



Ho, ho, ho!

The Oracle

Molly Moves Ahead



My name is Molly Stillwell; I have lived at CM Allen homes for three years now. When I came here I had been a housewife and a mother for fourteen years and had not worked. Through

the help of CM Allen staff I have gone through the Christian Women's Job Corps and became one of Mendez Elementary Volunteers of the year for having over 300 hours of service. I have also reentered the job force by getting my CDL and now drive a bus for Texas State University. I owe a lot to the San Marcos Housing Authority; they have made things a lot easier on me. Thank You.

Editor's Note: Molly is great example of what can be accomplished when a committed individual uses available resources to change their life. Will you be next?

Community Action Announces College Prep Academy

Community Action is sponsoring a College Prep Academy at the Goodnight ACC Center starting in January. The purpose of the Academy is to provide high school graduates and GED diploma holders with the academic instruction and college advising they will need to succeed in college. Although anyone with a high school diploma or GED can enroll in community college, many high school graduates and GED holders do not know that they will have to take a college placement test in reading, writing, and math. Most students who enroll in community college in the United States are placed into at least one non-credit Developmental (remedial) Education course, and almost half of these students do not complete their developmental courses within one year. In addition, developmental classes cost the same amount of money as for credit college classes.

The Community Action College Prep Academy is designed to prepare students for college success so that they can spend their money on courses that count for a college degree. The academy will be taught by individuals from the Texas State University College of Education and the Community Action Career Counselor. If you would like to learn more about the College Prep Academy, **attend an information session on Tuesday December 14 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM** at the Community Action office, Suite 107, 101 Umland Road (Old Mill) below the water tower. More information and an interest form is available at your Resident Services Center or call Francesca Ramirez at 392-1161, ext. 313.



Many Thanks at Springtown Villa

On November 19, the residents of Springtown Villa celebrated Thanksgiving and November birthdays with one HUGE turkey lunch. The Resident Council hosted the event and nearly ALL of the residents attended. We were very thankful for the family of our Resident Council President, who helped with the food preparation, service, and clean-up. We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to celebrate the holiday together as a community.



Pictured above: The many residents of Springtown enjoy company, good food, and celebration of Thanksgiving and November Birthdays.

I am thankful for my rabbit.



I am thankful for my mom and dad.

I am thankful for my family.

I am thankful for the world. And myself.

I'm thankful for my family. Love is in my heart.

I am thankful for God protecting my children.



The Kids Came Back!

After the huge success of the Halloween Carnival held at Springtown Villa, we were excited to host another event with the children visiting. This time, the children and participating residents rotated to four different activity stations. For one stop, fingerprint turkeys were created, which lead to finger-painting of a variety of pictures. Another activity was focused on making foam Christmas decorations. A third stop was for decorating gingerbread men; possibly the most popular of activities. Finally, the children and residents created a "thankful garland." Paper leaves were cut out and each child and resident then wrote on the leaf what they were thankful for this holiday season. The garland is now displayed in the community room of Springtown Villa. Some of the thanks are presented here. We hope to have the kids continue to visit us here at Springtown villa. The residents greatly enjoy the time and activities with them!



I am thankful for my dad.

I am thankful for this place.

I am thankful for my two dogs which protect my house.



I'm thankful for my sister.

I am thankful for life.

I am thankful for all of my friends at Springtown.





Our Generation



The PODER Learning Center Honors Our Vets

For Veteran's Day, the kids of the after school program at PODER honored the service men and women with homemade crafts. The children made windsock flags and 3-D stars, but the most significant crafts they made were cards and letters. The letters were sent to a non-profit organization that would send them to troops in Afghanistan. The cards were sent to a veteran's hospital for recovering war veterans. With words and pictures, the kids hoped to bring a smile to those who have sacrificed so much.



December Birthdays

Allen Woods

None, nada, zip!

Chapultepec

Kylie Moregon—6th

Jonathan

Ledesma—11th

Jermiah Banks—10th

Natividad

Aldana—25th

Kelsey Galvan—27th

SMHA After-School Programs

Parents: Have your kids in a safe and supervised environment where they eat a free, nutritious meal, get free tutoring services, play games, and learn how to have fun!

Now in three locations:

-Chapultepec * 396-3364

-Allen Woods * 396-3367

-C. M. Allen * 392-6273



C.M. Allen kids enjoying art class at the new Centro Cultural Hispano.

C.M. Allen

Nadia Bravo—10th

Eric Reeves—12th

Elyssa Turnini—17th

Isaak Nance—22nd



What's
New?

The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

Christmas Quiz

1. What two words are normally pre-printed on gift tags?
2. Who wrote A Christmas Carol?
3. How many candles are on a Hanukkah Menorah (candelabra)?
4. At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?
5. What is the connection between "Comet", "Cupid" and "Vixen"?
6. In which famous Christmas Song does a snowman pretended to be "Parsons Brown"?
7. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
8. What is the name of the red flower associated with Christmas?
9. How many "Lords a Leaping" were there?
10. What is the name of the most famous Christmas Ballet?

