

SUMMER 2013

# HANO

*news*



## ERADICATING BLIGHT & REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS

In This Issue:

Criminal Background Policy  
Implemented

Job Training In The Works

Resident Leader Spotlight

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Administrative Receiver	1
Criminal Background Policy Implemented	2
Information Technology on the Move	2
Job Training in the Works	3
Eradicating Blight & Revitalizing Neighborhoods	4
Transforming Iberville	5
Pictorial: Bring Your Child to Work	6
Achieving FSS Success	7
Community Outreach	8
Unite for Change	9
Rededication Ceremony	9
HANO PD: Year One as a Department	10
Resident Leader Spotlight	11
Moving Home	12
Hurricane Preparation	13
Crime Prevention Corner	14
Path to Self-Sufficiency	15
HANO Job Fair	15
HANO Events Around the City	16
News Bulletin	17



David Gilmore, Administrative Receiver

Dear readers:

Thank you for picking up the Summer 2013 Edition of HANO news.

Another year has passed and our staff members as well as resident leaders are still hard at work ensuring that you have the best housing opportunities available. This edition features some very exciting news and showcases events that occurred within the last several months.

We reached a significant milestone in announcing the new Criminal Background Policy to remove the obstacles ex-felons face when applying for housing and employment, and are working with the very skilled Vera

Institute for Justice to put the necessary policy implementation procedures in place.

Because the use of technology is vital in transforming HANO into an efficient housing authority, this year marked the launch of the Mobile Computer Lab and beginning of HANO's first ever Introduction to Computers for Seniors course. The class, which is instructed by the agency's Department of Information Technology, gives our elderly residents a better understanding of how to use a computer and helps them to remain connected to family members.

Keeping our communities safe remains a priority. The HANO Police Department celebrated a first full year as an operable unit, and our officers have participated in high level training and preparation to work hand in hand with all local and regional law enforcement agencies.

We continue to focus on rebuilding sustainable homes for low-income families and removing unsightly blight from our communities. The demolition of Christopher Park marks a major milestone achieved, and the construction completion of Heritage Senior Residences at Columbia Parc, Faubourgh Lafitte, Marrero Commons are not very far away. We anxiously anticipate breaking ground at Florida and Guste III, and are equally excited about the start of redevelopment at Iberville.

We will remain steadfast in our efforts to complete all of our goals allowing us to continue providing safe, sustainable housing opportunities for low-income citizens here in New Orleans.

*—David Gilmore*



David Gilmore  
Administrative Receiver

**Keith L. Pettigrew**  
Deputy General Manager  
for Operations

**Leslie Dews**  
Deputy General Manager  
for Administration

**Lesley E. Thomas** - Editor  
**Jessica Perrault** - Designer, Photographer, & Contributor

4100 Touro St. New Orleans, LA 70122  
www.HANO.org • (504) 670-3300

# CRIMINAL BACKGROUND POLICY IMPLEMENTED

HANO works with The Vera Institute of Justice on housing and employment procedures

**A**fter hours of debate, consideration of several comments and consultation with outside agencies, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) adopted the new Criminal Background Policy recognizing the need to do away with obstacles ex-felons face when applying for housing and employment.

The draft policy was originally introduced to the public during a special board meeting in January.

The new policy states that HANO recognizes the difficulty African American males and females face after becoming a product of the criminal justice system. The preamble

to the policy discusses how difficult it has become for this demographic to rejoin society due to lack of skills and education which are prerequisites for employment. It also states that anyone applying for positions with HANO will not undergo a criminal background check unless they have been offered a job.

No housing program applicant will be automatically barred from receiving assistance because of his or her criminal background, except as mandated by federal law. Applicants, whose conviction suggests a significant level of risk, will be reviewed by a panel designated by HANO to assess, based on their circumstances, whether the applicant

should be admitted or denied. If the panel recommends denial, the chief executive officer will review the recommendation and make the final decision on admission.

HANO will only consider a conviction that is directly related to the particular position the applicant has applied for, or if it indicates a danger to current residents or employees of the agency.

With assistance from The Vera Institute of Justice, HANO is currently working on the implementation plan to ensure housing and employment procedures are consistent with the new policy statement.

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ON THE MOVE

HANO launches the mobile computer lab at Guste

In March, HANO launched the Mobile Computer Lab with a first-hand demonstration for attendees on basic computer how to's, and have since included a résumé writing course with plans to incorporate other job skills trainings.



*An instructor assists residents with computer basics*

“We will also utilize the vehicle that transforms into a modern computer lab to promote HANO programs, and to increase access to job, educational, and social opportunities through the use of technology,” said Administrative

Receiver David Gilmore.

