

THE ORACLE



Join the #Spreadgoodseptember Contest!

You don't have to wait until the holidays to get that feel-good-feeling! #Spreadgoodseptember is a contest to help us get up to 400 "Likes" on Facebook and YOU CAN HELP! Here's how:

1. Download and print the flyer below from our [website](#) or get a copy at any of our Resident Services Centers.
2. Pass out the flyer to someone or post it on bulletin boards.
3. Take a selfie passing/posting the flyer and post it on www.facebook.com/smpa with the hashtag # Spreadgoodseptember

The person who posts the most pictures of themselves "spreading some good" will be our winner! They will be featured on our newsletter and our Facebook banner! Contest ends September 30.

CONNECT WITH US! SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

Facebook: www.facebook.com/smpa

Website: www.smpa.org

Blog: smpa.blogspot.com



We are a local non-profit organization that helps house low-income families as well as elderly, and disabled persons. Through our programs and connections to other resources, we help our residents achieve a higher standard of living.

We are expanding our presence in the social media realm.

Help spread some good!
#Spreadgoodseptember



Reminder: Housing Authority offices will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day. According to [Wikipedia](#), "Labor Day in the United States is a holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September. It is a celebration of the American labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of their country."

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Lucky Lady

Congratulations to Bertha Gomez and to the other lucky winners of the kids summer raffle! Bertha won the custom homemade cake composed of a variety of fruits. Other prizes included a homemade key-lime cake, a Target gift card, and beach bags filled with essential items such as toiletries, a beach blanket, and an Old Navy gift card. Each site did their own raffle, but the combined money was raised for the summer trip to Schlitterbahn. Allen Woods Homes was able to raise over \$200 to contribute to the trip!



A Splash of Fun!

After a long, eventful summer, the kids that attended the summer program at C.M. Allen, Allen Woods, and Chapultepec cooled off on a trip to Schlitterbahn Water Park for an end-of-summer field trip! They enjoyed spending time with friends, going on the rides, and getting wet on a hot summer day! Some of their favorite rides were the wave pool and the White Water Tube Chute.



Powerful Parenting

Parents that attended a Mothers Against Drunk Driving presentation hosted by the Hays-Caldwell Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse left with not only great information, but tools to use with their teenagers on how to talk with them about drinking. Presenter Crystal Montoya broke myths about drinking and offered new



information on trends about which parents should be aware. Each family that came was given a bag of groceries. HEB gift cards were also raffled and Francis Sanchez was one of the lucky winners!

Ayude a su Hijo a Tener Éxito en la Escuela

Establezca una Buena relación con el maestro de su hijo:

-Escuche a las dos partes. Muchos padres creen que el maestro siempre tiene la razón. Mantenga la mente abierta.

Qué hacer si su hijo lleva a casa una boleta con malas calificaciones:

-Pregúntele al niño qué puede hacer para sacar mejores calificaciones.

-Haga un plan, con su hijo y el maestro, para mejorar.



Source: Prevent Child Abuse America. Parenting Tip Sheets. Preventchildabuse.org

Springtown Villa



Children from the PODER summer program at the Allen Wood homes presented our residents with a talent show to end the summer. Two of the elementary girls, Daniella and Briana, started off the show with a song called "Royals" by the Grammy-winning singer, Lorde. The teen group created a skit called "The Greatest Jokes in the World," filling the room with laughter from their one line jokes. The show ended with a magic card trick by Nelson.

Talent Show



Springtown Villa residents attended a six week course called "Cooking for Your Life," sponsored by the Capital Area Food Bank. Residents received nutritious recipes, a handbook to keep for future reference, plus kitchen items as a gift. In the course, they learned how to cook nutritious meals based on "My Plate" food groups, how to build balanced meals and to modify recipes to be healthier, basic kitchen safety techniques such as knife skills, and basic nutrition principles.



Residents Ramona Galvez and Arleen Machado know how to make someone feel better!

These ladies got together to make a get well card for one of our residents that has been in the hospital.



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



A special thanks to Professor Karen Meaney from Texas State University for providing an educational and fun summer for Housing Authority kids. Prof. Meaney's student coaches did a phenomenal job instructing the kids and who knows...a future coach might come out of this experience.



