

THE ORACLE

Small Acts, Big Impacts

Lola Bell and her daughter Brigitte moved into Allen Woods Homes in 2003. Since then, this mother and daughter team have volunteered and helped out in many ways at the Housing Authority. When the after-school program was just beginning, Lola was volunteering to help fulfill her community service hours. The Housing Authority requires that any able-bodied adult must either be working or doing community hours. She had worked at the First Christian Church daycare for 11 years and used her skills to assist in cooking, cleaning, and helping with the children of the after-school program. In 2005, she expanded her volunteer services to help Beatrice Pacheco at the Meals-on-Wheels program. She would prepare meals, answer phones, and help serve elderly residents at the Allen Woods Dining Room. Currently, she helps out at the PODER Learning Center by washing towels, passing out flyers, and organizing the pantries.



Brigitte has been volunteering since the summer of 2006. She has helped clean the center, pass out flyers, and put up food in our cupboards and pantries. She continues to be diligent about her duties and meeting her community service hours. Currently, she is helping out at the PODER Learning Center but is also applying for jobs.

Both women have been members of the Allen Woods Resident Assembly for several years and continue to attend meetings. They have assisted in Texas Night Out and other events as well as fundraisers that the Allen Woods Resident Assembly has hosted. With the passion and drive to help their neighbors, this mom and daughter team is changing Allen Woods Homes one small act of kindness at a time.

~ Maria Calcaben, Allen Woods Service Coordinator ~

Warm weather, rain, sunshine . . . you know what that means. That's right! Lots of green stuff. No, not the kind you can take to the bank but the kind that has to be trimmed from time to time to keep it from becoming a jungle. We're talking about grass, and not just any grass but your grass . . . that is, if you live at one of our public housing sites. Our maintenance workers do most of the mowing but have been having a bit of a problem lately because garden hoses are often not rolled up. Also, bicycles,



toys, and other things are sometimes left laying around. The problem is that the worker has to stop the mower to pick things up. It really slows things down. If they have to clean up your yard for you, a \$5 charge will be applied to your account. That's a hassle for everyone and they don't want to have to do it so please do them and yourself a favor and keep that yard picked up. With regard to chained bicycles, if the bike is always locked in the same area, you will have to trim the grass around it yourself.

The Post Office requests that that all tenants list the names of all family members on an index card and tape it inside the mail box, at the back. Any mail addressed to someone who is not on the list is returned to the sender.



ALLEN WOODS HOMES—PODER LEARNING CENTER

Knight Training Builds Character



At the PODER Learning Center, we had a fun and educational week of “Knight Training” with the children of the PODER After-School Program. Knight Training consisted of teaching the kids four essential topics that help build good character: integrity, courage, faith, and perseverance. Each discussion encouraged participation, kid-friendly examples, and simple definitions. Each word had a symbolized craft: integrity was symbolized with castles as our home base, courage with our power gauntlets and swords, faith as our shield through life, and perseverance as dragons that we overcome. The week ended with each knight that completed the week and demonstrated these characteristics being awarded a treat fit for a king or queen!



Ana Reyna es el autor de los poemas *Shining Light* y *Antonio the Monkey*. Ella está en el cuarto grado y asiste en el PODER After-School Program. Ana quiere escribir poemas y historias.



Am I eligible for food stamps?

How can I set up
a bank account?

I NEED HELP!

WHO CAN HELP ME PAY BILLS?

RESIDENT **RESOURCE FAIR**

PODER Learning Center

June 5th

10AM—3PM

FREE RAFFLE PRIZES

NEED A JOB?

Where can I apply
for Medicaid?

Springtown Villa



Residents from Springtown Villa are getting involved in their community. Residents recently attended the CARTS Community Involvement Meeting to discuss concerns and share ideas on how to improve the San Marcos transit system. Residents talked about not having transportation to doctors appointments, grocery shopping, and the ability to visit with friends and family. Some residents do have family members to take them, but they often feel rushed and don't have enough time to just "look around." As one result of this meeting, CARTS put together a "Senior Shopping Day" Tuesdays is HEB day and Thursday is Wal-Mart day. It pays to get involved!



Healthy Living

Residents attended a series of *Healthy Living, Healthy Eating* classes offered by Cindy Ybarra RN, BSN of Methodist Healthcare Ministries/ Wesley Health Ministries. Topics covered during these classes were carbohydrates, learning how to read labels, and how to maintain healthy living. Classes were organized by our intern Katie Foster.



C. M. Allen Homes—KAD Korner Store



KIND HEARTS PAY OFF

As luck would have it, two of the most giving women at C. M. Allen have won our raffle! These outstanding ladies never seem to get tired of doing their thing and being assets to the community. Ramona Cuevas, who donates items frequently for the raffle and for BINGO, won the raffle for the beautiful Afghan made by Ida Londo. Monserrate Fernandez took home the Mother's Day basket after winning that raffle. Mrs. Fernandez volunteers daily to help make sure that our children are well fed and the site is clean. These two women have helped make the C. M. Allen Homes a great place to live!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Attorney General's Under Age Drinking Campaign will be visiting on May 30th to educate our youth about the dangers and consequences of drinking alcohol.

