



Happy Halloween!



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Veronica Carmichael Sets an Example

Veronica Carmicheal and her three daughters, Diamond, Merideth, and Amethyst moved to San Marcos from San Antonio so Veronica could pursue a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting at Texas State University. Veronica lived in a campus apartment before moving to the Riverview Apartments. Veronica sought out the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) to build a support system for herself and her three daughters.

Since joining the FSS program in 2007 and starting a new life at Chapultepec Homes, Veronica success-

fully completed her degree at Texas State University and obtained full-time employment with the Department of Veteran Affairs Financial Service Center as an accountant. Veronica used the money management skills she learned through our program to repair her credit. She was recently approved for a home mortgage loan at a very reasonable interest rate and she and her three daughters will soon be moving into a brand new home! It is currently under

construction in Cibolo.

Veronica has set a good example for other FSS participants. She said, "Before joining FSS, I struggled with rent, monthly bills, and groceries. Now I don't struggle anymore." We congratulate Veronica for completing her FSS Program goals and we are confident that she will have a successful career!



A Tutor Will Make a Difference in Your Grades!



You have to show up at work every day to get paid. School is no different except that your "paycheck" is your grade. If you are not making good grades in school, your real paychecks later in life probably won't provide you with the kind of money you need to support yourself. Don't fall behind in class when you can get help! Get a tutor and apply yourself. If you want more out of life, you have to put more into it. We have tutors available to help kids AND adults so contact the Resident Services center at your site to get connected and get moving. We're waiting for you!

It's a Masquerade Ball for Adults with Disabilities!



October 5 is the deadline to **register to vote** for the city elections on November 3rd. You can get registration cards from the Resident Services Center at your site. Plan to attend a candidate's debate on Monday, October 19 at the San Marcos Activity Center at 7 p.m.



Have a ball at the San Marcos Activity Center Friday, October 2, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m! Attend an Adult with Disabilities Masquerade Ball. It's free and they will have great music and door prizes. Call 393-8283 for more info.

Farmer Fred Fall Harvest Festival!



It's almost Halloween again and Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival returns on October 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. at City Park Recreation Hall. Admission is free and there will be lots of candy and prizes with Nancy Drew on the big screen and an age group costume contest. Glow necklaces are \$2.00 Registration for the costume contest starts at 6 p.m. and continues until 6:45 p.m. Call 393-8400 for details.

We've Got Applications for LULAC's BBQ Cook Off!

The PODER Learning Center has applications for the LULAC BBQ COOK-OFF set for October 9th & 10th at the Civic Center. If you have a good BBQ recipe, get an application. Check out the cash prizes you can win! Call Richard for details at 757-0850.



	Brisket	Chicken	Pork Ribs	Fajitas	Chili	Beans	Best Pit	Cooks
1 st	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	Trophy	Plaque	Plaque	Plaque
2 nd	\$200.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	Trophy	Trophy	Plaque	Plaque	Plaque
3 rd	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	Trophy	Trophy	Plaque	Plaque	Plaque

A Day of Pizza and Fun!



The kids from the PODER Learning Center and the KAD Korner Store had a wonderful time showing off the chili peppers they picked from the PODER Community Garden, playing online games, and eating lots of homemade pizza, which was made by Kelly Lassiter (on the left) and Beatrice Pacheco (not pictured). Volunteer Elana Krasutsky is pictured on the far right with one of the kids. Our thanks to those who participated in the cleanup. We could not do it without our wonderful volunteers!

Springtown Villa Raises \$300.00 for a New TV



Bette Gulley, Lulu Hickey, Maria Elena Hernandez, and Florence Ferguson pose with the new community room television.

The Resident Council of Springtown Villa held a Rummage Sale and sold baked goods and soft drinks to raise some of the money to pay for a new 42-inch HD TV, purchased in cooperation with the Resident Services Department and the Springtown Villa management. The Council raised \$300. They wish to thank the residents for their support. Lu Hickey, President of the Resident Council says, "It wouldn't have been possible if we hadn't pulled together."



The Hays County Health Department will offer seasonal flu shots at the Allen Woods Dining Room on October 16 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 unless you have Medicare or Medicaid.

Texas Night Out: Get to Know Your Neighbors!



Join us on Tuesday, October 6 for Texas Night out from 6 to 8 p.m. Residents at each site will come together for food and fun. There will be games, music, raffles, plenty of food, and maybe even a jumping castle. It's fun for the whole family! It is the biggest event of the year that is sponsored by your resident organization! Be a part of the fun. Volunteer to cook or serve food. You can also work in the game booths. Get more information from your Resident Services center and get involved. Make a difference in your community!



SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

Board of Commissioners:
Gloria Salazar—Chairperson
Earl Moseley—Vice-Chair.
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.
Rose Brooks
Rev. Samuel Montoya

Administration:
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Albert Sierra
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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
Mary Ann Ramirez

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
353-7343

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. Managing Editor — Herod King Ellison; Senior Editor — Stewart Dale Spencer. Contact SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666. Phone — 396-3364 * Website — www.smpba.org*

Maria: On Her Journey of a Thousand Miles



Maria Calcaben is the new Elderly and Disabled Services Coordinator for the San Marcos Housing Authority. She was born in the Philippines but was raised in Houston since the age of six. She was on a path to nursing when she was a freshman at a community college in Houston. However, her passion for English thrived when she transferred to Texas State University. She changed her major to English and graduated with honors. She presented some of her original poetry at conferences in Minneapolis and Austin and in a stage production at the University of Texas. While at Texas State, Maria minored in Social Work and realized she had a calling to help people. She was a volunteer in our after school program and worked with some of our elderly residents at the same time. Maria says, "I am so fortunate to now be working for the people in the town I fell in love with!" Maria is excited to start her journey here and is looking forward to seeing where life will take her!