

THE ORACLE



Oscar with his wife, Catarina, and his boys, Axel, Adriel, & Jayden.

Set Them High

As I finished high school I had no thoughts of going to college. I started a family then started working for a roofing company. I worked there for one year when I realized that I didn't want to be doing this for the rest of my life. I knew something had to change soon. As I was fishing I encountered a Texas Game Warden. That was when I realized how awesome it would be to have a job like that! I went home, did a little research, I saw that a Bachelor's degree was required; 2 weeks later I was enrolled at Austin Community College. That was in August of 2010. I transferred to Texas State 2 years later.

I put so much dedication to college work, struggled with my family and bills (as you know, bills never stop coming) and many long nights of studying. There were times when I sat back and thought, "What on earth did I get into?", but I quickly erased all negative thoughts and kept on going. Today, 4 1/2 years later, I am blessed to have graduated from Texas State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Biology. It's hard to explain the emotions that I felt as I walked that stage, not only for the degree itself, but for everything I've been through to get it. This August I will begin graduate school at Texas A&M University in College Station to get my Master's degree. I will also be doing a Game Warden (Law Enforcement) Internship this summer before I move. I feel so proud of myself and I know my wife and kids feel the same. Now I can give my kids a lot more than what I ever had.

I just want to say some true words to everybody out there, anything is possible. Set your goals (and set them high), and go for it no matter what gets in the way. It will be hard, but it's definitely possible.

Editor's Note: The Perez family was among those that had to evacuate the CM Allen Homes after the Memorial Weekend Flood. They were planning on relocating to College Station later in the summer but the flood forced them to accelerate their plans. They are doing well and Oscar is attending Texas A&M.

Oscar Perez
May 2015

FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

WATCH FOR HALLOWEEN FLOOD COVERAGE NEXT MONTH!

****SEE THE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ON PAGE 6.****

- >SMHA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON VETERAN'S DAY—NOVEMBER 11.
- >SMHA OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT 2 PM ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 FOR THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY AND WILL REOPEN THE FOLLOWING MONDAY.

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Night of Neighborhood Fun

Every year, Allen Woods celebrates Texas Night Out but this year's success was greatly due to the commitment of numerous Texas State groups. Texas State Women's Ultimate Frisbee team played active games with the kids while the students from the Education Department created activities based on books. SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) brought science experiments for the kids and Chi Beta Delta manned some of the game booths and the bounce house. Residents enjoyed eating hamburgers, judging the hot sauce contest, and participating in the Resident Assembly Raffle! A big thanks to Mayor Daniel Guerrero and Housing Authority Board Chairman Frank Arredondo for stopping by to visit as well as the Fire Department, Police Department, and Sheriff's Department. Lastly, we'd like

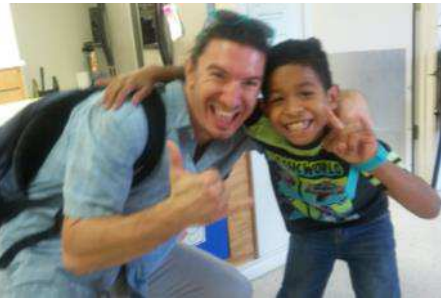


to thank community sponsors Pennington's Cakes, Rhea's Ice Cream, Conley's Carwash, Tantra Coffeehouse, Half Price Books, Target, and HEB for their donations to Texas Night Out. Young and old, everyone enjoyed kicking off the fall season with some family fun!



Larry Rocks the Kids Program

"Be true to yourself, own what you do and who you are, and never forget that we are an embodiment of our choices." Wise words from Larry Guerrero, Graduate Assistant for the Texas State Mentorship program, a pilot program with our kids at PODER. He also serves as a liaison between the Bobcat Mentors and their "cubs." Larry was raised in Illinois but relocated to Texas for the adventure. He is currently in the Masters of Education program and aspires to teach in Europe or in Austin after he graduates. Before he graduates, he plans to help the Texas State Education Department develop a strong, continuous mentorship program with the Housing Authority that can help to brighten the children's future along with the local community. Larry loves working with the kids and in his spare time does outdoor activities and cloud gazing. High-five to Larry and his work with the after-school program!



Mousse de Calabaza

Ingredientes

- 1 lata (15 onzas) de calabaza 100% pura
- LIBBY'S® 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1/2 taza de Leche Condensada
- Azucarada LA LECHERA de NESTLÉ
- 1 1/2 cucharaditas de canela molida
- 1 1/2 tazas de crema fría para batir
- Canela molida para guarnición



Direcciones

COMBINA la calabaza, la leche condensada azucarada y 1 1/2 cucharaditas de canela en un recipiente grande; reserva aparte.

BATE la crema en un tazón pequeño a punto de nieve. Incorpora la crema batida suavemente con una cucharada de maderita a la mezcla de calabaza. Vierte en 6 copas individuales y refrigera durante por lo menos 4 horas. Decora con canela adicional y sirve inmediatamente.

<https://www.elmejornido.com/es/recetas/>

Springtown Villa



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Resident Service Coordinator Bonnie Pecina is busy moving furniture into the KAD center. Bonnie has a lot of work to do getting the center ready for both adults and children. Volunteers are always welcome and much needed!

