Courts as an important cultural and historical community asset, while still supporting positive physical changes at Rosewood Courts. Excerpts from the letter are featured on page 3.



*At their February 25th meeting, the apprentices wished a fond farewell to Austin Interfaith Organizer, Jesse Posner. She is moving on to other things outside of Austin and will be missed by all. The apprentices plan to do something special for Ms. Posner in early March. Good luck, Jesse!*

# ONGOING EVENTS

HACA is committed to the well being of you and your family. By keeping you informed of programs and services, HACA hopes to provide you with various opportunities. Listed below are some programs currently offered.



~ **WeViva** provides accessible and affordable fitness and nutrition programs for people in low-income neighborhoods. They accomplish this by providing the classes on-site and completely free of charge. Classes have been offered since mid-February at Booker T. Washington and Meadowbrook Apartments on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The BTW classes are from noon until 2pm and the Meadowbrook classes are from 8am until 9am. No reservation is necessary. A walk from Rosewood to BTW is only a few blocks!

~ The City of Austin's **Parks and Recreation Department** has financial aid for extended care for low-income families to support the enrollment of youth in enrichment programs throughout the year and in the summer. Funding will be offered to those that qualify for free or reduced lunch, or meet income-based criteria. Financial aid application forms are available at: [http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/Centralized\\_Programs/PARD\\_FinAidApplication.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/Centralized_Programs/PARD_FinAidApplication.pdf), or Sandra can provide you a printed version. Financial aid will cover 75% of registration fees up to a maximum of \$400 for Austin Parks and Recreation youth enrichment programs, such as afterschool care and activities, spring break camp, summer camp(s), youth sports, swimming lessons and more. Completed applications can be faxed to 512-974-6756 or submitted to an Austin Parks and Recreation facility offering youth programs.



## SERVICE PROVIDER HIGHLIGHT

~ **Ascend Center for Learning** provides a Job Readiness Program designed to help participants obtain and retain gainful employment. The curriculum for this program has three main components: computer literacy, soft skills of finding employment (resume writing, mock interviewing, etc.), and basic math. Learn more about the Job Readiness Program here: <http://www.ascendaustin.org/job-readiness-program/>

**Ascend** also offers an Adult Basic Education class for students who test between a 3rd and 8th grade level. This program features daytime and evening class schedules. Once students have successfully completed this program, they are able to continue on in the GED to Work program or the Job Readiness Program. Want more information about the Adult Basic Education classes? Give Ascend a call at 512-326-8655!

**The next Rosewood Courts / Salina Resident Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27th at 11am in the Salina Community Room.**



HACA is on Facebook! Visit and "Like" us at [www.facebook.com/hacanet](http://www.facebook.com/hacanet) and stay up-to-date on current events at HACA.

Keep up-to-date on the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Initiative at [www.rosewoodchoice.com](http://www.rosewoodchoice.com)



Have you ever been invited to a Neighborhood Association meeting? The Housing Authority encourages you to take part in what's happening in your neighborhood. The **Blackshear / Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association Meetings** take place on the last Thursday of every month. This month's meeting, on March 27th, will take place at the Carver Library (1161 Angelina Street) at 6pm.

## Excerpts of a letter from Rosewood Apprentices Regarding Potential Historic Designation

As Rosewood Courts residents and leaders it is important for us to understand what a National Register nomination means. The Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods planning process has been a learning experience for us, as has the historic nomination process. With or without Choice Neighborhoods, the nomination could affect our housing, and because of that we made ourselves part of the process.

As participants in the Rosewood Choice Neighborhoods Leadership Development program, we do not represent the views of all Rosewood Courts residents. However, as a group we support Rosewood Court's nomination to the National Historic Register. A comprehensive process should have included more than one or two residents of Rosewood Courts prior to submission of the nomination to the Texas Historical Commission. We care about our housing, our families and our futures – and don't feel it is right that we are continually left out of processes that should include us.

We've seen how the neighborhood and Rosewood Courts has changed. We will share our stories – our stories of being dropped off at the CVS at 11th and 35 because our friend's parents didn't want to drive us to the "projects," of attending Blackshear Elementary and Kealing Middle School, shopping at Wells Grocery, and participating in the Juneteenth parade and activities right here in our backyard. Shouldn't that be part of "Rosewood Courts to the Present." We will share those stories, with those who want to hear them.

We aren't here to place blame, because nothing will get done if that happens. You've written a very good nomination of Rosewood Courts to the National Register of Historic Places. We've learned through your presentation and talking with HACA staff and others, that your nomination is eligible for designation.

We've seen the neighborhood change, whether for good or bad and whether we like it or not. It's isn't going to change back. So we think it is important to look at and celebrate its current diversity, and to learn why some people have come and others have gone. We can work together to figure out how to best present those stories.



This past Tuesday, March 4th, the state Democratic and Republican primary elections were held. These elections were for a number of state seats in the US Senate and House of Representatives and on state commissions. It was also the Travis County elections for a variety of county seats.

Why is this important? **November marks the switch to 10-1, or single-member districts in the city.** The mayor will still be elected and represent the entire community. If you're not registered to vote, you can visit <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqvr.shtml> to check eligibility and register yourself to vote in time for the November elections. The district map can be found here: [http://www.austinredistricting.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Austin\\_Final-Plan.pdf](http://www.austinredistricting.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Austin_Final-Plan.pdf)

Rather than all city council members representing the entire City of Austin (at-large), each council member will represent a specific physical district. These districts were determined in November 2013 by a redistricting commission made up of citizens.

## THE HACA MISSION

*To cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self reliance, growth, and optimism.*



## THE HACA VISION

*We envision neighborhoods where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy and safe, and all people can achieve their full potential.*



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AUSTIN'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

## HACA'S COMMITMENTS TO ROSEWOOD COURTS' RESIDENTS

- ~ HACA will fully replace all Public Housing Units at the Rosewood Court site.*
- ~ HACA will preserve Rosewood Courts' unique history.*
- ~ HACA will guarantee the right to return and work to minimize displacement if construction occurs.*