

THE RACLE

The McKinneys Reach for the Stars

By Maria Calcaben



Charles (Han Solo) McKinney practices to be a space pilot in a mock-up of a space shuttle cockpit.



Brandi hits the jackpot at Dave & Buster's!

It's one small step towards success, one giant leap for a successful future! As an end-of-the year prize for showing excellent behavior, responsibility, and attendance during the summer program and the after-school program year, teens were given the opportunity to attend an all day trip to the NASA Space Center in Houston. Chapultepec resident Brenda McKinney was invited to attend the trip with her daughters, Brandi and Keishon, along with her son, Charles. She was so excited to spend time with her children that she exclaimed, "It was like I was a kid again jumping up and down. I was giddy!" The trip consisted of special tours of the NASA facility including a giant pool where astronauts, as well as military personnel, do their special underwater training. They also saw mockups of shuttles and space stations where engineers create and perfect their models for the real thing. This insider's tour gave the San Marcos

Housing Authority group a hands-on experience that tourists only get to see through a glass. Charles' favorite part about the trip was seeing up close a Saturn V lift vehicle (the largest and most powerful rocket ship ever built) that barely fit inside the building in Rocket Park. Keishon's favorite part about the tour was seeing what a real spaceship looks like on the inside and Brandi

liked learning how the rockets work. The group ended the day by eating a special dinner at Dave & Buster's Restaurant and the teens enjoyed playing games after their meal. Special thanks go to intern Heather Herron for organizing this trip. Brenda said, "This has helped my family think about the future and what they can achieve in life. Like I said, 'You can reach for the stars.'" Wishing on a star won't get you to where you want to be in life but through goal setting, life-skills classes, resource fairs, and Service Coordinators to look after your progress, residents can definitely shoot for the stars through the Housing Authority Programs. Houston, the Eagle has landed!



A NASA representative explains to Keishon and Brenda how things worked in the kitchen area of the space shuttle living quarters.

GED
Yes, You Can!
**SEE PAGE 8 TO
LEARN HOW!**

ALLEN WOODS HOMES—PODER LEARNING CENTER

Sun Days

A short story by Miguel Salinas, 7th Grader, who wrote this story during the summer program at the PODER Learning Center as a response to a writing prompt exercise.

Wow it is super hot. Wait, duh...I'm the sun. I'm suppose to be like that, to give heat and light at the beautiful and mysterious blue and green planet. Ouch! Stupid solar flare! You burnt me...ha! I'm already burnt. Man, that planet is something, I always hear voices from there. Here, let me grab my solar scope in on that place that looks like a boot. *Zoom!* Wow, really fancy! Nice music and weird people that are touching invisible things. Now he's acting like he's in a box. Well let's go somewhere else. How about here, a huge country. Let's see, Washington, that's a huge house! It's all white with a huge chair and a nice dressed guy coming out from it. Well let's go to Texas. San Marcos. I see a college and a football stadium. Right next to it there's a community and a place called PODER and a room filled with screens and 2 boys, one speaking. I think his name is Miguel. There's also a really tiny lady. Cool. Well that's all for today. Man, my life's hot!



Explore and Discover

A handful of students that showed excellent behavior and attendance in the summer program were invited to take a special all day trip to Houston to visit the NASA Space Center. The teens were given a special backstage tour of where the engineers and astronauts train and work. After the tour of different facilities, they were then treated to Dave & Busters Restaurant for dinner. The students that attended were given game cards to use for games after they ate their dinner. Most of the teens won tickets and exchanged it for prizes. It was a day filled with fun and opportunities that will take them beyond the stars!



Health Check: Blood Pressure

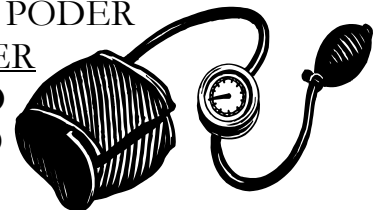
1. High blood pressure puts you at risk of a heart attack, a stroke, or kidney disease.

La hipertensión le pone en peligro de un ataque cardíaco, un derrame cerebral, o enfermedad de riñón.

2. There are generally no symptoms of high blood pressure, so you won't be aware that you're at risk.

No hay ningunos síntomas de la hipertensión, entonces usted no será consciente que usted esta en peligro.

GET YOUR FREE BLOOD PRESSURE AND SUGAR LEVEL CHECK AT PODER ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 at 10AM. FREE BINGO CARD WITH EVERY BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK!



*Source: www.agemyths.com

Springtown Villa



Springtown residents Gloria Galindo and Ramona Galvez want to make a change for better health and recently went to visit the natatorium (a.k.a. the swimming pool) at the San Marcos Activity Center. Both ladies are interested in becoming a member of the Activity Center. During their visit Gloria was able to swim the length of the pool and back for a total of 50 yards. She was so proud of herself! Way to go Gloria!



Ramona Gloria



From singing to hula hoops, children from the Allen Woods Homes have talent! On July 29, residents enjoyed an afternoon of fabulous entertainment.



Bobbi



Wednesday afternoons you can find residents playing a friendly game of cards or dominos. Snacks are provided by the SMHA Resident Services.

Thanks to our volunteer Bobbi Riel!



C. M. Allen Homes—KAD Korner Store

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

Our summer program ended with an exclusive trip to NASA with a behind the scenes tour of where astronauts train. Students were chosen based on their overall performance throughout the school year and for their community service during our summer program. Students were given the opportunity to tour the Neutral Buoyancy Lab, Rocket Park, and the Astronaut Training Mock-Ups.



Jose Mendez and Hector Villarreal in front of two astronaut suits.



Students and chaperones from the C.M. Allen, Allen Woods, and Chapultepec Homes are ready to learn about the rockets at Rocket Park!



Students Learning about the Neutral Buoyancy Lab.



Hector Villarreal, Benito Castillo, and Desiree Mangam waiting for the tour.

Keeping it cool!

This summer we were fortunate to be able to take some of our kiddos to the Bluebell Ice Cream factory and Creamery. Students learned about how the ice cream was made and packaged. After asking a ton of great questions we learned that it takes over 60 thousand cows to provide milk to make all of the ice cream we eat. At the end of the tour students got to sample multiple flavors of ice cream as well as enjoy a bowl of their favorite flavor.

A HUGE Thank You! SMHA Resident Services would like to thank Marigrace and Sean Contreras for their hard work and dedication in helping our students improve their reading skills. All summer children were given the option to join them for reading classes and bible study. Students who participated have shown a significant improvement in their reading comprehension.

Summer Feeding Success! We also want to thank Brother Jim Lanning and the SMCISD for providing free meals to the children of our community. Thanks to our residents, we were the most successful feeding site in the program.



Chapultepec Homes — Family Self-Sufficiency

Texas Night Out is October 1, 2013

Texas Night Out is soon approaching! For all the newbies, Texas Night Out is a statewide block party! Police Officers, Firefighters, EMS workers and other local government officials will stop at any registered neighborhood during the event. We will serve hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks and we will have games, like a cake walk, and other fun activities for the whole family!



Before we can make the fun happen, we need donations of hamburgers, hamburger buns, hot dogs, hot dog buns, chips, condiments (relish, ketchup, mustard, mayo, cheese etc.) drinks, paper goods (plates, napkins, cups) and cakes, lots of cake, for the cake walk! We will also need candy for game prizes!



This is our biggest event at Chapultepec and it's always fun! We can't make it happen without donations from Chapultepec Residents! Please contact the office as soon as possible to tell us what you plan to donate. We will arrange the final details at our next Resident Assembly Meeting on September 3, 2013. Call Megan at 512-396-3364 for more information.

If you are still in need of school supplies please contact your parent liaison for assistance:

Hernandez Elementary

Connie Perez 512-393-6149

Crockett Elementary

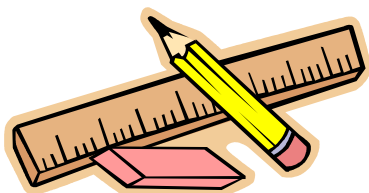
Gina Lombardo 512-393-6410

Miller Jr. High

Caprica Neal 512-393-6697

SMHS & Pride

Linda Contreras 512-393-6815



Resident Assembly is held on the 1st Tuesday of every month. Many residents have requested that Resident Assembly be held at 6 PM instead of 6:30 PM. Beginning in September, Resident Assembly will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 PM. Please feel free to bring a food item to be included in a pot luck dinner!



September's FSS Class will cover Breast Cancer Awareness. It will be held in the Chapultepec Adult Learning Center. The date and time will be announced at a later date.





Community Action's Head Start and Early Head Start Programs have been getting ready to kick off the new school year. After two weeks of training, which ended on August 21st, teachers and other Head Start staff are prepared to be back, or in some cases to just get started, in the classroom. For this new year, Head Start will be opening the doors of 11 child development centers, which provide services to a total of 516 children and their families, in Hays and Caldwell counties. Way to go, Head Start; have a great school year!

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

- Do not disconnect or intentionally damage a smoke detector; it is a lease violation. Call your site manager to request smoke detector battery replacement. After office hours, call the Emergency Maintenance number: 512-738-1243
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never leave a candle burning in an unoccupied room.
- Never leave food cooking unattended. Stay in the kitchen or turn off the stove. Do not allow grease to build up on cooking surfaces.
- Should a pan fire occur, use a fire extinguisher, baking soda, or a tight-fitting lid to extinguish the fire. If the fire has spread beyond the pan, get out immediately and call 9-1-1.
- Have a fire extinguisher within 10 feet of the stove on the exit side of the room. You can get an inexpensive kitchen fire extinguisher at Walmart or Target.
- Never use flour or water to extinguish a cooking fire.
- Keep pan handles turned inwards so they aren't accidentally bumped or grabbed by children.
- Don't smoke in bed.



