



NEW RESTAURANT SUPPORTS OUR KIDS!

Last month the Housing Authority was pleased to be one of the local non-profits chosen to participate in a series of benefits by Aquabrew, a new, local establishment built on the site of the old Edwards Furniture on South LBJ Drive. The owner, Carlos Russo, reached out to non-profit organizations as a way to support the community that has been so good to him. The biergarten and the upstairs patio are still under construction but the main restaurant was open for business. Each day, a non-profit was highlighted and their personnel were there to mingle with supporters and the walk-in public. Profits from each day will go to the non-profit-of-the-day. Organizations also had donation jars. Carlos provided live music entertainment as well. On our evening, we had a slide show going onto highlight our after-school programs. In the picture, Carlos talks with Coach Karen and some of her colleagues from Texas State. Coach Karen is a big supporter of our programs and runs a two-week camp each summer on the university campus called Fun 'n Fit, which serves kids in our youth leadership program. In the background, you can see the list of non-profits

being supported that week. A group of local students came out to support us and you can tell from their faces that they were having a great time! The food was excellent! Chandler Melia is the chef and he got to design the kitchen to his specifications.



The result was very tasty! Bacon figs? Yes, please. The street corn was very popular, as you can see from the look on Andrew Lewis's face. Carlos used the excellent wood from the original building throughout the restaurant, including the tables! The onsite beer brewing will come later as that process takes time to complete. Our thanks go out to Carlos and his crew!



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The San Marcos Housing Authority will conduct a public hearing to discuss the new 5-year plan for the Capital Fund Grant program. This 5-year plan is to include work to be accomplished during the 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020 Federal Fiscal Years. The meeting will be held at the Allen Woods assembly area, 1201 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos, Texas on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 5:30 PM.

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Super Spring Break!



Instead of staying bored at home, each day of Spring Break week was full of surprises for the kids at PODER. The week started with a water field day and a giant water fight at the center. Kids from the neighborhood, and even the adults, all got wet with fun water games! The next day promised a mix of education and fun with a trip to the McKenna Children's Museum in New Braunfels. The kids were able to play with instruments, learn about space, and pretend to be doctors. Wednesday was a tour of Texas State University and playing games at George's lounge area. The kids sported their free Texas State shirts while saying hello to Lyndon B. Johnson. Lastly, the kids made a splash going on water rides and playing games at ZDT Amusement Park in Seguin. They enjoyed getting dizzy in the roller coaster, cooled down with a water tube ride, and were challenged to reach the top of a rock climbing wall. Thanks so much to all the sponsors and individuals that donated to allow our kids to have this amazing and fun Spring Break!

BENEFIT YARD SALE

For kids after-school program

April 9

8 AM—12 PM

PODER Center



Springtown Villa



After hearing the residents complain about how dirty the basket carts had become, residents Bill Cruz and Esther Grimaldo decided enough was enough and with a little help from a friend they got the job done! The carts are used to get groceries from cars to kitchens.



New officers are ready to take their positions on the Resident Council.



Deborah Morris
(Vice- President),
Bill Cruz
(President), and
Elnora Rodriquez
(Treasurer)



Fulfilling his last duty as President, Lino Puente swears in the new officers. Lino served as President for the last 6 years.



Easter 2016



Children from the Allen Woods after-school program made bunny ears, baskets, and cookies. The residents enjoyed seeing the children look for the hidden eggs. Thanks go out to our interns & volunteers as well as Service Coordinator Maria Calcaben for helping with this event!



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



KAD kids enjoying Spring Break trip to Cabela's. For many of them it was their first time visiting the outdoors store. They were able to experience the different attractions Cabela's has to offer such as the shooting range, aquarium, fish ponds, and several rooms with different landscapes and the animals that belong there.



KAD kids played a game of Duck, Duck, Goose during a Best Fit Foods presentation. They learned the benefits of having daily exercise as well as the foods they need to fuel it.



