



Dear FWHS Community,

As we prepare to send our children and grandchildren back to school, online and in-person as public health conditions allow, I want to share a note of encouragement and appreciation for our residents and landlords who have fostered strong communities through collaboration and cooperation.

You have made it through more than five months of lock-downs, health precautions and adjustments to the way we live every day since COVID-19 began spreading throughout Tarrant County. You have adjusted to new ways of interacting and supporting families and children, many of whom will start the school year by meeting teachers and classmates online and through laptop computers or other devices.

This month's newsletter highlights what you need to know about eviction policies, child care resources, and successful FWHS residents and landlords.

None of this is possible without your support.

Warmly,

Mary-Margaret Lemons FWHS President



Fort Worth Housing Solutions is pleased to invite you to visit the new <u>www.StopSixCNI.org</u> website, the place to find out about events, news, business opportunities and progress toward the goals outlined in the <u>Stop Six Choice Neighborhood</u> <u>Transformation Plan.</u>

Email us questions and suggestions at stopsixcni@fwhs.org.

Be sure to join the community conversion online across our StopSixCNI social media channels:

- Facebook: facebook.com/StopSixCNI
- Twitter: @stopsixcni
- LinkedIn: <u>https://www.linkedin.com/stop-six-choice-neighborhood</u>
- Instagram: stopsixcni

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Stop Six CNI People Team Gets to Work**

The Stop Six Choice Neighborhood Initiative is under way, and Fort Worth Housing Solutions this month welcomed the Fort Worthbased <u>Urban Strategies Inc.</u> team aboard. The USI team is led by Senior Project Manager <u>Simeon Henderson</u> (front left), formerly of the YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth, and includes Case Managers Erika Bowman and Tahshan Beck and Education Specialist Shanice Roberts.

The USI team coordinates with Lachelle Goodrich (front



right), FWHS's director for the Stop Six Choice Neighborhood Initiative, and is responsible for ensuring that former residents of Cavile Place are supported and thriving throughout the community's transformation. Cavile closed June 30. Residents have the ability to return as new residential properties come online over the next few years. To connect with the team, email us at <u>stopsixcni@fwhs.org</u>.

The landmark community revitalization effort is seeded by a \$35 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant awarded to Fort Worth Housing Solutions and the City of Fort Worth in April 2020. The guiding <u>Transformation</u> <u>Plan</u> includes replacement of the former 300-unit Cavile Place public housing community with mixed-income, mixed-use developments featuring community amenities and essential services.

# **Butler Place Update**



FWHS continues to help <u>Butler Place</u> residents find new homes of choice throughout the Fort Worth-Dallas area as the agency continues to explore ideas for re-purposing the 42acre site that originally opened in September 1940. About 11 percent of the 412 units remain occupied, and all residents will be relocated by the end of the year. Among the former residents is Doris Davis, pictured above, who moved to Butler with her mother in 1973. Davis raised three daughters at Butler and recently adopted her son Shun, who turns 2 this month. The mural behind the Butler Place office building depicts one of Davis's daughters.

The toddler has his own room and neighborhood friends at the family's new home, a twobedroom unit at The Springs in west Fort Worth. The complex is within walking distance of several grocery stores and a bit too close to the neighborhood Braum's ice cream shop, Davis joked.

"Butler's my home. My mama lived here. It's all I have known," she said. "But the new place, I do think it's going to be good."

## **Good Landlords Honored**



It takes good landlords to help good tenants find safe, affordable housing, and Fort Worth Housing Solutions this month is recognizing the <u>Silver Leaf Villas</u> team in east Fort Worth led by Manager Deondria Primes (far left). The team includes Assistant Manager Amanda Garrett and maintenance crew Joshua Robles and Seth Thompson (far right).

Silver Leaf has participated in <u>FWHS Housing Choice</u> <u>Voucher program</u> since 2017 and is currently home to

several former Butler Place residents, who relocated to make room for potential redevelopment. Silver Leaf's participation in housing programs aligns with the mission of its management company, <u>Atlantic Housing Foundation Inc.</u>, which strives to help residents improve their lives through education, service and community.

