



## OUR LATEST FSS GRADUATES!



*Kendra is joined by her children,  
Ja'Vion & Alazah'a*

**Kendra Lowe-Christian:** I started in the Family Self-Sufficiency program in 2012. I was very reluctant to join, after listening to people saying that it was not worth it. I eventually joined after all because I figured it was a way to better my family. I am glad that I joined the FSS Program. I have learned a lot of things that I did not know about. I realized it would end up helping my family the most at graduation time. While in the FSS Program, I learned how to budget and I learned about many programs out there in the city of San Marcos that are not being utilized. Going to the FSS classes were very helpful as well, my children had fun & met new friends. It has been a long journey to get to the end, but it was worth every year! I am glad I chose to join the FSS Program. Now my children & I are going to build our own home within the next year or so. I would recommend anyone to join the FSS program. It benefits you & your family in the long run.

**Laura Benavides:** I'm so happy to have graduated the Family Self-Sufficiency program. I was attending school when I first entered the program. Of course, life doesn't always go according to plan. I soon made a shift to the insurance industry. Although there were a few bumps in the road, I went from working part-time to being the owner of Farmers Insurance Benavides Agency. I'm so grateful to the staff and my neighbors for all the support over the years. I feel lucky to have raised my daughter in a community that understands that we are all here to be better for our family and our future. The staff's knowledge, insights, and support made me feel like anything was possible. They have an amazing network and access to a great number of resources for us. I would not be where I am today if it weren't for the FSS Program. I plan to continue growing my business and branching out to help other areas of our community. A HUGE thank you to everyone that has been involved in our growth.



*Laura and Liana pose with  
FSS Coordinator Crystal Wilson and Resident  
Services Director Gene Martin II.*

### PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2017 PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

WE WILL TELL YOU HOW WE HAVE BEEN SPENDING PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUNDS.  
WE ALSO WANT TO HEAR WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.  
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS!

WHERE: Allen Woods Dining Room  
DATE: June 15, 2017  
TIME: 5:30 PM

YOU MAY ALSO SUBMIT COMMENTS IN WRITING TO:  
ALBERT SIERRA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1201 THORPE LANE  
SAN MARCOS, TX 78666  
ATTN: PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND



# ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

## Mega Matt



High-five and hello to Matt Teagle, one of our new interns for the summer! Matt spent his childhood in Iowa where it actually gets cold. When he was starting the 7th grade, Matt moved to Texas and lived in Lago Vista. After some football injuries playing for Baylor, he decided to go to his family's alma mater, Texas State. Matt always wanted

to help people so Social Work felt like the perfect fit. After graduation, Matt plans to become licensed and work for a time before going back to school to work on a master's degree and then to eventually start his own private practice working with children. He hopes to learn a lot while he is with us. He believes that the wide variety of experiences we offer will help him greatly in his career. He plans to make it a great summer for all the children at PODER but will also help any residents he encounters to the best of his ability. He will be juggling his internship, his college classes, and a new puppy. He promises not to drop the puppy.

## Super Shaquela



Meet Shaquela but you can also call her Ms. Flint. She was born and raised right here in San Marcos. She chose to go to Texas State because of the diverse student population and the great programs they offer. She is in her last semester in the Social Work program and plans to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and develop a private practice offering professional counseling along with marriage & family therapy. After graduation, she plans to work on getting her license to practice social work while she attends graduate school. Shaquela is doing her internship at PODER this summer. Her goal is to refine her professional skills while she helps the residents at Allen Woods. Stop by PODER and say hello to this hometown girl!



## Rack 'Em Up!



It was an intense two days during the PODER Pool Tournament as talented pool players from all over Allen Woods competed! Some contestants practiced at the center the week prior to get warmed up but others came in fresh with no practice. We used a bracket-style, single elimination tournament so everyone could play. The

referees were interns Matt and Shaquela. They made sure the games ran fairly. The first day was elimination rounds and the second day was the final elimination and championship round for the grand prize of a \$10 HEB gift card. There were many close matches, but the winner was Henry Mendoza (pictured on the right in the middle). Spectators and players alike enjoyed the spirit of the games and they hope to hold another tournament later this year!





## Springtown Villa



Our Mother's Day cookout celebration turned out to be an awesome event! Thanks to everyone that volunteered and donated side dishes. We had borracho beans, rice, salsa, guacamole, and many other yummy dishes. The meats (burgers, sausage) were donated by Jose (Joe) Torres. Roland Cruz and Elnora (Nora) Rodriguez also donated brisket. Our two cooks were Joe and Evaristo Hinojosa. Every mother that stopped by received a carnation flower, compliments of Joe. The residents had a blast celebrating Mother's Day. It provided an opportunity for residents to become better acquainted with their neighbors. Hope to see everyone soon!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☺ **RESIDENT COUNCIL:**  
JUNE 7 - 3:30 PM  
JUNE 21 - 3:30 PM
- ☺ **NEW RAFFLE IN JUNE! ASK BRIANNA FOR INFO**
- ☺ **FATHER'S DAY COOKOUT**  
JUNE 14-3:00PM

Amerigroup stopped by to put on a meet and greet ice cream social! We have had many new residents move in recently and this was a way for them to learn about an agency and the services they provide. The residents and the culture here at Springtown are unique and alluring and that is a huge reason why agencies enjoy sponsoring events for us.