Lydia Perez from Community Action came out to the KAD Center and spoke to residents about the importance of breast cancer awareness for both men and women. She shared her own experience battling breast cancer, which translated into a passionate presentation full of knowledge and first hand experience.

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Spring Break!



The Chapultepec Afterschool Program – Spring Break Edition was a success! The kids got to do all sorts of activities like make their own robot, paint, do an obstacle course, and take a tour on the Meadow Center Glass Bottom Boat Tour. The Chapultepec afterschool program would like to thank the H-E-B on East Hopkins Street for the donation they made to this event!





Section 8 Program Scores Big!

You may have noticed a little blurb about the Section 8 program in the Board of Commissioners highlights section of the March newsletter. It was about that program's report card from HUD. The "Section 8 Management Assessment Program" (SEMAP) is designed to measure how well a housing authority manages its Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV). That's the program that helps participants afford decent housing in the private housing market by paying a portion of their rent directly to the landlord. Our overall SEMAP Performance Rating is "High," based on a score of 97%.

I recently visited with Frances Garcia, our Section 8 Coordinator, to learn more about this report and how the Section 8 department earned the high grade. Garcia said she has worked in the Section 8 program for 17 years. She started in Carrizo Springs. That program covered all of Dimmitt County. She was the administrative secretary for one month and then was offered a position in management. She worked there for seven years and then took a job with the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) in San Antonio where she ran a program that covered seven counties from Kerr to the west, Guadalupe to the east, and south to Frio County. She came to the San Marcos Housing Authority in 2009 and has been our Section 8 Coordinator ever since.

Garcia told me there are not many differences in Section 8 programs, which is a nation-wide program, but that each one has different administrative plans to meet local needs. For example, she said that in Dimmitt County the waiting list never closed but the wait was only six months to a year. The last time the waiting list was open here in San Marcos was in 2012.

She said that in Carrizo Springs she managed 147 housing choice vouchers. At AACOG she was managing only 98 vouchers but over a much larger area. Here in San Marcos and Hays County, she and 2 other employees (with a little help from one of our FSS Coordinators) administer a program of 228 vouchers plus 28 "port-ins." That is when people move to San Marcos using a voucher issued in another community. She said that people often "ported out" from Carrizo Springs and from the AACOG counties to go to other areas. Here the balance is more in the other direction. More people port-in to San Marcos than port-out. I guess we can understand that.

I asked Garcia about SEMAP itself. She said that it measures "the root of Section 8." It includes all elements of the Section 8 program. All of the information comes from reports submitted to the HUD's Public and Indian Housing Information Center system. We get a 10 point bonus for administering the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. The report also examines at total of 15 factors such as applying proper payment standards based on family size, conducting annual inspections, and ensuring an accurate utility allowance schedule. Garcia said she sees the ongoing score on a monthly basis and that ever since she has been involved in Section 8 she has never had any serious issues to overcome. She said she has always worked with small programs that her score has always been 95% or better. Garcia said Section 8 is a very stable program so long as it is run properly. Looks like it is in good hands.

Highlights From the March Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

>David Peterson was welcomed as the new Commissioner. Gloria Salazar was reappointed by the City Council to a second two-year term. Richard Cruz and Mary Barnhardt are in the second year of their terms. No Resident Commissioner has been appointed by the City.

>Financial reports: Public Housing has a year-to-date surplus of \$130,731. FEMA expenses for the repair of the CM Allen Homes total \$358,179. We have also spent \$22,303 from the Capital Fund Program for flood repairs. Section 8 has a deficit of \$15,240 but it will be covered by HUD at the end of the fiscal year. Springtown Villa has a surplus of \$36,933.

>Public Housing, Section 8, and Springtown Villa are all at 97% occupancy. Albert Sierra summarized repairs going on at Springtown Villa. He said that the Maintenance Department is looking for a full-time person to do make-readies.

