



Strings of Talent

By Maria Calcaben

Have you ever wanted to play an instrument, but thought you would never be able to learn? Well, meet Jack DeCiutiis, guitar teacher at the PODER Center. Jack was born in Austin and is now attending Texas State working on a music degree in Jazz Studies.

He started teaching himself guitar 8 years ago, but he has also been playing drums for 13 years. He comments about teaching guitar, "I see teaching as one of the greatest ways to pass on experience. I hope to be a great musician and teacher so that I can see other people find what I have found in music for myself." In the classes he teaches basic chords, helps students learn songs they are interested in, and even how to strum the guitar. Not only does he hope that his students learn the guitar but that they will "learn how to learn for them-selves; a skill that will exceed anything I have taught them on guitar." Jack is also in a group called Petunia Club, a



creative project with a goal of recording a full-length album within the next two years. If you are interested in learning guitar, call Senior Service Coordinator Maria Calcaben at 512-396-3367 while spots are still available! Guitar classes are FREE and held every Mondays from 5 –6 PM. Classes stay small so there is plenty of one-on-one time and guitars are available to borrow for the classes.

In most years, October brings the first cold nights. The first time you use the heat in your home, the smell of burning dust on the heat exchanger in the furnace is normal. It's a good idea to open a few windows and turn the heat on for a few minutes *before* you need it. The burning dust will sometimes set off the smoke alarms and that's no fun in the middle of the night.



ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Colors in the Rain

Not even the rain could stop the fun of our Annual Family Night: Color Our World! This year, our special guests Crockett Elementary principal Dr. Keith Cunningham, Parent Liaison Gina Lombardo, and teachers introduced themselves to parents and families. The staff at Crockett want to make their presence known with their continual efforts to create a support system to help kids and families succeed in their education. While families ate a light meal and created family flags to show their pride as



a family, teachers talked to individual families to address any concerns and create solutions for the best way to support their children.

Unfortunately it was too wet this year to do the fun run around the neighborhood, but the color fight went on in the front of PODER. Wet, but not muddy, participants got bags of color to throw at

each other. Shades of green powder flew up in the air, blue powder landed on faces, purples smashed on backs, and other colors peppered participants. Thank you Terry Scholars for helping out on a messy but fun Family Night!



Magnificent Marlene

Meet Marlene Morales, our newest Kids After-School Program Monitor! Marlene is originally from Dallas. She is attending Texas State to study Social Work. She says, "I have always known that I wanted to help others, no matter what my own needs were. I loved the idea of not only helping others, but also being able to sit back and see even the smallest change in a person's life. I knew this career would fill me with so much joy." As a volunteer to the program from a social work class last year, Marlene wanted to continue to gain experience working with kids and took on the position when it was available. She has helped create and lead activities and has been an asset during homework time. We're lucky to have her on board this school year!



B-I-N-G-O

Our residents, especially our seniors, have been getting a kick out of Bingo Wednesdays at PODER. Whether it's playing loteria (Mexican bingo) or regular bingo, our residents are in it to win it! Bingo is free and offers free coffee and a breakfast baked good. It also offers our residents an environment to come together and get to know their neighbors. Lately, we've had a few birthdays and families of some of our residents have brought cakes and food to share with everyone to celebrate their loved one. Join us every Wednesday for fun and prizes!



Springtown Villa



Fire Safety Presentation with San Marcos Fire Department



Residents learned about fire safety planning and getting out safely. The firefighters advised residents to talk with their neighbors to come up with a plan, make sure everyone is aware of it, and reassess the plan every few months to make sure that is still the safest way to escape. The residents were also taught how to use a fire stopper: pass, pull, aim, squeeze, and sweep.

This presentation also provided the opportunity for residents to seek clarification and have every single one of their burning questions (pun intended) answered. When asked about how to get people with mobility issues out of the building during an emergency, firefighters suggested two scenarios.



Firstly though, if the resident is able to get down to the 1st floor, they should ALWAYS do it, even during drills because it may very well be the real thing. If they are unable, they can either wait outside by the stairwell closest to them for help to arrive, or shelter in place and call 911 to let them know who they are and where they are trapped. Regardless of what the resident chooses to do, doors should always be closed to prevent the fire from spreading. The main entry points closest to the fire should also be clear in order for firefighters to help.



