

JULY 2010

San Marcos Housing Authority



**Happy Fourth of July!**

## The Oracle : Special Edition

### *Joshua Williams: Building a Future*

A good head on his shoulders and active in his community, Joshua Williams is one inspiring teenager.

Josh has been a tutor at the PODER Learning Center since November 2009. His talent as a tutor has enabled 19 children in the Golden Youth Alternative (GYA) program at PODER to receive high academic marks. He has also become a role model for the boys in the GYA program. He has played football since middle-school,

has served as an officer of the Allen Woods Resident Assembly, and has volunteered at Meals-on-Wheels and the Salvation Army. These days he is also coaching volleyball in the Christian Federation of Police Officers summer program.

Josh is a 2010 graduate of San Marcos High school. He plans to attend barber college in the fall after which he plans to enroll in business college at ACC. He will later transfer to Texas State Uni-

versity to complete a degree in Business Administration.

His advice for other teenagers: "Have someone to look up to and stay out of trouble." Well said Josh!



## *HOUSING AUTHORITY NEWS*

*New Playground on the Way* — We have approval to sell the land where the Allen Woods playground sits. We will begin removing most of the equipment and placing it in storage. Allen Woods residents will participate in the planning and placement of new recreational equipment at their site.

*Groundskeeping* — Please help us keep your neighborhood looking nice by keeping hoses rolled up, toys stored, and gardens trimmed. Little things like that make a difference and it is hard for the mowers to cut your grass if you don't straighten up on a regular basis. Also, please try to keep kids from throwing things on your roof.

# SUMMERFEST SAN MARCOS 2010



Sunday, July 4, 2010  
5:00 p.m. —11:00 p.m.

San Marcos Plaza - 202 N. CM Allen Pkwy (by the river)

Fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Admission: FREE

Summerfest is an alcohol free event. Coolers are subject to inspection.

Free parking available at the San Marcos Activity Center (501 E. Hopkins Street) and Texas State's Strahan Coliseum parking lot (Corner of Aquarena Springs Drive and Charles S. Austin).

For general information, please contact the [City of San Marcos Parks and Recreation \(512\) 393-8400](#) or [San Marcos Chamber of Commerce \(512\) 393-5900](#).

## One Fish, Two Fish, Catching Catfish!

Roland Cruz, Gloria Galindo, and Santos Espinoza were treated to a special day trip to join the Guadalupe Valley Nursing Center's annual Father's Day Fish Fry in Seguin. They joined the Guadalupe Valley residents as they gathered around two giant tubs full of fresh catfish! Each participant was given a pole with a baited



line attached to the end. Patience paid off as all three residents of Springtown caught their own catfish! Afterwards, they were presented

with lunch of fried catfish, corn fritters, french fries, coleslaw, fruit salad, and iced tea.

The Springtown residents have demonstrated leadership and have actively involved themselves with the community. A big "Thank you!" for your dedication and hard work!



**San Marcos Public Library Learning Center**  
625 East Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666  
512-393-8215

### FREE GED PREPARATION CLASSES

Night classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 - 9 PM.  
Day classes: To be determined

### YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND.

Registration is a two-part process which includes orientation and assessment. Both sessions are required.

**SUMMER REGISTRATION:** Plan to be here 2-3 hours each day.

Part 1: Tuesday, July 6 at 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM

Part 2: Thursday at July 8, 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM

Summer classes will begin Tuesday, July 13.

**FALL REGISTRATION:** Plan to be here 2-3 hours each day.

Part 1: Tuesday, August 31 at 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM

Part 2: Thursday, September 2 at 1:00 PM or 6:00 PM

Fall classes will begin Tuesday, September 7

## Our Generation

### *School's Out for Summer!*



Endless homework, hard tests, and early mornings had kids itching for summer to start! The kids at the Chapultepec after school program were treated to pizza and cake as well as entertained by TV, games, computer time, and guitar hero. They also received small gift bags filled with candy, bouncy balls, tattoos, and whistles. Over all they had a blast! The picture on the left includes (front row, from left to right) David Melchor, Gerri Moregon, Matthew Ledesma, and Ana Ortiz. Standing behind them are (left to right) Lucy Hernandez and Brandi McKinney. Ana, Matthew, and Brandi are also serious “Uno” players.

