



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

★ Abilene State Supported Living Center ★

**OUR MISSION:**  
To empower people to make choices  
that result in a life of dignity and  
increased independence.

**AbSSLC News**

Abilene SSLC

Week of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Name Badges are required at all times while on campus!**

## Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the [Thirteenth Amendment](#) abolished [slavery](#) in the United States. That September, the Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, and the prominent minister, Jesse E. Moorland, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of [Abraham Lincoln](#) and [Frederick Douglass](#). The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the [civil rights movement](#) and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President [Gerald Ford](#) officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as [Harriet Tubman](#), [Sojourner Truth](#), [Marcus Garvey](#), [Martin Luther King Jr.](#), [Malcolm X](#) and [Rosa Parks](#) to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more. Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

## Phone Repairs

All phone issues (doesn't work, needs to be moved, etc.) **must** be submitted using the [AbSSLC Phone Repair Request](#) form found on the Share drive.



Please do not submit a ticket directly to Lumen (using the Remedy system) for phones – we will look at the issue first and then submit a ticket if needed.

## Cottage Update

6690 & 6700 Circle Drive moved last week (ahead of schedule) to allow the contractors to take over both buildings and begin the renovations at their request. The original plan called for 6750 & 6760 Circle Drive to be completed first, but those buildings have been delayed because some needed door hardware has still not arrived and there were issues with the cabinet installation. Allowing the contractors to start two more buildings keeps them on-site and gets us closer to being done!

# Shout Outs!

A huge and much deserved shout out to the staff at **5961 & 5962 Walnut**. I admit I was terrified to do a 2-10 over there but was immediately relieved when I saw that the staff knew exactly what to do to handle any situation. They were calm, pleasant, and had great attitudes despite every one of them working on a 16hr shift. **Kayla Peters** was a great lead! She made sure her staff all got breaks, rotated through different positions if their 1-1 became a little too much, and did a good job keeping everyone's attitudes positive. We know you're all so very tired, but I'm thankful for the care each of you showed for not only the boys, but myself and each other. Thank you.

Shout out to **Kursten Stafford LVN** at 6380 7<sup>th</sup> Street. She truly goes above and beyond to meet the needs of the individuals on the home. She takes on many roles not limited to nursing to help make the lives of the individuals and staff better.

I would like to shout out **Anthony Johnson** for his leadership and his awesome work ethic. Thank you for the care you provide to the residents we serve!

Shout out to **David** and the **golf cart maintenance crew** for the outstanding paint job on the Audiology golf cart.

I'd like to give a shout out to **Raina** from Housekeeping. She recently began working at 5961/5962 Walnut and has done an awesome job! Raina is a very hard worker and takes a lot of pride in her work ... and it shows! She is always in a positive mood, and her care and concern for the individuals is evident. Raina is a true asset to those at 596, and we thank her very much for all her hard work!

I just want to say a HUGE "THANK YOU" to **everyone** involved with the recent changes across campus. I'm so thankful for our Administration and all who come together to 1) make sure people are cared for and served well and 2) for keeping us out of trouble! I know it's NOT an easy task. THANK YOU!

Shout Out to **Debra Adams** - she did an excellent job of training me at 5971 Service, many thanks for the patience and thorough training given during my OJT!

Shout Out to **Johnathan** in FCT/D! He taught his first full SUR communication class on 02/14/2024 and he did an amazing job. He covered all the necessary curriculum and performed all the SUR activities for effective communication. The NEPT students were all fully engaged and learning easily because Johnathan used his knowledge and witty delivery to make the class fun and interesting. I participated in the class and found myself learning new perspectives on communication situations which was really refreshing and will help me teach with a new twist. He consistently engaged the class and used his own experiences to make the class interesting and fun for the learners. Johnathan showed his experience and credibility by answering questions with meaningful and insightful answers. He did such a wonderful job!

Shout out to **Jeff Channell, Clayton Morgan, EJ Boalts, Kerry Crane, and Joe Guajardo**. They worked together as team on a big project and made it happen. Thank you for taking care of the residents we serve. You make me proud to be a part of the AbSSLC Maintenance department.

## Abilene Made the Friday Photos!

### ABILENE SSLC



Current and retired Medical/Pharmacy staff recently gathered for lunch. Pictured are retirees Mary Gonzales, Minerva Rosales, Patsy Rains and Tammy Bayer, as well as staff Derek Presnall, Richard Templeton, Marisa Morales, Kimberly Villajuana, Amanda English, Randy James, Kimberly Arnett and Gloria Sprecher.

## Shout Out!

Email your Shout Out to Jeff Goza with their name and your comments or text it to 325.370.4525

Let's **Shout Out** and recognize others!