



**In Honor of
Our Fallen Soldiers**

Voted The Best Newsletter by Texas NAHRO 2 Years in a Row!

The Oracle

Gloria Cruz: A Stitch in History



In the center of the picture above is Gloria Cruz, a resident of Springtown Villa. Behind those brown eyes is a difficult childhood, a dedicated mother, and a courageous woman who uses all that life gives her.

The men of Gloria's family have a long history of serving in the military. With this came the burden of watching heroes leave and never come home. Her father passionately served his country leaving her and

her sister to be raised on a ranch by her aunt and uncle. She tolerated their harsh punishments and prayed for her father's safe return. When he did come home, she was overjoyed and hoped to raise her own kids with such honor and respect. Gloria met her husband, in 1949 at a dance after the war and they married shortly after. He is pictured on the right, surrounded by kids and cousins.

When they later divorced, Gloria faced a new challenge. Her tools for survival were a needle and thread. She inherited her mother's talent of sewing by hand and eventually learned how to use a sewing machine. This allowed her to produce clothing, curtains, and other necessities more quickly. She used her talent to start her own business using *Singer*

brand sewing machines. She claims, "If it's not a *Singer*, it's not a real sewing machine!" Her business provided financial stability and allowed her to raise her family. Today, her son, Roland, is her caregiver.

Although she is frail with age, her spirit is as strong as ever. She is coping with crippling arthritis but she continues to perform most of her own household chores such as cooking meals and doing the laundry.



Doing a Little Spring Cleaning? We want to help! You could make an elephant out of household junk, like the fellas on the left, but we have a better idea. Our Maintenance Department will pick up and dispose of your large items (old sofas, broken washing machines, etc.) but here's the deal: We will pick them up on Mondays between 8 a.m. and noon. You must have your items on the curb no later than 8 a.m. on Mondays but please do not put them out any earlier than Sunday evening. If items are set out after the pick up . . . or several days before . . . we will pick

them up but you will be charged \$20 for the extra service. Set it out on Sunday evening, or before 8 a.m. on Monday morning, and POOF! your junk is gone but not your money. What a deal!

A Spotlight on Chapultepec



Parents, grandparents, and friends alike enjoyed dancing, singing, and even a pet frog (he only got out once) in a talent show put on by kids of the Chapultepec after school

program. The talent show was put together by Emily Cisneros, our Social Work intern. From Left to Right (Back Row)-Bennie Cherry, Eliga Davis, Brandi McKinney, Keishon McKinney, Charles McKinney, Christian Sanchez (Front Row)- Matthew Ledesma, Francisco “Tres” Rios, Krista Barrera

Memorial Day May 31

Honoring those who died in service to our country. SMHA offices will be closed.



A Picture of Our Community



Crystal Valtierra, fifth grader at Mendez Middle School, and JuliAnn Gonzales, second grader at De Zavala Elementary School, participated in the Fair Housing Poster Contest. Both girls participate in the after-school program at the KAD Korner Store (C. M. Allen Homes). They created artwork of how they saw their neighborhood. JuliAnn, pictured on the left, won first place and Crystal, pictured right, won first runner-up. Great work girls!

“Good Times” at PODER

The staff at the PODER Learning Center held a surprise party for the kids in the “Golden Youth Alternative”(GYA) program on April 7. The kids were greeted at the door with food, music and ice cream floats. It was a reward to the kids for their hard work in school. Many of the kids had just finished their “TAKS” test.



Our Generation



MOM I LOVE YOU like
the birds love pollen,
like the beautiful spouting
flowers love the sun shiny
upon them and I am thankful
to HAVE YOU in my life.
LOVE, Sheila.

Sheila Clay, age 11, C. M. Allen

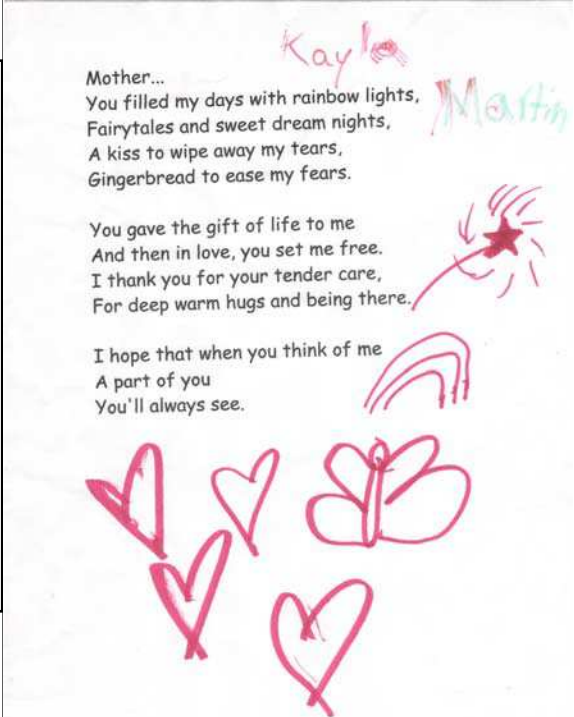
“Make My Mamma Proud” Contest Winners!

