

# THE February ORACLE



*Rosalie poses in front of what has come to be known as "The Success Tree" with Megan Spiller and Gene Martin, Resident Services Director.*

## ROSALIE RULES by Megan Spiller

Rosalie joined the FSS Program in November 2008. She started the program while she was working full-time as a medical assistant for Corridor Pediatrics. Soon after she and her daughters Kelsey and Kayla moved in, Rosalie left her job to continue her education at Austin Community College. While she attended school, she survived on financial aid and a part-time job. After she completed her pre-requisites, Rosalie applied at Victoria Community College for the Licensed Vocational Nursing Program. She started the program in August 2013. She studied constantly but continued to work part-time. She completed the program in one year. After graduation, Rosalie immediately began

studying for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and passed on her first try! Rosalie now works full-time for a nursing and rehabilitation center in Kyle. She credits the FSS Program to her success, saying "The FSS Program allowed her to concentrate on her educational goals while living in a low-rent, safe community." Rosalie has since moved out and is buying her own home. Success for us means saying goodbye so it's sweet and sad at the same time. Don't forget us Rosalie!



**The Housing Authority offices will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of Presidents' Day.**

**Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas Day, when clergy would bless and distribute**



**candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal--the hedgehog--as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.**

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-groundhog-day>

**ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER**

## VALENTINES BAKE SALE!

Friday, February 13

10AM—2PM

**PODER Learning Center**

**Cakes, cookies,  
strawberries, and more!**

All profits go to the  
Allen Woods Resident  
Assembly to help the Allen  
Woods neighborhood.



## ¡Frases Románticas!

♥ **Cada día  
te quiero  
más:** *Each  
day I love you  
more*



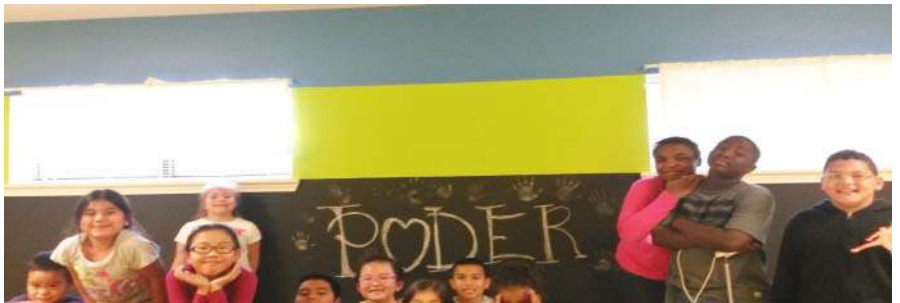
♥ **Quiero estar contigo para  
siempre:** *I want to be with you forever*

♥ **Te amo porque has cambiado  
mi vida, y has dado rumbo a mi  
corazón:** *I love you because you've  
changed my life, and have given direction  
to my heart*

♥ **Soy feliz de compartir cada  
instante de mi vida a tu lado:** *I'm  
happy to share each moment of my life  
by your side*

## Paint...Play...PODER!

The new year brought on a new look for our playroom at PODER! A fresh coat of yellow paint covers three walls while a stripe of blue and green paint emphasizes the chalkboard strip on the longest wall. Thanks to all the people that helped make this project possible: The Masters School, Fineline Painting, and the Housing Authority Maintenance Department. The vibrant colors have brought new and exciting energy for the kids!



## Dreamers & Leaders

The kids of the PODER program were given an activity to understand the importance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We talked about civil rights, other leaders, and the impact they've made on the world. The kids were



then asked to write down what they would want to change in the world. Xander wrote, "I had a dream that I could change followers to leaders." He would do that by helping people do the right thing. Makayla wrote, "I had a dream that everyone could go to college." Inspired by her mom, she believes that if everyone could have an education, they could get a more fulfilling job. We hope to give these kids the tools they'll need to accomplish these dreams and be leaders!



# Springtown Villa



**Residents wait for results.**



**Stewart Dale Spencer opens the ballot box.**



**Ballots are counted.**

## Springtown Villa Resident Council Officers for 2015

President—Lino Puente ♥♥♥ Vice-President—Arleen Machado ♥♥♥ Secretary—Bill Cruz



Residents enjoyed a Christmas meal hosted by Santiago and Jessica Tallamantez and family. Lisa Garza helped with the cooking. The Tallamantez family enjoys giving back to the community and what better way than to spend time with friends and family? Jessica is the daughter of resident Arleen Machado. Mrs. Santa (Jessica Tallamantez) handed out Christmas cards along with a candy cane to each resident.





## C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church sponsored the Christmas party for C. M. Allen residents. Ms. Maria Diocares, Senior Lecturer from the Texas State Modern Language Department, helped to coordinate this event and everyone had a wonderful time. Music was provided by the father and son team of Pedro and Benito Castillo. Below, children listen to a volunteer telling



the story of "The Legend of the Candy Cane." On the right, Diocares keeps an eye on the kids as they hit the piñata.



**Christopher Lopez is a former KAD member who stops in every year while visiting his family for the holidays.**



**This year, Chris was able to join Frankie Arredondo and SMFD Station 1, B-shift in delivering gifts to the Sanchez family. ☺ On the left, Kathy Martinez Prather, Jude Prather, and friends make it a Christmas to remember for the Miranda family.**



## CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Thank you Stewart Dale Spencer for presenting your famous Bean Budget class to our FSS Participants! Everyone was paired up into families with 100 beans as their monthly income. When times got hard and each family was faced with a cut in income, they had to decide together what needed to be changed in their budget to make ends meet and then justify those changes. The focus was on setting priorities.

