



Happy Labor Day!



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Bea's Story: A Personal Mission

Ms. Beatrice (Bea) Pacheco is the Coordinator for the "Meals on Wheels" program and the President of the Resident Assembly at the Allen Woods Homes. She also cooks hot meals for the Kid's Café at the P.O.D.E.R Learning Center. She has been participating in our Resident Self-Sufficiency (RSS) program since April, 2008. Bea hopes to attend

college after her son Josh finishes high school next year. She states that her children's education is the most important goal in her life right now. Bea says that since she started working for Meals on

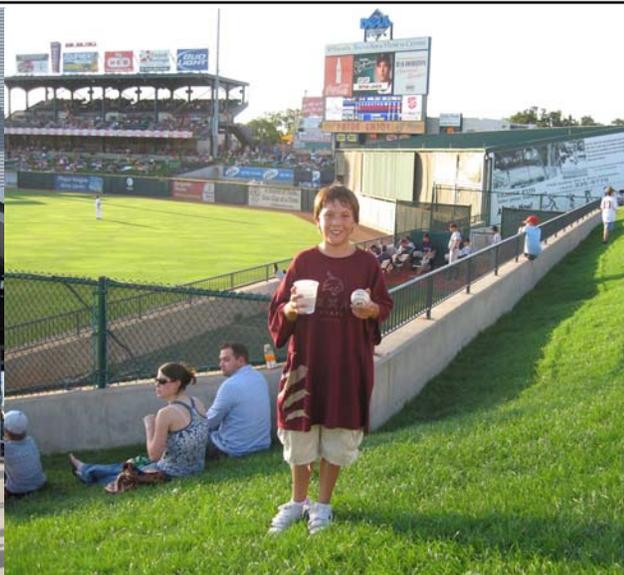
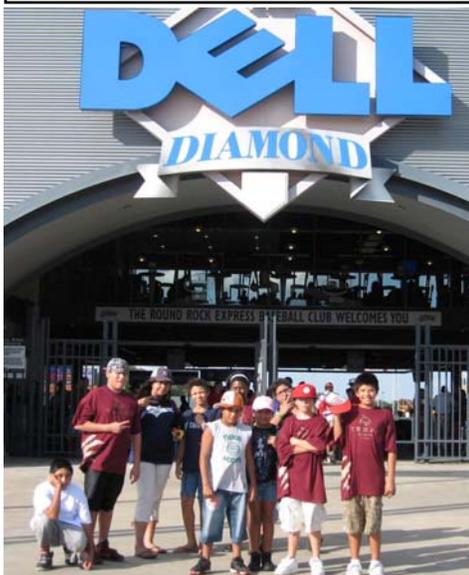
Wheels, businesses have donated a lot of money to the program, ensuring that many elderly and disabled persons are guaranteed at least one hot meal a day. She also arranges for monthly bingos, bi-monthly health checks, "Tamalada Fiesta," and many other activities for our residents. Since she started working for Meals on Wheels, Bea has earned three pay raises. That's the way you do it!



Need a job? The Housing Authority is looking for someone to work 20 hours per week at the C. M. Allen Homes office. Primary duties include answering the phone and assisting the site clerk. You must be computer savvy, have a cordial personality, and be a quick learner. This position pays \$8.75/hour and will remain open until filled. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume to the main office at the Allen Woods Homes. Address your letter to Albert Sierra, San Marcos Housing Authority, 1201 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos, Texas, 78666.



Let the Games Begin!



Nominate Your Neighbors!

September is the time we elect officers to the resident assemblies. Don't forget to nominate and vote for the persons you feel will best represent you in the coming year.

Several Housing Authority kids earned a trip to share in the excitement and pandemonium of the Round Rock Express baseball team. Benito Garza (right) even caught a foul ball!

Visiting Physicians: That's The Ticket!