## CONGRATULATIONS to Brianna!

Brianna Lopez just graduated from Texas State with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. She will be attending graduate school in the Fall. She interned at Springtown Villa this past semester and we are excited to announced she is staying on as the Service Coordinator at Springtown Villa! She is looking forward to continuing this adventure with us. She will be here in the afternoons, Monday through Thursday.

## C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Gail Dickerson and her students from Texas State have been putting on our Family Science Night events. It is an event that both parents and children look forward to every month. As one parent stated, she was learning along with her daughter while participating in the different experiments. A favorite for the kids was learning how to make ice cream.



We are very grateful to Mary Odum, Ph.D. and Marty Wright from the Texas State Department of Health and Human Performance. They arranged nutrition classes and the children enjoyed eating different vegetables and fruits during each class. They also learned to make the right choice when choosing

a snack. Marty Wright's students put on an exercise class along with other important activities.





## CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Introducing our Top Volunteer for 2016, **Roxanne Burnett!** She is very active in the FSS program and has graced this page in the past. She volunteers her time to help in many ways. She works full time and has two children but she is always willing to help with babysitting for the FSS classes and even helps with clean-up afterwards. Thanks Roxanne!



*FSS participants were hard at work on a budgeting quiz during our monthly Self-Sufficiency class. The class was based on "Your Money, Your Goals," which is from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Participants took a knowledge quiz and completed a budgeting activity called "How Low Can You Go?" It involved doing a weekly budget and then going back to re-work it to see how much more could be saved.*



Birthday party fun! We celebrated Alexander's birthday during the after-school program thanks to the Birthday Box. These special boxes were brought to us by volunteers from Texas State that were serving at the Allen Woods Homes. The boxes come from the "Happy Birthdays"

organization in Round Rock. These boxes have everything you need for a birthday party: cake mix, goodie bags, decorations, party-themed plates and napkins, candles, a birthday card, drinks, and a toy for the child. The kids have so much fun! If you are interested in more information on this organization, visit their website: <http://sharinghappybirthdays.org/>.



**Mother's Day Craft!** The kids in the after-school program had fun making flower arrangements for Mother's Day. They all worked very hard on their projects and came up with some really cute ideas.



# I AM A GAMER

By Lino Puente

When someone mentions video games to you, what's the first thing that comes to your mind? Many of you probably picture a lazy teenager playing video games all day and doing nothing. Very few would picture someone between 40 to 60 + years old, playing video games. That's right, you read that correctly. For those that are still stuck in the past, girls and women play video games too! So believe it or not, here at Springtown Villa we have more than a few gamers. For some, gaming is just a pastime or a way to unwind afterwork. It's an escape from the real world. That is the case for people like me and some of the other gamers here at Springtown but it's also much more. It's a way to forget about our health issues and other hardships for a few hours. It's a way for some of us that are homebound to escape the confines four four walls and make friends and meet gamers from different parts of the world. Everyone has a story of why or how they started playing games. Some of us started after we became permanently disabled and others were already gamers. Many of our resident gamers say that their reflexes are better and that gaming keeps their minds active and sharp. They have even seen improvement in their ability to multitask. This outcome has been proven by scientific studies. Some of the residents say that gaming keeps them engaged by learning about history because some of their games are based on historical events. We have enough residents that are gamers that they are thinking about scheduling monthly gaming sessions. How cool is that? To some gamers here at Springtown, gaming is not just another world but a whole different universe and we love it! (Lino lives at Springtown Villa. He volunteers for us and does the Springtown page for this newsletter.)

## COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY COMING IN JUNE!

Are you a graduating high school senior and want to go to college, but feel you aren't ready? If so, the Community Action Summer CollegePrep Academy is for you. And it is free. The purpose of the Academy is to provide high school graduates and GED diploma holders with the academic instruction and college advising they will need to succeed in college. Although anyone with a high school diploma or

GED can enroll in community college, many high school graduates and GED holders do not know that the first thing they will have to do is take a college placement test in reading, writing, and math. Unfortunately, 60% of students who enroll in community college are placed into at least one non-credit Developmental (remedial) Education course, and almost half of these students do not complete their developmental courses within one year. In addition, developmental classes cost the same amount of money as regular classes. The Community Action College Prep Academy is designed to prepare students for college success so that they can spend their money on courses that count for a college degree. The Summer College Prep Academy will run for six weeks

beginning on June 15, 2015. Classes will be Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 12 PM at the ACC San Marcos Goodnight Center. RSVP BY JUNE 5! Call Francesca Ramirez at (512) 392-1161 ext. 313.





## BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The SMHA board of commissioners met on May 23. Present at the meeting were Rose Brooks, Gerald Brown, Gloria Salazar, and Albert Sierra. Absent from the meeting were Liz Trevino and Maggie Moreno.

**Financials:** Public housing has a YTD surplus of \$59,670. The Housing Choice Voucher program has a surplus of \$5,446 in administrative fees. Springtown Villa has a deficit of \$21,565. [Editor's Note: About \$54,000 in subsidy was pending receipt at the end of April.]

**Occupancy:** Public Housing is at 94%, Housing Choice Voucher is at 99%, and Springtown Villa is at 95%.

**New Business:** The Commissioners considered a resolution to adopt the revised Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP). The new policy was necessary because of changed HUD requirements, including special provisions required by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The new policy also incorporates amendments to the previous policy. No public comments were received. After a discussion of some of the provisions in the new plan, the Commissioners adopted the resolution. They also authorized the Housing Authority to submit an application for Disaster Recovery funds from the City's Community Development Block Grant program. The total cost to repair the 2015 flood damages at the CM Allen homes was \$1,516,141. About half of the repair cost came from FEMA, United Way of Hays County, donations, flood insurance from the Texas Municipal League, and the Public Housing Capital Fund program. The Housing Authority will ask for \$758,066 to recover funds we had to expend from Housing Authority reserves and from the San Marcos Reinvestment Corporation, a nonprofit subsidiary of the San Marcos Housing Authority.

**Directors Report:** Sierra reported that the Housing Authority will be closed for Memorial Day. He also said that there will be a public hearing for the FY 2018 budget for the Public Housing Capital Fund program. There will be a public notice in the Daily Record and the meeting will be in June. He also commented on a scholarship fund from the NelRod Consortium for college-bound public housing youth. Finally, there will be a tour of SMHA facilities and programs for the Commissioners on June 6. The tour is sponsored by the Resident Services Department.

## FREE INTRO INTO OFFICE OCCUPATIONS CLASSES


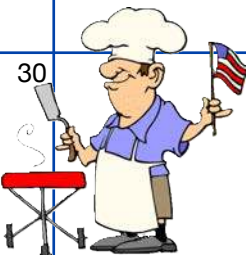
Classes will be held at Community Action Training Center  
1633 State Highway 80, San Marcos

Starts June 13– July 20  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

For more information contact  
Robert Dueñez  
at 512-392-1161 ext. 334  
to see if you qualify.

IF YOU LIVE  
AT ALLEN  
WOODS, C M  
ALLEN, OR  
THE PORTER  
HOMES, YOU  
CAN JOIN THE  
FSS PROGRAM!  
CALL  
396-3364  
TODAY!

# SMHA CALENDAR - June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Latin name for June is Junius. Ovid offers multiple etymologies for the name in the Fasti, a poem about the Roman calendar. The first is that the month is named after the Roman goddess Juno, the goddess of marriage and the wife of the supreme deity Jupiter. The second is that the name comes from the Latin word iuniores ("younger ones") as opposed to maiores ("elders") for which the preceding month May (Maius) might be named.- Wikipedia				1	2 <b>ALLEN WOODS RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 10:00 AM</b>	3
4	5 <b>CM ALLEN RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 5:30 PM</b>	6	7 <b>SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM</b>	8 <b>CHAPULTEPEC RESIDENT ASSEMBLY 6 PM</b>	9	10
11	12	13 <b>Class: Setting Goals CHAPULTEPEC 6 PM</b>	14	15 <b>Public Hearing: Capital Fund Program Allen Woods 5:30 PM</b>	16	17
18 <b>DAD... YOU ARE MY FATHER</b> 	19 <b>Class: Substance Abuse Prevention Springtown 2 PM</b>	20 <b>Class: Money Management KAD 6 PM</b>	21 <b>SPRINGTOWN RESIDENT COUNCIL 3:30 PM</b>	22 <b>Class: Youth Drug Prevention PODER 6 PM</b>	23	24
25	26	27 <b>SMHA Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM</b>	28	29	30 	

## LEADERSHIP

### Board of Commissioners

Gloria Salazar—Chairperson  
Gerald Brown—Vice-Chairperson  
Rose Brooks—Commissioner  
Liz Trevino—Commissioner  
Maggie Moreno—Commissioner

### Executive Director

Albert Sierra

## HOUSING OFFICES

Allen Woods Homes (Main Office)

512-353-5059

CM Allen Homes

512-353-1116

Chapultepec Homes

512-396-3364

Housing Choice Voucher

512-353-5061

Springtown Villa

512-396-3363

## RESIDENT SERVICES

Chapultepec Adult Learning Center

Family Self-Sufficiency

512-396-3364

CM Allen KAD Korner Store

512-392-6273

Allen Woods PODER

Learning Center

512-396-3367

Springtown Villa

512-353-7343