### *Winners at PODER*

The first annual Golden Youth Alternative Awards Banquet was a big success. There was plenty of homemade pizza for everyone and Calvin Klein gift bags for student participants. Everyone had a great time. Awardees must attend the program regularly, be well behaved, and meet certain academic standards. Dawson Stokley received the award for Best Attendance. Bethanie Gutierrez received the award for Best Behavior. Kayla Martin took the award for the Student with the Most Improved Grades. Malachi Romez won for being the Student with the Best Overall Grade Point Average. The winner in each category received a cash award and a goodie bag for their achievements.



### *June Birthdays*

#### Allen Woods

- No Birthdays

#### Chapultepec

- Mason  
Moregon—3rd
- Dawson Stokley—  
9th
- Ayden Gonzales—  
10th
- Jonis Mejia—24th
- Mathew  
Ledesma—25th
- Anthony Salazar—  
27th

#### C.M. Allen

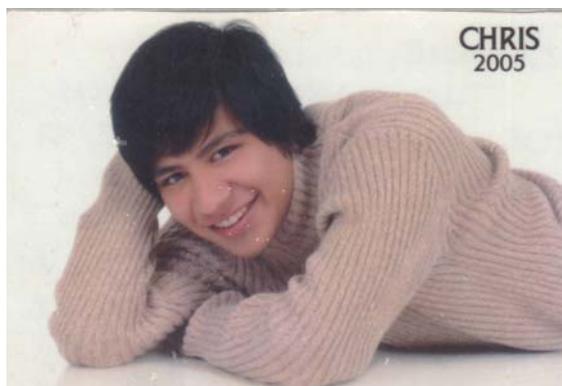
- Alizay A.  
Barrera—17th
- Jose Alaniz Jr.—  
14th
- Sahenna V.  
Martinez—24th



## *Special Story: Beat the Odds by Christopher Lopez*

It is difficult to consider my youth without mentioning 801 River Road. Just on the edges of East San Marcos was my home for almost 15 years. The string of duplex brick homes was both my neighborhood and playground. My family was tucked into unit #264 in the north cul-de-sac. My mom, a hard-working woman, made sure we were well fed and nourished while giving us endless support and love. My dad, a good man at heart, played father behind the scenes and taught me lessons about honesty, perseverance, and faith. Their combined efforts kept me healthy and motivated to seek the world beyond the projects. Before I could step outside the streets, however, I had to find myself. On the edge of C.M. Allen, I found the KAD Center. Bonnie Pecina and Gene Martin understood the nature of the neighborhood and sought an outlet for youth to escape and flourish. Their presence, kindness, and belief in all of us triggered a movement that completely morphed my future.

At the core of poverty lies an unmistakable achievement gap. The separation between opportunities for affluent families and the families who work from check to check is both drastic and realistic. At the K.A.D. Center, however, you are your own wealth. Bonnie, Gene, and the generous volunteers created an additional family for me in my own backyard. There, I received more than tutoring or weekend outings: I received support, friends, tradition, inspiration, and belief. The statistics are always against less-affluent communities. It's true: the less you have, the harder it is. But what's not true is that your future is limited. My family is not rich. I am definitely not rich. My wealth, however, stems from my persistence to learn more, seek more, do more, see more, fight more, and live more. So many people will tell you "no." So many friends will turn their backs on you while so many strangers will hesitate



to help you. The key to triumph rests in yourself. It sounds cheesy, I know, but look at me. My family could not afford to pay for college and yet I graduated from Michigan State University this past May with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising. I was once a curious little boy on the hard streets of C.M. Allen and now I'm a university alumnus. It wasn't easy and honestly, that's your test.

How invested in your future are you? If you want to graduate, you will. It's as simple as that. There are programs, grants, loans, and countless people dedicated to helping you reach something. If college isn't for you, seek alternatives. The point is to have a goal and focus. It won't be a snap of the fingers but with the right motivation, heart, and curiosity — you'll get where you want to be. Trust me. Living in the projects for so long instilled a set of street tools that have come in handy over the years. Because of C.M. Allen & KAD, I understand how to communicate with a variety of people and how to work with what you have. I sought out every government loan I could get my hands on while establishing an academic record that would turn over scholarships in my name to pay for college. I wrote countless essays and got my name in. Chris Lopez. Chris Lopez. Chris Lopez. With that, I became a face instead of a number. Once you become a regular all you have to do is sell yourself. That's the easy part. Wear your heart, say please & thank you, and appreciate everyone you meet. It seems insignificant but ultimately your attitude can get you a salary.

