



COLOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Maria Calcaben

What makes a neighborhood a great place to live is not its location, but the amount of care and involvement its residents have for their communities. Families were given an opportunity to shine in their uniqueness with a "Color Our World" themed Family Night at the PODER Center. About 10 families attended that evening which resulted in about 35 attendees, not including volunteers! The evening started off with families sharing a light meal of sandwiches, tea, chips, and carrot sticks. Each family was then given a task to use drawings and words to create a flag or crest that represented them. One family's creativity shone brightly when they put "hakuna matata" as their family's slogan! While the families finished up their flags, a short presentation about the importance of family was given. A good family starts with a good foundation of communication, honesty, and love.

Each of these qualities helps parents and kids form a solid bond of trust and support as they grow older. Parents were then praised for taking time out of their busy lives to spend time with their kids and show their support for the programs at PODER by attending the family night. (Continued on Page 7)

FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

Now that cold weather has arrived, be aware that the first time you use the heat in your home, the smell of burning dust from the heat exchanger in the furnace is normal. It's a good idea to open a few windows and turn the heat on for a few minutes *before* you need it. The burning dust will sometimes set off the smoke alarms and that's no fun in the middle of the night.

Remember, beginning in January, rent and other payments must be made by check, money order, or credit/debit card. Statements will be mailed out to residents after the 20th of each month.



Check out the calendar on the last page for events and holiday hours!

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

CHAMPIÑONES RELLENOS DE JAMÓN Y QUESO

Ingredientes

- 12 champiñones grandes
- 1 tarrina de queso philadelphia
- 1 paquete de jamón york
- Queso curado (opcional)
- Queso parmesano para gratinar
- Sal

1.- Lo primero de todo será limpiar bien los champiñones y lavarlos para quitar todo resto de arena que puedan tener. Una vez limpios le quitaremos el tronco y los vaciaremos bien.

2.- Cortamos el jamón york y el queso curado en trocitos pequeños y lo mezclamos con la tarrina de queso philadelphia.

3.- Rellenamos los champiñones con la ayuda de una cucharilla y

cubrimos de queso parmesano rallado, o de cualquier queso para gratinar que tengamos.

4.- Horneamos 18-20 minutos a 180º grados y terminamos con 4 minutos de gratinado para que se doren por encima.

Source: <http://recetasdecocina.elmundo.es/>



Kickin' Higher and Higher

For most of the kids that fought in the Hill Country Karate Best of the Best Tournament, it was their last tournament to fight in a children's level. Exciting changes are ahead as these kids will be starting the adult karate class in January. The ones that will be staying in the kids class will continue to work hard for the red belt, the highest belt color for the kids class. All the kids that fought at the Hill Country Tournament won first place! Posed from left to right: Zoe Hinojosa, Coach Rana Zeidan, Joshua Jine, Makayla Spurlock, Keandre Richardson, Coach



Alicia Contreras, and Mia Dilone. Not pictured is Antonio Reyna who also won first place and will be going to the adult karate class.

From Our Family to Yours



We had a successful year of Family Night Events! Our lessons included nutrition, healthy choices, family support, and family goals. Families have done a fun run, a color fight, food contest, and even played Quidditch. The last family night of the year involved games that families could do for free using supplies they could find at home. *Family Jeopardy* was a big hit and *Guess that Fairy Tale* brought out lots of laughs and creativity. Each family also worked hard get to their gift cards in the *Wrap Challenge* game where each gift card was wrapped in different layers and secured with duct tape! Bellies were filled with meals that included chicken and biscuits donated by Gill's Chicken and Broiler. All the families that participated got to take home fruit donated by Cuevas Produce. Materials for the baskets, games, and food were donated by an anonymous donor. Other donors included: Rhea's Ice Cream, Chili's Restaurant, and Gumby's Pizza. Join us in January when we will restart our family nights with new activities to make each family stronger!



Springtown Villa



Every year our Resident Council, with the help of individuals and company sponsors, provide a Thanksgiving meal for the residents at Springtown Villa. Most of them are no longer able to prepare such a meal on their own. We would like to thank the following for helping prepare the meal and for donations: Springtown Villa manager Amanda Ramirez, Springtown Resident Council Officers (Bill, Deborah and Arleen), Bee First, Indra Votion, Edwards Home Health, and our resident family member, Arleen's sister.



