



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We are excited to announce that our application for the demolition of Avery has been approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This means that once the property is vacated we will begin salvaging items and making arrangements for demolition. THA has requested that volunteers come on the United Way “Day of Caring” on September 22, 2017 to help clear items and prepare for demolition.

The eighteen remaining families have received housing choice vouchers and are looking for new homes. It is an exciting and sad time for many of the families. While living at Avery, they have established lifelong friendships and developed strong networks. One young man has lived at Avery, since he was a child. He is now working in Taylor and is excited about finding a new place close to where he works. Many of the families are also looking forward to their children going to new schools.

THA plans to apply for tax credits in January, to redevelop the property. This will bring 80-100 new work force rental units to Taylor. This will be a big boost to Council District 1. THA would like to get the public input on ideas for the redevelopment of that area. The plan includes visiting with developers and potential partners to attract other development to the area. Please contact us, if you should have any ideas. We want to help make this a community project!

**Ebby Green, Chief Executive Officer**

## PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT TRANICE WILLIAMS



This month we are featuring a new Housing Choice Voucher program participant, Traneice Williams. When we asked Traneice to tell us about herself and her family, she replied that she is a single mother of two young sons, and is also a full-time student at Virginia College in Austin focusing her studies on Medical Office Management. Traneice is originally from Taylor and has many family members in the area. She found out that the Taylor Housing Authority was accepting applications for

section 8 and after her application was approved. She remained on the waiting list for approximately a year and a half before receiving her voucher. During the waiting period, she was moving around, living with family members. She lived at Texas Baptist Children’s Home (TBCH for about a year before receiving her voucher. Traneice also told us that she believes the advantage of having a housing choice voucher is that she will now be able to find a place that she and her children can call “home” – a place that they look forward to making their own. The Taylor Housing Authority always strives to do a good job managing our programs. Traneice let us know that she felt the Taylor Housing Authority staff has always treated her very well and that whenever she called to ask questions, her calls were returned in a timely manner. Welcome Traneice to the program. We wish her well and look forward to a lasting relationship.

## CHILD ABUSE: DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS?

According to the law, if someone suspects child abuse, they are to report it. On a day-to-day basis, we interact with people and members of our families from many different income levels and sometimes things just don’t seem right. At the Housing Authority, concern for the safety of children is always at the top of our list. If there is an immediate threat, we know to call 911, but what if we just suspect that there is a problem; knowing how to engage and how to respond are important tools when you are not sure. Here are just a few signs you can look for: unexplained injuries, changes in behavior, returning to earlier behaviors, fear of certain places or people, changes in eating, changes in sleeping, changes in school performance and attendance, lack of personal care or hygiene, risk-taking behaviors, and inappropriate sexual behaviors. Learn to listen with a caring heart and if the child cries out to you, know how to respond. For example, remain calm, let them talk, show interest and concern, support them. It is not in the best interest of the child or the situation if you panic or overreact. DON’T pressure the child to talk or overwhelm them with questions, blame the child, make promises you cannot

### Main Office

311-C East 7th St.  
Taylor, Texas

p: 512.352.3231  
f: 512.365.5464

[www.taylor.org](http://www.taylor.org)

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday  
Closed

Closed during lunch  
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

### After Hours

MAINTENANCE CALLS  
512.352.3231, x122

### September Dates

- 1st-5th: Rent is due
- 4th: LABOR DAY  
OFFICE CLOSED
- 6th: Late Rent fees begin
- 8th: Resident Bingo-1pm
- 22nd: United Way Day of Caring - Avery Demolition Project (Volunteers are welcome)
- 22nd: Resident Bingo-1pm
- 22nd: Board Meeting  
THA Office
- Bible Study: 6pm  
Every Wednesday  
THA Office
- Pest Control: Every 2nd Wed. (specified units)

control, and don't confront the person accused of the offense. DO make sure that child knows that you care.

## **FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

From time to time we hear about programs that are offering assistance to low income households that are designed to relieve some of the stress of everyday living. Below are two programs that families might be interested in benefitting from.

