

CENTRAL TEXAS HOUSING CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2015

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\$ Triple Your Money \$

CTHC has joined with the United Way of Central Texas and other community partners to provide funding through the S.O.A.R. (Savings, Opportunities, Assets, and Results) Grant.

Qualifying, employed residents will be able to deposit money into a Boost Savings Account and have their money matched two for one. For every dollar the resident invests, it will be matched with two dollars through the grant. Funds can be accumulated in this savings plan up to two years, and the monies can be utilized for first-time homeowner down payment assistance or secondary education tuition and books.



A CTHC resident making her first deposit through the S.O.A.R. program into her Extraco account.

The grant was implemented to assist families in reaching goals that may otherwise take many years to achieve. For information about participating in this program, call Sharon Sapp at 773-2009, ext. 221.

2015 Fire Prevention Program Schedule

September 3 5:30 pm THA Main Office	Autumn Leaves, Jonathan Moore & Harvest House Residents
September 9 10:00 am Rose Hall	Frances Graham Hall & Chateau Residents
September 9 5:30 pm, Tembell North East Corner of Complex	Tembell Residents
September 10 2:00 pm Golden Haven Dining Room	Golden Haven Residents
September 16 11:30 am Kyle Community Room	Kyle Residents
September 16 5:30 pm Close to South Fence of Complex	Raintree Residents
September 21 5:30 pm	Adams Bend Residents
September 22 5:30 pm Willowbrook Family Section Parking Lot	Willowbrook Residents
September 23 5:00 pm BHA Resident Center	BHA Residents
September 28 5:30 pm Friendship House	Crestview & Rattliff Residents

Residents will be able to receive training on the use of fire extinguishers.

National Night Out

CTHC will host four National Night Out events on Tuesday, October 6, at the following locations from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Temple

Rose Hall - 107 N. 9th Street
Adams Bend Apartments - 3101 W. Adams Ave.
Raintree Apartments - 1617 Canyon Creek Drive

Belton

Mitchell Circle Park

We will partner with the Temple and Belton Police Departments and Fire and Rescue

Departments. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are fighting back.

At Rose Hall, the theme will be a Luau so come dressed in your Hawaiian attire. The Barrel Train will be available for rides at the Belton location. There will be plenty of fun, food, music and door prizes. So pick your location and let's "take a bite out of crime!"

CTHC's website address was recently changed to www.cthc.org so it would be easier to use. As a result, the email addresses of the Consortium staff have also changed. Residents can email their Complex Managers using the following addresses:

Jonathan Moore, Crestview & Willowbrook (Family) - Dawn Goode - dgoode@cthc.org

Autumn Leaves, Rattliff, Willowbrook (Elderly) & Frances Graham Hall - Amanda Tindell - atindell@cthc.org

Golden Haven & Kyle - Maria Euresi - meuresi@cthc.org

Belton Housing Authority - Jeff Wells - jwells@cthc.org

Adams Bend Apartments - Carolyn Hamrick - chamrick@cthc.org

Carver, Tembell, Scattered Sites, Chateau, Temple College & Harvest House Apartments - Tracy Donmoyer - tdonmoyer@cthc.org

Raintree Apartments - James Bozeman - jbozeman@cthc.org

“Who I Am”

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Nearly one in five Americans has a disability, and not all disabilities are visible. Whether it affects us – or a child, spouse, relative, neighbor or friend – increasing employment for people with disabilities benefits everyone. The message of “Who I Am” is to remind us to see one another for who we are and what we can contribute. In this spirit, CTHC is recognizing NDEAM to raise awareness and



celebrate the varied contributions of people with disabilities.

HHSC Partnership

CTHC has partnered with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services to assist residents with applications and the renewal process for many of their programs. Resident Services staff can assist with applications for TANF, Food Stamps (SNAP), Medicaid, CHIPS, etc. The ability to provide HHSC immediate access to documents required is a great tool for expediting the approval of applications submitted.

CTHC Fall Youth Programs

CTHC is gearing up for Fall Youth Programs. Here is a reminder for parents to be first to call in to Resident Services and register for FUN...