Sixteen residents of the Guste High Rise participated in the first HANO Introduction to Computers for Seniors course offered by the Department of Information Technology, where they learned to create e-mail accounts, and to send e-mails with pictures to family members and friends.

“Most of my family members have computers,” said Sylvester Kennedy. “They are always sending pictures through the internet and now I have an e-mail address and know how to check it, and receive pictures.”

The lab contains 16 laptops, a

projector and screen, printer, moveable cart, tables, chairs, and a rolling whiteboard for presentations.

It also provides wireless internet access for class participants. The lab is completely mobile and will be utilized in indoor or outdoor spaces regardless of electrical availability.



*Guste residents work together during HANO mobile computer lab class*

# BREAKING NEWS: JOB TRAINING IN THE WORKS

HANO launches employment training program for young adults in Iberville

The Housing Authority of New Orleans recently launched the Iberville Employment Training Program (IETP). The program provides career exploration and skill development



*HANO's Iberville Employment Training Program (IETP) Class*

while offering hands-on employment training to current Iberville residents and their family and friends. The program encourages job readiness and economic self-sufficiency, and gives students an opportunity to work on construction and maintenance related projects while preparing them for future employment.

HANO's Iberville Employment Training Program launched last month after Resident Leaders informed Administrative Receiver David Gilmore about the many challenges young African Americans encounter when searching for local job opportunities.

"Many of the kids in our program said that they need a job, but no one will hire them," said IETP's Project Supervisor Thomas "Derrick" Ross. "In their own neighborhood, they feel profiled just because they are youngsters that live in Iberville, making it difficult to secure a job."

With priority given to applicants from the Iberville community, HANO will continuously employ 30 at-risk youth and young adults between the ages of 16 to 24-years-old to receive hands-on training in deconstructing various components of the Iberville Development. Prior to the deconstruction phase, the students are charged



*Students remove old furniture from an Iberville housing unit*

with removing the furniture while also disconnecting hot water heaters, stoves and furnaces from each unit. Once all of the excess materials have been removed from the units, the deconstruction process of salvaging ornamental medals, drainage systems, kitchen sinks and other household items will begin.

Individuals entering the program may have been exposed to a variety of health, substance abuse, or peer pressure situations, and may lack academic and job skills, or even possess a criminal activity history and involvement with the justice system.



*Students get rid of household materials from an Iberville housing unit*

"The program is teaching me how to get used to working hard for the most part," program participant Steven Lee said. "A lot of us used to be on the streets for whatever the case may be, but the staff is really helping us to do better and learn something."

Besides the traditional skills-based training, the students are also learning how to interact with others in a work environment. "I am really enjoying working with my peers, learning how to respect one another and working as a team," program participant Britney Zeno said.

With marketable job skills under their belt, Project Supervisor Ross hopes a number of the students will be prepared to advance to other job opportunities, with the goal of adding other interested applicants as they move on from the program. "I want this program to be a rotating door, specifically for those who have shown they are ready to get into the unions, work on another construction site or possibly advance to the Section 3 Program," Ross said.

Students Lee and Zeno have that same goal in mind when it comes to their careers. Lee hopes to apply his employment training from HANO to finally get off the streets and find a good paying job; Zeno is eager to find a job opportunity she truly enjoys, working in a union.

# ERADICATING BLIGHT & REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS



*Christopher Park Demolition*

**F**or many years, excessive blight has been a major complaint from residents across New Orleans. The City had been plagued with abandoned homes even before Hurricane Katrina damaged thousands of properties. To eradicate this problem, HANO worked hand in hand with the City and the New Orleans City Council to demolish many agency-owned blighted buildings while revitalizing communities through an aggressive redevelopment strategy.

In 2007, after much public debate on the impending demolition of four of HANO's largest properties that were rendered uninhabitable, HUD and the City Council approved the demolition and transformation plans for these communities.



*Columbia Parc Heritage Senior Residences*

The agency began the redevelopment of the "Big 4" in early 2008. The new Faubourg Lafitte, Columbia Parc, Harmony Oaks, and Marrero

Commons communities are now moving toward completion, replacing outdated and obsolete units with modern and energy efficient homes.

Earlier this year, HANO completed the demolition of the Guste low-rise buildings with plans to construct 155 new high-quality energy efficient homes



*Rendering of Florida Community  
Photo Credit: Perez, APC*

in their place. The demolition of 149 dilapidated units is underway at Christopher Park, a community that has been an eyesore in Algiers for over a decade. HANO is working with the Orleans Parish School Board to negotiate a swap of large-parcel properties which include Christopher Park, a portion of the BW Cooper site and a portion of the Fischer site.

At Florida, HANO plans to rebuild 51 housing units and a management office beginning in July. An application is being prepared for submission to



HUD to approve demolition of the HANO owned units at Press Park which was declared a Superfund site. The New Orleans City Council recently approved the demolition of 60 of the 74 buildings at Iberville to launch its Choice Neighborhoods Initiative redevelopment plans.

