



MAINTENANCE REQUESTS GO ONLINE!



Our website was recently redesigned. It remains a work in progress but one of the new features makes it possible for residents to submit maintenance requests at their convenience. Go to www.smpa.org, click on "Contacts," and then go down to "Non-emergency Maintenance Requests." From there, simply click on the name of your housing site and a short form will open up. You can even upload a picture of the problem, if you think it will help. When you click on "Submit," the information will go to your site manager in an email message.

Here is some important information regarding maintenance requests:

If you are experiencing a **maintenance emergency** during normal office hours, *call your management office*. If it is after hours, call 512-738-1243. Leave a message and the on-call maintenance worker will call you back. Call this number only for emergencies, such as:

- ⇒ **Gas leaks**
- ⇒ **Major water leaks** (If your toilet is overflowing, turn off the valve below the tank. If a faucet is broken, turn off the valves below the faucet, if possible.)
- ⇒ **Clogged toilet** (if it is the only toilet in your home)
- ⇒ **Lock-outs**
- ⇒ **No electricity to your entire home** (Check your breaker box first. If the power is out in your neighborhood, call the San Marcos Electric Utility at 512-393-8313.)
- ⇒ **No air conditioning or heating** (only when it is very hot or very cold)

For **routine maintenance requests**, regardless of how we receive the request, you can expect a response within 2 business days, Monday through Friday.

If you will not be at home during normal business hours:

- ☺ **Make sure your front screen door is unlocked.**
- ☺ **Disengage your ring-bolt or keyless dead-bolt.**

If you have a dog, it must not be loose in the area where the work will be done.



Eusebio is back!

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER



Exercise Sports Science Organization (ESSO) volunteers helped make our Texas Night Out an evening to remember by bringing positive energy and creative ways to be active indoors!



Dr. Christine Norton brought the perfect balance of action and adventure when her Adventure Therapy class brought the Adventure Club to our kids! Here they are on a hike at Spring Lake Trails.



Chi Beta Delta (above) has been an important service organization that has been helping us for the past 4 years with our events. This semester, they increased their involvement, became great mentors, and brought smiles to our kids!

For the past two years, the Terry Scholars group has been an amazing partner for our events including the Family Night Color Run (below). Their commitment to our events have made each one more "colorful!"

This semester we have had a significant increase in volunteer activity by various groups and individuals. With their help, we have been able to have triumphant events for our kids and teens as well as small group and individual tutoring in our after-school program. Thanks for making it a successful school semester!



The Filipino Student Association (left) is one of our newest partners this semester. Their involvement with the Teen Nights and our Haunted House were vital to making it "frightfully" fun evenings!

Students from Ms. Marty Wright's class, Social Work volunteers, and caring individuals (above & below) serve as tutors and playmates and have had a huge effect upon our after-school program



Springtown Villa

HALLOWEEN

Congratulations to the winners of the costume contest! From left to right:



1. Renaissance Maiden (Sarah Bustamantes) - Most Creative
2. Unicorn (Deborah Morris) - Cutest
3. Witch (Gloria Galindo) - Most Scary



A special thanks to Amerigroup for donating two turkeys, BEEfirst for the pies, and the Puente Family for cooking the entire meal!

This year we are thankful for...

"... having an apartment."
-Julie Pletcher

"...Springtown Villa for its close-knit community. Once I found this place, it was as if God just kept blessing my life. Things happen, good and bad, but there is always a God"
-Henry Kuykendall

"...being alive, living at Springtown, Meals on Wheels, and all of my friends"
-Roland Cruz

Resident Council:

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

Thanksgiving Feast

The Resident Council provided an entire Thanksgiving meal as a way to show gratitude to the residents for supporting the community throughout the entire year! With the help of Amerigroup, BeeFirst, and the Puente Family, we were able to make sure that everyone walked out with full bellies and smiles.



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Dance!

Texas State student Lydia Dobbins with the Agape Ballet program started a dance class at the CM Allen Homes Community. Agape Ballet was started with the hope of making dance available to all children. During the summer, Lydia helped with some community-based programs at Conway Park, which is across the street from KAD. As the girls found out about her dance background, they asked her to start teaching them.

At first it was a passing thought, but then the question was raised within Lydia's dance group: Why not teach them? Support came in and the classes began in September. A recital for parents will be held on December 1. Classes will resume in January! Anyone ages 5 to 15 is welcome to participate. Elementary-age classes are from 3:45 to 4:30 PM, while the older class is from 5 to 5:45 PM on Fridays. On the left, after a job well done, these girls earned their ballet shoes!



Thank you Ms. Marty Wright for all the volunteers that came to the KAD After-school program this semester. Marty has a Master of Education degree and is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Health and Human Performance at Texas State. Her students

helped the children with their homework while mentoring them about the importance of staying in school. They encouraged and inspired the kids to be the best that they could be, even though it's fun to be goofy sometimes.



CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Halloween Movie Night

Here we have Peighton, a spooky vampire, and Ezra, dressed as Kylo Ren, during our recent Halloween Movie night. It was put on by our Resident Assembly and our Texas State intern. The children did an amazing job at painting each others' faces and took part in the various games to win prizes for their efforts.



Resident Happenings in December

Saturday, December 2nd: Family Christmas Photo Fundraiser

Wednesday, December 6: Retirement Planning —6 to 7 PM

Friday December 8: Family Craft Night —6 to 7 PM

Thursday December 14: Resident Assembly —6 to 7 PM

Monday December 18: Resident Christmas Party —6 to 8 PM

The waiting list for 2 & 3-bedroom units at Chapultepec is shorter than usual right now. If you know someone that you think would be a good candidate for FSS (and who is not already a SMHA resident), encourage them to fill out an application and bring it to the next FSS Orientation on Wednesday, December 13, at 12 PM.



It's a Party!

Mark this day on your calendar! On Monday, December 18, Chapultepec residents will hold their annual Christmas Party from 6—8 PM. Location: TBA



Congratulations to Curtis Singleton who is our after school program employee and intern. This December Curtis will graduate from Texas



State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Recreational Administration. Curtis will have completed an astonishing 600 volunteer hours by the time he walks the stage. Thank you very much for your hard work and we know you will continue to be of service to the community!

The Chapultepec Resident Assembly will be holding a Holiday Photo Fundraiser on Saturday, December 2nd from 10 AM—5 PM. Everyone is welcome. The cost will be \$5.00 and will include a 15-minute sitting time with a professional backdrop and decor, a 4x6 printed photograph, a digital copy of the photograph, and the option to include a 4X6 photo frame for just \$1 more. To schedule your sitting or for more information, call Crystal Wilson at 512-396-3364.



Hail to the Chefs

By Maria Calcaben

Julia Child once said, "No one is born a great cook. One learns by doing." With all the curveballs that life throws at us, it's often hard to find time to make a home-cooked meal. The Hays County Food Bank has been coming to



the PODER Center once a month to bring not only simple and easy meals for the whole family to cook together, but also education. They have covered topics from kitchen safety to portion sizes. Each topic is basic information about how to make each meal healthier and each family is



given a recipes and other information to take home. Once the lesson has been covered, it's time to cook! The Food Bank instructors demonstrate how to safely cut the different types of food in each class. Although each recipe is vegetarian-friendly, families at home can add the meats of their choice when they try it at home. The recipes are designed to be healthy and budget friendly. Most single

servings are less than \$1 and some recipes can feed the whole family for around \$5! The kids that participated with their families enjoyed the hands-on experience with foods that were new to them, including spaghetti squash and zucchini. All participants were able to try out how to cut, peel, and grate the different ingredients because each ingredient was set up in different stations. If you'd like your family to learn how to eat healthy for less this holiday season, join us for our last cooking class of the year on December 7 at 6 PM at the PODER Learning Center.



The SMHA Board of Commissioners will not meet in December.

FROM THE “WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW?” DEPARTMENT:

My name is David Garcia. I graduated from San Marcos High School in 1996. I am the



Operations Manager of BMA Window Cleaning. I have been with BMA for 17 years.

I am a member of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and a member of the San Marcos Young Professionals. I have also done volunteer work for the Hays County Food Bank.

When I was 13 years old, I was a part of the K.A.D. group. Being a part of

K.A.D. taught me about responsibility, respect and work ethics. We did volunteer work and got help with school work. It helped keep us off the streets and out of trouble. Bonnie was our counselor. She was always very nice and polite. She kept us out of trouble and made us come back to the group after school. I really enjoyed being a part of K.A.D. Those were some of the best years of my life.



HealthCare.gov

The deadline to sign up for subsidized health insurance is December 15. Go to <https://www.healthcare.gov/> to find out if you qualify for free or reduced-cost insurance. If you do not have health insurance, you are subject to a tax penalty when you file your 2017 tax return. However, if you cannot afford insurance because you do not qualify for free or reduced-cost coverage, you can claim an exemption on your tax return if “the minimum amount you must pay for the annual premiums is more than 8.05 percent of your household income.” Also, “you can claim most exemptions when you file your tax return. However, you must apply for certain exemptions in advance through the Health Insurance Marketplace.” (Source irs.gov)

Get more information at:

<https://www.irs.gov/affordable-care-act/individuals-and-families/aca-individual-shared-responsibility-provision-exemptions#Exemptions>

December 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

December got its name from the Latin word decem (meaning ten) because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar, which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any month. Later, the months of January and February were created to fill the void and added to the beginning of the calendar, but December retained its name. - Wikipedia

1

2

3

4 *SMCISD*
Parent Liaisons
PODER--5:30PM

5

6 *Retirement*
Planning
CALC—6PM

7 *Family*
Cooking Class
PODER—6PM

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24/31

25 *SMHA*
OFFICES
CLOSED



26 *SMHA*
OFFICES
CLOSED

27

28 *Food Wise*
Cooking Class
CALC—6 pm

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