



# FORT WORTH HOUSING AUTHORITY

*"Investing in the Community"*

1201 East 13th Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102-5764  
website: [www.ftwha.org](http://www.ftwha.org)

## IMPORTANT FWHA NUMBERS

- Main Number (817) 333-3400
- Work Order Maintenance Line (817) 534-9927
- Resident Services (817) 333-3524
- Butler Place Apartments (817) 335-4091
- Cavile Place Apartments (817) 534-6641
- Fair Oaks Apartments (817) 625-1702
- Fair Park Apartments (817) 923-8875
- Scattered Sites (817) 923-8875



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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Public Housing Community Newsletter • September 2011 – Quarterly Issue

### Inside This Issue:

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- Summer Fun Around FWHA
- Homeownership Program

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### YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

#### Maliek Berryman

Meet Maliek Berryman. He is a freshman at Polytechnic High School whose goal is to become a famous entertainer who is known worldwide one day. "I want to be a singer, a dancer, or an actor. I love entertaining people. It brings happiness to me to see that I caused someone to smile," said Maliek. He plans to attend the University of North Texas and major in Fine Arts, such as Drama or Chorale Arts. Realizing that sometimes breaking into the entertainment industry can be a bit difficult, Maliek has decided to study to become a veterinarian in addition to his fine arts pursuit. Maliek was an A Honor Roll student throughout elementary school and middle school. He remains a member of the National Honor Society with a 4.0 grade point average as a high school freshman. Maliek recently received the Prestigious Youth of the Month Award for March, as well as winning first place in a talent show for the Fort Worth Boys and Girls Club (Butler Branch). "One day, I hope to graduate at the top of my class," he said.



### COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

#### FWHA Welcomes New Principal to I.M. Terrell Elementary School

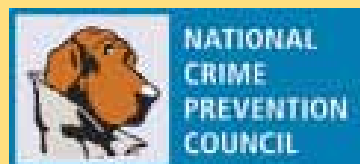


Ms. Raven Brown, a Louisiana native, completed her graduate studies at the University of Texas at Arlington. She comes to I.M. Terrell Elementary School after serving as Assistant Principal at Western Hills Elementary for several years. She has taught at both S. S. Dillow and Van Zandt-Guinn elementary schools and is a former Reading First/Literacy Coach at Sunrise-McMillian Elementary School. Ms. Brown is excited to join such a wonderful school and community. She looks forward to working with all of the students and parents at I.M. Terrell Elementary. Ms. Brown is confident that -- with our excellent teachers and staff and motivated students -- the 2011-2012 school year will be the best one yet and will continue the distinguished legacy of I.M. Terrell!

### SAFETY & CRIME MANAGEMENT

#### Time to Fall Out Against Crime

As summer comes to an end and cooler weather gives us a breather, it is a good time to think about protecting friends and family against crime. October 4 is National Night Out Against Crime in Texas. There will be neighborhood celebrations to remind us that neighbors are the first line of defense against crime. Programs like Neighborhood Watch, Citizens on Patrol and Safe City Crime Stoppers all contribute to helping the community reduce crime and improve the quality of life for citizens of Fort Worth. Help us to help you make this the safest year ever!



### PUBLIC HOUSING HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

#### Congrats to Juan Alcalá and Isabel Blanco!

Juan Alcalá and Isabel Blanco were among the families who relocated from Ripley Arnold Place in 2001, when it was sold to Radio Shack. In 2008, Mr. Alcalá contacted Vickie Roberts, the Homeownership Coordinator for the Public Housing Homeownership Initiative with an interest in purchasing a home. At that time, Mr. Alcalá had a little work to do in order to bring his credit score to an acceptable place by a lender. Mr. Alcalá worked aggressively to pay off debts that were hindering his dream of homeownership. Finally, in April 2011, Mr. Alcalá was ready. The search ended when he and his wife found the home they had been hoping for. On May 31st, Mr. Alcalá, Ms. Blanco and their two grandchildren became proud homeowners. This could not have happened without great diligence on their part, and the wealth of education they received. Special thanks to the Fort Worth Housing Authority Housing Trust Fund and City of Fort Worth Down Payment Assistance Grants programs for their assistance in making this dream come true. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Vickie Roberts at 817-333-2127.



### RESIDENT SERVICES UPDATE

#### Computer Classes

Tarrant County College continues to offer computer training classes in Microsoft Office at the Fort Worth Housing Authority. The classes are free. You will receive a certificate of completion after you complete this short-term training program. For more information on class schedules, please contact Rhonda McCarty at 817-333-3522.