Dan Joseph with the Travis County Underage Drinking Prevention and Education Program was kind enough to bring in specialized goggles and demonstrate to the class the effects that drinking has on vision, not to mention the toll it takes on coordination.



The City of San Marcos has been working all summer to get the neighborhood playground finished before school starts up. The community's excitement grows with each passing day. Everyone, including the parents, are beyond excited for the finished product. From what we hear from the kids, the skateboard park addition will definitely get used. Don't forget helmets and knee & elbow pads!

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

The Chapultepec Staff hosted a raffle of three school supply baskets benefiting the Resident Assembly. We



raised over \$100 in about 2 weeks! The funds will go to the Resident Assembly to assist with Chapultepec activities. The

winners of the baskets were: Delia Gonzales, Gabrielle DeLeon, and Ana and Antonio Reyna.



Many thanks to Mary and Megan from Capital Area Food Bank for presenting a cooking demonstration

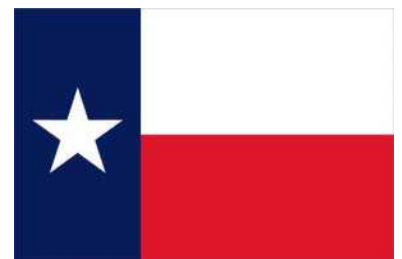
for the FSS Participants. Mary showed us how to make Lentil Sloppy Joes! They were delicious!

Welcome our newest member to Chapultepec Homes and the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Kathleen Taylor! As you can see, she is extremely happy to be starting her journey to self-sufficiency and success! We are just as happy to have her with us!



A huge thanks to Eddie Camacho and Kim Graves (not pictured) from Texas State University for dropping off another fabulous donation from the San Marcos Fire Department! Each fan goes to a family in need of some relief from this insanely hot weather! If you or someone you know is in need of a fan, please have them come by the Chapultepec Office or call 512-396-3364 for more information.

Texas Night Out is October 7! The Resident Assembly has decided to have a fish fry for this year's Texas Night Out! The Fish Fry Committee will be meeting again on September 2, after the next Resident Assembly meeting. If you are interested in joining the committee and helping plan the details, please come join us! We will be requesting food donations from tenants so please keep an eye out for notices!



THE WALL OF SUCCESS

by Megan Spiller

When you walk through the doors at Chapultepec Homes you are greeted with many smiling faces. These are the faces on our FSS Wall of Success. There are over 20 success stories of our Family Self-Sufficiency Program just in the last 5 years. Each person on the Wall of Success joined the FSS program with the intent of becoming a better person for themselves and for the world in which they live.

The FSS Program is a program designed to decrease or eliminate a family's need for government assistance. As you enter the program, you will sign a contract with the Housing Authority and work with the FSS Coordinator to make a plan for your time in the program. The goals you set are YOUR goals. The program coordinator will work with you to help you achieve these goals in the quickest, most successful way possible. Most participants reach their goals in 3 to 4 years.

Greg and Joy Smith came into the FSS Program in 2008. They were struggling to attend school and survive on financial aid but they remained determined to complete their education goals in order to provide a better life for their two young children, Liberty and Elias. After Greg and Joy moved to Chapultepec, they participated in the Resident Assembly by becoming President and Co-President, attended FSS Classes and support groups and started up and maintained the community garden. Greg completed his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with a major in Communication Design and Studio Art in 2010. Shortly after graduation, Greg began working for a health insurance company as a graphic designer. Joy continued working on her degree in Engineering while working part-time. After completing the FSS Program, Greg and Joy moved to Georgetown, where Greg took a job for another company. They left extremely pleased and happy with the progress they made while in the program. Greg's encouragement to current and future participants is: "Fight for your dreams. Persistence overcomes resistance."

Rosalie Rocha joined the FSS Program in 2008. She is a single mom of two beautiful girls, Kelsey and Kayla. Rosalie overcame many obstacles. She worked while she attended school full-time at Austin Community College. She struggled with a few health issues but never gave up on her dream or on herself. After she completed all of her courses at ACC, she applied for the Licensed Vocational Nursing program at Victoria Community College and was accepted. While Rosalie attended the LVN program, she encouraged her daughters to stay motivated and participate in activities that would benefit their future. Her oldest daughter, Kelsey, became a Certified Nursing Assistant in high school and has since graduated and is now enrolled at Austin Community College, following in her mom's footsteps. Kayla, is in junior high and is participating in the dance team. Rosalie finished the LVN Program and graduated on her birthday in August. She hasn't stopped yet! She has hit the books and is studying for her National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses exam and she is applying for a bridge program to become a registered nurse. Rosalie is the perfect example of perseverance and we couldn't be more proud of her.

