

CENTRAL TEXAS HOUSING CONSORTIUM

NEWSLETTER

www.centexhousing.org

JANUARY 2012

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NEW COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR TEMPLE RESIDENTS

Beginning in January 2012, Temple Housing Authority residents will receive information about social events, scheduled maintenance activities, outside agency inspections, scheduled utility interruptions, etc. through a high-speed broadcast system, CodeRED. This new system will alert residents of important notices via telephone and e-mail communication instead of paper flyers. Utilizing these methods, announcements can be dispatched much more quickly and efficiently.



To ensure they receive emergency notifications as well as other important messages, residents will need to keep their contact information up to date. This can be done by calling or coming by the office, sending an e-mail to admin2@centexhousing.org, or using the form on the CTHC website - www.centexhousing.org.

After an initial testing period, this system will be implemented for all CTHC properties.

CURRENT & UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- ♦ Tembell - landscaping improvements
- ♦ Tembell - exterior lighting
- ♦ Tembell - parking lot resurfacing
- ♦ Carver - exterior lighting
- ♦ JM / CV - bathroom rehab (single story buildings)
- ♦ FGH - renovate common areas
- ♦ Willow Brook - solar attic vents, window screens, ceiling fans and compact fluorescent bulbs
- ♦ Friendship House - landscaping
- ♦ Raintree - erosion correction / control
- ♦ Raintree - gutters
- ♦ Adams Bend - exterior lighting
- ♦ PHA wide - smoke detector replacement / addition

Calendar of Events for Residents

Mon. / Wed. / Fri.	Temple GED Class at Rose Hall - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tue. & Thu.	Belton GED Class at BHA Resident Center - 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Mon. & Wed.	Temple Computer Classes at Rose Hall: Beginner Computer Class - 3:30 pm to 5 pm Intermediate Computer Class - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Mon. & Wed.	Belton Computer Class at BHA Resident Center - 1:30 pm to 3 pm
January 5	Extraco Mobile Banking at Golden Haven - 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
January 5	Extraco Mobile Banking at Frances Graham Hall - 2:45 pm to 3:15 pm
January 9	THA Family Nutrition at Rose Hall - 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
January 10	BHA Family Nutrition at BHA Resident Center - 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
January 12	Neighborhood Watch at Golden Haven - 2:00 pm
January 18	Common Cents Living at Rose Hall - 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
January 24	Chronic Disease Self-Management Program at Rose Hall - 9:30 am to 11:30 am
February 7	Housekeeping Workshop at BHA Resident Center - 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
February 13	THA Family Nutrition at Rose Hall - 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
February 14	BHA Family Nutrition at BHA Resident Center - 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
February 15	Common Cents Living at Rose Hall - 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
February 21	Housekeeping Workshop at Rose Hall - 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

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

INSTALLATION OR REPLACEMENT OF SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors provide the earliest warning when there is smoke or a fire. To enhance the safety of our residents, CTHC maintenance will be replacing old smoke detectors or adding new ones beginning Tuesday, January 3. Installation of all smoke detectors is expected to take approximately 60 days to complete. There will be no cost to residents for this installation. Residents do not need to be present during this work.



New Hours for Temple GED Classes

Beginning Wednesday, January 4, 2012, the GED classes in Temple will meet at a new time. The classes will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Rose Hall. Childcare is available for children ages 0 to 5 years. If you plan to attend and require childcare, please notify the Resident Services Department one day in advance to arrange it.

The Belton GED classes will remain the same, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. A one day advance notice for childcare is also required. These classes are held at the BHA Resident Center.

CTHC will pay for the testing fee and provide the necessary workbooks.

COMPUTER CLASSES

New computer classes are scheduled to begin Wednesday, January 4. All classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays for eight weeks. In Belton, they will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the BHA Resident Center. There will be two classes in Temple at Rose Hall: a Beginner's class from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and an Intermediate class from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If you complete the course, you may purchase a refurbished computer for \$7 or a computer with a modem for \$21. To sign up for one of these classes, please contact a Resident Services Coordinator.

CTHC Christmas Celebrations

The annual CTHC Family Christmas Party was held on December 20 at Rose Hall with 99 parents and children participating in the festivities. Santa Claus made an appearance, and each child received a gift and had their picture taken with him.

In addition, the winners of the family door decorating contest were announced. The Temple winners were: 1st place – Antonia Lopez of Tembelle; 2nd place – Josephine Cutrer of Jonathan Moore; and 3rd place - Garry Hill of Crestview. In Belton, the winners were Richard & Rosa Avina, first place and Kayla Sevey, second place .

Winners of the door decorating contest for senior residents were announced at a luncheon held earlier in the season. Temple winners were: 1st place - Stella Felix of Frances Graham Hall, 2nd place - Teodora Resendez of Autumn Leaves, and 3rd place - Steve Smith of Frances Graham Hall. In Belton, the third place winner was Sylvia Gonzales, the second place went to Dora Hanson, and first place was won by Barbara Davis.



THA 2nd place winning door

BHA 1st place winning door

The Kyle luncheon was held on December 22, and the door decorating winners there were Pamela Bettinger, 3rd place; Helen Fox, 2nd place; and 1st place went to William Chandler.



Congratulations to all of our winners and to all residents that participated in the contests.

CTHC would like to thank the Temple Fire Department Union for their donation to sponsor gifts for all the boys and girls who attended the Family Christmas Party.