Arleen is teaching a new class of basic sewing and crocheting. Epifania (on the left) is very focused on her work.

Folks enjoyed our yearly Halloween party, also sponsored by the Resident Council, individuals, and businesses.



We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!

Medicare Mart sponsors one of our monthly bingos. Residents look forward to them because they get to win prizes.



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



As a Social Work volunteer, I have really enjoyed working at KAD. Being around the kids each day and seeing them want help with their homework. Even playing a game with them has been heartwarming. In the beginning I didn't think that I would enjoy volunteering as much as I do now. As the semester comes to an end I am hoping that I will have a flexible schedule next semester to still be able to come volunteer. Being at KAD, I know that I am making an impact on the kids and helping them go in the right direction. As much as

I love working with the kids, the Resident Services Coordinator Bonnie has made this experience even better. She has taken me to visit residents and taught me many things about the Housing Authority programs.

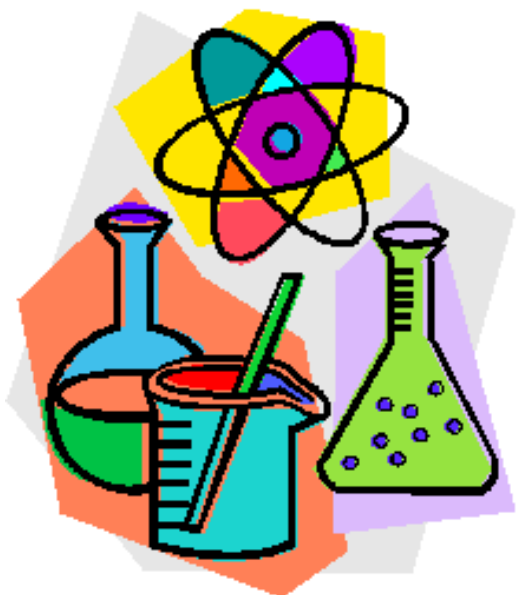
Shelbi White



National Night Out was a success. A bouncing castle was donated by Two Monkeys Inflatables and was a big hit with the kids. A lot of great information was provided by MADD, Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the Travis County Drug Prevention Program. The Hays County Sheriff's rescue truck was also popular with the kids.



Family Science Night was once again a hit! The kids made their own toothpaste among other creative things and can't wait for the next event. Parents were very much involved. They like it because the kids learn science. The kids like it because, as they say, "Science Rocks!"



CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Angela and Adam Rodriguez graduated the FSS Program earlier this year. They used their time in FSS to attend Austin Community College, where Adam completed an Associate of Applied Science of Automotive Technology and Outdoor Powered Equipment and Angela graduated with an Associate of Science in Business Administration. Adam is now employed with Chuck Nash and Angela is continuing her education at

Texas State University where she plans to complete a bachelor's degree in Accounting by the spring.

Courtney was buried with coats that were donated by Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in New Braunfels. They collected about 500 jackets and coats and thought the residents of the San Marcos Housing Authority would benefit. They were right!



Best Food Fits wrapped up another semester with our kids at the Chapultepec After-School Program. Every Wednesday, they taught the kids about living a healthy lifestyle by teaching the kids simple, healthy snack options. The kids enjoyed having them and we can't wait until they come back in the Spring.

SMHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Commissioners met on November 15. New Commissioners Gerald Brown and Rose Brooks were welcomed to the Board. Mr. Brown is the new Resident Commissioner.

Financials – Executive Director Albert Sierra presented the final report for Fiscal Year 2016, which ended on September 30. Public Housing has a balance of \$93,202. Reserve funds are still low as a result of the 2015 floods. Sierra also reported that the CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding is for unmet needs and it remains unclear how much this will help the Housing Authority to recover depleted funds so that improvements and repairs at other sites can be addressed. Those needs were put on hold to redirect funds to the repairs at CM Allen. The Housing Choice Voucher program ended the year with a surplus of \$12,080 in administrative fees. Sierra reminded the Commissioners that those fees cover the costs of administering the program. The Housing Assistance Payments are covered by HUD, up to our approved limit. Springtown Villa ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$77,765. Those funds are retained for future capital costs and other needs.