It's never too early to start a savings account! Corrie Burnett, 5 years old, opened her first savings account, with the help of her mom of course! Corrie was very excited and is eager to put more money in her account!





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**FREE DENTAL CARE**

*For the Love of Chance*

**Hosted By: San Marcos Gentle Dental**

Participating Doctors:

**J. Robert Donnelly, D.D.S. • Gregory Wang, D.D.S.  
Charles Reeves, D.D.S.**

This is the day when we give back to a community that has been so wonderful to us.

Choice of **Filling, Extraction or Cleaning** will be performed for those 18 years and older who can't get dental care elsewhere.

ARRIVE EARLY—REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:30 A.M

Event Location: 1337 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666

Event Hours: 8:00am until 4:00pm

Patients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

***First 60 patients are guaranteed to be seen!***

Treatment is subject to patient health. We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone.

*Event date:  
Friday  
Feb 6, 2015*

*Patients are encouraged to arrive early, dress appropriately for the weather and to bring chairs, blankets, water, snacks, etc. as they may be outside waiting to be seen.*

**For more information please contact:**

**(512) 396-5225 | [www.sanmarcosdental.com](http://www.sanmarcosdental.com) | 1337 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666**

## SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Free Tax Aid!** February 2 through April 13 \* Mondays 3:00 to 6:00 PM \* Saturdays 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

**Simple Sewing** Saturday, February 21 3:00 - 5:00 PM \* Registration Online at [www.sanmarcostx.gov/library24-7](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/library24-7)

**GED Registration Part 1:** Tuesday, February 10 at 1:00 or 6:00 PM

**GED Registration Part 2:** Thursday, February 12 at 1:00 or 6:00 PM

**(You must do both parts of the GED registration process!)**



**CHECK OUT AUDIO BOOKS ONLINE!** - The San Marcos Public Library has joined a consortium with other Hays County libraries to bring even more titles to the OneClickDigital downloadable audio collection. Over 8,000 titles are now available for checkout for a ten-day period. The OneClickdigital eAudio app is available for Android, Kindle Fire, Nook, iPhone, iTouch and iPad users. Login using the credentials you create at the OneClickdigital website, and access your checkouts, browse and checkout titles, and download directly to your device using the app. Downloadable titles can be listened to in four ways: using OneClickdigital Media Manager, using a portable device, downloading one of the mobile apps to your Smart Phone or tablet, or using the html player on the website. See all of our digital holdings at [www.sanmarcostx.gov/library24-7](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/library24-7)

## Stop Relying on the Internet by Michael Mayher

There are two items that are on the minds of many job seekers. One is the frustration of sending a resume to a company with the understanding that there are other tens, hundreds, even thousands of resumes submitted for the same jobs. People are not stupid; they know the vast majority of resumes submitted will never be seen by a human being and are therefore never considered. The second thing about which people feel powerless

is they cannot establish contact with any flesh and blood person and, especially, not a responsible hiring manager.

This second concern is especially frustrating for proactive people, who are ambitious and rightly understand emailing a resume is mostly a waste of time. Isn't it ironic: these are precisely the kinds of people that companies claim they want to hire.



(READ MORE AT <http://yourcareerquest.blogspot.cz/2015/01/stop-relying-on-internet.html>)



## FREE & FUN THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

• **Eddie Durham Celebration and Hill Country Jazz Festival ~ Evans Auditorium, Texas State University, February 6 & 7**

The 2015 Eddie Durham Celebration will be held on **Friday, February 6**, at Evans Auditorium at 7:30 PM. **On Saturday, February 7**, the 2015 Hill Country Jazz Festival presents the Finale Concert at about 6:15 PM, after the high school competitions finish. Both events are free and open to the public. No advance reservations required. Seating will begin at least 15 minutes prior to the program on a first come, first serve basis; \$5 parking available at Pleasant Street Parking Garage.

• **Trail Riders in Downtown ~ San Marcos Courthouse Square, February 9**

San Marcos gives a big welcome to the Greater Randolph Area Trail Riders every year as they make a stop in Historic Downtown San Marcos on their journey from Austin to the San Antonio Rodeo. The riders will arrive at 11:30 AM.

\*For more Fabulous February events go to: <http://www.toursanmarcos.com/events/index.html>

### WHAT WE DO

The San Marcos Housing Authority has provided decent, safe, and affordable housing for San Marcos Residents since 1950. We have three housing programs: Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher, and Project-based Section 8. These programs provide housing for about 574 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.

### WHO WE ARE

#### Board of Commissioners

Rose Brooks—Chairperson  
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson  
Susan Tilatitsky—Resident Representative  
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner  
Frank Arredondo—Commissioner

#### Administration

Albert Sierra  
*Executive Director*  
Lana Bronikowsky  
*Accountant/Programs Manager*  
Albert Hernandez  
*Maintenance Supervisor*  
Rose Miranda  
*Public Housing Manager*  
Gene Martin, II  
*Resident Services Director*  
Frances Garcia  
*Section 8 Coordinator*  
Amanda Ramirez  
*Springtown Villa Manager*

### HOUSING OFFICES

#### Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)

512-353-5059

#### C. M. Allen Homes

512-353-1116

#### Chapultepec Homes

512-396-3364

#### Housing Choice Voucher

512-353-5061

#### Springtown Villa

512-396-3363

### RESIDENT SERVICES CENTERS

#### Chapultepec Adult Learning Center &

#### Family Self-Sufficiency

512-396-3364

#### KAD Korner Store

512-392-6273

#### PODER Learning Center

512-396-3367

#### Springtown Villa