



LAREDO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Serving. Collaborating. Empowering.

THE HOME FRONT

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CELEBRATIONS

Original iron sign can be seen over the front door of the Administration Building

The Administration Building at Colonia Guadalupe is one of the original buildings constructed in 1939—1940 when Public Housing first began in Laredo, TX. It is undergoing renovations to be utilized as two new meeting spaces for the Board of Commissioners, residents, and community at large. The first floor has been converted into a community meeting and seminar space where presentations, trainings, conferences, and board meetings can take place. The second floor will be utilized as a congregation area for committee meetings, Resident Council meetings, and the community.

Currently, Laredo Housing Authority is looking for World War II artifacts to display on the second floor of the Administration Building. Public Housing began as an initiative to create affordable housing for low-income and Veteran families during the war-time effort. As a commemoration to the initiation of the work we continue to do today and our local Veterans, we would like to invite anyone with World War II artifacts to loan to LHA. The displays would be a reminder to all who enter of the community members that fought for our country during the time that Public Housing began.

¡MIL GRACIAS!



San Juanita Villarreal and Sara Rodríguez stand with José Collazo as they receive their awards.

Laredo Housing Authority would like to congratulate San Juanita Villarreal and Sara Rodríguez for receiving the Mil Gracias Award! The Mil Gracias Award is bestowed to residents of the Colonias that have shown exemplary leadership and commitment to serving alongside LHA to create a better community for all who reside in public housing for over 10 years.

Mrs. San Juana Villarreal has been a resident at the Carlos Richter Housing Project since 1994 and has served as Central Resident Council President and Carlos Richter Resident Council President for over 22 years now. Ms. Sara Rodríguez, a resident at the Russell Terrace Housing Project since 2001, has served as Central Resident Council President and Russell Terrace Resident Council President for over 13 years. Both women have participated in the agency's Advisory Board to help with the 5-Year Plan and been active in the community helping out with functions such as loterías, jamaicas, raffles and other events. Their efforts as Presidents of their Resident Councils have also helped to award numerous scholarships to the youths from the Laredo Housing Authority to further their education in order to form future community leaders of our city.

STAND DOWN FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is a national initiative whose objective is to provide a wide range of supportive services for Veterans in need.

The first-ever Stand Down in Laredo was arranged by the Department of Veteran Affairs and held on September 20, 2016. The multi-faceted outdoor setup was intended to provide quick response and immediate services to veterans and their families. Organizations from all over the community came together in a unified objective all throughout the Bartlett Soccer Complex on 6002 Thomas Ave.

Attendees received comprehensive and on-site dental, medical and behavioral services, as well as continuing care referrals. Another major component addressed at the event was the housing status of each individual. Laredo Housing Authority, Bethany House of Laredo, City of Laredo Municipal Housing, and other housing entities were present to assess the living situations of the veterans arriving at the event and find a way to improve their living conditions. LHA connected with many individuals seeking to improve their living standards.



Alma Mata and Julia Orduña stand next to the Laredo Housing Authority's booth.

Other services in the area included a dedicated showering facility for any patron wanting to bathe and haircut services. Reusable bags were filled with toiletries, articles of clothing and non-perishable food items and given to each veteran and their families who entered the event.

PROJECT GROW AT SENIORS



Garden beds now have posts with the description of what has been planted in the soil.



Community members fill the garden beds with plants and seeds under the direction of Berman Rivera.

Earlier this year, the members of Laredo Gateway Rotary chose Laredo Main Street's Project Grow Community Gardens Project as a recipient of the Community Initiative Grant.

As an extension of El Centro de Laredo Farmers Market, Project Grow aims to create food gardens around the city to teach community members the importance of fresh food as well as the ability to grow it themselves.

For this grant, Laredo Main Street chose Laredo Housing Authority's Seniors Complex to build a community garden. The U-shaped raised beds have been built and added in the front courtyard of the complex. Residents at Seniors are being taught about planting, seasons, irrigation, and healthy living. Within the coming months, residents will be harvesting and eating their own kale, carrots, peas, red bell peppers, and many other leafy greens from their own garden!

It is truly a community effort that has come together to create the beautiful opportunity in our city.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our Vice-Chairman Dr. Sergio Garza for being selected as Texas A&M International University's College of Education Teacher of the Year.

It is with great pride that Melissa Ortiz, Acting/Interim Executive Director, and the Laredo Housing Authority presented a recognition to Dr. Garza for his recent award. LHA is honored to know that wonderful people who aid throughout the community have chosen to serve in this organization.

RUSSELL TERRACE TO UNDERGO RAD CONVERSION



After much discussion over the proposed demolition of Russell Terrace initiated by the previous Board of Commissioners, Laredo Housing Authority has begun to move forward to convert Russell Terrace from public housing units to Section 8 project-based vouchers through the RAD Program.