"Our property almost leases itself – we're in a good location near schools and grocery stores. And we have a passion for service," Primes said. "We are building families and relationships here. It's a core value of our company."

FWHS is currently recruiting good landlords like the Silver Leaf team. The Housing Choice Voucher program provides guaranteed rental payments for qualified residents, ensuring a consistent revenue stream for property owners.

To learn more about becoming a FWHS landlord partner, contact Ravonda Thompson at <a href="mailto:rthompson@fwhs.org">rthompson@fwhs.org</a> or 817-333-3667.

### **Community Resource Update**

#### **Evictions for Unpaid Rent Proceed**

The federal moratorium on evictions under the CARES Act expired July 25, 2020, and any unpaid rent is due in full. FWHS encourages residents and landlords to collaborate to make sure any unpaid balances are paid, even if a payment plan is necessary.

FWHS clients who have experienced a reduction in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic should report the change immediately through our online form

at <u>https://www.fwhs.org/income-reduction-notification-covid-19/</u>. FWHS may adjust your rent portion based on your income reduction.

#### Fort Worth to Resume Water Shutoffs

The City of Fort Worth plans to resume water service shut-offs for nonpayment Sept. 8, but assistance is available through CARES Act for Eligible households. Customers may call 817-392-4477 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, except city holidays. More information is available at <u>http://fortworthtexas.gov/news/2020/08/Water-Shutoffs-Resume/</u>

#### **Childcare Help for Parents**

Online registration is now open for **Fort Worth's Camp Connection**, a new option for working parents that provides a safe place for students ages 5-13 to attend while parents continue working or return to work. Sessions will operate 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Camp fee will be \$30 per week with scholarships available. A community center membership card is required to register for Camp Connection. More information is available at <a href="https://fortworthtexas.gov/news/2020/08/Camp-Connection-Registration/">https://fortworthtexas.gov/news/2020/08/Camp-Connection-Registration/</a>

The **Amaka Child Development Center** at 1501 Stephenson St. in the Butler Place community also has daytime openings for children ages 6 weeks to 4 years old. For more information, email center director Mechell Green at <a href="mailto:mgreen@ymcafw.org">mgreen@ymcafw.org</a> or call 817-332-4434.



Make sure your vote is counted in the Nov. 3, 2020 presidential election. Update your address or name through the <u>Tarrant County</u> <u>Elections</u> website <u>here</u>, or download, fill out and email back a new voter registration form available <u>here</u>

- Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3 elections.
- Friday, Oct. 23, 2020 is the last day to apply for a ballot by mail. Applications must be received by Tarrant County elections by this date, not postmarked by Oct. 23.



It's not too late to take the Census 2020, the national survey taken once every decade that informs everything from government representation to how much federal funding states and agencies like Fort Worth Housing Solutions receive. The Census is quick and easy – it takes about 10 minutes to complete.

To make sure you and your family are counted, take the survey now at <u>https://my2020census.gov/</u>. Fort Worth's Self-Response Rate is about 61 percent, under the national average of 63.6 percent.

The U.S. Census Bureau has announced that it will end all counting efforts – including in-person, doorknocking efforts, phone calls and the online survey – by Sept. 30, 2020.

### **NAHRO Honors FWHS with 3**



### **Agency Awards of Merit**

<u>NAHRO</u>, the 20,000-member association of housing and community development providers and professionals, honored FWHS with three 2020 Agency Awards of Merit during its Summer Conference, July 23-24. The awards honored the FWHS 80th Anniversary video; a video about former Butler Place resident Monique Smith titled "A Fresh Start for Monique"; and an online training module for Project-Based Vouchers. Thank you, NAHRO!

Watch Monique's story at <u>https://youtu.be/0Waq9DGWfj0</u>.

FWHS is hiring! View our job postings online here.

Questions or suggestions? Email FWHS Communications Manager Kristin Sullivan at <u>ksullivan@fwhs.org</u>.

Share our news on these social channels:



