



Happy Labor Day!



The Oracle

Matias Montemayor: A Very Busy Man

It's Monday morning and you won't find Matias Montemayor sleeping until noon. Instead, he is up and ready to help his fellow neighbors by doing things such as preparing breakfast for the staff and his friends at the PODER Learning Center. Matias is a regular volunteer at the center who is always willing to lend a hand. He visits the center daily to clean tables and set the chairs up for the kids. He translates for Spanish speaking residents of Allen Woods and he delivers monthly food packages to elderly and disabled residents. On occasion, Matias helps Beatrice prepare meals for the "Meals on Wheels" program. He has also baked cookies for the bin-

gos and cooked hamburgers for various fundraisers held at the center. Matias demonstrates his love for his community every day and he never lets his own problems get in the way when it comes to helping others. Thanks for everything you do Matias!



Housing Authority News

**Reminder—The HUD Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) will be conducting an inspection of our housing units and other buildings on October 12th & 13th. Please report any repairs that might be needed in or around your home right away! A good REAC score helps us secure financing for services and physical improvements.

**Attention Allen Woods Residents! Texas State University football has returned to Bobcat Stadium. Please do not attempt to watch the games from the roof of your home. Falling off the roof is worse than being tackled by a 250 pound lineman!

**Dyanna Eastwood, RN, says that the flu shot is now available at the San Marcos CISD campuses for all students aged 18 and younger. The vaccine is free. If you wish your child to be vaccinated, please contact your campus nurse. (Editors Note: Some countries have banned the flu shot containing the H1N1 vaccine for children because of an unusual amount of negative reactions, including seizures and death, so we encourage you to consider the risks and ask to see the ingredient insert before giving your consent.)

Fighting a Good Fight



From left to right (front): Coach Pete Arciniega, Roland Cruz, Judy Wyatt, Katherine Keller, Santos Espinoza, Lino Puente, Gloria Galindo (back): Sidney Kyle, Archie Keller, Pete Puente

Judy Wyatt, a resident of Springtown, began her fight after complications with her heart surgery. She found inspiration in Katherine Keller, a sixteen year old National USA Boxing Champion from Lockhart. After a long and unsuccessful search online for any contact information, Service Coordinator Maria Calcaben wrote a

convincing letter to the editor of the Lockhart newsletter who got her in touch with Katherine’s coach.

Katherine, her father Archie Keller, and her coach Pete Arciniega came to visit the residents of Springtown to talk about their journey, struggle, and success in boxing and in their personal lives. Katherine attributes her success as a Championship USA Boxer to her strong faith, her coach’s guidance, and her father’s support. She is enrolled in college credit classes in high school and is also training for the Olympics.

Whether it’s in a ring or in life, Katherine and Judy continue to fight the good fight.



Fun and Fit Summer Camp

During the last two weeks of June over 50 children from C. M. Allen, Allen Woods, and Chapultepec participated in the FUN & FIT Summer Camp at Texas State University. The camp, directed by Dr. Karen Meaney, “Coach Karen,” is designed as a service-learning program. University students studying to be teachers and coaches are provided opportunities to instruct physical activities to local children. At the same time the children are able to take part in a fun-filled summer camp at the University campus.

Bus transportation was provided by Texas State University. Upon arrival the children engaged in 1 ½ hours of physical activity. Coach Karen’s college students instructed the children in skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, striking, chasing, dodging, and tumbling—skills that can be used in a wide variety of sports. Following the first activity session Bonnie Pecina, our Service Coordinator at the



C. M. Allen Homes, and her assistants Isaiah, Xavier, Cody, Josh, and Alex delivered a healthy lunch prepared by Mrs. Fernandez for the FUN & FIT children.

After lunch the Fun & FIT children met with the College Readiness Counselors and took part in activities designed to explore careers and college. The College Readiness Counselors also took the children on a tour of the entire Texas State campus! A second activity session took place in the afternoon where the children once again took part in an assortment of fun physical activities and also learned about ways to make healthy food and lifestyle choices.

Coach Karen believes FUN & FIT was a positive experience for both the college students and the children. She is looking forward to continuing the partnership with SMHA Resident Services.

Our Generation

Chapultepec Gets Fired Up!

In July kids from Chapultepec visited their friendly firefighters at the San Marcos Fire Station #4 accompanied by Lucy Hernandez, our social work intern, and Margie Crosby from the Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The kids were welcomed and given their very own firefighter hat, badge, and other goodies. The firefighters gave them a tour of the fire station and showed the kids all of the different tools, equipment, and gear that they use. The kids learned tips about fire safety such as creating an escape plan with their parents and other family members in case of a fire. Each of the kids had the chance to "drive" the fire truck too! The Chapultepec Kids would really like to thank the firefighters at the San Marcos Fire Station #4!