Rental Assistance Demonstration, known as RAD, is a voluntary program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that seeks to preserve public housing by providing Public Housing Agencies, like LHA, with access to more stable funding to make needed improvements to properties.

LHA's Commissioners and employees have been diligently following the process to transition 162 units at Russell Terrace to RAD including several meetings at the Russell Terrace specifically to discuss the transition and answer any questions or concerns that residents may have about the change.

Residents should know that under the Section 8 program, resident rent is set at 30% of their adjusted income. This should not vary much from the rates of public housing. However, if a resident is currently paying a flat rent, the change in rent will be phased in over time. Under Section 8, residents also have greater choice in where to live through RAD's choice-mobility option. Residents may request a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) after living in a RAD property for one year.

For any other questions about RAD, contact us at (956) 722-4521.


TRICK or TREAT SAFETY TIPS

Ghosts, goblins, ghouls
and things that go
BUMP
in the night.
Make sure that
HALLOWEEN
stays spooky and safe
for everyone.


For Parents:

DID YOU KNOW?
Safe Kids suggests that no child
UNDER THE AGE OF 12
should go trick-or-treating without an adult.

Kids should be **supervised** while trick-or-treating.



- When choosing or making a costume, pick a **fire-resistant material** and **bright colors**.
- Put **emergency identification** on costumes or around your child's wrist. Include their name, phone number and address in case they get separated from you.
- Always add **reflective tape** to costumes and treat bags. Make sure treat bags are brightly-colored.
- Make sure costumes are not **tripping hazards**.
- Younger children are safer if they don't wear **masks**. If your child wears one, make sure he or she can see and breathe.
- Tell your children not to eat any candy or treats until they've been **inspected**.
- Toss** any candy or chocolates that are unwrapped or unsealed.





The ladies at Seniors show off their festive attire to celebrate 16 de septiembre.

¡VIVA MEXICO!

It is with much pride and excitement that Laredo Housing Authority celebrated Mexico's Independence Day with the residents at Seniors. The holiday festivities began on September 15th with a merienda. Residents indulged in some delicious tostadas served with help by volunteers of TAMIU's Nursing Department.

On Friday, September 16th, residents from all our seniors complexes as well as those at the Hamilton met in the lobby of the Seniors Complex. Many of the residents dressed up in cultural and traditional attire. The ladies showed with their rebosos, Mexican colored skirts, and flower embroidered blouses. Music filled the lobby as men and women danced to traditional folk music such as *La Negra* and *Jalisco*.

DID YOU KNOW?

The tradition of **EL GRITO** began as a commemoration to the speech given by Priest Miguel Hidalgo in 1810 when he rang the church bells in the town of Dolores and called his parishioners to fight for independence.



COOKING CORNER

Turkey & Stuffing Casserole

Prep Time | Cook Time
30 mins | 1 hr 30 mins



6 oz. bacon	salt & pepper
½ bunch celery	1 large loaf french bread
2 medium apples	1 tsp chicken base
1 medium yellow onion	½ bunch fresh parsley
½ tsp minced garlic	2 Tbsp olive oil
1 tsp dried sage	6 lbs. bone-in turkey pieces
1 tsp dried thyme	

1. Cut the bacon into small pieces. Cook bacon in a large pot until crispy. While the bacon is cooking, wash and cut the celery, onion, and apples into a dice.
2. Add the onion, apples, celery, and garlic to the cooked bacon. Saute just until slightly softened (about five minutes). Turn off the heat and add the thyme, sage, freshly cracked pepper, and salt to taste.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. If your bread is fresh, slice and place in oven as it heats up to dry it out. Or buy the bread ahead of time and allow it to get stale on your countertop. Once the bread is dry, cut it into small cubes. Roughly chop the parsley. Add the cubed bread and parsley to the cooked vegetables and bacon. Stir until everything is well mixed.
4. Mix one teaspoon of chicken base, like Knorr, with one cup of hot water. Pour this over the bread mixture and stir until everything is well coated. Transfer the stuffing mixture to a large 9x11 inch glass casserole dish.
5. Unwrap the turkey pieces and rub the skin with olive oil. Sprinkle generously with salt and freshly cracked pepper. Arrange the turkey pieces over the stuffing in the casserole dish. Place the whole dish in the oven and let roast, uncovered, for one and a half hours. The turkey skin should be brown and crispy and the stuffing should be bubbling around the edges. Allow the casserole to rest for about 10 minutes before serving. This will allow the stuffing to soak up some of the moisture and solidify, as well as the turkey juices to redistribute within the meat.

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**The Colonia Report is
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Comments, articles and photographs are welcome for The Colonia Report newsletter. All submissions must have a name and a phone number to be considered. Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to reject or edit copy as necessary.

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Visit us online at

www.larha.org

LHA is a Fair Housing and
Equal Employment
Opportunity Agent



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