For Grades Sake (FGS)

Students are encouraged to sign up to receive an award for making good grades. At the beginning of the year, all students qualify. Then, at the end of each grading period, parents and students are encouraged to provide a copy of report cards to the Resident Services Department. For each consecutive grading period, students must maintain a “B” average or above to qualify. This program is for grades 1 – 8.

Students Turning Responsibility into Valuable Experiences (STRIVE)

Students wanting assistance with their classes, skill building, completing homework, or other areas are encouraged to enroll. These sessions are held from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in Temple and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Belton. Transportation is provided. We pair students with tutors from the local colleges and high schools to improve students’ classroom performance and grades.

Fall Festival

A chance for all CTHC youth to enjoy an evening of fun, games, and food. The festival will be held October 22 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Rose Hall.

Youth Summer Camp

This summer, our youth ages 8-17 from Temple and Belton, enjoyed six weeks of fun and learning. Our youth science camp explored the different branches of science including engineering, chemistry, geology, forensic science, and psychology. Youth enjoyed participating in experiments such as the “Humpty Dumpty Egg Drop” in which containers were made to discover the impact of gravity. They also had the opportunity to make lava lamps and edible slime while learning properties of matter. Two field trips were taken. Our first trip was to the Inner Space Cavern where we explored one of Texas’ oldest naturally



formed and preserved caves. We also took a trip to the Thinkery Museum in Austin where youth were encouraged to participate in over 100 hands-on activities. The camp wrapped up with a pizza party

and a memory challenge called Brain Games. Participants received a variety of gifts to take home and a certificate of completion. Check out the photos on our Facebook page!

Temple String Quartet

We are pleased to announce that the Temple Symphony Orchestra’s String Quartet will be performing for CTHC residents who are seniors or persons with a disability. These special performances will feature music of Latin- and African-American composers. Quartet members will engage the audience through discussion and a presentation of posters which highlight the composers and their countries. Each performance will be followed by light

refreshments. Plan to join us from 11 a.m. – 12 noon on the following dates at these locations:

- Rose Hall - Thursday, September 17
- Golden Haven - Thursday, October 29
- Kyle - Tuesday, December 1 (Holiday performance)
- Friendship House - Thursday, January 14



Golden Haven Resident Association Garage Sale

Saturday, October 10
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Current CTHC residents can rent a table for \$10.00 with a maximum of two vendors per table. Sale of clothing and upholstered furniture is not allowed. Sports memorabilia, home interior decorations, arts and crafts, tools, jewelry, dishes, collectibles, baked goods and LOTS of other items can be sold. For table rentals or questions, please call 773-2009, ext. 222.

Resident Spotlight - Janice Rivera

When Janice moved to Belton, she had no idea she would be speaking before our state capitol's legislative body and interviewed by the television and newspaper media. Janice was born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and is the 13th of 14 children. She says the family wasn't wealthy, but they weren't poor either. Her parents' employment was often seasonal. When her father wasn't share-cropping, he worked as a carpenter and in masonry. Her mother was a seamstress, making school uniforms and formals for weddings or other special celebrations.

As Janice's siblings moved away, she enjoyed spending time with her younger sister playing outside. She quickly learned to "toughen up" as she calls it, in a male dominated neighborhood. She often had to take up for her "baby sister," who did not know how to handle rough-playing boys that liked to push the limits. Janice quickly went from learning to teaching them not to mess with the Riveras. She said they



weren't bad boys, they were just too rough. When she was old enough, she spent summers at her older sister and brother-in-law's home in Queens, New York. She enjoyed it so much, she moved in with them when she was 16 years old and remained with them until she graduated from high school. Sometimes she went to work with her sister at a clothing factory during the week and to Coney Island's amusement parks and Far Rockaway beach on the weekends. Some of her weekends were also spent with her brother, Hector (9th of 14), in Pennsylvania.

