



**Have a Fun Fall!**

## The Oracle



### *KAD Kid Scores Big*

San Marcos CISD Superintendent Patty Shafer visited Mendez Elementary School recently to chat with fifth grader Tonasy Suarez, who is the San Marcos CISD Student of the Month.

Tonasy was nominated by Mendez Elementary School Principal Sandra Reyes, who called her “a responsible student who is goal oriented.”

Shafer met with Tonasy to congratulate her on the honor and to explain that the recognition is based on the “Rattler” positive character traits of Responsible, Amiable, Thoughtful, Tolerant, Leadership skills, Enthusiastic, Respectful, and Supportive.

“Teachers hope for classrooms that are full of students like your child who cooperate, get along well with their peers, exhibit good manners, and strive to do their best,” Shafer said in the letter that went to Patricia Suarez, Tonasy’s mother. Shafer presented Mrs. Suarez with two bumper stickers proclaiming that Tonasy was chosen as one of the Superintendent’s students of the month.

Tonasy also exemplifies the characteristics of a top student at the CM Allen Homes, where she attends the KAD program after school to stay on top of homework, with the help of tutors on staff. She also positively influences her peers. Tonasy uses the resources at the CM Allen center not only for study. She takes a break from academics and expresses herself through art, as well. She has already had some of her work on display. When she was a student at Travis Elementary School, some of her artwork was shown at the San Marcos Activity Center and at the San Marcos Sights and Sounds of Christmas. She plans to attend Texas State and earn a degree to be an art teacher.



### *Housing Authority News*

- \*Reminder: The HUD Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspections take place on October 12th & 13th.
- \*October is Housing America Month! Support San Marcos Habitat for Humanity. Call Glenn Wier at 392-6601 to volunteer.
- \*Cool weather is here. When you use your heat for the first time, expect the smell of burning dust. This is normal. You can turn your heat on for a few minutes if you want to get rid of the smell in advance.
- \*Construction on the new Chapultepec Learning Center started in September! It should take about 60 days to complete.
- \*Bathroom exhaust fans and air vents throughout your unit must be cleaned from time to time. If necessary, Maintenance workers will clean them when they do the monthly air filter changes but you will be charged \$2 for the service. Do it yourself and save your cash!



## Learning the Capital Area Rural Transportation System

Cheryl Harwood from ARCIL, Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, leads a

peer group twice a month at Springtown Villa. The goal is to assist residents in maintaining independence and providing information to achieve that goal. The group meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. Recently Ms. Harwood explained the CARTS system routes, schedules, and pick-up locations.

## Riddle of the Day

Here at Springtown, a new riddle is posted outside of the resident services office on the second floor every day. Studies have shown that keeping the brain active can help delay the onset of dementia and/or Alzheimer's. For your enjoyment, here are a few of the more popular, and often unsolved riddles.

1. When is a door not a door?
2. With pointed fangs it sits in wait,  
With piercing force it doles out fate.  
Over bloodless victims proclaiming its might,  
Eternally joining in a single bite.
3. Why should you always carry a watch while crossing a desert?



## A Note from the Springtown Villa Resident Council President

Hello fellow residents of Springtown Villa. My name is Lino Puate. As some of you might already know, I am the President of Resident Council. I would like to take this opportunity to let all residents know that I am here for you. Your voice counts and I want to help make sure that voice is heard. Join us for our meetings, every other Wednesday. Look to the events calendar for exact dates. Our last meeting was a big success thanks to a donation that allowed us to serve banana splits. I hope that our next meeting is just as successful. Thank you for your time. Remember, you are important. So come to our next meeting and let your voice be heard.



1. When it is ajar.  
2. I am a stapler.  
3. Because it has a spring in it.

 **Our Generation** 

***PODER Sets Sail!***

Children at the PODER Learning Center participate in short, fun activities such as science experiments, contests, puzzles, and arts before starting homework. Recently, the children made boats out of Styrofoam in the shapes of circles and rafts. To make sails, the kids used paper-clips and stickers. The objective was to move the boats with drops of liquid soap.



From left to right – Edward Silva, Ohnysty Gonzales, Hashel Silva, Bethanie Guterrez, Malachi Romez, Camryn Williams.

PODER welcomes more kids to join in the fun!!

***October Birthdays***

**Allen Woods**

- Hashel Silva, 29th
- Chapultepec**
- Marley Longoria, 3rd
- Ivey Ledesma, 20th
- Charles McKinney, 25th
- Damien Torres, 15th

***SMHA After-School Programs***

***Kappa Delta Chi Lends a Hand***

Parents: Have your kids in a safe and supervised environment, eat a free nutritious meal, get free tutoring services, play games and activities, and much more!

Now in three locations:

- Chapultepec 396-3364
- Allen Woods 396-3367
- C. M. Allen 392-6273

Kappa Delta Chi sorority sponsored a school-supply drive for students at KAD. Students Craig, Pedro, Isaak, and Ben received items such as folders, writing utensils, and other necessary supplies to help them throughout the school year.



