

WINTER 2017

HANO *news*



NAHRO Community Service Project at The Estates Community

REVIVING COMMUNITIES WITH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In This Issue:

HANO Joins NAHRO to Host 2016 National Conference

HANO Completes First Phase of HUD's ConnectHome Initiative

Fischer Community Gains Dual READesign Technology Lab

CONTENTS



- 3 Letter from the Executive Director
- 4 HANO Joins NAHRO to Host 2016 National Conference
- 6 HANO Completes First Phase of HUD's ConnectHome Initiative
- 7 HANO Welcomes Commissioner Morris
- 8 Faubourg Lafitte's Magic Archway
- 9 HANO Donates to Flood Victims in Baton Rouge
- 9 Happy Thanksgiving from the Faubourg Lafitte Community!
- 10 HANO Launches Proactive Youth Program
- 11 HANO Participates in the 6th Annual Small Business Expo
- 11 Local Youth Kick Off Parent Awareness Program
- 12 Fischer Community Gains Dual READesign Technology Lab
- 14 Changes to HCV Department are Here
- 14 Lafitte Tenants Association Hosts Community Retreat
- 15 Pictorial: Marrero Commons Management Building Ribbon Cutting
- 16 HANO Information Technology Department Receives National Trailblazer Award
- 17 Dell Community Technology Center Opens at Bienville Basin
- 18 Japan Delegation Talks Affordable Housing with Advocates
- 19 Crime Prevention Corner

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner speaks during a press conference

Dear readers:

Thank you for picking up the Winter 2017 Edition of HANO news.

Over the last few months, we've witnessed the increase of technology utilization at select sites, and hope that with additional sponsorship we can continue this trend. Seniors and youth in the William J. Fischer Community celebrated the unveiling of a state-of-the-art technology lab. The READesign Lab was donated by Capital One Bank,

and assembled by the Heart of America Foundation. Community members had been advocating for a refurbished lab for some time, and we were excited to partner with Capital One on such a dynamic project. We also celebrated the grand opening of the Bienville Basin Technology Center through another generous donation by Dell.

As we work to expand and enhance community supportive services through public-private partnerships, we continue to focus on transforming public housing developments into sustainable mixed-income communities. This year, we anticipate the completion of additional phases of construction of the Lafitte Senior building, and in the Bienville Basin, Florida and Guste Homes communities. We are equally excited to kick-off our most anticipated redevelopment plan of adding more affordable housing units to our portfolio on HANO's vacant scattered sites properties.

HANO staff was also instrumental in planning and executing the 2016 National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Conference in October, and was honored during the National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing Conference with the National Trailblazer Award for the successful completion of the ConnectHome Initiative, a vital technology program offering broadband access to public housing residents.

Although we boast a very successful 2016, there is more work to do. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to enhance the lives of low-income citizens while supporting the economic achievements of all individuals. Stay tuned for more to come!

-Gregg Fortner



CREATING
COMMUNITIES.
BUILDING
TRUST.

Gregg Fortner
Executive Director

Lesley E. Thomas
Editor

Jessica Perrault
*Designer, Photographer,
& Contributor*



Board of Commissioners

Dwayne G. Bernal
President

Alice Riener
Vice President

Toni Hackett Antrum

Andreanecia M. Morris

Vonda Rice

Donna Johnigan

Cantrese Wilson

Debra Joseph



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
4100 TOURO STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70122
WWW.HANO.ORG • (504) 670-3300

HANO JOINS NAHRO TO HOST 2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE



HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner welcomes housing professionals to the 2016 NAHRO National Conference

Last October, approximately 1,500 housing professionals descended upon New Orleans for professional development and networking seminars during one of the largest national conferences hosted by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) in several years.

Kicking off the weekend of events, conference attendees were welcomed to the Crescent City by a traditional second line led by the Tramps of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club and the Rebirth Brass Band. Mardi Gras beads bearing the conference logo were handed out to the Opening Plenary attendees by NAHRO staff, and welcome remarks were delivered by HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner. NAHRO registrants were urged to not only partake in several informative professional sessions, but also to visit the City and its historic neighborhoods to get a sense of the New Orleans heritage and culture beyond the Central Business District.