Kayla Martin, age 10, Allen Woods



From cards to fans to arts & craft, each after-school program did different projects that showed their appreciation for moms. Great job kids!

Keishon McKinney, age 11, Chapultepec



A Big Hug and Thanks to all our Moms



Happy Mother's Day!
May 9

May Birthdays

Allen Woods

- Serena Torres—10th

Chapultepec

- Gabriel Mendoza — 26th
- Kayla Galvan — 29th

C.M. Allen

- Isabella Velarde—18th
- Kalab Johnson—25th
- Antonio Velarde—27th
- Alex Anderson—27th
- Courtney Anderson—31st





The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

Tips for Life: Preventing Fires

WAYS TO PREVENT A KITCHEN FIRE:

- Keep towels and other flammable things away from burners.
- Never leave the kitchen when cooking with oil.
- While cooking, watch your child closely.
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove. Keep electric cords out of the way.
- Use the back burners whenever possible.
- Most oil is not meant to

be cooked at really high temperatures. Heat up all oil slowly

- Keep oven mitts at hand and make sure you have a lid that fits the pan containing the oil.

Source: <http://home-burglar-camera.com/blog/1560/ways-to-prevent-grease-fires/>

HOW TO PUT OUT A GREASE FIRE:

If a fire starts on the stove, cover it with a large pot lid or baking pan. The lid will

squall the fire because it won't have oxygen to grow. Place the lid on with your oven mitts, and only after the lid is on you should you turn off the burner.

DO NOT throw water on burning grease. It can send the hot grease flying and spread the fire. Instead, douse a grease fire with salt or baking soda.

Source—Hall, John R. Jr. "Home cooking fire patterns and trends." July 2006. *NFPA Online*. 20 Nov 2006

Summer Fun!

Movies, bowling, swimming, and more! Enrollment is limited at each campus and for each session.

Registration:

Residents- Began Monday, April 5

Non-Residents- Begins Monday, May 3

Need at Registration: Student Report Card and copy of Electric or Tax Bill

Days: Mon—Thu

Time: 7:30 AM- 5:30 PM

Dates: SESSION I - June 14 to July 8

SESSION II - July 19 to August 12

Locations: To Be Determined

Residents Fees: \$45.00 per session / \$80 for both

Non-Residents Fees: \$130.00 per session/\$250 for both

(We have arranged for a 50% discount public housing residents! You must bring proof when you register.)

Ages: 7 —14

Registration at: Parks and Recreation building at the corner of Hopkins and C. M. Allen Parkway, catty-corner from Picasso's (the old Mr. Gatti's).



Site Announcements



FSS Participants:

-May 10 Resident Assembly 6:30 p.m.

-May 21 Support Group 6:30 p.m.

Allen Wood Residents:

-May 12 Century Link Presentation: Learn how to save money on your phone bills!

C.M. Allen Residents:

Community Garden Plots Available

Residents, get involved and get your children involved in growing fruits and vegetables that the whole family can enjoy!

Springtown Residents:

-May 7 Beauty Day 3 -5 p.m.

Ladies, get pampered for FREE!



SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board of Commissioners:

Rose Brooks, Chairperson
Rev. Samuel Montoya, Vice-Chairperson
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.
Ovelia Mercado

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 Manager
396-3363

Resident Services Centers:

*Chapultepec Homes
Family Self-Sufficiency
396-3364
*KAD Korner Store
Youth Development Services
392-6273
*PODER Learning Center
Resident Self-Sufficiency
396-3367
*Springtown Villa
Elderly & Disabled Services

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.

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Cliff Frias: More than Meets the Eye



Cliff Frias was born in Georgetown, raised in Austin, and moved to San Marcos about 8 years ago. He lived in Allen Woods for 7 years. Recently, he and his wife Sara received a Housing Choice Voucher and moved out of Allen Woods. Cliff served as President of the Allen Woods Resident Assembly for a time. His children participated in after-school activities at the PODER Learning Center. He is a proud father and likes to spend his time with his children riding bikes, going to Fiesta Texas, and playing games. He has worked for the Housing Authority for four years. His job is to keep the offices and public areas of Allen Woods, Chapultepec, and Springtown neat and clean. Cliff says, "I love my job. It keeps people happy!" He is right about that. Thanks for all your hard work Cliff!