These families have one thing in common, CM Allen is their home. After staying here and there for months they all have the same feeling of gratitude about *coming home*. They are looking forward to the resumption of activities at KAD such as bingo, informative presentations, and fun social events.

Things are coming together. Given the support we've seen from every segment of the community, I believe we can do it.



**Eddie & Tina
Jacinto**



Juan Alonzo



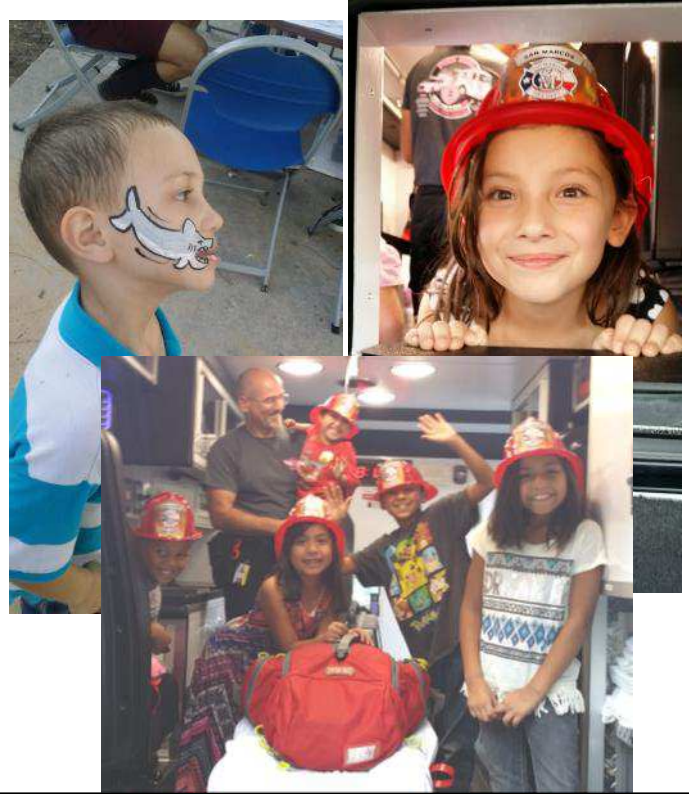
**Jorge & Maria
Casillas**



**Gloria & Andrea
Selgado**

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Texas Night Out was a success! Thank you to all the people who donated their time to making this night memorable. Not only did the San Marcos Fire Department bring the fire truck, but the San Marcos Police rolled in with the special vehicle that aided in the rescue of numerous families that were affected by the Memorial Weekend Flood.



Gloria Olivo-Mendoza from the Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse presented an informative class about the emotional and physical effects that alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs can have on individuals and how these changes can affect the entire family.

During the Halloween Flood, Chapultepec resident Tony Maldonado helped the owner of this vehicle, Head Start employee Tammy Eckford, escape the rushing flood waters.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Housing Authority of the City of San Marcos, Texas is holding a public hearing on November 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Allen Woods Homes - Central Office at 1201 Thorpe Lane. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed amendment to the PHA 5-year annual plan. The amendment would authorize the use of future Capital Fund Program monies to be used on the flood recovery of C.M Allen Homes. Any questions should be directed to Albert Sierra - Executive Director.

Albert Sierra
San Marcos Housing Authority
1201 Thorpe Lane
San Marcos, TX 78666

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- The Low Income Housing fund ended the fiscal year (Sept. 30) with a \$222,000 deficit, primarily due to the impact of the Memorial Weekend Flood. Springtown Villa ended the year with a \$112,000 surplus, which will be applied to future improvements and repairs at that facility. (Those funds cannot be applied to CM Allen repairs.)
- Occupancy rates for October: Public Housing - 96%, Housing Choice Voucher - 100%, Springtown Villa - 100%
- The Board approved a revision of the budget for the Capital Fund Program to allow \$139,000 to be applied to repairs at CM Allen. Albert Sierra reported that the revised cost projection for the CM Allen Recovery Project is \$1.157 million. So far, the Housing Authority has expended \$197,000. FEMA has "qualified" \$50,000 of the \$80,000 spent on the initial cleanup. They will reimburse the 75% of that amount or \$37,500.
- Of the 51 buildings affected by the flood (100 duplex homes and the KAD Korner Store), 30 "Project Worksheets" have been approved by FEMA. 20 units have been repaired, 18 are occupied, move-ins are pending on 2 units, and repairs to 5 units are in progress.
- Sierra said 25 of the evacuated families are living with friends and family. The remainder of the families transferred to other public housing units, received a Section 8 voucher, are in a lease elsewhere, or are not returning.
- The Board approved the request of a donation of \$100,000 from the San Marcos Reinvestment Corporation (SMRC), to help meet FEMA's match requirement on non-federal funds. (The board of the SMRC later approved the request.)
- The Board approved the request of a \$400,000 loan from the SMRC, to be repaid from future Capital Fund allocations. This will require a change in the Housing Authority's 5-Year Plan, which requires a public hearing. (The SMRC later approved the request in principal, pending the result of the public hearing.)

SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

12th ANNUAL TEXAS AUTHOR DAY

Sunday, November 15 from 2 — 5 PM.

Meet local authors and talk with them about their writing.

*2:30 Texas History and Travel by Allan C. Kimball.

*3:00 Tracking Musical Texas: From Dinosaurs to the Studio by Laurie E. Jasinski.

*4:00 Austin in the Jazz Age by Richard Zelade.

TEEN CREATIVE WRITING

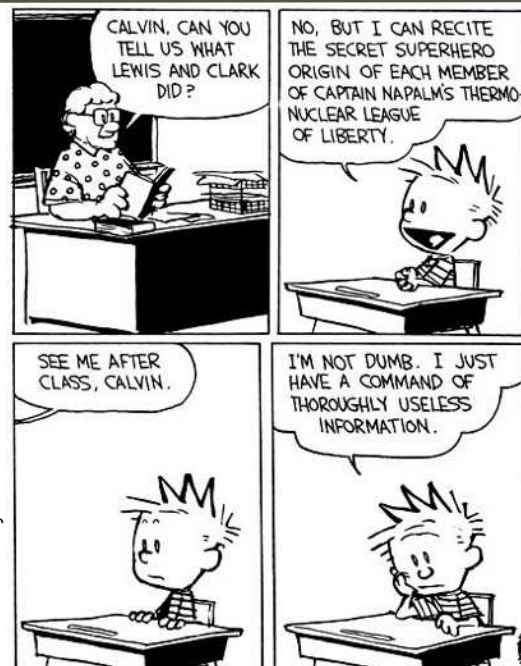
Is writing your passion? Do you often find yourself creating stories in your head? If you answer yes, then come join a teen-led creative writing club! For ages 12-17. No registration required. Saturday, November 14 @ 1 PM.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

If you are between the ages of 12 and 17, interested in being a part of a library leadership program, able to commit at least one hour per month, and ready to respect the opinions of others, ask for an application at the information desk. New members welcome! Thursday, November 19 @ 6:00 PM.

ESL CONVERSATION CLUB

Learning English? Let's talk! Meet new friends and practice speaking and listening to English at this informal conversation club for adults for intermediate and advanced English language learners. Registration not required. Mondays @ 10 AM.



Fathers Make A Difference – by D. David Bryant



When dad plays an active role in the life of his child, the child is less likely to grow up in poverty, less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, less likely to become incarcerated, and less likely to engage in sexual activity and become a pregnant teen. When dad is actively involved his child is more likely to do better on standardized tests, more likely to graduate high school, and more likely to have a greater self-worth and self-esteem than those whose father is not involved.

At Texas Home Visiting of Hays County we work to help mom and dad be the best parents they can be for their children. We conduct 24:7 Dad Group on a weekly basis with fathers who have committed to adding to the skills they have in their fathering tool belt. We have seen that dads quickly feel comfortable sharing stories about raising their children which helps in forming bonds and accountability between the fathers in the group. Dads are finding out what they do impacts the lives of their children, whether they realize it or not. Contact David Bryant at 512-667-7620 xt306 for more information on what it means to be a 24:7 Dad or Alex Mylius at 512-393-3395 xt209 to find out more about Texas Home Visiting of Hays County.



FREE & FUN THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS AVAILABLE FROM THE SAN MARCOS ANIMAL SHELTER

San Marcos Animal Services has vouchers available for spay/neuter of up to 3 pets per household. The only requirement is that you reside within Hays County! Get an application from the shelter at 750 River Road or go to http://smpha.org/sites/default/files/2015_DSHS_SpayNeuter_Voucher_Application.pdf. Take your application to the shelter or email an image to: animal_services_info@sanmarcostx.gov. Funds are limited so don't wait!

"MADE IN SAN MARCOS" FILM SERIES - SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Getaway (1972) with Steve McQueen & Ali McGraw — November 2 @ 6:30 PM.

*Race With the Devil (1975) with Peter Fonda — November 16 @ 6:30 PM.

*Tree of Life (2011) with Brad Pitt & Sean Penn — November 30 @ 6:00 PM.

"Made in San Marcos" is a month-long film series curated by the newly formed San Marcos Cinema Club, a group devoted to screening select films of cultural and political import. Cinema Club representatives will provide brief insightful introductions to each film and aim to cultivate a lively discussion afterward.

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE - COURTHOUSE SQUARE, SATURDAY, NOV 7, 8:30 AM — NOON

Honor all those who have served at the annual Veteran's Day Parade in downtown San Marcos. Enjoy free breakfast, kid's bike brigade, and performances followed by the parade around the Courthouse Square.

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

Frank Arredondo—Chairperson
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
Catherine Welsh—Resident Comm.
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
Richard Cruz—Commissioner

Administration

Albert Sierra
Executive Director
Lana Bronikowsky
Accountant/Programs Manager
Albert Hernandez
Maintenance Supervisor
Rose Miranda
Public Housing Manager
Gene Martin II, LBSW
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

512-353-7343