Plenary session speakers included former New Orleans Mayor and current President and Chief Executive Officer of The National Urban League Marc Morial, HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Public and Indian Housing Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Congressman Cedric Richmond, award-winning actor and film producer Harold Sylvester, and Dr. Donna

Beegle, a prominent advocate for anti-poverty programs who consults with state and federal government agencies.

The NAHRO leadership, the Housing America Task Force and HANO staff participated in a community service project to create a community gathering place for residents of The Estates. The event was memorialized in the name of Officer James A. Bennett Jr. Officer Bennett was killed in the line of duty in May of 2015 and was a dedicated employee of the HANO Police Department.

HANO and City of New Orleans staff presented three concurrent sessions along with guest panelists from across the nation; *The New Dynamics of Catastrophic Events – Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery* moderated by Fortner; *Leveraging Resources in Rebuilding Efforts after Disasters* moderated by Ellen Lee, Director of Housing Policy and Community Development for the City of New Orleans; and *Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) – A Transformation in New Orleans* moderated by the New Orleans CNI Administrator April Kennedy. Several resident leaders shared life stories and their roles in the redevelopment of public housing during the *Voices of Public Housing* session, and HANO staff provided a tour of HANO communities and several major city landmarks that were rebuilt following Hurricane Katrina.

The conference culminated with a reception featuring the Royal Essence Band.



2016 NAHRO National Conference

1 Former New Orleans Mayor and current President and Chief Executive Officer of The National Urban League Marc Morial speaks to over 1,500 housing professionals at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

2 Rebirth Brass Band kicked off the Opening Plenary session with a traditional second line.

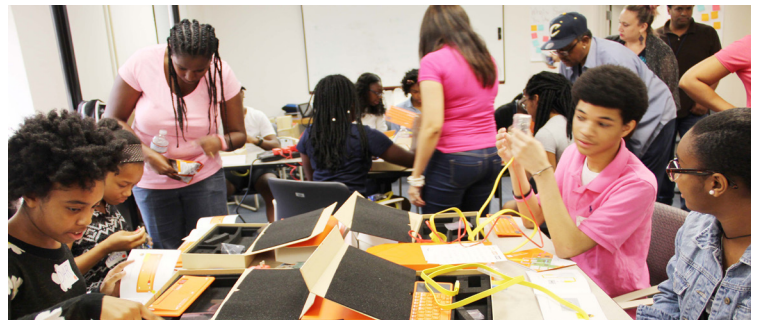
3 Congressman Cedric Richmond spoke to a number of housing professionals during the Plenary session on the second day of the 2016 NAHRO National Conference. (Photo Credit: NAHRO)

4 The NAHRO leadership, The Housing America Task Force, and HANO staff planted flowers in the new community gathering space for residents of The Estates community.

5 HANO resident leaders shared their experiences of living in public housing during NAHRO's *Voices of Public Housing* seminar.

6 Executive Director Gregg Fortner joins award-winning actor and film producer Harold Sylvester and "Project Be" graffiti artist Brandon Odums for the Closing Plenary session.

HANO COMPLETES FIRST PHASE OF HUD'S CONNECTHOME INITIATIVE



HANO Connect Day at the Harmony Oaks Community Center

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) in partnership with The City of New Orleans recently announced the successful completion of the first phase of an initiative to connect public housing residents to enhanced broadband services.

ConnectHome, launched in July 2015 by President Barack Obama and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, expands high-speed internet services to more families across the country, removing exclusionary barriers for low-income residents. As a part of this initiative, 300 public housing residents in New Orleans with school-aged children now have access to affordable broadband services and digital literacy training in partnership with local internet providers.

Twenty-seven (27) cities nationwide and one tribal nation were selected to participate in the program. The communities and housing agencies partnered with local internet service providers, non-profits, and the private sector to offer broadband training, digital literacy programs, and in some cases, devices to public housing residents. HUD established a baseline goal of connecting 35 percent or 297 of the 850 eligible families with school-

aged children living in HANO communities in 2015. This initiative includes the installation of internet connectivity, home-based computer equipment and software needed for the connectivity, or through the use of a mobile device.

