



A Community that Stands Out

By Maria Calcaben

The COVID-19 pandemic has made activities with our residents rather challenging. Many of our elderly residents, for example, miss playing Bingo. Many of our kids miss the after-school program. What everyone seems to miss is the sense of normalcy and community. With cases increasing, people have become more afraid and are losing hope. Many feel like their summer is completely lost.



A community is only as strong as its people, so our interns, Jason Dominguez and Amado Gonzalez, and I wanted to do a big project in an effort to revive some community spirit. We went out into the neighborhood and talked to our residents from a safe distance to see if they were interested in contributing to a community mural. We provided the wooden tile, plates of paints, paintbrushes, and a water cup for everyone that wanted to participate. We gave them instructions on which section of the tile not to paint or draw on, since we will be combining everything to make one giant picture. Many residents painted nature images or landscapes. Others wrote encouraging words. Some expressed themselves through abstract colors and shapes. The positive responses we heard when we picked up their paintings included joy at being able to express themselves and create something as a family as well as anticipation on what the final product would look like. About 35 individuals and families contributed to make

the Community Art Mural. It features two hands creating a heart with their fingers. We hope that this mural can give pride to the residents of Allen Woods and hope to all those that see it. Go by the PODER Learning Center at the Allen Woods Homes on Thorpe Lane and check it out!

FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The SMHA Board of Commissioners met on June 23. They selected officers for the current terms. Richard Cruz remains as the Chairperson. Gloria Salazar is the new Vice-Chairperson.

The commissioners also approved a Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) reimbursement agreement with the City. The amount remains undetermined.

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER



NEED A MASK?

Reusable cloth masks are available at PODER! Call Maria at 512-396-3367 or send an email to maria@smpha.org.

The Legend of Goldie



If you come by Allen Woods to see the Community Art Mural and wonder why there is a fish on it, then you've never met the legendary Goldie the Goldfish, who lives at PODER and is about seven years old. He has outlived his original tankmates, including a frog and tiny fish. In his later years, he ate some of his friends, which has

lead to his bachelor lifestyle. Nevertheless, Goldie has been an upstanding ambassador, welcoming new residents and helping new kids in the after-school program to feel at home. He has entertained both the young and the old with his spitting rocks trick and his swims through the bubble volcano. Goldie also has some tough scales on him. He has survived fungal infections, hot water, dirty tanks, and a careless child putting a marker in his tank. His latest challenge is surviving loneliness as a result of the COVID shutdown. He was used to seeing crowds of people in the main room playing Bingo, celebrating holidays, or hearing the chatter of kids as they eat their after-school meals. Lately, he has been less active, wondering where all the people have gone. Luckily, our summer interns have been keeping him company, his spirits up, and his tank clean! Goldie is looking forward to seeing the residents of Allen Woods again, including some of the kids he has watched grow up. So the next time you're feeling lonely, think of Goldie because he is definitely thinking of you!



¡Bienvenidos Amado!

Hola, mi nombre es Amado González Jr. Soy originalmente de San Antonio, donde nací y crecí. Vine a Texas State para vivir la cultura de la universidad y para soltarme de mi habitación original, pero no tan lejos de mi familia. También vine porque la universidad



tiene un programa bueno para los maestros, siendo uno de mis intereses. Ahorita mi estoy recibiendo de los títulos de historia y español. Yo escogí historia porque me fascina lo pasado y me encanta aprender de lo que paso antes que yo viviera. Escogí español en el tercer año de la universidad por la oportunidad que tuve para aprender más del primer idioma que yo hablé. Después de graduarme, tengo ciertas opciones para seguir. Podrá quedarme en San Marcos y empezar trabajar más en el trabajo que tengo ahora. Puedo regresar a San Antonio y empezar a encontrar una carrera. Mi última opción puede ser de ir a Houston para mirar si puedo entrar en un programa de ley para hacerme abogado. Ahorita, la cosa más difícil es de decidir qué voy hacer para mantenerme en la vida en el futuro. También tendré que empezar a pagar mis dudas que recibí cuando me vine a la universidad. Lo bueno es que yo estado ayudando la gente de Allen Woods, y mi gustaría aprender más de ellos y en el mismo tiempo mientras les ayudo yo podría mejorar en hablando español. Durante mi tiempo esta experiencia ha estado increíble, y la gente de Allen Woods han sido amables y buenos. Cuando no estoy ocupado, me encanta salir con mis amigos y a irnos a el rio de San Marcos para pescar. Durante la cuarentena, yo estado tocando más de mi guitarra, yo estuve en un grupo de Mariachi en la prepa entonces la mayoría de la música que toco es en español. Soy un fanático del basquetbol, entonces cuando regresan los deportes ustedes me pueden encontrar viendo la NBA, especialmente los Spurs de San Antonio, Go Spurs Go!