**C.M. Allen**

- Isaiah Valtierra, 11th
- Nicholas Velarde, 1st
- Tonasy Suarez, 23rd



What's  
New?

## The Corkboard: Announcements, Games, and Laughs

### Halloween Safety tips!

-Children should always go out trick or treating accompanied by a responsible adult.

-Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for them to return home and if possible make sure they have a cell phone.

-Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields if they are alone. Let them know to stay in well lighted areas with lots of people around.

-Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.

-Instruct your child to never go into a home of a stranger or get into their car.

-Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.

-Let them know that they should stay together as a group when they are going out trick or treating.



For more Halloween Safety tips please visit the following web site:

[www.halloween-safety.com/halloween\\_safety\\_treats.html](http://www.halloween-safety.com/halloween_safety_treats.html)

-Trick or Treat at Tanger Outlet Mall on Sunday Oct 31 from 5 -7 p.m. Contact [Tanger Outlets](#) at 512-396-7446 for more information.

-Join Farmer Fred and goblins, ghouls, princesses, and pirates of all ages as they celebrate Fall. Children will enjoy carnival games, a barrel train ride, tons of candy, prizes and much more! Dress up for the costume contest. Registration will be from 6:00-6:45 PM and the contest will begin at 7:00 PM. Bring the whole family out to San Marcos Plaza Park for fun! Best of all admission, carnival games, and costume contest are FREE! Concessions and some attractions will have a small fee.



“Reach for the Stars” by  
Christopher  
Digby

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

-Harriet Tubman

### Site Announcements



#### Chapultepec Homes:

-October 4, Resident Assembly, 6:30 p.m.

-October 21, Support Group, 6:30 p.m.

#### Allen Woods Homes:

-October 12, Resident Assembly, 6:30 p.m.

-October 21, Brown Hearing Screening, 9—3

#### C.M. Allen Homes:

-October 7, Resident Assembly, 6:00 p.m.

-October 22, Texas State/CMA Picnic, 4—8

#### Springtown Villa:

-October 11, Brown Hearing Screening, 10—4

-October 27, “How to communicate with someone with Dementia” presented by AlzCare, 2:00 p.m.

## Mi Vida, Mi Comunidad

### Comida Más Barata para el Otoño

Cada estación del año tiene frutas y verduras más baratas porque las plantas se cosechan durante esos meses. Durante Septiembre, Octubre, y Noviembre puede encontrar estos productos más baratos:

- manzanas
- brócoli
- col (repollo) de chino
- coliflor
- apio
- achicoria (chicory)
- arándanos agrios (cranberries)



- hinojo (fennel)
- uvas
- verduras
- lechuga
- hongos
- frutas secas
- pepinos

### Las Actividades Divertidas de PODER

¡Cuando los niños vienen a PODER, tienen hambre y vienen listos a jugar! Sra. Bea Pacheco cocina una comida saludable de lunes a jueves. Después de comer, los niños hacen una actividad antes de la tarea. Este Martes, hicieron silly putty o goo. Para hacer un silly putty, amasan las bolsas llenas con almidón de maíz y agua. En la foto abajo, de izquierda a derecha, esta Kara Marin, Mikael Marin, Mbyson Williams, y Camryn Williams.

En otro día, los niños hicieron muchas burbujas. Hicieron burbujas con una taza plástica, una paja, una banda elástica, y una tela delgada. En la foto abajo, los niños participan en un curso muy divertido! Después de esta actividad corta, es tiempo para su tarea o una actividad educativa. Tenemos por los menos un voluntario cada día para ayudarles. En PODER, la educación de sus hijos es muy importante. Después de la tarea, juegan. ¡Visítenos con su hijo hoy!





# SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Board of Commissioners:**

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

Brian Guenther

**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  
396-3363

**Resident Services Centers:**

\**Chapultepec Homes (Program Administration)*  
396-3364

\**C. M. Allen Homes*  
392-6273

\**Allen Woods Homes*  
396-3367

\**Springtown Villa*  
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. Concept by Herod King Ellison. Senior Editor—Stewart Dale Spencer. Contributing Editors—Maria Calcaben, Bonnie Pecina, Megan Perez, Amanda Ramirez, & Lorene Sandwith. Contact: SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666 \* 512-396-3364 \* [www.smpha.org](http://www.smpha.org)*

## *Flo Flores: A New Face*



Flora Flores is our newest employee, serving as a clerk at the C. M. Allen Homes office. Flo is a native of Kyle. She has a 3-year old son who attends the Henry Bush Child Development Center. She is also a care-giver for her grandmother. She graduated from Jack C. Hays High School and went to work in the hotel industry before coming to work for the Housing Authority. For hobbies, Flo likes to read and her favorite authors are Danielle Steel and Stephen King. She enjoys a variety of music, including George Strait and Alan Jackson. Flo likes to cook and to spend time with her family and friends. One of her goals is to become a homeowner. Fortunately for Flo, she works with folks who specialize in helping people move to home ownership. One of these days, you will be reading her success story in The Oracle!