“HANO has always been an advocate for broadband inclusion of the most vulnerable citizens in our city,” said HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner. “This agency welcomes the opportunity to bridge a growing gap of accessibility to online resources, and to encourage residents to utilize this partnership with local internet providers for low-cost internet services and basic computer skills training necessary to perform daily activities.”

Through a series of local stakeholder meetings, extensive community outreach, and the submission of surveys completed by residents in four housing communities, the agency discovered extreme barriers faced by this target population. Without broadband connectivity, residents are rejected access to resources used to complete college and/or job applications, interacting with health care professionals, researching information for homework

assignments, and paying utility bills.

To bridge the digital divide, the agency partnered with AT&T, Cox Communications and T-Mobile to host a series of Connect Days for publicly assisted households with children in grades kindergarten to 12. Each provider presented participating residents with low-cost internet service, and residents were encouraged to sign-up for basic computer skills and internet usage training provided by HANO's Information Technology Department.

HANO is currently working with private entities, local universities, and non-profit organizations to secure computer hardware and software donations for program participants. Last summer, Whitney Bank donated 115 home-based computers, laptops and desktops to HANO in an effort to provide broadband internet connectivity for ConnectHome program participants.

Recently, HANO partnered with GitHub, the world's largest open source software community, to offer four digital inclusion trainings for 35 high school students who currently reside in HANO communities. The free digital literacy class encouraged ConnectHome program participants ages 14 to 18 to pursue their interests in the technology field. As part of their participation in the class, attendees also received a portable tablet to continue their digital literacy education at home.

For more information on HUD's ConnectHome initiative, visit www.HUD.gov.



HANO's Information Technology Department accepts a generous computer donation from representatives of Whitney Bank

HANO WELCOMES COMMISSIONER MORRIS



Commissioner Andreanecia M. Morris

Adding to Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu's appointment of the first full board established in over a decade, Andreanecia M. Morris, the executive director of HousingNOLA, was recently selected as Board Commissioner.

Morris currently serves as the Executive Director of HousingNOLA. A graduate of Loyola University, she also worked to create affordable housing opportunities in the Greater New Orleans Area in both the public and private sectors. Morris has assisted in creating opportunities for approximately 500 families to become first-time home buyers after Hurricane Katrina, and she was lead organizer for GNOHA when it started in 2007 as a collaborative coalition of non-profit housing builders and community development corporations who work to rebuild the City of New Orleans.

Morris serves as co-chair for the GNOHA Board of Governors and the Louisiana Housing Trust Fund Initiative. She is also a member of the City of New Orleans Interagency Council on Homelessness, Lafitte Greenway Steering Advisory Committee, and other local organizations.



Faubourg Lafitte's Magic Archway

The Housing Authority, in partnership with developers Enterprise Community Housing and Providence Community Housing, recently celebrated the unveiling and dedication of a public artwork, Magic Archway, in the Faubourg Lafitte community. The Magic Archway, located on Magic Street between N. Galvez and N. Johnson Streets, consists of two mosaic benches and a horse-shoe shaped mosaic arch.

“The Magic Archway serves as a visual recording of the past, a celebration of the present and a portal into the future, including dozens of historical photos and architectural elements woven into a contemporary artwork,” said Laurel True, local artist and designer of the Magic Archway. “The Archway is lined with bricks of the former Lafitte Public Housing Development and mosaics created by Lafitte residents to represent the strength and solidity of the community.”

True, a local artist for over 20 years, worked closely with residents to design the artwork to include the rich history and culture of the Lafitte community. In an effort to encourage community involvement, the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center hosted a number of workshops to assist residents with creating mosaics, ceramic, and glass work for the Archway. Rachel Bruenlin, the Co-Director

FAUBOURG LAFITTE'S MAGIC ARCHWAY



of the Neighborhood Story Project at the University of New Orleans, also contributed oral histories and photographs for Lafitte's Magic Archway.

“The collage is a history of where you are standing, specifically before and during the years of the Lafitte Public Housing Development,” Bruenlin said. “The Archway represents a commitment to safe affordable housing in the heart of the city and the creation of a more just society.”

The Magic Archway was constructed and created by Laurel True, True Mosaics Studio, and Faubourg Lafitte community members in collaboration with HANO, Providence Community Housing, Enterprise Community Partners, L+M Development Partners, Inc., and the Arts Council of New Orleans.