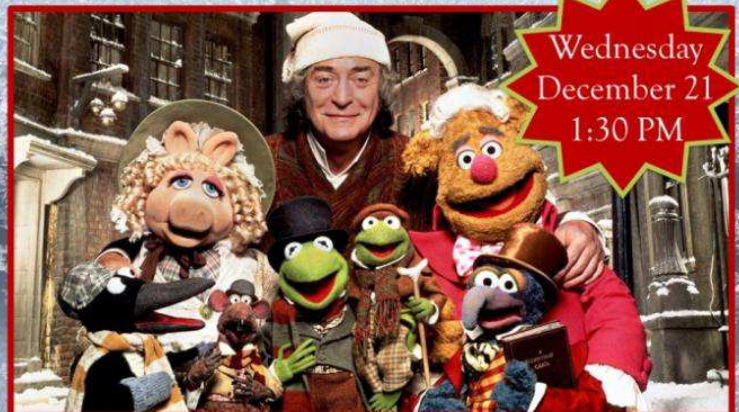
Occupancy – Public Housing was at 95%, Section 8 at 100%, and Springtown Villa at 97%. Sierra reported that the inspector that was contracted by the HUD Real Estate Assessment Center did not show up at his scheduled time and no one contacted us in advance to let us know. The inspection will be rescheduled. Preparations for the inspection are time consuming and create a certain level of inconvenience for our residents. Sierra told the board that we will not inconvenience the residents a second time and any negative findings that result from the inspection will be appealed.

The details of the annual Section 8 Management Assessment Program report to HUD were presented to the Commissioners. The report will be submitted to HUD.

CM Allen Update – Sierra reported that the last ten units in need of repair will be completed by early December. [Editor's Note: As of this writing, 75 of 100 units are occupied.] He also reported that the City wanted to use some additional Right of Way along River Road at the CM Allen Homes to install new light poles. Sierra said that we had already given up some ROW in 1994, when River Road was expanded, and that he feels the new poles would seriously detract from the residents' enjoyment of their front yards. Therefore, he intends to deny the request and suggest that they install the poles on the other side of the road. He said that property is owned by the City anyway.

Gloria Salazar commented on Sierra's participation in the Red Ribbon 5K race with several kids from the Allen Woods Homes, which was in the November issue of The Oracle. She wanted to commend him for his encouragement to our kids. The Commissioners will not meet in December unless there is some action item than cannot wait until January. [Editor's Note: Meeting notices are posted at Allen Woods and at City Hall.]

A Muppet Christmas Carol



San Marcos Public Library 625 E. Hopkins 512.393.8200

COLOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD (Continued from Page 1)



After the families finished their flags, everyone went outside to do a one mile Fun Run around the neighborhood! Parents became good examples as they promoted good health and support by running, walking, or jogging with their kids. Some moms even walked around with their strollers and wagons as their babies enjoyed a nice stroll. As they went through the neighborhood, volunteers from the Terry Scholar Student Organization at Texas State were cheering our families on with encouraging signs and high-fives!

Jasper Barrett, age 9, was the first to cross the finish line, held by Executive Director Albert Sierra! Volunteers held out family flags and cheered as each



person finished. After a quick water break and cooling off in the center, the families scattered out into the back yard of the center for the big color fight! The colored powder was safe for humans and the environment and is mostly made of corn starch. Families enjoyed throwing colors at each member of their family and at other families as well! In the end, 102 powder packs were used to color kids and adults from head to toe. Big thanks to the Terry Scholar Student Organization for fundraising and volunteering to make this event happen! After some laughs were chuckled and pictures were taken, families went home together with new memories and a new outlook: Maybe their worlds weren't as grey as they thought they were and that it was up to them to fill it with color and life.



SMHA CALENDAR - December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>December is the twelfth and last month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars. It is the seventh and last month to have the length of 31 days. December got its name from the Latin word "decem" (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar, which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any month. Later, the months of January and February were created to fill the void and added to the beginning of the calendar but December retained its name. In the Western World the month is strongly associated with Christmas.</p>				1	2 ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM	3
4	5 CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 1:30 PM	6	7 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM			10
11	12 Music at the Library David Garza 7 - 8:20 PM	13 CITY RUNOFF ELECTION (KAD Korner Store)	14			17
18	19	20	21 SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM	22 SMHA OFFICES CLOSE @ 2 PM	23 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	24
	26 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	27	28	29	30	31

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz—Chairperson
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
Gerald Brown—Resident Comm.
Rose Brooks—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