For many elderly residents, it can be a lot of work just to get to the doctor's office for an appointment. Wouldn't it be nice if doctors still made house calls? Well, if you're looking to see a doctor in the comfort of your own home, Visiting Physicians might be the answer! Visiting Physicians specializes in geriatric care and house call medicine. They provide a variety of services in-home, including physical therapy, EKG's, X-rays, and other tests. They accept Medicare and several other insurance programs. Call Resident Services at 353-7343 for more information or 1-877-HOUSECALL today to make an appointment.

Don't Be Caught Breaking These New Laws!

- 1. Teen Drivers:** The laws for teenage drivers are getting tougher. Drivers younger than 18 are banned from using cell phones while driving (dialing, talking, texting) and the total hours required for behind-the-wheel driving instruction for teens is increasing from 14 to 34 hours.
 - 2. Driving in a School Zone:** The use of a wireless device within a reduced-speed school zone is prohibited. Cellular phones may be used while the vehicle is stopped in a school zone or with a hands-free device. The law also applies to bus drivers. Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$200. Note: Cities or counties wanting to enforce this law must post a sign at the beginning of each school zone to inform drivers that using a wireless communications device is prohibited and the operator is subject to a fine.
 - 3. Seat Belts:** All occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, front and back seat, must wear seatbelts.
- There is more! So get your complete copy at the PODER Center or call the Center at 396-3367 for more information.



Neither Rain Nor Sleet Nor Sweltering Heat Would Keep Them From Coming!



Housing Choice Voucher application day was one for the records! Many people arrived the day before and slept in line so they would be among the first applicants on the waiting list to receive a voucher for assisted housing. About 350 folks braved the heat that day. The Housing Authority provided tents for shade, while businesses and the Allen Woods Resident Assembly volunteers served coffee and breakfast.

The Anointed Voices Perform at PODER



If you like good gospel music, then you don't want to miss the "Anointed Voices" a renowned contemporary gospel group from San Marcos. You'll shout for joy as they sing your favorite gospel songs and you can join in. Join us at the PODER Learning Center the first Thursday of every month. The fun starts at 6 p.m. and continues until 8 p.m. Call 396-3367 for more information.



The PODER Learning Center has applications for the LULAC BBQ COOK-OFF set for October 9th & 10th at the Civic Center. If you have a good BBQ recipe, show it off! There is a \$1,000 prize for the best brisket. Mmm, brisket!

CAREER PATHWAYS FROM COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action of Hays, Caldwell and Blanco Counties has announced a new program called Career Pathways for Central Texans. This program will provide the resources necessary to educate about 100 people in Hays, Caldwell, and Blanco Counties. Community Action is working with Capital Idea, Austin Community College, Comfort Connections, and the Texas Workforce Commission. They can help participants overcome many of the barriers that have prevented them from succeeding in the past, including tuition, childcare, tutoring, and transportation. Attend an orientation meeting on Thursday, September 24, 6:30 p.m., at the San Marcos Activity Center for more information. This is a wonderful opportunity. Don't miss it!





SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board of Commissioners:
Gloria Salazar—Chairperson
Earl Moseley—Vice-Chair.
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.
Rose Brooks
Rev. Samuel Montoya

Administration:
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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
Mary Ann Ramirez

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 — Herod King Ellison; Senior Editor — Stewart Dale Spencer. Contact SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666. Phone — 396-3364 * Website — www.smpba.org*



Irma Adame: A Single Mother's Victory

Irma Adame is the office manager for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. She was a single mother raising three children on her own in Corpus Christi before she moved into public housing here in San Marcos. All three children have graduated from high school and two are attending college. Irma credits Bonnie Pecina of the San Marcos Housing Authority and Delores Crittendon of the Salvation Army for her success. She says, "They are my angels. They made everything possible

for me." She is a graduate of Southern Careers Institute. She loves to fish, hunt, and read. When we asked Irma what she would like residents to know about her she said, "I would like for everyone to know, I lived in public housing . . . and it is nothing to be ashamed of." She said that she knows what a single parent goes through living in public housing and she is proud of having come so far. She said, "I did it and others can too!"