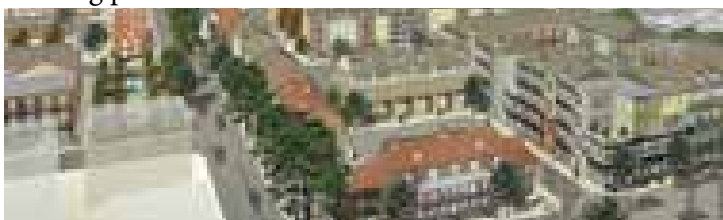


*1112 N Rocheblave after rehabilitation by HANO*

A plan was also developed to determine which of HANO's scattered site properties would be retained and rehabilitated, and/or disposed of. "Some of these units are in such disarray and would cost far more to rehabilitate than to demolish," said Administrative Receiver David Gilmore. "We decided to retain and repair a smaller amount, making them available to low-income residents."

Earlier this month, HANO received approval from the New Orleans City Council to demolish several scattered site properties across the city, and Receiver Gilmore recently approved the demolition and disposition of 123 vacant, scattered site units deemed physically obsolete and beyond repair during the May board meeting.

"Once HUD approves demolition through its Special Application Center, we plan to dispose of these properties in various ways that may include redevelopment of affordable housing, tapping into the City's Lot Next Door program, or by swapping land with the Orleans Parish School Board," said Gilmore. "We are also prepared to work with any individual or organization that is interested in purchasing the properties to restore them." Originally, HANO owned over 1,000 scattered site units. HANO has rehabilitated 85 units for HANO's scattered site public housing portfolio.



*Iberville Rendering*

## TRANSFORMING IBERVILLE

The transformation of Iberville is underway as a part of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and residents are relocating across the city in preparation for demolition. "Our residents are embarking on what some may call the most important part of this process; packing up their homes and moving into unfamiliar communities as they prepare to watch these buildings come down," said Administrative Receiver Gilmore.

While the project moves forward, the Iberville Working Team has been engaged in the Section 106 process, and environmental and historic review process as required by the National Historic Preservation Act to determine if the proposed demolition and redevelopment of the community will negatively impact any on and off-site historic structures.

The third and final public meeting was held in February to discuss the design and construction plans with the community, as well as solicit their input. Following the discovery of an extension of the St. Louis cemeteries, several new redevelopment options were created as possible site plans for Iberville. With the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), HUD has released the CNI funds and construction is set to begin in September on the first two phases of the project.

In addition, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) was executed that includes plans to preserve and renovate 14 historic buildings currently on site, and to maintain green space in the discovery areas. The PA details the responsibility of HANO and The City of New Orleans to continue consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office while planning and implementing the redevelopment. Project managers will monitor any vibrations that may occur, and work-stop protocols are in place with a commitment to photo-document and fund any necessary repairs to the cemeteries located near the site. Archeological identification and evaluation plans are also in place to preserve historic artifacts located.

Construction of the Texaco Building, located at 1501 Canal Street, began in November and will provide 112 new units for elderly Iberville residents.

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

# BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Every year HANO participates in the National Bring Your Child to Work Day. This year, participants created business proposals and held a mock trial while the younger children enjoyed arts and crafts. Afterwards, everyone met outside for lunch. Here are some photos of this year's events.





# Achieving FSS Success

By Beth Hanami, FSS Coordinator



*FSS Participant Niketa Lonzo*

Last year, Niketa Lonzo joined the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program with a goal to earn a college degree in nursing and purchase a new home. As a single mother of three children, she enrolled in school and began the process of earning a degree in Practical Nursing.

Lonzo was doing well in school despite the intense work load, but soon learned that she was pregnant. However, she continued to attend her classes throughout the entire pregnancy and gave birth to her brand new baby.

Just as she regained focus on her studies and the goals set with FSS coordinators, Lonzo learned that she was pregnant again.

“It was so very hard, and no one believed I would be able to finish school,” said Lonzo. “I did not even believe it myself and all I could think to do was cry.” As a result, she decided to take a six month leave of absence.

HANO’s FSS program coordinators and life coaches encourage participants to set goals despite any of the obstacles they may face. They work directly with participants to keep them focused on achieving their goals and not to let anything hinder their progress.

Remembering her goals, Niketa felt a renewed sense of strength. After her new baby was born, she returned to complete her classes. Upon graduation in December 2012, Lonzo passed the Louisiana State Exam for Licensure and even earned placement into the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses Honor Society at Delgado Community College’s Charity School of Nursing. She subsequently began attending first time homebuyer classes.

Lonzo plans to become a Registered Nurse by 2015, and will graduate from the FSS program when her family moves into their new home!