In October 2009, I was accepted into one of the nation's hidden gem's, Teach For America. Next fall, I will become the newest 8<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher at Perspectives-Calumet Charter School on the south side of Chicago. Teach For America hires recent graduates who want to help close the achievement gap for low-income communities and schools

## *Beat the Odds (continued)*

by becoming educators. Soon, I will have my chance to make a difference at the grass roots level of our country and give students an opportunity to advance forward. With Teach For America, I hope to eliminate the opportunity gap between students from less affluent backgrounds and those with wealthy roots. It is a mission that won't be easy but continues to inspire me.

Parents: love your children and tell them everyday. Give them praise and help them change perspective. Your relationship is vital to their success. Kids: Read books, ask questions, and always wonder why. Curiosity can burn forever. Everyone else: Never be afraid to help someone — the favor could come back to you. Wear a smile, mean it, and change the world with it.

Taking myself this far from 801 has been a thrill. I didn't know I'd leave San Marcos for Michigan, backpack Europe, intern in DC, or land a job in Chicago. Some could say luck, but I argue determina-

tion. The thing is: even with money, would I have come this far? The answer is no. Not without support from KAD, my amazing parents & family, or my will to reach beyond River Road. I am a product of hard work and focused vision. Both of those things are free and at your fingertips. Challenge yourself, believe in your goals, and love yourself. The results can surprise you...



## *Special Story: Scholarship Winner*



The San Marcos Area Board of Realtors has announced the recipient of its second annual Corporal Michael W. Davis Scholarship of \$1,000. The recipient of this year's scholarship is Cruz Madrid, a senior at San Marcos High School. Madrid plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio after graduation and major in business administration. The scholarship was created following the death of Corporal Michael W. Davis in Iraq on May 21, 2007 after his convoy was hit with multiple roadside bombs. Davis was a 2002 graduate of San Marcos High School. In 2005 he enlisted in

the military and then married his high school sweetheart, Taryn Guerrero Davis. The scholarship is given in honor of "a brave soldier, beloved friend, passionate husband and special son." Anyone interested in helping with fundraising efforts for this scholarship may contact the San Marcos Area Board of Realtors at 396-5478. —

*From the San Marcos Daily Record*



Beat the Heat!

## The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

### *Inside Scoop: Meals-On-Wheels by Ashley Andary, Social Work Intern*

Two weeks ago, I was introduced to the local Meals on Wheels program at the Allen Woods Homes. Bea Pacheco is the Program Coordinator. She allowed me to observe the program one morning and I was very impressed with what I learned.

The prepared food is brought to the site and it is then up to Bea and the volunteers to prepare the plates and get them to residents. There are multiple churches whose members volunteer to pick up the meals and drive them around town to their destinations.

The program is available to seniors aged 60 and over who cannot leave home without assistance. Those who are able to go to the dining room receive and eat their meals in a group setting. This is a valuable resource to the residents of this community and

I encourage people to participate as both a recipient and a volunteer. A donation of \$2 a meal is asked, however anyone who cannot afford a donation will not be turned down. Donations are encouraged because they are an important and vital resource to the program.

For more information about the program contact Bea at 353-5018. She can assist you with becoming a new volunteer or enrolling in the program.



### *Red Cross Heat Safety Tips*

- ✦ **Dress for the heat.** Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella.
- ✦ **Drink water.** Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician. 
- ✦ **Eat small meals and eat more often.** Avoid high-protein foods, which increase metabolic heat.
- ✦ **Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity.** If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4 and 7 a.m.
- ✦ **Stay indoors when possible.** If air-conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine. Remember that electric fans do not cool, they simply circulate the air.
- ✦ **Be a good neighbor.** During heat waves, check in on elderly residents in your neighborhood and those who do not have air conditioning.

### *Site Announcements*



#### FSS Participants:

-July 12 Resident Assembly 6:30 p.m.

-July 16 Support Group 6:30 p.m.

**Both meetings held at the Chapultepec office.**

#### Allen Wood Residents:

-July 16 Boys and Girls Club Fun Day 4:35 p.m.

#### C.M. Allen Residents:

-July 6 Boys and Girls Club Barbecue 5:00 p.m.