The FSS Program is open to all Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher residents that have the motivation required to reach their goals. We will help you turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones but only you can decide to get up again when you stumble. If you are interested in seeing your face on the FSS Wall of Success, contact Megan at 512-396-3364.



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AWESOME PUBLIC LIBRARY . . . AND THIS IS ONLY A
PARTIAL LIST! GO TO THE LIBRARY OR SEE THEIR [WEBSITE](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/library)
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**SAN MARCOS
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

www.sanmarcostx.gov/library
512/393-8200

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!

Make sure a library card is part of your child's back-to-school supplies! All residents of Hays County and children in the SMCISD are eligible for a free library card.

Mystery Movie Mondays

Join us for mystery movies and popcorn at 6:00 PM on Mondays, September 15, 22 and 29. Call the library at 512.393.8200 for the film schedule.

Simple Sewing (*Registration Required*)

Have you ever wanted to learn to sew? Carol Patrick of the Austin Chapter of the American Sewing Guild will lead a workshop at the San Marcos Public Library on Saturday, September 27 for beginning sewers. Bring your sewing machine and fabric to fashion a simple tote bag. Registration and a supplies list is available at the information desk. Call 512.393.8200 or email smpl@sanmarcostx.gov to sign up.

Medicare Made Easy

Kurt Schick will take the guesswork out of applying for Medicare. Join him at the San Marcos Public Library on Wednesday, September 17 at 10:00 AM to discover the options Medicare offers, eligibility rules, and signup timeframes. Schick is the owner and founder of Medicare & Retirement Solutions with over 30 years of experience in the insurance industry.

Fall Veggie Workshop and Plant & Seed Swap

Join Hays County Master Gardeners at the San Marcos Public Library on Saturday, September 20 from 10:00 AM to Noon for a free workshop on Fall vegetable gardening. Plus, bring your extra seedlings and seeds and swap with other gardening aficionados.

Creation Station

Kids are invited to the San Marcos Public Library on Saturday & Sunday, September 27 & 28, for a Make-&-Take Craft. Materials are available in the children's area so drop in anytime to create a unique piece of art to celebrate Fall.



Puppet Show!

The library puppeteers present a favorite fairy tale, The Gingerbread Man, that is just right for ages 2 and up on Tuesday, September 16 at 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM with two more shows on Friday, September 19 at 10:00 AM & 11:00 AM. There are no Storytimes during puppet show week.

Storytime!

Children are invited to the San Marcos Public Library for great stories, songs and fun. Toddler Storytime is on Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:00 AM for children ages 0 to 2 years. Preschool Storytime is on Tuesdays & Fridays at 11:00 AM for children ages 3 to 6 years.



FREE & FUN THINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

• September 3 ~ Music at the Library!

Pianist Faith DeBow will perform the Alfred Tennyson poem “[Enoch Arden](#)” with Sam Mungo, Director of the Texas State Opera Program, on Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00 PM at the San Marcos Public Library.

• September 7, 14, 21, 28 ~ Unicycle Football

Come see the best sport on one wheel! This is a fun, unique family event. Games at 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM, every Sunday at Gold Crown Billiards.



• September 7 ~ FaithFEST

Enjoy this FREE festival in downtown San Marcos featuring live music, food and a faithfully fun way to kick off fall! Event starts at 5:30 PM at 129 W. Hutchinson St. Get free tickets at www.faithfestsmtx.org.

• September 20 ~ Cruise In Night

Enjoy a fun filled night of classic cars, live music and local eats at the monthly Cruise in Night at Dick's Classic Classic Garage, 120 Stagecoach Trail. Event is open to the public and admission is FREE after 5:00 PM

*For more Super September events go to: <http://www.toursanmarcos.com/events/index.html>

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 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

Rose Brooks—Chairperson
Mary Barnhart—Vice-Chairperson
Susan Tilatitsky—Resident Representative
Gloria Salazar—Commissioner
Frank Arredondo—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