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## CDC Supportive Services kick off at The Estates

The Estates has partnered with CDC 58:12 to provide community supportive services to public housing residents and former Desire residents. This organization strives to transform low and moderate income communities by providing opportunities in housing, health, education, and economic development.

The CDC offers a number of valuable resources, including household assessments, case management, youth opportunities, and much more, to assist the Estates residents in becoming self-sufficient.

In an effort to create a relationship with the residents, four CDC Case Managers are tasked with visiting every family within The Estates community. They also conduct comprehensive assessments of the household after receiving permission from the resident. Once the household assessment is complete, the Case Managers assist the resident with establishing an individual development plan which sets short and long-term goals.

After assessing a resident's case, the CDC and its staff can determine whether their educational and employment goals can be met on-site or through enrollment in off-site programs. The CDC hosts job readiness workshops while referring other residents to adult literacy and GED programs offered by other



Senior Citizens learn basic computer skills

agencies in the community. In addition, the case managers transport residents to job training programs at Delgado Community College and Job1 as well as other employment job fairs.

To encourage full participation in community life, the CDC's Senior Resident Community Liaison joins forces with the Case Managers to establish relationships with the elderly and/or disabled residents who are unable to leave their homes. The CDC offers senior citizens a place to go during the day to meet, talk and plan activities for themselves. Seniors can play bingo and win prizes while also having the opportunity to develop basic computer skills through the use of HANO's Mobile Computer Lab.

The CDC also offers educational opportunities for the youngest members of the Estates community. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the CDC offers an after school program where children and teens can receive homework assistance, learn the principles of the Girl Scout USA organization and also take part in values training, art activities and games with a local church organization.

In partnership with New Orleans Recreation Development Commission and Mayor Mitch Landrieu's Summer Youth Empowerment Program, the CDC will be hosting over 200 children and teens for a summer camp concentrated on career exploration, college readiness, character education and



Children at CDC afterschool program

life skills. Teens, ages 13-17 years old, are eligible to receive a stipend of \$75 per week for their participation in the camp.

"Over 100 households are already taking advantage of the on-site programs while other residents are coming to our office or responding to the notices that Case Managers leave on their doorsteps," CDC Executive Director Marcia Peterson said. "We know that if we remain consistent and build a level of trust with the residents that many more will be receptive of the services we offer."

# UNITE FOR CHANGE

H.O.P.E Festival strives to stop the violence

**F**or the second year, the B.W. Cooper community gathered to promote positive change at the annual H.O.P.E (Helping Others Prosper Eternally) Festival on the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

Launching the festival last year, local rapper and former B.W. Cooper resident Levar “Calliope Var” Elzy partnered with the B.W. Cooper Resident Management Corporation and the Louisiana Community Enhancement Corporation to provide a fun, upbeat day for the residents, community leaders, and businesses to band together in response to the city’s rising crime rates.

“As grandparents, parents, and community leaders, we must make sure that there is hope for our kids,” President and Resident Leader Donna Johnigan says.



*Residents join together in prayer with Pastor Blakes*

This year’s event began with the residents

bowing their heads and joining together in prayer with Pastor Samuel Blakes from the New Home Family Worship Center.



*Kids scrambling for Easter eggs*

In celebration of the Easter holiday, festival goers and their children lined up for the Easter egg hunt and scrambled to nab colorful eggs. Other exciting activities for the kids included a flag football tournament, softball tournament, an appearance by the Easter Bunny, and much more. Attendees also enjoyed entertainment from a number of local musicians.

B.W. Cooper residents met with local health care providers and received information about maintaining a healthy lifestyle during the festival. Diabetes testing was also offered free of charge to all festival goers.

“With the overwhelming support we received from our sponsors, this shows the importance of community support and how great things happen when we work together. Next year’s event will be bigger and better,” H.O.P.E creator Elzy says.

## REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Faubourg Lafitte reopens tennis courts at Sojourner Truth

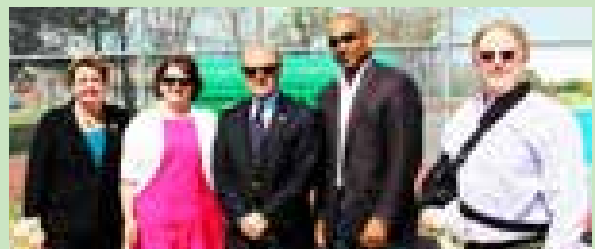
On April 6, city officials, community leaders and residents joined the Faubourg Lafitte redevelopment team to rededicate the tennis courts at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center. The tennis courts are a part of the Lafitte development teams’ commitment to youth programming, and upgrading recreational facilities.



*Kids enjoying new tennis court*

learned the fundamentals of tennis from Xavier University Varsity Tennis coaches. Residents also participated in a health and wellness fair.