The Fun & Fit 4 Life Camp - Make sure to register your children (5-12 years old) for the exciting camp that will be June 17th, 19th, 21st, and June 24th, 26th, and 28th. The camp will be located at Texas State University in Jowers. If you would like to register your child, come by the KAD office to get the forms.

Father's Day Cookout - Come join KAD to celebrate Father's Day on June 15th, from 11 AM to 2 PM for a cookout, door prizes, and music! Everyone is welcome!

RAFFLE! RAFFLE! RAFFLE!

Join us in helping to raise money for the children's summer program at KAD. Gumby's Pizza, Yo So Cool Frozen Yogurt, Mochas and Javas, and other local businesses have offered to donate generous gift cards for our raffle. Tickets are \$1 each. The raffle will be held June 10th. Since we have multiple prizes there will be multiple winners!

RESIDENTS GETTING HEALTHY!



The residents of C. M. Allen Homes are working to get healthy! Our bi-weekly Zumba classes and our nutrition classes for both the children's program and the adult residents has made for a more health conscious community. Some of our residents have learned how to shop healthy and still stay in their budget while others have learned the dance-like moves of Zumba to help them get fit.

Chapultepec Homes — Family Self-Sufficiency

I NEVER
Dreamed
 ABOUT
SUCCESS
 I
Worked
 FOR IT

-Estee Lauder

FSS CLASS

The Next FSS Class will be June 20 at 6:30 PM at the Chapultepec Adult Learning Center. Farnoosh Torabi — author, finance journalist, and “Gen-Y Money Coach” — is the host of a webinar called *Do Women Invest Differently?* Attend and learn ways to effectively invest your money for the future. You will also earn a participation point for attending!



The San Marcos Housing Authority has once again paired up with Family Eldercare in Austin to bring fans to low-income families in the greater San Marcos Area! If you or someone you know are in need of a fan please contact your Resident Services Coordinator. We are limited on the number of fans we have so we will be giving preference to the Elderly and Disabled. If you would like to donate any box fans, please bring them to the Chapultepec Office.



Below are the names and phone numbers of each Resident Services Coordinator:

- ◇ C. M. Allen - Bonnie Pecina, 392-6273
- ◇ Allen Woods - Maria Calcaben, 396-3367
- ◇ Springtown Villa & HCV FSS - Gracie Campos, 353-7343
- ◇ Chapultepec Homes & other sites - Megan Perez, 396-3364



First Week of Fun & Fit!!



Fun and Fit4Life is a 6-day summer camp packed with fun and learning for children. Campers will learn about making healthy food and lifestyle choices and will get to burn off lots of energy during the physical activities. The camp will be held June 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, and 28 from 12 PM to 3 PM. Busses will pick up the children at noon and bring the kids back by 3:30 PM. The camp is available to all children in the San Marcos Housing Authority who are

between the ages of 5 and 12. Parents who would like their children to attend the camp can contact the Resident Services Coordinator at their site.



Kids waiting to be picked up last year.



The next time you pass by the PODER Learning Center, stop by and say hello to Miriam Gutierrez. She is originally from Laredo and is a Social Work intern from Texas State

University. She says she enjoyed studying Social Work and that she is excited to begin practicing it. She originally volunteered in the after-school program at C. M. Allen Homes for one of her classes. She enjoyed her time there so much that she came back to do her internship with us. She says that some challenges she faces in the after-school program at the PODER Learning Center are gaining the children's trust and giving a good amount of attention to each child. When things get tough, Miriam just thinks of a quote by Matthew Stasior: "You must motivate yourself EVERYDAY." She enjoys talking with the children and receiving pictures that the children have colored for her. In her free time, Miriam likes to play with her dog, watch movies, and go to the river. After graduation she plans to find a job and then begin working on a Masters degree. Miriam will be at the PODER Learning Center all summer long so come by and see how she can help

Hello everyone at SMHA! My name is Heather Herron and I am a Social Work intern at the KAD Korner Store. I was born and raised in El Paso. My favorite memories growing up were the ones where I walked to the bookstore or the library with my grand-



mother and we would read together. I love to cook, bake, crochet, read, and hike. I started my college career at Texas State as a Wildlife Biology major and even though the classes were easy and interesting, I just couldn't get passionate about it. My uncle had raised me on a saying from Ghandi, "You have to be the change you wish to see in the world." The more I thought about it the more I realized I wanted to make real differences in the lives of others. I switched to a Social Work major and began volunteering at KAD. I instantly fell in love with the kids and with volunteering. I will graduate in August and move to San Antonio to work with a program called CityYear, where I will work in dropout prevention in some of the low-income schools. After my year of service there, I plan to begin work on a Masters degree in Public Health and Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. After that, I want to come back to Texas and work on policy to improve our education system and fight poverty. One quote I try to live by and remember is a Buddhist saying: "Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY THIS SUMMER!