To learn more about the Magic Archway in the Lafitte community, visit www.HANO.org.

HANO DONATES TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN BATON ROUGE

Flood victims in Baton Rouge received a generous donation last year, and it was all thanks to the staff at the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

“The employees at HANO extended assistance to our neighbors in Baton Rouge to reciprocate the kindness shown to New Orleanians during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It’s important to give back to others when they’re in their most vulnerable state,” said Director of Client Services Dawn Domengeaux.

HANO employees donated non-perishable can goods, bottled water, clothing, toiletries, cleaning supplies and much more. Donations were distributed to Star Hill Baptist Church, Greater King David Baptist Church, and Destined for Success Worldwide in Baton Rouge.



HANO staff members donate a number of items to Baton Rouge flood victims

Thank you HANO employees for your generous donations to the flood victims in Baton Rouge!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE FAUBOURG LAFITTE COMMUNITY!



As the season of giving approached, the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center (STNC) rallied together with Whole Foods Market and Liberty’s Kitchen on November 17th to host a community dinner for over 100 residents in the Lafitte community.

Representatives from Whole Foods Market and Liberty’s Kitchen served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, including turkey, corn bread stuffing, macaroni and cheese, vegetables, pumpkin pie and much more. Attendees also enjoyed an opportunity to mingle with their fellow neighbors while festive holiday music played in the background.

For more information on community events at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SojournerTruthNOLA/>.



Faubourg Lafitte residents enjoy a traditional turkey dinner thanks to Whole Foods Market and Liberty’s Kitchen (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)

HANO LAUNCHES PROACTIVE YOUTH PROGRAM



HANO's Youth Program connects over 100 students with state and city leaders in the criminal justice system

HANO, in conjunction with city officials, community leaders, and residents, hosted a Proactive Youth Program this summer for over 100 students participating in HANO's Summer Employment Program. The youth program, held at the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, presented high school and college students with the opportunity to connect with a number of local criminal justice agency administrators and public officials.

Moderated by HANO's Hearing Officer Darren Martin and Client Services Coordinator Eddie Scott, attendees heard from panelists, including U.S. Attorney Kenneth Polite, Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, HANO Board of Commissioner and longtime Resident Leader Donna Johnigan, WBOK-AM Host Oliver Thomas, and other notable leaders in the community. During the program, students discussed relevant topics, including flaws of the criminal justice system, challenges of working in the criminal justice system, and much more.

Sheriff Gusman opened the question and answer session with a discussion on the importance of knowing your rights and educating yourself about the criminal justice

system. "Our youngest citizens can sometimes be confused or unaware of their rights when encountering the police," Sheriff Gusman said. "It is necessary for our youth and young adults to understand their standard constitutional rights so they can effectively navigate the criminal justice system."

District Attorney Cannizzaro also discussed the importance of acting as a positive role model for youth in the community to combat crime and violence.

"It is very important for every one of you to be a positive influence on your peers in your community," said District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro. "And, always remember that just because you make a mistake in your life doesn't mean that your life is a mistake."

The youth program concluded with a luncheon, hosted by the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, in an effort to continue the conversation between the panelists and participating youth.

To learn more about HANO's summer youth initiatives, visit www.HANO.org.

HANO PARTICIPATES IN THE 6TH ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

In August, HANO took part in Congressman Cedric Richmond's 6th Annual Small Business Summit and Expo to promote contracting and procurement opportunities to local small business owners. The fair, held at Delgado Community College, connects attendees with representatives of more than 40 purchasing departments within major government agencies and leading companies in the Greater New Orleans area.

During the fair, attendees had the opportunity to have one-on-one meetings with major government agencies and top companies from the area to facilitate contracting opportunities, financial assistance, and business development. Featured exhibitors at the fair included Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, First NBC Bank and many more.



HANO's Contract and Procurement Specialist Dianne Wiltz-Hunley speaks with fair participant about procurement opportunities

LOCAL YOUTH KICK OFF PARENT AWARENESS PROGRAM



Marrero Commons' Parent Awareness Program at the Rosenwald Recreation Center

HANO resident leadership, along with parents and youth that reside in the Marrero Commons community, recently hosted their first Parent Awareness Program at the Rosenwald Recreation Center. This program, designed and implemented by HANO Commissioner and longtime Resident Leader Donna Johnigan, was created to increase and enhance community activities that promote better opportunities for youth and their families.