Resident Spotlight - B. J. Harker

Brenda Jean (B.J.) Harker has been a resident of Frances Graham Hall for over 15 years. Ms. Harker was born in Pennsylvania but moved to Temple when she was a young child. After graduating from Temple High School, she enrolled at Temple College majoring in Business Management. While going to college, she worked at Action World Bowling and in the retail clothing business. Several years later, Ms. Harker's health began to decline and she became disabled. This situation was difficult for her as she previously was always busy. Ms. Harker decided she could give back to the community, so she offered her services as a volunteer to Scott & White in



1991. She currently volunteers at both the Surgical Waiting Room and Day Surgery, checking patients in and taking doctor's calls. While there, she also

makes all the packets for admittance. Soon, she will be volunteering at the new hospital as well. Ms. Harker has accumulated nearly 6,000 volunteer hours at Scott & White, and she also helps at a Temple food pantry once a week. She is very involved with her church and its music ministry. Ms. Harker says volunteering gives her a purpose and makes her life worth living. Despite the difficult days when her health is not the best, Ms. Harker believes that she has this mission for a reason and that all of us, no matter what our situations, have something to give to those less fortunate.

** POLICY REMINDERS **



When is my rent due? Per your lease, rent and other charges are due on or before the 1st day of each month. To avoid late fee charges, payment in full must be received before the end of any stated grace period and not just postmarked by then.

Resident Safety and Suspicious Activity. Due to the recent increase in criminal activity in our community, we need to remember that any time we see something suspicious, we should call the Police Department to report it. How do you know what suspicious activity is? Here are some activities to watch for that could be considered suspicious.

Persons who are:

- Looking into car, house, or business windows and/or trying their door handles.
- Loitering for no apparent reason, especially near convenience stores, banks, parking lots, or unoccupied buildings and houses.
- Entering and leaving a store or shop many times, making minimal or no purchases.
- Running, especially if carrying items or not wearing running clothes.
- Carrying items unusual for the time of day - such as pushing a lawn mower down the street at 2 a.m.

Vehicles that are:

- Driving past the same location slowly and repetitively.
- Occupied and parked facing stores, parks, playgrounds, schools, or government facilities.

When in doubt, call the police. It may not be worthy of a 911 emergency call, but you can always call the non-emergency numbers - 298-5500 in Temple and 933-5844 in Belton. They will always respond as quickly as the current call volume allows. If you're still in doubt, ask yourself one final question - what might happen if I do NOT call?

For news releases, Temple Police Department has a Facebook page that can be viewed at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Temple-Police-Department-Temple-TX/171850379565947>.

Remember that we have limited space for resident vehicles. Recreational vehicles cannot be brought onto the premises without obtaining prior written consent from management. **Vehicle maintenance or cleaning is not allowed.** Residents may change a flat tire while the vehicle is parked at our apartment community. Any leaking oil from vehicles must be properly cleaned up and disposed of by the resident.



Pet Policy. A Pet Agreement must be executed between management and the resident *before* a pet can enter the property. "Visiting" pets are not allowed. All pets must be leashed at all times when outside the apartment. Pets are not allowed in common areas or other dwelling units. Pet owners must clean up after their pets and are responsible for disposing of pet waste. Refer to your pet agreement or contact management for more information about the pet policy.

KALEIDOSCOPE NEWS

Curriculum fun!

Staff and children alike have been having a blast with the winter curriculum! School-agers were busy making Christmas trees, toddlers have been experimenting and learning about food, while the pre-schoolers had a snowball fight in class. (It's amazing what you can do with crumpled paper when you think outside of the box.)



"goodies" for the center. We received puzzles, books, and toys to distribute to the classrooms!

Accomplishments!

Congratulations to Sandra White for completing her Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Development!

Congratulations to Ceci Lewis for

earning a bi-lingual Child Development Associate (CDA)!

The Texas School Ready (TSR) Project has recertified our Preschool 2 classroom for 4-year-olds. Autumn Dye, the Lead Teacher, played an elemental role in our recertification.

These teachers are working on their CDA. Having met all of the requirements, they are now preparing for their assessment and test:

- Ashley Harris
- Christa Waters
- Priscilla Torres
- Vonnie Taplin
- Autumn Dye



Thankful!

A big THANK YOU to the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for their generous grant of \$15,000, which will be used for tuition and updating computer equipment.

The Ronald McDonald House recently gifted Kaleidoscope with a variety of



Please refer to our website www.centexhousing.org for the list of the Board of Commissioners and staff directory.

Do You Need Help with Child Care?

CTHC has some funding available for residents who need financial assistance with child care at Kaleidoscope Early Childhood Development Center. For more information, contact Sharon Sapp at 773-2009, extension 221.

For details or more information on any resident programs or activities mentioned in this newsletter, contact the Resident Services Department at 773-2009, extensions 220, 221 or 222 for Temple. For Belton, please call 939-5321, extension 25.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a six-week series designed to empower people to take an active role in managing their chronic health conditions. The program will help participants make lifestyle choices and changes, adhere to medical treatments, and become more educated, responsible,



and informed patients.

Some of the skills participants can learn at the workshop include:

- Setting and reaching weekly action plans and long-term goals
- Stress and pain management
- Managing medicines and doctor's visits

- Continuing enjoyable everyday activities

The workshops will begin on Tuesday, January 24 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Rose Hall. Light refreshments will be served at the workshops. Participants who successfully complete the program will be entered into a drawing for a door prize.