>Officers are elected at every annual meeting after the appointment of new commissioners. Richard Cruz was elected as Chairperson. Mary Barnhardt was elected as Vice-Chairperson. With regard to the subsidiary, non-profit organizations, Gloria Salazar was re-elected as President of the San Marcos Reinvestment Corporation, for the development of new affordable housing, and of the San Marcos Development Corporation, which is connected with Springtown Villa. David Peterson was elected as Vice-President of the non-profits.

>Sierra reported that proposals were solicited for the Capital Fund project manager. He said this is done every three years. We received a letter of intent only from Leonard Hughes Construction. The Commissioners approved the contract.

>Director's Report – Sierra reported that 44 units have been repaired at CM Allen. He said 8 units are under construction and expected to be completed in early April. The St. Bernard organization is working on 4 severely damaged units and World Renew is working on 6 units so a total of 18 units are undergoing repairs. He said he expects that a total of 62 units will have been repaired by the end of April. That leaves 38 units to repair and he expects them to be finished by November. Sierra also reviewed the status of the \$25 million that the City has been awarded for flood recovery by the Federal government. Public hearings will be held. Sierra said that the Housing Authority will be asking for an amount equal to our shortfall for flood damage repairs after FEMA contributions and other donations. He said that every day SMHA employees are dealing with something or other related to the recovery and that will go on for a while.

SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

GET ORGANIZED!


Feeling overwhelmed with clutter and have no time for yourself? Get tips and learn tricks to tame the chaos from professional organizer Carolyn Ortiz. A member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, Ms. Ortiz runs All Squared Away in San Marcos. Can't make it to the program? Borrow one of our many organizing and time management books and change your life! Wednesday, April 27, 12 PM - 1 PM.

PLAY BOARD GAMES

International Tabletop Day is an international celebration of board games and fellowship, with game groups holding meetups at stores and community centers around the world. The San Marcos Board Game Group invites you to celebrate Tabletop Day with a variety of family board and strategy games. Drop in for a quick game or stay all afternoon. No experience necessary. No registration required. Saturday, April 30, 12 PM - 4 PM.



April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
There will be a Women's Self-defense class at the PODER Learning Center on April 22 (6 PM to 7 PM). Childcare can be provided with an RSVP to 512-396-3367. Space is limited. Women can learn the basic skills needed to defend themselves in any situation.			Today is April Fools' Day. Believe nothing and trust no one. Just like any other day. 		1 ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10 AM	2
3	4 CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10 AM	5 COOKING CLASS 5:30 PM CHAPULTEPEC	6 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 CHAP. RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 6 PM	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	21 FSS CLASS 6 PM CHAPULTEPEC	22 Women's Self-defense Class 6 PM PODER	23
24	25	26 SMHA BOARD 5:30 PM ALLEN WOODS	27	28	29	30

Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" (1392) contains the first recorded association between April 1 and foolishness. Some precursors of April Fools' Day include the Roman festival of Hilaria, the Holi festival of India, and the Medieval Feast of Fools. The practice of April Fool pranks and hoaxes is controversial. In 1957 the BBC ran a news story about a "Spaghetti-tree." Newspapers were split over whether it was "a great joke or a terrible hoax on the public." When news is published on April Fools' Day, it can be misinterpreted as a joke. When Google, announced the launch of Gmail with 1GB inboxes in 2004, when competing webmail services offered 4 MB or less, many dismissed it as a joke outright. - Adapted from Wikipedia.

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz—Chairperson
 Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
 VACANT—Resident Commissioner
 Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
 David Peterson—Commissioner

Executive Director

Albert Sierra

HOUSING OFFICES

Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)
 512-353-5059
 CM Allen Homes
 512-353-1116
 Chapultepec Homes
 512-396-3364
 Housing Choice Voucher
 512-353-5061
 Springtown Villa
 512-396-3363

RESIDENT SERVICES

Chapultepec Adult Learning Center/
 Family Self-Sufficiency
 512-396-3364
 CM Allen KAD Korner Store
 512-392-6273
 Allen Woods PODER
 Learning Center
 512-396-3367
 Springtown Villa
 512-353-7343