During the kick-off ceremony, youth participants introduced themselves to the attendees through song, dance, and artwork stressing their commitment to a better life regardless of their individual and family challenges. Through services and community events, the program participants continue to emphasize their pledge against violence and the need to create a family structure in their homes and in the homes of other youth within the community.

FISCHER COMMUNITY GAINS DUAL READESIGN TECHNOLOGY LAB



READesign Technology Lab at the Fischer Community Center

Residents of the Fischer Community recently celebrated the unveiling of two brand new computer labs donated by Capital One Bank.

Area youth and seniors participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony and were on hand to test out the new state-of-the-art technology equipment now located in the dual READesign Technology Lab. The new equipment ranges from large-screen monitors, a 3D printer and scanner, color laser printers and copiers, and digital and video cameras. The lab will provide the community with on-demand access to business and financial literacy tools that will empower users to develop the skills necessary for economic growth.

The labs were designed and refurbished by a team of volunteers from The Heart of America Foundation. This collaboration of volunteers assembled furniture and installed the equipment. Once the labs were completed, community members and area students participated in mock interviews and resume reviews. The center was also gifted with a donation of more than 1,000 financial literacy, career, workforce development and parental resource guides. Some residents were able to take a few of the books home for their own personal use. Capital One

Financial Corporation is a financial holding company with \$345.1 billion in total assets as of September 2016. Through its Future Edge initiative, Capital One is focusing \$150 million of community grants and initiatives over five years to help more Americans succeed in the digital economy. Their investment in the Fischer Community Center READesign Technology Lab is one of the many ways the company brings this initiative to life in partnership with The Heart of America Foundation.

The Heart of America Foundation is a national non-profit organization that provides children in need with the tools to read, succeed and make a difference by creating vibrant learning environments for children, engaging volunteers in acts of service, and encouraging the pursuit of education.

For more information on Capital One Bank and The Heart of America Foundation, visit www.CapitalOne.com and www.HeartofAmerica.org.



Fischer's READesign Technology Lab

1 Volunteers from Capital One Bank assembled furniture and installed equipment for the READesign Technology Lab at the Fischer Senior Community Center.

2 HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner welcomes guests to the READesign Technology Lab Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

3 A Capital One Bank volunteer builds and installs a table for the new READesign Technology Lab.

4 Area students participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the READesign Technology Lab at the Fischer Senior Village Community Center.

5 Capital One volunteers read books to participating students after the ceremony.

6 Fischer residents learned about financial literacy, using the internet, and how to send an e-mail thanks to Capital One volunteers.

CHANGES TO HCV DEPARTMENT ARE HERE



Housing Authority of New Orleans

The agency has implemented significant changes to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). Following an extensive, five month review of the full operations of the program, a strategy was developed to improve the agency's customer service performance and delivery. The new structure has been in place since February 1, 2017, and departmental changes have been posted on the agency's website at www.hano.org. For more information regarding changes to the HCVP Department, or to inquire about the status of an application, call 504-670-3300. Participants currently on the wait list can also e-mail info@hano.org to update application information.

LAFITTE TENANTS ASSOCIATION HOSTS COMMUNITY RETREAT



The Faubourg Lafitte Tenants Association recently hosted a community retreat for over 100 residents at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center in an effort to promote unity among community members. The retreat, held on Saturday, June 11th, bridged the gap between parents and their children to strengthen their family bond.

During the retreat, speakers focused on parenting, bullying in schools, peer pressure with drugs, and violence in the community. Featured speakers included Derrick Shackelford and Ayanna Molina of the True Love Movement, Deacon Allen Steven of Saint Peter Claver Church and educator Dr. Jim Ewers.

Following the community retreat, residents enjoyed a crawfish boil with their neighbors, family, and friends at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center.

To learn more about community events at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SojournerTruthNOLA/>.



Faubourg Lafitte's Lafitte Retreat (Photo Credit: Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center)

PICTORIAL: MARRERO COMMONS MANAGEMENT BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING



1



2



3



4



5



6

1 Residents of the Marrero Commons community now have access to 17 computers/work stations in the management office.

2 Resident Leader Donna Johnigan joins a host of community leaders, and residents for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Marrero Commons Management Building.