#### Springtown Residents:

-**Movie Mondays! 2:00 p.m.**

Starting Monday, July 12th

 **Mi Vida, Mi Comunidad** 

*Los Niños de Chapultepec*

Chapultepec ya tiene un programa para los niños durante el año escolar que establecieron en Noviembre del 2009. Los niños reciben ayuda con su tarea y se disfrutan jugando mientras lleguen sus padres a recogerlos. Pero este año será el primer año que Chapultepec tendrá un programa para los niños durante el verano. El programa será de lunes a viernes de las doce hasta las tres de la tarde. Lucy Hernandez, la trabajadora social en prácticas, va a trabajar con los niños este verano. ¡Los niños se disfrutaran con juegos, actividades, y especialmente con juegos de agua! También tendrán viajes al parque, la biblioteca, y a la piscina. Ojalá esta año Chapultepec tendrá éxito con el programa para poder ofrecer el programa por muchos años más!



Los niños estaban trabajando en una actividad de los emociones.



Aquí están los niños con Lucy Hernandez, la trabajadora social en prácticas, y Margie Crosby de Hays Caldwell Council en Alcohol and Drug Abuse.



Para más información, llame al 512-353-5062.

*By Lucy Hernandez—Social Work Intern*

**¡Chistes!**

*El doctor llama por teléfono a su paciente: Vera, tengo una noticia buena y otra mala.*

*Vera: Bueno... dígame primero la buena.*

*Doctor: Los resultados del análisis indican que le quedan 24 horas de vida.*

*Vera: Pero, bueno, ¿eso es la buena noticia? ¿Entonces cuál es la mala?*

*Doctor: Que llevo intentando localizarle desde ayer.*




*El sol se  
levantará  
mañana y  
¿quién sabe lo  
que traerá la  
marea?*



# SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Board of Commissioners:**

Rose Brooks, Chairperson  
Rev. Samuel Montoya, Vice-Chairperson  
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.  
Ovelia Mercado  
Lorraine Burleson  
Brian Guenther  
**Administration:**  
Executive Director  
*Albert Sierra*  
Accountant/Program Mgr.  
*Lana Bronikowsky*  
Maintenance Director  
*Albert Hernandez*  
Public Housing Manager  
*Rose Miranda*  
Resident Services Director  
*Stewart Dale Spencer*  
Section 8 Coordinator  
*Frances Santoya*  
Springtown Villa Manager  
*Veronica Miranda*

**Housing Offices:**

Allen Woods Homes (Main)  
353-5059  
C. M. Allen Homes  
353-1116  
Housing Choice Voucher  
353-5061  
Springtown Villa Manager  
396-3363

**Resident Services Centers:**

\*Chapultepec Homes  
*Family Self-Sufficiency*  
396-3364  
\*KAD Korner Store  
*Youth Development Services*  
392-6273  
\*PODER Learning Center  
*Resident Self-Sufficiency*  
396-3367  
\*Springtown Villa  
*Elderly & Disabled Services*  
353-7343

**WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT**

The San Marcos Housing Authority provides decent, safe, and sanitary housing for about 555 low-income families and individuals, including the elderly and disabled. Our Resident Services Program consists of several initiatives designed to support Self-Sufficiency & Family Development, Elderly & Disabled Services, Youth Services, and Resident Organization & Community Development. All Resident Services initiatives are united in the overall goals of improving the quality of life for public housing residents, reducing dependence on the welfare system, and empowering our residents to take charge of their lives and of their environment.

*The Oracle is produced and published monthly by the Resident Services Department of the San Marcos Housing Authority. Managing Editor—Maria Calcaben; Senior Editor—Stewart Dale Spencer; Creative Consultant—Herod King Ellison. Contact: SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 \* 512-396-3364 \* [www.smpha.org](http://www.smpha.org)*

## *Eva Sanchez: Jewel of Springtown*



Eva Sanchez was born April 27, 1938 in San Marcos. She has lived her all her life and has seen many changes in the town, in the people, and in her own life. In 1979, Eva became the manager of Springtown Villa, a new housing facility for low-income elderly or disabled persons. As manual paperwork became more computerized and tenants came and went, Eva was a constant factor. She retired in March 2008 to take care of her husband of 50 years, Herbert Sanchez. After he passed away, she came out of retirement to return to Springtown Villa as a part-time clerk. She enjoys bowling, dancing, cooking, visiting families, and entering the State Menudo Cook-offs. She won 2nd Place in 1994, 1st Place in 1995, and 2nd Place (plus best in showmanship) in 1996. Eva lives with her three dogs, Chelsea, Zena, and Sugar. After all these years, Eva still shines and she serves the residents of Springtown Villa.