



City Facilities Remain Closed*

All City facilities that are currently closed, including the Activity Center, public library, parks and playscapes, will remain closed at this time and opening will be evaluated in coordination with the results of the additional state testing and the Governor's actions to move to Phase 2 in reopening Texas.

For other City related COVID-19 information visit www.sanmarcostx.gov/covid19info

For information on Open Texas visit www.sanmarcostx.gov/opentexas

[Click here for a list of what parks are open](#)

*Note: The SMHA is an independent unit of local government under state law but our Board of Commissioners is appointed by the City Council. We work very closely with the City of San Marcos and generally follow their lead on various policies.

Family Self-Sufficiency

If you lost your job or have reduced income because of COVID-19 (or anything else) it is a great time to join the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Future rent increases will be set aside in a

special savings account (FSS Escrow) on a monthly basis. When you reach the goals on your Individual Training and Services Plan, you will receive whatever has accumulated in your FSS Escrow account. It can be substantial but how much depends on what your Family Rent is when you come into the program, how much it increases, and how long you are in the program. Think of it as a rent rebate for successful participants. It does not affect any other benefits you may be receiving.

Lump sums of cash are always helpful but the most important aspects of the program are getting training that will lead to suitable employment, learning how to manage your money better, improving your credit, and learning essential life skills. We will be your guide on this journey but, just like Bilbo Baggins, you must be willing to take that first step on the journey.

If you live in one of our public housing units or have a Housing Choice Voucher, call our Resident Services office at 512-396-3364 to get more information on how you can begin your journey!



ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

Pandemic Perspective: From Our Residents

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected people emotionally, financially, and mentally in many different ways. We asked residents, from our teens to our elderly, to send us their responses on how they are coping with the crisis. These are some of their words:

"[Challenges I had to face during this time was] having to juggle bills around and making decisions between food or bills. I became more depressed not being able to get together with neighbors and friends. Giving up our fun activities at PODER because that's the only social tie for me because I can't drive anywhere...All the activities and programs that miss Maria and the interns plan for us make a big difference in our lives because a lot of us are unable to leave the property to do these things. While I was there my kids said Miss Maria was amazing and that I was blessed to live in such a great community but then all this with the Covid-19 happens and our lives are turned upside down." —A.M.

"[With online learning] I feel less motivated also some teachers don't know how to explain correctly and you don't have them in that exact moment to ask them...I think that it has affected my family in a positive and negative way because financially there is no source of income, but I have a closer bond with my mom." —A.R.

"Finding toilet paper and other cleaning products has been a pain to get since the Covid-19 pandemic happened...eating at Meals-on-Wheels [in the Allen Woods Dining Room] not only helped my mom and I with food but it helped other people also, especially the people with no transportation like my mom and I. Right now my mom and other people that eat Meals-on-Wheels are now having food delivered to them." —B.

"Switching to on-line classes has got to be the most challenging for us. I'm trying to manage teaching and run a house hold all at the same time. But I've learned to not sweat the small stuff. Sometimes we miss assignments and that's ok. We'll just start again the next day." —M.

"[I've been coping with the stay-at-home orders by] watching TV...Community Action is helping with my utilities...I miss Bingo and all the PODER activities for senior citizens." —J.C.

"I have been doing ok. My daughter comes over to my house just about everyday to see me. Can't do much like bingo, go outside, etc." —D.F.

"[With online learning, I don't like] how lag some classes can be. They would be in the middle of a sentence then it would just freeze... [One good thing from this] is I started drawing more." —M.S.



"I've noticed that my kids are not as kind or forgiving as they normally are. We all need to remind ourselves not to react to each other of our negativity out of boredom. We are all frustrated and are missing our regular interaction with friends and family...we are getting free curbside breakfast and lunch at PODER. My job has started to provide lunch for staff...[A good thing that has resulted from this is] more family time! My 15 year old is confiding in me more since I'm the only person around"—J.



HELPFUL TIPS:

- ◆ Need a mask but don't know how to sew? Talk to your neighbors (at a safe distance) to see if they would be willing to sew you one in exchange for some fabric. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and get rid of an old T-shirt!



- ◆ Feeling overwhelmed with information overload from the news and social media? Take a break! Turn off your TV, step away from that cell phone, and go outside for a walk. Your mind will thank you and so will your body.