3 Fortner welcomes guests to the grand opening of the Marrero Commons Management Building.

4 The \$3.2 million community and management building is located at the center of the Marrero Commons community.

5 Marrero Commons Management staff enjoy the backyard porch for residents after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

6 Residents of the Marrero Commons Community get a glimpse of the new management building in their community.

HANO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NATIONAL TRAILBLAZER AWARD



HANO's Information Technology Director Allan Rivera (pictured second left) proudly accepts the 2016 National Trailblazer Award

The National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing (NAR-SAAH) recently recognized the Housing Authority for its innovative technology program to bring enhanced broadband services to residents in public housing. During a luncheon held on the last day of the conference, HANO was honored with the 2016 National Trailblazer Award for successfully completing HUD's ConnectHome Initiative.

"While the Agency's primary focus is to ensure access to low-income housing opportunities, HANO also works diligently to enhance community supportive services that promote the economic growth and stability of our residents. We will continue to work with our very passionate resident leadership to develop innovative programs that will bridge a growing gap of accessibility to online resources," said Executive Director Gregg Fortner.

Allan Rivera, the Director of the Information Technology Department, was on hand to receive the award on behalf of the Agency. Seven additional award recipients that achieved success in developing pioneering programming,

capacity building mechanisms, and that continue to ensure the health and safety of the community over the last year were also honored.

Supportive services programs have been an essential component in transforming public housing into mixed-income communities throughout the nation. HANO's technology programs have been extremely critical in providing direct access to broadband services and technical skills training and development. Following the launch of the Mobile Computer Lab, HANO's Technology Department implemented a very comprehensive curriculum to offer basic computer courses to youth and seniors.

HANO's ConnectHome program provided 300 public housing families with school-aged children access to affordable internet services and digital literacy training in partnership with local broadband providers.

To learn more about the ConnectHome Initiative, visit www.HANO.org.

DELL COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTER OPENS AT BIENVILLE BASIN

As Bienville Basin continues its major transformation and the re-occupancy of former and new residents begins, the provision of social services and the appropriate space to implement them are also among the list of priorities for this community.

Residents of Bienville Basin recently celebrated the grand opening of the Dell Community Technology Center spearheaded by developer HRI Properties. The new 903 square-foot center gives immediate access to state-of-the-art technology equipment, and is furnished with 18 desktop computers, 20 “Chromebook” laptops with docking carts, dedicated network servers, in addition to touch interactive projectors and screens.

The center will provide the appropriate spacing necessary to host and promote learning curriculums for youth and adults participating in summer programming and job readiness classes. The facility also includes an outdoor technology garden designed as a courtyard, and is equipped with Wi-Fi connections.

“As a partner in the federal government’s HUD Choice Neighborhood Grant along with the City of New Orleans and HANO, HRI is very excited and grateful to Dell Computers for the donation to our Bienville Basin Computer Learning Center powered by Dell,” said Josh Collen, senior vice president of development services for HRI Properties. “This center will offer to our residents and neighbors a wonderful opportunity to utilize modern computers to assist them in advancing their education, training, and other daily tasks that require the use of a computer. HRI wishes to thank



Bienville Basin Technology Lab Presented by Dell

the City, HANO and Dell for providing the facility and equipment for this state-of-the-art learning center. Our residents are happily working to accomplish their many dreams for a better future.”

Dell executives were on hand as the center was unveiled. The lab was modeled after the HUD Neighborhood Network Center program, and will be operated by Urban Strategies as the foundation for computer literacy classes and employment training opportunities, and to give residents access to technology.

“As we move forward with the additional phases of construction after successfully completing Phases I-III, Mayor Landrieu and the staff at HANO are equally excited to unveil this component, and acknowledge the generous donation and sponsorship from Dell to furnish the classrooms, center and technology garden,” said Ellen Lee, Director of Housing Policy and Community Development for the City of New Orleans.

The site will also feature a community and fitness center, library and four cultural gardens.