The San Marcos Public Library's Summer Reading Program, Dig Into Reading!, offers over 80 **free events** for children and their families during June and July.

Read books and win prizes! Stop by the library beginning June 10th to pick up reading logs and check out library books for a chance to win awesome prizes for kids, teens, and adults. For every reading log you turn in, you get a drawing slip and kids get coupons for free or discounted goodies from generous local businesses. The more you read, the better your chance to win a grand prize drawing. Read all summer long! Winners will be announced August 2.

Summer events include **Storytime** every Tuesday and Thursday, puppet shows, crafts, kids' concerts, and special guest performances. On Friday, June 21st the ever-popular Jungle Jim returns with his collection of bugs and other creepy crawlies from around the world. Free tickets required for admission will be available at the library starting June 10.

Other special events include **Science of Spin**, a fascinating exhibition of skill with tops and yo-yos by Valerie Oliver on Friday July 12 and Kent Cummins will perform his Madcap Magic Show on Friday, July 19. Free tickets will be available beginning July 1 for Science of Spin and July 8 for Madcap Magic.

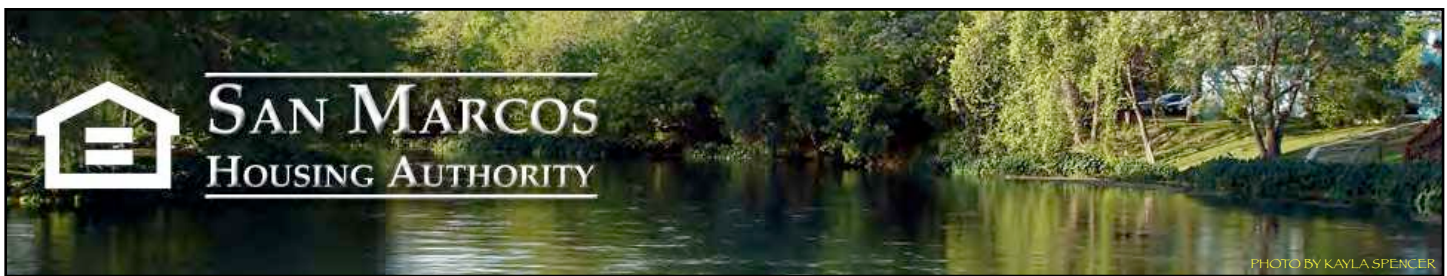
Family Night is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. with a wonderful assortment of programs including puppet shows, arts and crafts, visits from San Marcos Firefighters, and concerts.

Get messy! Get creative! **Make and Take Arts and Crafts** for ages 5 and up will prove to be lots of fun and will require approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Younger children are welcome with adult help. A Father's Day Craft will be offered on both Wednesday, June 12 and Friday, June 14. The Red, White and Blue Craft to celebrate Independence Day will be Tuesday, July 2 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 3 from 10:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Teens and tweens will enjoy **Awesome Art, Yoga, Nature, Dance, Juggling, Games, and Drama** with local experts throughout June and July. Registration for these Awesome Activities begins June 3.

Can't get enough **Manga and Anime**? Kids age 11 to 16 get together with other devotees of the genre to watch anime, read the newest manga, review anime-related websites, learn about Japanese culture, and discuss all things Japanese. AniManga Club will meet on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. beginning June 17. Registration starts June 10.

The summer reading program is sponsored by Midwest Bank in memory of Anne Cooper, San Marcos Kiwanis, and Friends of the Library. It's never too late for local businesses and organizations to contribute reading incentive prizes or financial support!



Event Calendar

June 14

Daddy Daughter Dance
San Marcos Activity Center
7 PM - 9 PM
\$7/person, call 393-8400 to register by 13th

June 28

Dance for Adults with Disabilities
San Marcos Activity Center
7 PM - 10 PM

June 4, 11, 18, 25

Movies in Your Park (Tuesdays)
San Marcos Plaza Park
Pre-movie games begin *one hour before sunset*. Free admission. Concessions available. Bring blankets or chairs.

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Foodstock*

FREE



Outdoor Concert

Saturday, July 27, 2013

on the beautiful Hays County Courthouse lawn

*a celebration of what makes Hays County unique:

Music, Art, Food, the River, &
communities coming together to help neighbors in need

Hays County Food Bank will be accepting donations,
including FRESH produce & cash!

1st Annual Salsa Showdown

For more details, visit www.foodstocksmtx.wordpress.com

WHAT WE DO

The San Marcos Housing Authority has provided decent, safe, and sanitary 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 569 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
Lorraine Burleson—Vice-Chairperson
Steve Goelzer—Resident Representative
Ovelia Mercado—Commissioner
Mary Barnhart—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)

353-5059

C. M. Allen Homes

353-1116

Chapultepec Homes

396-3364

Housing Choice Voucher

353-5061

Springtown Villa

396-3363

RESIDENT SERVICES CENTERS

Chapultepec Adult Learning Center & Family Self-Sufficiency

396-3364

KAD Korner Store

392-6273

PODER Learning Center

396-3367

Springtown Villa

353-7343