Springtown Villa

SUPPORT FROM SIX FEET

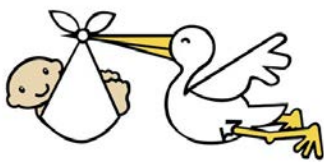


One unique thing about Springtown Villa is its community. Residents typically see and interact with one another on a daily basis. Almost all of the residents know all of their neighbors within the building. Springtown normally has a joyful and welcoming atmosphere. The halls are filled with noise and laughter, from people conversing on the downstairs bench to talking in the laundry room upstairs. If you take one lap around Springtown it is almost impossible not to run into someone and make conversation. However, that atmosphere has changed since Covid-19 hit Hays County. It has been very quiet, with only one or two residents out and about. But what we don't hear from the hallway is the support within the resident's apartments. Many residents have reported that they have been able to continue

supporting their neighbors from a distance. Through phone calls and social media, residents have been making sure their Springtown family members have everything they need to survive the quarantine.

—Angelica Moore

Congratulations to
Amanda, the
Springtown
manager, and her
family on the arrival
of baby Matthew
on 4/15/2020!



DIY No-Sew Face Mask

Tutorial

1. cut coffee filter
- 2.
3. Fold filter in center of folded bandanna. Fold top down. Fold bottom up.
4. Place rubber bands or hair ties about 6 inches apart.
5. Fold side to the middle and tuck.
- 6.

C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE

Very Thankful

Today is the first day of the rest of my life. Reaching this point was truly a surprise. So much is going on, from schooling my child, to keeping her safe, to wondering where our next meal will come from. Cut backs, lay offs, limited shopping and more. Helpful hints are truly appreciated, and I have one person to thank. Miss Bonnie, at San Marcos Housing Authority, has truly came through, with information to help my family get through the strict and very demanding rules. Free lunches, free internet, free computer devices, and free homework assignments, when I didn't have access for my child. Information about receiving a free box of groceries . . . all very necessary to get through these blues. She has made this unfortunate situation not so complicated. I'm so very grateful, and I appreciate her help. Life, is a lot easier. Thank you Miss Bonnie.

Cathy Carson @ CM Allen Homes
April 17, 2020
"One Day At A Time"



We would like to thank the San Marcos Police Department Corporal Jesse Saavedra and his team for all the hard work they have been doing by coming out to support the School Fuel snacks that are handed out to the kids in the community. Seeing the kid's faces light up to see all of you come out to support and cheer them on is a magical thing. You are a great influence upon the kids of San Marcos and their future. It's a comfort to know we can count on each other through whatever life brings.



Happy Birthday to Mr. Aniceto Samaro on his 89th birthday. The secret of a happy life is to think kindly of the past and live fully in the now. May God bless and protect him always. As he shared with us, he is better known as "Lucky" by many. Here, Ben Zamora is handing him a bag full of goodies and socks for every day of the week.

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

One year down, so many more to come.

I would like to give an update on one of our FSS Graduates. Last May, Caitlyn Woods and her boys moved to San Antonio to start their new adventure. Cat started her job with Wells Fargo and was on her way to achieve wonderful things. This May she will be promoted from Associate Auditor to Auditor. In the past 12 months, Cat has brought up her credit score up 200 points, and paid off all of her debt. Cat messaged me the other day saying that she is house hunting. Well, just a short time later she announced that she is purchasing a BRAND NEW HOME! Her move in date is 5 days past her 1 year mark of leaving Chapultepec. We are so proud of Cat and all that she has accomplished. She never ceases to amaze me, I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for her and her family. BEST OF LUCK Cat! — Kathryn LaPlant-Israel



How is your family coping with COVID-19?

Chapultepec residents have been doing all they can to keep their children busy during this stressful time. Our residents had a sidewalk chalk art contest. Their topic, you ask? Social distancing. Each resident was tasked with showing how far 6 feet is. Congratulations to all of the participants, winners were given a cute Easter basket with some goodies for the family. Everyone did an amazing job.



1st Place winner



Jimesha Roberts and her daughter, Royale, built a shoe rack for all of their shoes. It is made from cardboard! So creative!

How are you coping? Please let us know. We would LOVE to hear from you.