September Birthdays

Allen Woods

- None
- Chapultepec**
- Victoria Landin—3rd
 - Kameron Gonzales—13th
 - Bennie Cherry—14th
 - Destiny Ybarra—15th
 - Elias Smith—21st
 - Desire Ybarra—30th

C.M. Allen

- Vanessa Suarez—1st
- Joshua Iverson—19th
- Tommy Rodriguez—21st
- Angel Rodriguez—29th

Housing Authority After School Programs!

Parents: have your kids in a safe and supervised environment, eat a free nutritious meal, get free tutoring services, play games and activities, and much more!

Now in three locations:

- Chapultepec 396-3364
- Allen Woods 396-3367
- C. M. Allen 392-6273





The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

Meals-On-Wheels

For all persons 60 years or older:

You are welcome to eat lunch with us. We are the Senior Nutrition Program, also known as “Meals-on-Wheels.”



“Many items capture your eyes; pursue those that capture your heart” -unknown

Picture by Carlos

Location: Allen Woods Dining Rm.

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Days: Monday—Friday

Costs: A donation of \$2.00*

Contact: Call 512-353-5018 or 1-800-333-MEAL(6325) for more information and to make reservations

**If anyone cannot afford \$2.00 for a meal, he/she will not be denied a meal and may give whatever amount they can afford. This program is funded in part by the Texas Department on Aging, the Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area, Combined Community Action, and your local government.*

Site Announcements



FSS Participants:

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

Allen Wood Residents:

-September 2 Brown Hearing Screening
9 p.m.—3 p.m.

C.M. Allen Residents:

-September 15 HCCADA Group Begins

-September 24 Sorority Sponsored Activities for youth 12+ years old

Springtown Residents:

-September 17 and 23 ProGressive Blood Pressure and Sugar Level Check
11:00 a.m.

Mi Vida, Mi Comunidad

La Vida en Rosas by Merlin

El mar tiene
 sus perlas,
 los cielos tienen
 las estrellas,
 Pero el Tesoro del
 corazon.
 Es amor.
 Me tienes viviendo
 la vida en rosas.

Merlin is a resident from Springtown.



Consejos para Padres : El Trabajo de Escuela

Dé el ejemplo de respeto por el aprendizaje.

- Hágale preguntas a su niño acerca de la escuela y de lo que está aprendiendo. Combine las actividades escolares con las actividades familiares.
- Atienda a las funciones y las actividades de la escuela de su hijo. Familiarícese con los profesores y otros padres. Use los recursos que la escuela ofrezca.
- Asegúrese en asistir las reuniones de padres y maestros.
- Deje que su niño se den cuenta que usted lee (periódicos, libros, revistas) y que no simplemente mire la televisión.
- Use la biblioteca local para otras cosas que no sea sacar libros – para leer historias, obtener videos, o asistir a actividades especiales – así el niño aprende que el aprender es un proceso que dura toda la vida.

Elogie a su niño por sus esfuerzos, al igual que por sus logros.

- Celebre los acontecimientos – leer el primer libro,

aprender una tabla de multiplicación, haber pasado un examen de biología.

- Elogie al niño por pasar tiempo trabajando muy duro en un proyecto – aún cuando no haya ganado ningún premio en la feria de ciencias – pero siempre sea sincero. No diga que algo es

bueno si no lo es. Simplemente reconozca los esfuerzos del niño y su duro trabajo.

Si usted piensa que su niño no está dando lo mejor de sí mismo.

- No compare a un niño con otro, o con usted mismo cuando tenía su edad.
- Mantenga una actitud positiva todo el tiempo y apoye a su niño. Las amenazas y los castigos no hacen que el niño aprecie más la escuela.
- Trabaje con el maestro de su niño para fijar los resultados y expectativas que sean justos.

Source: circleofparents.org





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

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.smpa.org*

Lorene Sandwidth: A Step Closer to Success



Springtown Villa, meet our fall intern! Lorene was born in Oklahoma. Her father was a truck driver and her family moved often. After working in different social settings ranging from a treatment center to a homeless shelter to a summer camp for children with learning disabilities, Lorene realized she could work at a higher level and help more people with a college degree. The youngest of four girls, she is the first member of her family to go to college. She is working on a degree in Social Work at Texas State University. Her new challenge is working with the elderly and disabled. She says, "I wanted to work with the elderly because I love to hear their life stories. I feel as though so much can be learned from older generations." She spends most of her free time with her 13-month old son Tripp. She also loves to cook and create tie-dyes.