Helping to Serve Hopes and Dreams

by Maria Calcaben



If you are one of the families living at the Allen Woods Homes, then you probably had Laura Bohmfalk knock on your door to inform you about our free summer lunch program at the P.O.D.E.R. Learning Center. Laura is a San

Marcos native. She graduated from San Marcos High School and attended classes at Austin Community College. Laura and her mom, Darlene Bohmfalk, moved to Allen Woods in November of last year because their mobile home was becoming unlivable. As summer approached, I asked Laura if she would serve as a Site Supervisor for the Capital Area Food Bank Summer Food Service Program. With Laura's experience working with daycares and other childcare services, this was a great chance for her to exercise her knowledge. Laura's job was to help pass out food and drink to all the kids that came to the center as well as to recruit additional children into the program. The position was an opportunity for Laura to get to know the children and families of the neighborhood and to help assure that children did not go hungry this summer. Laura also served as a volunteer in our Kids Summer Program. She said that what she enjoyed the most was going on field trips with the children, such as to the movies and parks. She hopes to use what she has learned as a volunteer to someday work with middle and high school kids, as well as with children with special needs. Laura plans to get a steady job so she can go back to school and finish her college education. With the assistance and resources of SMHA Resident Services, and the opportunities provided at the P.O.D.E.R. Learning Center, Laura has the support she needs to reach that goal!

Add a Library Card To Your Child's School Supply List



Make sure a library card is part of your child's back-to-school supplies. San Marcos Public Library cards are free to all residents of Hays County and children in the San Marcos school district. Friendly librarians are always available to help you find the books and information you need. Visit the library online at www.sanmarcostx.gov/library or stop in and check us out at 625 East Hopkins Street.



Red Flags of Teen Dating Violence

As many as 1 in 3 teenagers has been in an abusive relationship. Know the red flags of abuse:

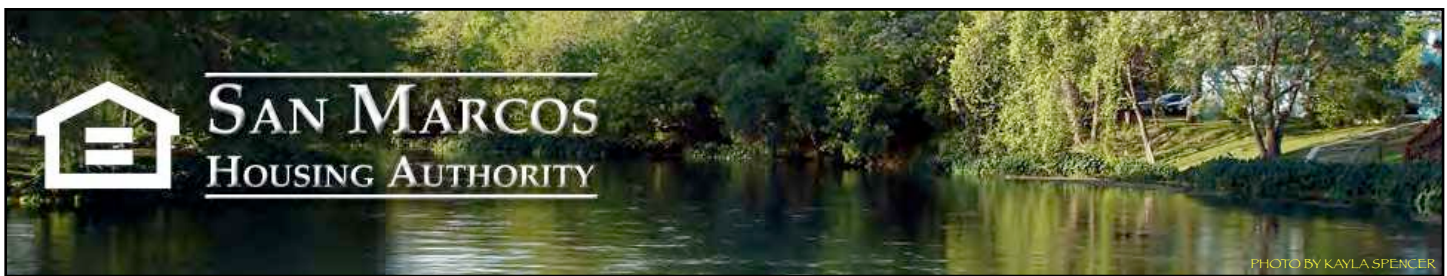
1. Blame you for how they treat you or for anything bad that happens.
2. Put down people, including family and friends.
3. Try to isolate you and control whom you see, where you go, what you wear, or how to act.
4. Are physically rough with you.
5. Threaten to hurt themselves if you break up with them or tell you they can't live without you.

HCWC provides education, violence prevention services and crisis intervention at no cost to victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

**1-512-396-HELP (4357)
1-800-700-HCWC (4292)**



ATTENTION ALLEN WOODS RESIDENTS! If you borrow a shopping cart from HEB, please be a good neighbor and return it to HEB. Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union asks that you not leave carts on their property.



Event Calendar

September 2

Labor Day - SMHA offices closed

September 20 - 21

Hill Country BBQ Cookoff State Championship, Hays County Civic Center, gates open at 10 AM, Friday: free admission, Saturday: \$5 admission, free if less than 9 yrs

September 21

SAT & ACT Practice Testing, San Marcos Public Library, 10 AM - 2 PM, registration required, call 512-392-8200

September 26

Goodwill Job Resource Fair, San Marcos Public Library, 1 - 6 PM

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DON'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER!

GET YOUR GED AT THE SAN MARCOS PUBLIC LIBRARY!

FALL REGISTRATION (2 HOURS)

Part 1: Tuesday, September 10 at 12:30 PM or 6:30 PM

Part 2: Thursday, September 12 at 12:30 PM or 6:30 PM



FREE GED PREP CLASSES

Night classes:

TUES and THURS - 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Day classes:

TUES, WED, THURS - 12:30 - 2:30 PM

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
Vacant—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)

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