JAPAN DELEGATION TALKS AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH ADVOCATES



HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner speaks with housing professionals during a panel discussion

The U.S.-Japan Grassroots Exchange Program representatives traveled to New Orleans to participate in panel discussions and small group meetings allowing housing officials to share ideas, strategies and visions for rebuilding communities after major disasters occur. The participants are local citizens interested in issues such as housing, economic development, land use, safety and hazard mitigation, climate change adaptation, environment and health, and social and physical infrastructure needs of low-income populations.

The program's purpose is to engage citizens of each city and community in decision-making activities that address community rebuilding post-disaster. The participants are expected to utilize the knowledge and understanding gained on this trip to enhance practices in their own organizations and encourage stronger collaboration with government entities.

Discussion during the East-West Center meeting, sponsored by HousingNOLA and the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, focused on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and rebuilding efforts. Executive

Director Gregg Fortner joined Matt Morrin of Enterprise Community Partners, Nicole Barnes of Jericho Road Neighborhood Partnership, and HANO Commissioner Andreanecia M. Morris of HousingNOLA at the Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center to meet with the delegation. Fortner presented an overview of the rebuilding efforts of 10 HANO communities that began in the early 1990's as a part of the HOPE VI program, but was accelerated following Hurricane Katrina due to additional funding availability and the extraordinary level of devastation that occurred. The destruction mirrored the Great Hanshin Earthquake that occurred in Kobe, Japan in 1995.

Currently, HANO communities are rebuilt and/or completing their transformation, and thriving while affording its former and new residents better, sustainable homes integrated into communities across New Orleans.

For more information on HANO communities, visit www.HANO.org.

CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

Presented by the Housing Authority of New Orleans Police Department (HANO PD)



In 2015, about half of violent victimizations by strangers occurred while the victims were away from home traveling, shopping, or doing leisure activities according to the U.S. Department of Justice. When you become a victim of burglary, you not only lose many valuable possessions, but it also has an impact on your sense of safety and well being. Here are some safety tips for your upcoming shopping trip:

1. WHILE SHOPPING....

- Shop during daylight hours when possible, and shop with a friend – safety in numbers!
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't overload your arms with packages and bags while shopping. Clear visibility and freedom of movement are important self-protection habits.
- Pick your parking spot wisely. Look for a well-lit area.
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended while the engine is running, even if you are only going to be away from it for mere seconds.
- Have your keys out and ready when approaching your vehicle.
- Be aware of how you carry your purse or wallet. Remove any unnecessary items and leave them

at home.

- Try to carry only the amount of cash you will need to make your purchases, and limit the number of credit cards to only the ones necessary for your current shopping trip.
- Keep a list of all credit cards, along with contact phone numbers for each card and keep it in a safe place. This will help in the event they are lost or stolen.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.

2. AFTER SHOPPING....

- Don't drive without first locking your doors and closing your windows.
- When walking out to your car, try not to do it alone.
- Walk to your car with a purpose.
- Do not exit your car if you see a suspicious situation.
- If you are being followed, go to a populated public place and call the police.
- Do not let anyone approach you on foot while in the drive-thru ATM machine.
- Avoid shortcuts that take you through unfamiliar or unsafe areas.

Sign Up Tod@y!



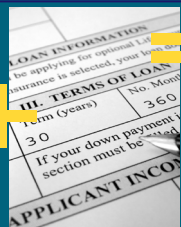
Receive updates on
HANO programs & services
directly to your email!



Create an
account
& receive
24-hour access
to your
information!

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Main Office	(504) 670-3300
Harmony Oaks	(504) 894-8828
The Estates	(504) 940-3060
Faubourg Lafitte	1-855-523-4883
Guste Homes	(504) 529-3392
Marrero Commons	(504) 524-9011
Fischer Homes	(504) 266-2507
River Garden	(504) 412-8216
Columbia Parc	(504) 284-4769
Bienville Basin	(504) 522-9078
Florida	(504) 821-8861
Scattered Sites	(504) 821-8861
HANO PD Hotline	(504) 670-3372
Public Housing Hotline	(504) 670-3446
HCVP Hotline	(504) 708-2800



Find Your Path to Self-Sufficiency
(504) 670-3300 • www.HANO.org



**CREATING COMMUNITIES.
BUILDING TRUST.**