In 2012, Janice, her husband and five children moved to Killeen to be closer to

her brother, who had moved here from Pennsylvania, and a job offer for her husband. The job was no longer available, and the bills had to be paid. This brings us back to the beginning of our story. Janice's family was experiencing financial difficulties, so like many others, she took out a loan from a car title/pay-day loan company. The high service fees made it impossible to pay off the loan, so the family's vehicle was repossessed. She sold some of her household items in order to pay the repossession fees. Since she was a client of Helping Hands Ministry, her story was heard by Executive Director Rucker Preston, who asked Janice to share it at the state capitol during two Texas House Committee hearings. After her second testimony, she was approached by several television and newspaper reporters for a press conference, so she told her story once again, hoping others wouldn't go through what her family endured. Janice has now transitioned from a Helping Hands client to an advocate.

Housing Reminders

Vehicle Safety Tips Vehicle burglaries have increased in recent months, and a large number of these have occurred with vehicles left unsecured. Individuals have been pulling on car door handles in parking lots, so leaving a vehicle unsecured invites problems. As a result, vehicle owners might experience theft or damage.

Temple PD provided some safety tips to deter criminal activity.

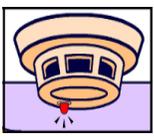
1. Ensure that all windows on your vehicle are rolled up and your doors are locked at all times.
2. Take your keys with you and never leave your vehicle running.
3. Set your vehicle alarm but make sure it is not frequently activated.
4. Never leave anything valuable in your vehicle.
5. Report any lights out on property to management.
6. All residents have a responsibility to report any suspicious behavior or criminal activity immediately to the Temple Police Department. Never attempt to apprehend a person committing a crime or to investigate suspicious activity. Leave confrontations to the police. They are trained to handle unusual situations. Residents should report the incident to management as soon as possible during business hours for follow-up action, if necessary.
7. Document the serial numbers for your property and/or engrave an owner applied number onto your property to help locate and identify it in case of theft.



Fire Recently we had a fire in a unit that was a result of children playing with a lighter. The household reported that the fire was discovered from the smoke alarms alerting them. This allowed the family to escape and call 911. It only takes a second for a fire to spread and cause serious injury or death. Smoke alarms must be operational at all times for the safety of all residents. The good news, no one was injured in this fire.

Smoke Detectors

Neither you nor others may disable or remove smoke detectors. You may be liable to us and others for any loss or damage from fire, smoke, or water if that condition arises from your disconnecting or damaging the smoke detector, or failing to replace a battery or report malfunctions to us. Failure to maintain a smoke detector(s) in your unit is a serious violation of your lease contract AND penalties will be applied to your account. Immediately report smoke detector malfunctions to management for repair or replacement.



Anyone having information regarding a vehicle burglary is asked to contact the Temple Police Department at 254-298-5500 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-729-TIPS [Local 254-526-TIPS].



Blocked Egress During the most recent Housing inspections, we discovered that residents are blocking access to exits that would need to be used in case of an emergency. Residents must not block windows or doors with furniture or other items. You must have an accessible route (ability to walk directly to the window or door) with no restrictions during an emergency.

Calendar of Events for Residents

Rose Hall

(Please note that Rose Hall will be closed on Wednesday, October 7)

Mon. & Wed.	Computer Classes (Beginning September 14): Beginner Computer Class - 3:30 pm to 5 pm Intermediate & Advance Computer Class - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
September 9	Frances Graham Hall / Chateau Fire Prevention Program - 10:00 am
September 14	Makeup Housekeeping Workshop - 10:00 am
Sep 15 & Oct 20	Family Nutrition - 5:30 pm
September 17	Presentation by the Temple Symphony Orchestra String Quartet - 11:00 am
Sep 24 & Oct 15	AgriLife Family Nutrition - 10:30 am
September 30	CTHC Senior Picnic - 10:00 am
October 6	National Night Out - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
October 14	Flu Vaccine Clinic - 9:00 am to 11:00 am
October 22	Youth Fall Festival - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

BHA Resident Center (unless otherwise noted)

Mon. & Wed.	Computer Class - 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm (New Class Begins September 14)
Sep 14, 28 & Oct 12, 26	Bingo - 3:00 pm
Sep 14 & Oct 19	Family Nutrition - 5:30 pm
September 23	Senior Nutrition in the BHA Board Room - 2:00 pm
September 23	BHA Fire Prevention Program - 5:00 pm
October 6	National Night Out at Mitchell Circle Park - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Friendship House