#### Financial Planning Services

Catholic Charities is now offering free one-on-one financial counseling to those who want help in reaching their financial goals. Financial Fitness courses cover basic topics such as Financial Planning & Goal-Setting, Taxes and Record Keeping, Credit, Saving and Investing, Insurance, Predatory Lending, Consumer Rights and Retirement Planning. The financial education classes provide the necessary tools to decide how to use your money to meet your family's needs and goals. After completing our financial education classes, you can begin one-on-one financial coaching to help you set and achieve your long-term financial goals. For more information or to sign up for classes, please call Rhonda McCarty in Resident Services at 817-333-3522.

#### Employment Readiness

The Fort Worth Housing Authority is providing weekly "Employment Readiness" assistance at Cambridge Court, Wind River, Candlerree, and J.A. Cavile Apartments. Residents are able to obtain weekly job leads and assistance with editing or creating a resume. A computer-assisted job search is available and job coaching is provided if requested by a resident. Residents can access this assistance between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm at the management office. Onsite times are Mondays at Candlerree, Tuesdays at Wind River, Wednesdays at Cambridge Court and Thursdays at J.A. Cavile. For additional information, contact Glenn Nixon at 817-333-3523.

#### ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS!

Please use the envelopes provided in your monthly billing statements when submitting rent payments! This will elevate theft problems and assist the accounting staff to correctly record your payments.

## Father's Day Event

FWHA and Tarrant County Housing Assistance Office sponsored a Father's Day event in June. This spectacular event brought together fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, friends and their children to celebrate the males that play an important role in their children's lives. The event was held at FWHA's Administrative Office. During this day-long event, participants

accessed resources, education and employment information, as well as having lots of fun, food and games for the whole family. Thanks to all the participating agencies, volunteers and staff who helped make this event such a huge success.



## Cavile Hosts Positive Life Skills Workshops for Youth

Smart Choices Funshops were held in July at J.A Cavile Place for youths 10-14. The four-day training offered interactive, fun learning workshops that were geared towards positive self maintenance and retention of quality information through fun activities. Some of the topics discussed were Creating a Stronger Me; The Truth About Anger and How to Control It; Making Positive Choices; My Missing Father; Is It My Fault?; Being Responsible; Consequences from the Decisions We Make; Praising Yourself; and Claiming What I Want. Cavile youth were encouraged to cancel negative activities and replace them with positive choices. This event was facilitated by Love and Family Training Services founder Jill Reynolds.



## Overton Park Pool Party!

Overton Park hosted a pool party in July that was attended by over 150 residents. Attendees enjoyed hot dogs, chips, drinks, snow cones and pizza. There was a live disc jockey, a large water slide and a slip-and-slide. They also received beach balls, goggles, floaties and fun noodles while they were cooling off in the pool and goodie bags filled with candy and bubbles on their way home. This was a great turnout.



## Praise In The Park Back to School Extravaganza

A Back-to-School Extravaganza hosted and facilitated by the Butler Resident Association was held in mid-August at the Fort Worth Housing Authority Administrative Office. The Butler Resident Association has joined forces with other organizations to raise awareness of specific needs in our community in an effort to provide spiritual entertainment, fellowship, food and support to families in the community. This initiative also aims to jump start the new school year by providing a caring yet inviting atmosphere through positive inspirational experience, as well as to teach the tools for success. Tickets to receive school supplies were issued to head-of-household attendees for children of the Butler Community.



## Youth Summer Music Camp

FWHA sponsored its 2nd annual music camp in July at I.M. Terrell Elementary School. The classes included music sight reading, sign language, voice, music games, spoken word, and playing the recorder. Almost 50 kids attended. All volunteers donated their time, and all snacks were donated by the Tarrant Area Food Bank by way of the Cornerstone Assistance Network. Ann Farmer, Volunteer Coordinator for Tarrant County Government, hosted an ice cream party for music camp attendees. On the last day of camp, students presented a program in which they displayed what they learned during the week. The finale selection was a rewrite of Keri Hilson's "Pretty Girl Rock". The words were changed to "Pretty People Rock" to include all people. The students learned to sign the line "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful". Participants learned an important lesson about being beautiful inside and out.



## Cavile Library Renovations

Renovations at the Cavile COOL Library are almost complete. The transformation will include new open concept, new flooring, textured walls, cabinets, bathrooms, HVAC system and electrical re-wiring and lighting throughout.

## Butler Community Youth Choir

Butler Community Youth Choir sings for members of the Fellowship Corner Senior Citizens Center on New York Avenue in Fort Worth. Students had a chance to mingle with the senior citizens and also to sing with a group made up of members from the center.

## Back to School Fairs

I.M. Terrell Elementary School hosted an early registration event in June in support of the 7th Annual Tarrant County Back to School Roundup. Parents signed up to receive free school supplies, backpacks, dental & vision screenings, immunizations and haircuts.



The Butler and Cavile Boys & Girls Clubs each hosted Back-to-School events in August. Service providers were on hand to offer immunizations, check-ups and referrals for medical assistance. Families received free food, prizes and played games. Students also received free school supplies.