The community center offers an 8-week session of tennis basic instruction using the USTA’s Quick Start Method for Lafitte residents ages 5-17 every Saturday at 9am.



*Guest speakers at Tennis Rededication Ceremony*

Following the event, over 40 Faubourg Lafitte children



*HANO PD with the Estates Neighborhood Watch Group*

## HANO PD: YEAR ONE AS A DEPARTMENT

Keeping HANO communities safe

**A**fter working with the Louisiana State Legislature for nearly a year and the completion of Senate Bill 78 authored by Senator Edwin Murray and signed by Governor Bobby Jindal, the Housing Authority of New Orleans' new and fully operable Police Department recently completed its first year of service to the community.

This past year, the HANO PD reached several milestones while performing above and beyond the call of duty. "We hired 10 additional officers that have been certified through the Peace Officer Standards of Training (POST) program," said HANO PD Chief Mitchell Dusset. "Five additional officers were hired during the first four months of 2013 with plans to hire four more by the end of the year bringing the total manpower strength to 26."

The agency also purchased new uniforms, upgraded the vehicle fleet and equipment with Motorola XTL 2500 radio systems for better communication with regional law enforcement agencies, and added the use of laptops and TASERS to the

department.

HANO PD officers participated in training programs giving them the necessary skills and expertise needed to apprehend and arrest suspects. In addition to the required POST program, officers participated in Active Shooter and TASERS, firearm, First Aid, Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement, Human Trafficking, Life Lock/Identity Theft, MDTs, MEB and Synthetic Drug/Prescription Drug Epidemic trainings. Some officers have been certified as TASERS and Active Shooters instructors, and will provide in house training and recertification courses.

The officers respond to calls for service, and participate in drug, weapon, domestic violence, and warrant arrests throughout the City. They are also charged with investigating complaints received from hotline tips.

HANO PD officers also re-established the Neighborhood Watch Program within the Lafitte, Fischer Senior Village, Harmony Oaks and Estates communities, and continue to hold regular meetings with resident leaders and site managers to discuss and rectify any safety, security and quality of life issues.

In 2012, crime statistics revealed an overall decrease in criminal activity at HANO sites by about 12 percent. There were 216 crimes reported as compared to 246 in 2011.



*NOPD Detective Merrill Merricks discusses rape prevention with Lafitte residents*



# RESIDENT LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Community-based Training prepares Resident Leaders for Success in Revitalized Communities

Submitted by Harmony Oaks Neighborhood Association

Community residents are gaining critical skills in effective leadership in NOLA's new mixed-income communities. The 21st Century Community Leader program offers a two-day intensive training session that provides the tools necessary for participants to get ready for new challenges, opportunities and responsibilities that come during and beyond community revitalization. Developed by former Harmony Oaks Neighborhood Association President (HONA) Jocquelyn Marshall, the program is designed to build leadership capacity within the community for the purpose of creating and sustaining positive outcomes for residents.

The 21st Century Community Leader program supports residents in learning about and adapting to the many changes that take place during and after a major



Leaders listen as each participant is given the opportunity to introduce themselves to community members and stakeholders

neighborhood redevelopment effort. Equipped with this knowledge, resident leaders can then work to empower their neighbors to ensure broad engagement and participation among residents

during the transformation process.

“I encourage resident leaders of redeveloped communities to follow these steps,” said program facilitator Marshall. “First, embrace the fact that change is happening. Then make preparations for change. And finally, learn to adapt to the change, because the transformation is not just in the community, but is also a transformation of the mind.”

The program offers three tiers of training: fundamentals, active leadership, and implementation. In addition, the

program includes a board development and technical assistance component led by Timolynn Sams, the Executive Director of the National Partnership Network (NPN). Sams most recently facilitated the election process for the Harmony Oaks Neighborhood Association and provides ongoing Board Development Training to recently elected HONA Board members.

“When designing this program, I wanted to create a training module that provides resident leaders with the support they need to make a true and positive impact in their communities and on their fellow residents,” continued Marshall. “The 21st Century Community Leader program is flexible and it is designed to meet residents where they are, but also increase their capacity.”

Marshall attributes the foundation of this program to Urban Strategies, a national community building agency and her current employer. “With the professional development support I received from Urban Strategies as a resident leader and as an employee, I am able to share my knowledge and provide capacity building support to others in the community.”

Marshall is looking forward to partnering with Sams and Urban Strategies to deliver the program in other HANO and Public Housing communities.



Harmony Oaks Neighborhood Association with Marshall and Sams

Photo Credit: Josephine Butler



# MOVING HOME

HANO residents purchase their dream homes

**F**or many families, owning their own home is a lifelong dream. HANO is trying to make that dream a reality for many residents through its Homeownership Program.