September 9	AgriLife Nutrition - 12:00 noon
September 28	Crestview / Ratliff Fire Prevention Program - 5:30 pm
October 14	AgriLife Nutrition - 12:00 noon
October 23	Spaghetti Supper - 5:00 pm

Other Locations

Sep 1 & Oct 6	Frances Graham Hall Neighborhood Watch in the Dining Room - 2:00 pm
Sep 3 & Oct 1	Extraco Mobile Banking at Frances Graham Hall Dining Room - 1:35 pm to 2:00 pm
Sep 14 & Oct 12	Frances Graham Hall Association Meeting in the Dining Room - 2:00 pm
Sep 29 & Oct 27	Frances Graham Hall Bingo in the Dining Room - 7:00 pm
Sep 3 & Oct 1	Extraco Mobile Banking at Golden Haven Dining Room - 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm
Sep 9 & Oct 14	Golden Haven Association Meeting in the Dining Room - 2:00 pm
September 10	Golden Haven Fire Prevention Program in the Dining Room - 2:00 pm
Sep 11, 25 & Oct 9, 23	Golden Haven Bingo in the Dining Room - 6:00 pm
Sep 15 & Oct 20	Golden Haven Neighborhood Watch in the Dining Room - 2:00 pm
October 7	Golden Haven Flu Vaccine Clinic in the Dining Room - 9:00 am to 11:00 am
October 29	Presentation by the Temple Symphony Orchestra String Quartet in the Golden Haven Dining Room - 11:00 am
Sep 8 & Oct 13	Kyle Neighborhood Watch in the Community Room - 2:00 pm
September 10	Kyle Bingo in the Community Room - 11:00 am
September 16	Kyle Fire Prevention Program in the Community Room - 11:30 am
Sep 24 & Oct 8, 22	Kyle Bingo in the Community Room - 2:00 pm
September 3 - 23	Resident Advisory Board Absentee Voting
September 3	Autumn Leaves / Jonathan Moore / Harvest House Apartments Fire Prevention Program at THA office - 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
September 9	Tembell Fire Prevention Program at Tembell - 5:30 pm
September 16	Raintree Fire Prevention Program at Raintree - 5:30 pm
September 21	Adams Bend Fire Prevention Program at Adams Bend - 5:30 pm
September 22	Willow Brook Fire Prevention Program at Willow Brook - 5:30 pm
September 24	Resident Advisory Board Voting at THA Resident Services - 4:00 pm
October 6	National Night Out at Adams Bend & Raintree - 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
October 23	Spaghetti Supper Served at Frances Graham Hall, Golden Haven & the Kyle Dining Rooms - 5:00 pm

Check out the schedule of resident activities on our website at www.centexhousing.org

Rose Hall Activities

Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon, residents join together at Rose Hall for fellowship, fun and food. The program is open to all CTHC senior and disabled residents. New activities and programs are planned each month.

Join us on October 28 during our fall celebration and costume contest. In November and December, there will be a host of new and fun crafts. Rekindle the spirit of giving on November 11 with a reading of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein, then decorate a plate that can be filled with treats and shared with friends and neighbors during the holiday season. Dress to impress as we end 2015 with an "Almost New Year's Celebration" and countdown on December 30.

Please join us! Make some new friends, celebrate your birthday, play BINGO, and see all that Rose Hall Wednesday has to offer. Transportation is provided, if needed.

CTHC Annual Senior Picnic

**Wednesday, September 30
at Rose Hall**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Seniors from all CTHC complexes are invited to enjoy the festivities of the day. Bingo is the first matter of business just before lunch. The rest of the day is filled with games, music and laughter. Signup sheets will be placed at various locations in the near future.

Computer Classes

Computer classes will start up again on **September 14** and are **free** to CTHC residents. They are held in Temple every Monday and Wednesday at Rose Hall, with the Beginner's class from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. and the Intermediate/Advanced class from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. In Belton, one class is held every Monday and Wednesday at the BHA Resident Center from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Every participant completing the course can purchase a refurbished computer including the monitor, keyboard and mouse for \$7.00 (\$21.00 with a modem). In addition, the classes count for community service hours. There is no enrollment; you simply need to show up.