Answers:

1. To, From
2. Charles Dickens
3. Nine
4. Mistletoe
5. They are all names of Santa Claus reindeer
6. "Winter Wonderland"
7. Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey
8. Poinsettia
9. Ten
10. Nutcracker

Christmas Poem

From home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another,

The warmth and joy of Christmas, brings us closer to each other.

Emily Matthews



Site Announcements



Chapultepec Homes:

Dec 6th—Resident Assembly, 6:30 p.m.

Dec 18th (Saturday)—Support Group, 10 a.m.

Allen Woods Homes:

Dec 7th—Resident Assembly, 6:00 p.m.,
PODER Learning Center

C. M. Allen Homes:

Dec 2nd—Resident Assembly, 6:00 p.m.
KAD Korner Store

Springtown Villa:

Dec 7th—Arthritis and Pain Management,
10:00 a.m.

Dec 14—Blood Pressure checks, 11 a.m.– noon



Mi Vida, Mi Comunidad



Hacer la Hora de la Comida Más Agradable

No haga de su casa un restaurante.

Haga una sola comida, pero ofrezca opciones de cómo se servirá. [¿Quieres la carne de hamburguesa sobre el pan o sobre el plato?] Cuando la mayoría de nosotros éramos niños nos teníamos que comer lo que nos pusieran en el plato. Nuestros padres no nos daban ninguna opción: por lo tanto, simplemente comíamos.

Tenga una conversación agradable durante la comida.

Este no es el momento de regañar a su niño porque entregó la tarea tarde o criticarlo sobre las amistades que ha hecho últimamente. Este es un momento para compartir ideas y contar chistes. Esta es una oportunidad de pasar un rato del que tanto necesitamos y del que nos escasea el tiempo para lograr pasar juntos en armonía.

Enseñe buenos hábitos en la mesa y milagrosamente, sus

niños lo demostrarán en público.

Si usted piensa que no es agradable o gracioso que su niño muestre la boca llena de comida a sus invitados durante una cena formal, le sugiero que no le permita hacerlo en casa.

Relaje su actitud durante la hora de la comida.

Mientras más atención le preste a los hábitos de comer, más grande será el campo de batalla cuando se comparte la mesa. Mantenga ciertos puntos importantes en mente: los niños se

pueden mantener comiendo las mismas comidas una y otra vez, evitando comer algo nuevo o diferente. Los niños traen hambre cuando llegan de la escuela – la rutina de una merienda sana después de escuela puede evitar batallas.



Cuando lo único que se les ofrece sean comidas sanas, los niños comerán comidas sanas. Las horas de la comida pueden ser

momentos agradables, así que simplemente tome este tiempo para disfrutarlo, sin estar revisando los hábitos de comer de los demás.

Entusiasme a sus niños a tomar parte en la planificación y prepara-

ción de las comidas.

Les motivará comer lo que se sirva, y les enseñará habilidades de mucho valor que les enriquecerá la vida. Usted probablemente se complacerá al ver que ellos en realidad disfrutan ayudando en la cocina.

*By Elizabeth Pantley, author of "Kid Cooperation and Perfect Parenting." © 2002 Elizabeth Pantley
www.circleofparents.org*



La magia de Navidad. Después que los niños abren sus regalos, después que la familia come la comida sabrosa, y después del fin de celebración del veinticinco de Diciembre, ¿que sucede? ¿Cómo podemos continuar con nuestro amor y bondad a nuestros vecinos y los niños continuar respetar sus padres? La regalos de amor, respecta, y bondad no necesidad de poner fin Diciembre 26. Continúe dar estos regalos y tu vas continuar recibir estos.



Feliz
Navidad



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

396-3363

Resident Services Centers:

*Chapultepec Homes (Program Administration)

396-3364

*C. M. Allen Homes

392-6273

*Allen Woods Homes

396-3367

*Springtown Villa

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. Concept by Herod King Ellison. Senior Editor—Stewart Dale Spencer. Contributing Editors—Maria Calcaben, Bonnie Pecina, Megan Perez, Amanda Ramirez, & Lorene Sandwith. Contact: SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 * 512-396-3364 * www.smpaha.org*

Bonnie Pecina Reaches a Milestone—20 Years of Service



Bonnie Pecina first gained an interest in working with the San Marcos Housing Authority in 1985, when she worked as a program facilitator for Families in Focus, a program organized by Southwest Texas State University. She officially joined the housing authority as a youth advocate in November of 1990. Bonnie has a strong belief in the power of education, community service and self-worth. When the children of the C.M. Allen Homes come to Bonnie with a problem, she finds a solution. Bonnie is always working to find new learning outlets for the children such as organizing educational field trips to Texas State University, the University of Texas, or the Bob Bullock Museum. She has also organized

different activities for the children to participate in which promote community service. Her kids are rewarded with movies, swimming, sporting events, etc. Bonnie's goal is to turn lives around, whether it's by talking to the kids or pushing them to do more than the minimum of what is expected of them. She says she is constantly surprised by the things kids say. Bonnie said, "My heart is working with kids." Thanks Bonnie!