Robert arrived ready to impress with all with his FREE supplies. This is possible since they do not operate through insurance.



All of these tools help make everyday tasks like cooking or making phone calls easier for those with vision impairment.

Join us for our Resident Council meetings every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 3:30 PM



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



Our Girls Are Back!

After a long year of a university-wide Greek suspension, our Kappa Delta Chi girls are back! For over 10 years, Kids Against Drugs has been Kappa Delta Chi's local philanthropy. As individuals, and as an organization dedicated to service, the members of Kappa Delta Chi volunteer at KAD on a daily basis as leaders, tutors, mentors, and friends to the children of the K.A.D. program. They have helped our community in tremendous ways including school supply drives, hosting annual events such as Halloween Carnivals & Easter Egg Hunts, and participating in events like National Night Out and other activities throughout the year. They love the kids here and are a positive influence upon them. They continue to create close bonds with the kids as they help them achieve success, aspire to do greater things, and grow as individuals. The girls are delighted to be back in full swing ready to serve our community once again and we are just as glad to have them back with us.



UPCOMING EVENTS:



Oct. 2 — National Night Out
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Oct. 11 — TXST Family
Science Night
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Oct. 16 — Job Training Class
10 AM - 12 PM

Oct. 23 — Kappa Delta Chi
KAD Haunted House
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Oct. 30 — Fall Family Fun with
Miller Jr. High Parent Liaison,
Mary Jane Godina
5:30 - 7:00 PM



Volunteer Corey Perez found a new home for her art materials at KAD. Because she was so compassionate and free spirited, it gave

the children the opportunity to not only be creative but to be innovative with the materials they were given. She made this a learning experience by helping the children put their imagination on paper. She made the children feel that education can actually be fun! Some children showed their creativity by drawing. Others cut out sparkly letters to make cards for their mothers. **We are thrilled and blessed to have our volunteers with us!**

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



HAUNTED HOUSE PRESENTED BY THE PODER LEARNING CENTER

OCTOBER 31, 2018

3:30-6 PM

**MARIA PUTS ON A HAUNTINGLY GOOD HALLOWEEN EVENT!
KATHY WILL BE TAKING A SMALL GROUP OF KIDS TO THE
SCARE-OF-THE-YEAR EVENT. SIGN UP BEFORE THE SPOTS
ARE ALL FILLED UP. WE WILL NEED FORMS FILLED OUT IN
ADVANCE TO HOLD YOUR CHILD'S SPOT. PARENTS ARE
WELCOME TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN ON THEIR OWN.**



National Night Out



**This years NNO was a hit. Our sincere thanks to
all of the residents, the representatives from
Woodforest Bank, and ALL of the first responders
that made this year's event one to remember.**

Crockett Elementary



presents



*Chapultepec Trick or
Treat, Meet & Greet.*

October 26

6-7 PM @ CALC

*Kids will get to trick or
treat, while you meet and
greet the teachers. There
will be plenty of food,
games and fun!*

Parenting and Play Workshop

Saturday, October 20
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Children learn best through play. Want an easy way to make your house more play-friendly? Make handmade toys with simple household objects. Claudea Blythe, MEd, CFLE, will teach you and your preschooler how to make homemade toys that will inspire interactive play. She will also provide valuable tips that guide 'parenting through play.' All supplies will be provided for this workshop. Caregivers and their children aged 3-6 are encouraged to participate.



Aging Lifestyle Advisors: Panel Presentation

Monday, October 8
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Aging Lifestyles Advisors is a group of professionals who specialize in serving aging adults. Topics covered during the panel: Medicare pitfalls to avoid, moving and how to prepare to change your life, saving, investment, retirement, maintaining a good lifestyle, avoiding fees, and recognizing scams.

SMHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

In their September meeting, the Commissioners adopted a \$1.7 million budget for public housing for Fiscal Year 2019. They also adopted a new and updated payment standard for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The payment standard represents the maximum rent payable by the Housing Authority, based on bedroom size. The standards for 2019 will be \$966 for a one-bedroom, \$1,155 for a two-bedroom, \$1,563 for a three-bedroom, and \$1,895 for a four-bedroom unit. They also adopted a revised utility allowance for Springtown Villa. Utility allowances are the amounts that are subtracted off the calculated "family rent" (rent + required utilities) when a resident is required to pay their own utilities. Residents of Springtown Villa pay their own electricity. The new allowance for a one-bedroom unit is \$48 and for two-bedrooms it is \$81. In the Directors Report, Executive Director Albert Sierra discussed a new lease with the Head Start program for the use of the property where the Henry Bush Child Development Center is located. There was also a discussion about audit services for Fiscal Year 2018. Finally, he reported that the CDBG – Disaster Recovery Action Plan amendment authorizing reimbursement to the Housing Authority for expenses occurred in the 2015 floods was approved by the City Council. The exact amount is pending a review by city staff of documented expenses that were not covered by FEMA or other grants.

**CHECK OUT
THESE GREAT
EVENTS AT THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY!**

**FSS
PARTICIPANTS
WILL GET
PARTICIPATION
POINTS FOR
ATTENDING THE
PARENTING AND
PLAY
WORKSHOP.**

Fall Prevention

Monday, October 22
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Gain confidence, balance, and strength to keep your independence and be safe at home. Learn practical tips for staying on your feet and being healthy in this introductory session to prevent falls. Presented by Camille Phillips.

Creating Art Through Empathy

By Allen Coulter

Inspired by Elvis Presley, Patrick began writing songs in 1984 when his first composition titled "I'm Just a Dreamer" motivated him to start a record company called "Cora Records" with a friend in Austin. Over the next eight years, Patrick toured throughout the country with a small group of musicians. Travelling everywhere from Arizona to Kansas, Tennessee, and along the East coast, Patrick recalls meeting countless musicians — most notably, Randy Travis.

One day, after taking time off from the music world for a while, Patrick received a call from his friend Tony, who was looking for new material to record. Upon writing "A Broken Heart," Patrick's passion for songwriting reignited. He has written five songs since Tony's call, and he has no intention of stopping anytime soon. "I will be writing for the rest of my life."

When asked about why he writes, Patrick responded, "It is a way to get out my feelings. Strong emotions on both sides—really sad and really happy. I hope that people will relate to the feelings I am feeling, and to let them know they aren't alone."

Music has always been a way to express a wide range of emotions, and the world benefits from having musicians like Patrick, who care about the listener's feelings just as much as their own.

[Editor's Note: Allen Coulter is a volunteer at Springtown Villa and an English major at Texas State University.]



Gospel Band: Tony Ray & The Dinettes (Patrick is on the left.)

A BROTHER HEART 09/01/2018

Say she'll find a broken heart.
That you can try to mend.
It's broken and torn a love is born.
If you would just begin.
Lead her on and keep her strong
A broken heart that could never mend.
And less there's love to defend. "OH" to defend.
She's been tossed about, thrown in a corner,
And don't know where she's been.
If you look inside you would see she's crying.
Time "OH" time and Time Again.
Throw the storm keep her warm
A broken heart could never mend
And less there's love to defend
A broken heart's a broken dream's
She begins to cry "OH" she begins to cry.
She begins to die _____

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Written by
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To Brimmer



October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Texas Night Out All Sites</i>	3	4	5 <i>Orientation Workforce Solutions, 10 AM</i>	6
7	8	9	10	11 <i>Family Science Night KAD @ 6:30PM</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Orientation Workforce Solutions, 10 AM</i>	20
21	22	23 <i>Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM</i>	24	25 <i>Food Wise Cooking Class CALC @ 6 PM</i>	26 <i>Crockett Meet n' Greet CALC @ 6 PM</i>	27
28	29	30 <i>Family Fun Night KAD @ 5:30PM</i>	31	October was the eighth month in the old Roman calendar. It retained its name (from the Latin <i>ōctō</i> meaning "eight") after January and February were added to the original Roman calendar. Among the Anglo-Saxons, October was known as <i>Winterfylleth</i> , because at this full moon (<i>fylleth</i>) winter was supposed to begin.		

LEADERSHIP	HOUSING OFFICES	RESIDENT SERVICES
Board of Commissioners Maggie Moreno — Chairperson Juan Miguel Arredondo — V. Chairperson Gerald Brown — Res. Commissioner Rose Brooks — Commissioner Richard Cruz — Commissioner Executive Director Albert Sierra	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	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