Springtown Villa



COVID Bingo

This month our residents were able to participate in Bingo, an event that is missed by many throughout the housing authority. However, this is not your average Bingo. It is a socially-distanced bingo. The residents are given a Bingo board and instructed to fill out the board by the end of the week,. The board may contain tasks such as “Can you complete this mini puzzle?” or “What was the first type of bird you spotted this week?” The residents seemed eager to participate and a few called to say that they loved the idea! We are grateful to Maria Calcaben, at the PODER Learning Center in the Allen Woods Homes, for sharing her idea with us!

Hays County Judge, Ruben Becerra, wants everyone to wear masks in businesses and public places until July 20th. If you do not have a face mask, contact Angelica at the Resident Services office. We have some masks available. Call 512-353-7343.



We are happy to have our site manager, Amanda Ramirez, back from maternity leave! Baby Matthew was born last April. He was welcomed into the world by his father, Moses, and his big sister, Maddie. Everyone is doing well.



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



We are stuck at home with all that is going on so my two children helped my husband and I plant this little bit of

color to brighten our home and our spirits and, just maybe, put a smile on those that pass by.—Amy Scott



Cenikor Foundation is still in the community, sharing family activities, resources, and information on making healthy choices that don't include drugs. They have been providing family resources and "Gratitude Activities" every week. They come on Fridays and distribute activity packets for families. On the left, Donna McCain has a bucketful of fun ready to go out!

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER



Nova has been creating her own worm observatory.

Our Junior Master Gardeners Club has been hard at work.

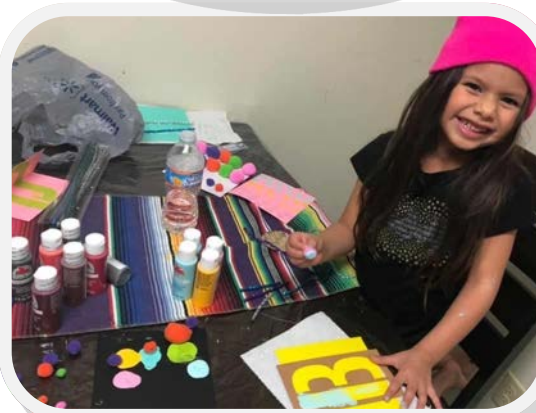


Jaxon and Girardi are testing local soil samples. (top)



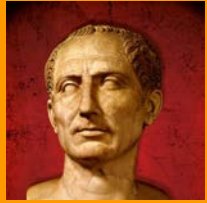
Kiki is creating a succulent garden, with the help of Nova. (left)

Delilah is learning her letters and sounds, painting, and starting her own garden, all while dressing like a little fashionista.



Damien, Trinity, and Parker are learning about farming at their Oma's home. They have planted a garden and started raising chickens. They are so proud of their little feathered friends.





July

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

July was named by the Roman Senate in honor of Roman general Julius Caesar because it was the month of his birth. Prior to that, it was called Quintilis, the fifth month of the original 10-month Roman calendar.

			1	2 SMHA OFFICES CLOSE @ 2PM	3 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	25
26	27	28 Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM	29	30	31 SMHA OFFICES CLOSED	

LEADERSHIP

Board of Commissioners

Richard Cruz — Chairperson
 Gloria Salazar — Vice-Chairperson
 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