The Homeownership Program provides a variety of



*April Anderson and her daughter*

resources to assist HANO families' transition from public housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) tenants to homeowners. Applicants must be a resident of the agency's rental programs and also already pay equal to or more than the typical cost of a mortgage paid by the average HANO family assisted by the agency's

Homeownership Program.

Once a resident is approved for the Homeownership Program, they are referred to a local non-profit for homebuyer preparation, which includes courses in financial fitness and homebuyers education. HANO's Housing Counselors will refer a resident to an appropriate lender for mortgage application after successfully completing the courses and also select a realtor to begin the homebuying process. After signing the contract and closing on the home of their choice, they finally get the keys to their new home.

"We have identified more than 500 families that in some cases spend more on rent than the cost of a mortgage payment. We are confident that interested families will be able to make a successful transition into owning their dream home," said Receiver David Gilmore.

Two former HANO residents, Oryaon Butler and April Anderson, began their path to becoming first-time homebuyers and moved into their new homes after completing the Homeownership Program in 2010 and 2012.

In the true spirit of the program, each resident had their own unique story to accompany their path to homeownership. They also had the opportunity to utilize various resources provided by HANO's program.

Both agreed that the most valuable resource of the program is the one-on-one assistance from the Homeownership Department. Prior to the intake process, HANO residents meet with a Homeownership Counselor who assesses their mortgage-readiness and also provides hands-on support throughout the home buying process. They also said that having the ability to call their Homeownership Counselor whenever they had any questions or concerns was very beneficial.

"I enjoyed speaking with the counselors the most, especially when I received encouragement and great tips on how to improve my credit," said Anderson.

A consistent driving force at the forefront throughout their homebuyer preparation process was the possibility of their children having a place to call their own. Butler and Anderson, both single mothers, explained that they would have experienced many challenges in purchasing a home without assistance from HANO. "As a single parent, I do not think I would have been able to afford it without the help of HANO's Homeownership Program," Butler said. "HANO helped me by doing so much for myself and my kids, so I just try to let others know they can do the same thing."

For more information about the Homeownership Program, visit [www.hano.org](http://www.hano.org).



*Oryaon Butler and her children*

# HURRICANE PREPARATION

HANO prepares its residents for the 2013 hurricane season

**T**he start of the 2013 hurricane season is here, and the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is encouraging its residents to prepare for a potential storm threat.

From year to year, the safety and welfare of HANO residents are the greatest priority, especially during the upcoming hurricane season. As part of normal emergency preparations, the HANO Police Department will visit each community beginning in the Spring to discuss individual safety and preparedness while the Client Services and Asset Management Departments work together to distribute emergency safety cards to all HANO residents. In addition, HANO representatives will go door-to-door to deliver these safety tip cards to all elderly and disabled families within its communities. To stay updated on any information about an approaching storm, HANO continues to host a website page dedicated to emergency preparedness at [http://www.hano.org/home/hurricane\\_preparedness.aspx](http://www.hano.org/home/hurricane_preparedness.aspx).

In preparation for an approaching storm, HANO also encourages any residents who are unable to evacuate the city to sign up for the City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP) on the City of New Orleans' website. The City's CAEP plan provides assistance to Orleans Parish residents who cannot self-evacuate due to medical issues or lack of transportation during a mandatory city-wide evacuation. Although the City makes their best effort to help everyone in need, the CAEP plan does not guarantee assistance during all emergencies.

The City also offers additional outreach programs and services through its Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to increase local residents' ability to properly respond to a major hurricane. By simply registering with the City's NOLAReady program, HANO residents can receive the latest emergency alerts directly to their phone via text message, e-mail, and other forms of communication. The City also encourages its residents to take a more active role in their neighborhood during a storm through its disaster preparedness program, the

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program.

Other safety tips to consider include creating a family disaster plan during a mandatory city-wide evacuation, evacuating to a location away from the projected track of the storm, and informing family and friends of an evacuation plan. Before hopping into the car to head to an evacuation site, HANO residents should always remember to pack a disaster kit, make travel reservations, and pack enough food for the drive.

If a mandatory evacuation is not called by Mayor Mitch Landrieu, all residents should prepare their homes for any potential damage. Remember to secure all outside equipment, lodge pets in homes, and store enough food items and water supply to last a few days. Residents are encouraged to tune into local radio or television stations for timely updates from city officials.

The City also urges residents to register for news alerts by dialing 311 or visiting [www.NOLAReady.com](http://www.NOLAReady.com). All HANO residents should also dial 877-426-6677 or visit [www.hano.org](http://www.hano.org) for timely information.