Electricity Bill Assistance – Families who are struggling to pay their electricity bills may qualify to receive assistance through the CEAP Program offered by Opportunities of Williamson and Burnett Counties. The organization has let us know that they still have 2017 funding available to assistance families with their electricity bills. Any resident whose electricity gets turned off runs the risk of quickly losing their housing. Families that qualify for this program, could receive energy assistance for up to 8 months which could free up money for rent and other priorities or help the family get caught up. Applications can be picked up in Taylor from the Library, Taylor Head Start or Switzer Senior Center. For more information and details call 512 255-2202 or visit their website at [www.opportunitiesforwbc.org](http://www.opportunitiesforwbc.org).

Low Cost Internet Service is available to qualifying families through AT&T. One of our residents has shared information that she could take advantage of and thought that it might be helpful to other residents and households in the community as well. If your household participates in the SNAP Program (food stamps), and you meet the other qualifications, AT&T is offering internet service for \$5 - \$10.00 per month (depending on the internet speed in your area). Visit their website at [www.att/access.com](http://www.att/access.com) to get more information. This could be helpful to families with children, seniors and single parent households. Many of the schools expect the students to access school work and assignments via the internet - this program might help.

## **RESIDENT SERVICES: BRIDGING THE GAP**

The Taylor Housing Authority has attempted to bring many activities and services to the residents we serve. Some things, like bingo, have worked and others have not. It is our goal to bring things that the residents will enjoy, benefit from and will support by attending and participating.

As residents, we would like your input. Do you have a need we can assist you with? Do you have a skill or craft you would like to share with others and don't mind teaching? Let us know what events or activities you would like to have on a regular basis. Call the office to share your thoughts – we would love to hear from you.

## **FOR YOUR HEALTH**

Keeping a food and exercise diary could be a great way to help you improve your overall health. Writing down in a diary the changes you make can do a lot to encourage you to stay on the right road by eating well and staying active. For a fresh start, pick 1 or 2 small steps you want to take to change the way you eat and move (for example: I will eat more fresh fruit and veggies; I will eat fewer fried foods; or I will exercise for 30 minutes 2 days a week using 10-minute intervals). Keep your diary for 1 week and then look at what you did to see if you reached your goals. If you did, give yourself a healthy reward – if you didn't ask yourself why not and try again next week.

## **SECTION 8 APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Taylor Housing Authority received several hundred Section 8 applications last month and we are in the process of reviewing them all. Beginning late September or early October, applicants will be notified to let them know if they made the waiting list or not. Please do not contact the office to check on the status of your application, we will not be able to give out any information. Thank you for your interest in the program.

## **SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION**

and the staff at the Taylor Housing Authority would like to wish every student a successful school year. We encourage our student residents to let us know when you make the honor roll, or achieve special recognition in your school – you may be featured in one of our newsletters.



## **FREE GED CLASSES IN TAYLOR**

Community Action is offering free classes to help prepare those who are serious about getting their GED. Show up for the orientation and testing dates on 8/29 and 8/31/17 at 10:00am. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursday from 8:30-12:30 beginning September 5th, 2017. Contact [cpearson@communityaction.com](mailto:cpearson@communityaction.com) or call 512 393-4608.

## **Computer Access**

Available to residents participating in Taylor Housing Authority programs (Public Housing and Section 8). If you do not have computer access and need to take care of business on line, write or print out your resume, or contact a potential employer, you are welcome to visit our lobby and use our computer between the hours of 7:30am and 5:30pm, Monday-Thursday.

## **Website**

Visit us at [www.taylorha.org](http://www.taylorha.org) to apply for public housing. Get and print out forms required to make Section 8 application updates or obtain instructions and information if you are a Section 8 Landlord. All printed forms when they have been completed, can be brought into our office or mailed (no faxes please) – Applicants, don't forget the 10-day deadline to submit the information. We welcome landlords who are interested in our Section 8 program. Please call (512) 352-3231, x112 to speak with Angie Lindgren.