STORIES FROM THE C. M. ALLEN COMMUNITY

I would like to share the story of our community and an old metal chair that sets in front of our apartment. Our family has left items on that chair so people who needed things that we had to share could safely pick them up. We have also had friends drop off items to our chair. Packages and mail are delivered to that chair. That little chair has become a big part of our daily experience. My little boy, who is 7, peaks out the window regularly in hopes of catching someone in the act of dropping off an item for our family. Sometimes, there are treats for the kids waiting there when we open the door in the morning. One friend has dropped off gifts for my 18 year old who graduates this year. Graduation won't be the exciting event we have looked forward to, but it has been made special because my child has received little gifts and notes from people who are supportive. The chair on our porch is nothing special. It's an old black metal folding chair, but it has become a special place where friends have come to share and support one another during this difficult time in our lives. Each of us have been touched by this experience in some way, but for me and for my family, our experience with COVID 19 has made us more appreciative of the community we have around us. We are grateful for the daily walk to pick up the school lunches from the KAD building, we are grateful for the little cards we have received in the mail, and we are grateful to friends who have picked up groceries for us and left them at the door. We are grateful for the opportunity we have had to be a part of this community where we have been a part of giving back in our own way. It's strange that something as simple as an old metal chair could be a reminder each day of the good that this community has done and continues to do for one another. Even though we are inside, safely secured in our apartment where we have few daily conversations with others, what has been shared through our experience has brought many of us closer together and helped us not to take the people around us for granted. Our little chair has shared more love and compassion in the past few months than most of us share with one another in a year. I hope we remember this time and how we came together to make a difference and support one another through our shared adversity.—Rachel Hannah Durrance



As a resident of CM Allen Homes and an elderly, who lives alone, I can honestly say that Mrs. Bonnie goes out of her way to call me and check on me during this Corona Virus 19 out break. She calls to let me know about food distributions and other resources that may be available. She always makes sure I'm doing well. I really miss her coming over to visit and talking to me. Her company is always very much appreciated. As we all are following the rules of staying at home, I know that Mrs. Bonnie misses seeing everyone, especially the children. I'm thankful to have someone like her as a friend, and I know that soon everything will be back to normal and Mrs. Bonnie will be back in action.—Dora Torres

It is times like these where community really matters. People are scared to leave their homes. Children are stuck at home, some in abusive situations where their only way out of the abuse or neglect is to go to school. The only meals they received come from the school. No income coming in, but bills still need [to be] paid. Where are tomorrow's meals coming from? These are daily concerns for many folks living in low income housing.

Luckily, for us, at CM Allen we have Bonnie and the amazing team working by her side. Bonnie is all about this community. She is always reaching out and offering help. Be it food for the kids or help with bills. She finds out what needs our family has and reaches out to those she knows can help, or she provides us with the information we need to get the help. I always look forward to seeing her smile and the kids adore her.

Thanks to the food program the children of our community are receiving breakfast and lunch every school day. For some families it may be the only healthy source of nutrition the children are getting. With it hard getting groceries right now I am so grateful my kids are getting fresh fruits and veggies daily.

The resources provided by the San Marcos Housing Authority and the city of San Marcos have kept our family safe, warm, and fed. We are so grateful for our community.—Jocelyn Hulett

**BOBCAT PROMISE
EXPANDS TO SERVE
MORE FAMILIES!****BobcatPromise**

To increase access to higher education, Texas State University offers the Bobcat Promise. This program guarantees free tuition and mandatory fees for 15 credit hours per semester (not to exceed one's demonstrated need) to new entering freshmen with a family adjusted gross income that does not exceed \$50,000.

Get details here:

<https://www.finaid.txstate.edu/undergraduate/freshman-aid-programs/bobcatpromise.html>

A Bittersweet Goodbye...

Dear all of my friends at the Housing Authority,

Where do I begin? While I wish I could say this goodbye in person, I am grateful for the opportunity to say it regardless. I hope all of you are staying healthy and safe and are taking this chance to focus on yourself and loved ones. I know this is a scary time, so take a second to take a deep breath. Ready? Inhale.... Exhale.... Good job! Keep going if you need to and do not be afraid to take time each day to breathe deeply!

I wanted to express my gratitude for each and every one of you. When I first started my internship, I was super nervous and unsure of myself. However, my very first day, I knew that this was the place I was meant to be. This community embraced me with open arms and made me feel a part of the family. I cannot express how much this family means to me. You have all helped me grow as a person and I will always cherish the memories I have made this semester. From learning to always make two pots of coffee for Lotería, to building a community in our Senior Social Hour, I will never forget my experience at PODER.

I know that you all are destined for great things and bring joy into people's lives daily. I am so happy that you allowed me to be a part of your family this year. I was not expecting to end my time with you so quickly but hope to visit when all of this is over. Until then, stay safe and know that you have impacted my life for the better!

Thank you,

Leah Waddill





May



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

The month of May (in Latin, Maius) was named for the Greek Goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May. The Roman poet Ovid says that May is named for the maiores, Latin for "elders," and that the following month (June) is named for the iuniores, or "young people".

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31		26 Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM	27	28	29	30

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz — Chairperson

Gloria Salazar — Commissioner

Nina Linda Ramos — Commissioner

Rachel Durrance — Resident Comm.

Mittie Miller — Commissioner

Executive Director

Lana Wagner

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