## Resources

City of New Orleans - <http://new.nola.gov>

Sign up for emergency text messages from the City - <http://new.nola.gov/ready/>

Get emergency preparedness tips - [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

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

# CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

## SUMMER EDITION

Sgt. Michael A. LeVasseur of HANO PD shares crime tips for the upcoming summer break

**S**ummer time is here and we can expect to see more kids hanging out during daytime hours. Schools have closed their doors and summer camps are opening. With the change in season comes an increase in certain crimes.

More kids will have even more free time to spend hanging with friends in their neighborhood offering more opportunity for confrontations between youth as they travel from one area to another. Some kids just want to have a good time while others will be out looking for trouble. It is almost obvious that crime may peak during summer months when students are out of school with idle hands. In any case, we need to make sure we know where our kids are going and who they are traveling with during the long, hot days of summer.

Our kids' ability to employ conflict resolution skills may be challenged as tempers are expected to intensify. Some experts blame it on the heat and the increase in outside activity during this time. Some use the term "heat aggravation" that causes us all to lose our temper a little easily.

Non-violent crimes that normally increase during the summer consist of graffiti and theft of bicycles, lawn furniture, lawn equipment and small stereos. Others include vehicle burglaries, home burglaries, and auto theft. With warmer weather people tend to expose valuables more often, which creates opportunity for would-be criminals to commit theft. Juveniles are the most likely to commit these crimes.

During July and August, which are known as the hottest months of the year in New Orleans, violent crimes also increase among juveniles and adults. These crimes sometimes are a result of territorial disputes involving drugs, domestic disputes or a lack of conflict resolution skills. Remember, it is hot and we are a little more aggravated than normal. Tempers are short and our ability to think through stressful situations is challenged.

If you are a working parent during the summer and there are no summer camps available, consider establishing a

system with your kids. Start a "check in" system and have them contact you or a responsible adult every other hour. You want to know their location and who they are with. Make sure the house work is done before your kids leave. Complete a "to do" list every evening for the following day. Stress that the chores must be done. Give your kids a reading assignment if they do not have one for school. Make sure to also lock and secure all valuables when they are not in use.

Summer is a great time for our kids to relax and take a break from school, but it creates a greater chance of becoming a victim of crime.

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

Enjoy your summer!



*HANO's Fischer Night Out - Crimestoppers Safety Tips*

---

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

# Path to Self-Sufficiency

HANO hosts Family Self-Sufficiency Resource Fair



*An Urban League representative speaks with FSS participant*

In March, HANO hosted the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Resource Fair for over 100 public housing head of households at the Helen W. Lang Memorial Board Room. The fair connected representatives from various local and national organizations that provided community supportive resources to FSS participants.

Within minutes after the fair began, the Housing Authority's board room was filled with enthusiastic attendees, anxiously collecting materials from the 20

featured vendors. HANO residents received packets on a variety of programs from several organizations, including health, housing, legal, financial and educational information.

Representatives from Daughters of Charity of New Orleans and the new Medicaid program handed out pamphlets outlining their health and wellness assistance programs. First NBC, Chase Bank and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services encouraged financial responsibility by offering money-saving tips and free legal assistance appointments just in time for income tax season.

Other participating organizations in the FSS Resource Fair included United Way of Southeast Louisiana, Café Reconcile, Lower 9th Ward NENA, Operation Reconstruct, Delgado Community College and many more.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program in 1990. The purpose of this volunteer program is to connect families with community supportive services and to assist them in becoming self-sufficient by establishing goals. FSS offers mentoring, job training, educational development, continued support, and home buyer education.

## HANO JOB FAIR

Creating job opportunities for Delgado students

In March, HANO participated in Delgado Community College's spring 2013 Job Fair to recruit qualified candidates for various open positions within the agency. This job fair connected HANO and other local organizations to current Delgado students and graduates seeking full and part-time employment.

HANO's Human Resources Generalist Kelly Walker met with over 20 enthusiastic applicants, and spoke with them about the challenging and rewarding career opportunities within the agency.

For the seven vacant positions open at HANO, Walker received 16

applications from potential candidates, with at least four of those applicants having the opportunity to interview.

"The event was quite successfully attended," Walker said. "In addition to increasing our applicant pool, we were able to gain recognition throughout the campus."

HANO is an equal opportunity employer and a drug-free environment.

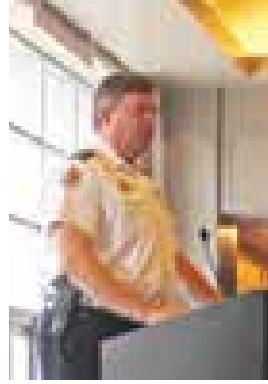
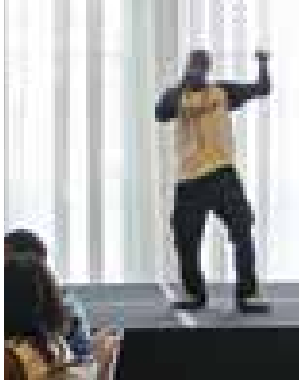


*Walker discusses HANO job opportunities with applicants*



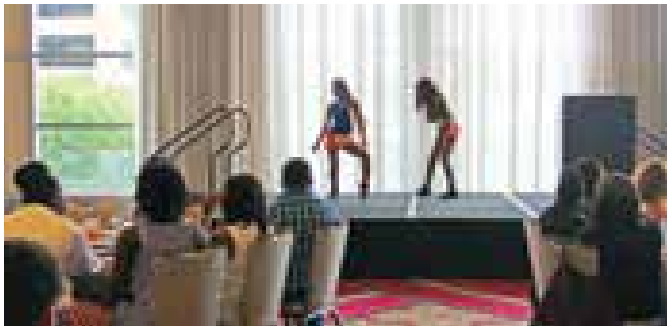
# HANO EVENTS AROUND THE CITY

## HANO SUMMER EMPLOYMENT BANQUET



*At left: Administrative Receiver David Gilmore speaks at the HANO Summer Employment Banquet  
Top (left to right): Christian Rap Artist Darryl Manning entertains attendees, NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas speaks to the program participants, Attendees enjoy the ceremony at the Hyatt Regency*

*Bottom (left to right): The Trendy Girls entertain the attendees with a hip hop performance, 2013 HANO Summer Employment Program Participants*



## FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



*The Faubourg Lafitte community hosts a luncheon to celebrate Father's Day*

## IBERVILLE PLANNING MEETING



*Attendees view the schematic designs for the Iberville Housing Development*



*Iberville Public Meeting at The Treme Center*

## MOBILE COMPUTER LAB

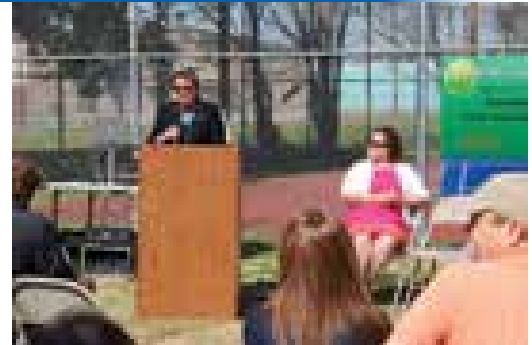


*Instructor Issachar Nichols helps a resident with computer basics within the Guste community*

## TENNIS COURT REDEDICATION CEREMONY



*A band performs at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center Dedication Ceremony in Faubourg Lafitte*



*New Orleans City Councilmember Susan Guidry speaks to Lafitte residents at the dedication ceremony*



# NEWS BULLETIN

## Attention Vendors

HANO has recently launched a new and improved vendor portal to offer a completely automated registration process. Re-register today at [www.hano.org/business](http://www.hano.org/business) to view our new features.

## HANO Residents featured in Times Square Advertisements

HANO residents Kahiji and Kenisha Williams (bottom left) and Mirah and Donovan Gutierrez (bottom right) are featured in an ad, sponsored by Enterprise, in Times Square.

## HANO PD Achievement

Congratulations to Sergeant Michael LeVasseur of HANO's Police Department for achieving the National Crime Prevention Association's Level II National Crime Specialist Certification.



# HANO IS LOOKING FOR LANDLORDS!

For information on how to become a landlord, contact HCVP Landlord Specialist Myrna Leufroy  
[mleufroy@hano.org](mailto:mleufroy@hano.org) • (504) 655-9506 • 4100 Touro St. (Senate St. entrance) NOLA 70122



FAUBOURG  
LAFITTE

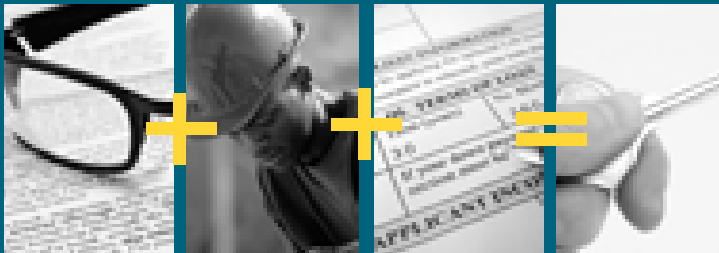
[www.faubourglafitte.com](http://www.faubourglafitte.com)

**OWN**  
YOUR OWN  
HOME TODAY!

STARTING AT \$90,000

## 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 Gardens	(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



FindYourPathtoSelf-Sufficiency 

(504) 670-3300 • [www.HANO.org](http://www.HANO.org)



**CREATING COMMUNITIES.  
BUILDING TRUST.**