



Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But the fire is so delightful,
Since we've no place to go,
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Unfortunately, not everyone had a fire to keep them warm during the President's Week Storm, as I call it. Everyone has a story to tell and everyone has heard lots of stories. Well, we have a story too. Many of our housing units and one of our resident centers were damaged but, more importantly, many of our residents

suffered. Most of our employees were stuck at home, like so many others, during the worst weather. However, when the emergency maintenance calls came in about frozen water pipes, and later, leaking water pipes, most of the initial burden fell upon Robert Cordero.

Robert had to battle the icy roads and bitter cold to turn off water to units where pipes had burst open. Forty-eight apartments (duplexes and townhomes), and the KAD center at the C. M. Allen Homes, had some kind of problem. There was nothing that could be done, initially, beyond turning off the water to prevent worse damage.

When SMHA personnel were finally able to arrive in force on Friday, they got together and tried calling to check on all tenants that live in our public housing units to see if they were okay, if they had water, and what damages they might have. They went door-to-door as necessary. They distributed water and water buckets. We also distributed some food from a limited supply to those who had been unable to replenish their pantries for almost a week. This was especially critical for elderly residents with limited income who rely upon outside resources to meet their nutritional needs.



That Friday and all weekend, our Maintenance personnel and available contractors focused on repairing leaks so water service could be restored to all units. Damage repair had to wait until this essential need was met. We are now in the process of making repairs to damaged ceilings, walls, and floors. This is being complicated by a shortage of materials caused by the wide-spread nature of the disaster.

Resident Services personnel, along with interns and other volunteers, continue to coordinate other assistance. After two floods in 2015 and dealing with Covid restrictions in 2020, we are getting to be real pros in responding to crises. Now that it looks like the coronavirus threat is diminishing, we are keeping a wary eye out for what's next. We will continue to preach preparedness but it seems like many people are finally getting on board with that concept. Experience is a stern instructor. ~ Stewart Dale Spencer

ALLEN WOODS HOMES — PODER LEARNING CENTER

SNOW WEEK

Everyone's experience of the week of snow ranged from joyful to sorrowful. Many residents had to deal with electrical outages, frozen pipes, and insufficient food. When the weather got warmer, burst pipes began to leak. As soon as Housing Authority personnel were able to safely return to work, they contacted each resident to find out their status. Some continue to recover, but others enjoyed the week off to slow down. Here are some of the experiences of our residents:

"It was a horrible, cold, hard experience. I was cold and scared. I'm grateful for kind neighbor and pray for relief. Maria from PODER gave me milk and food. The police brought me water!" — C.P.

"Was not a negative thing, I actually found it beautiful. Turned the area that I could see into something beautiful. Emotionally, something very good for me." -S.J.

"Many challenges, but I prayed my way through them." -L.B.

"I learned that it's good to stock up on household products like toilet paper and others and make sure my phone is completely charged and stock up on food and drinks that don't need to be refrigerated." -B.B.



Like everyone else, Olaf was looking for a warm hug.



Meet the newest karate students: Nia Carver, Nevaeh Carver, Audriana Fabian, Sophia Fabian, Nancy Rodriguez, Matthew Mendoza, and Darren Sanchez. This new generation will be the first kids' group created for over a year.

Facing Fears

PODER intern Tori Lee helped relaunch Teen Nights again with the theme *Fear Factor*. The teens faced challenges that would test their limits in a fun way. They shaved balloons, poured slimy egg yoke into a cup using only their hands, and had to guess what was in a box using only their hand. What the teens enjoyed the most was reuniting for an evening of activities and pizza!





Springtown Villa

BINGO

Lourdes Morales, our friendly neighborhood United Healthcare representative, is back on schedule. We are now meeting every other Monday at 2:00 PM. Lourdes brings great prizes that aren't covered by SNAP benefits. Tony Gonzales won so much stuff we had to get a bag to carry it all!

Self-Care Day

Self-care isn't selfish, it's just smart. One good habit is to routinely inspect your own body and take action if needed. Self-care isn't just physical; it's mental and emotional as well. For example, our first goal is to write down ten things to be thankful for. Gratitude is good for the soul. Join us each Friday in the Community Room.



Lighthouse for the Blind

Madalyn Nally gave our residents a wonderful presentation along with a gift bag with items that assist those with vision limitations. She also provided information on more free devices and services. If you missed it, you can attend their *23rd Annual Low Vision Expo* on March 26 from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM using your phone, tablet, or computer. Contact Dave Hamm in the Resident Services office for more information.



C. M. ALLEN HOMES — KAD KORNER STORE



KDC IS BACK!

Kappa Delta Chi is an organization that values Unity, Honesty, Integrity, and Leadership of its members. They are respectable women who help in the community not only by volunteering but also setting an example for the youth. KDC has been able to support the KAD community for a long time. It is our pride and pleasure to help further the education of students through mentoring as well as tutoring. ~ Marilyn Mejia, Service Officer

[Editors' Note: KDC members also helped pick up food donations and distribute them after the winter storm. They also checked on residents to see if they were okay and if they needed anything.]

The Best and Worst of our Snow Week

I went around to a few residents to ask what the best and worst experience about the snow was. Most people did not have the best experience, but they still were in love with the snow. One resident said the worst was her power going off and on but she was blessed nothing more happened. Another resident said the best part of the snow week was watching the snow but the worst was having to deal with it. Most residents said the best part was seeing their kids play in the snow for the first time.

I also talked to the kids about their favorite part of the snow week. Valentina and Alexia said their favorite part was making snow angels and a snowman. Kaylianna said she even made a snowman bigger than her. All the kids were so happy about the snow, but the best response was Annabelle. Her favorite part about the snow was eating it.

It might have not been the best week for everybody, but there is always something enjoyable about a little snow.

~ Katie Hall



MARCH EVENTS*

March 4

Cenikor Community Survey

Thursdays @ 2:45 PM

Goodnight Middle School
Community Connection:
Learning & Teacher Support

March 8 @ 1:30 PM

Presentation by the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

TBA

Spring Break Activities

**The KAD building office and kitchen had water damage so services will be limited.*

CHAPULTEPEC HOMES & ADULT LEARNING CENTER

A Pizza My Heart

It was a chilly day outside, but our afterschool kids stayed warm inside and celebrated Valentine's Day with a movie, some Valentine crafts, and a pizza party! ☀️



After-school is Now Tuesdays & Thursdays

We are now hosting the after-school activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays for double the fun! The program will still run from 3:30 to 4:30 on both days.

If you are interested in having your child participate, contact **Matt** for a registration form. Call him at 512-353-5062 or send an email to matt@smpha.org. We look forward to having a fun year in 2021!

Weekend Backpacks will be passed out on Thursdays before and after the after-school activity at the Resident Services office from 4:30 PM to closing time. Your children do not need to be in the after-school program to pickup a backpack, but they must be school-age. Contact Matt if you have any questions.





2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1		3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <i>Spring Break Week</i>	16		18		
21	22	23 <i>Board of Commissioners 5:30 PM</i>	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<p>The name of March comes from Martius, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. Martius was the beginning of the season for warfare. Martius remained the first month of the Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally new year's celebrations. Several cultures and religions continue to observe the Spring Equinox as Naw-Rúz or Nowruz—the first day of the year.</p>		

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<p>LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Board of Commissioners Richard Cruz — Chairperson Gloria Salazar — Vice-Chairperson Nina Linda Ramos — Commissioner Rachel Durrance — Resident Comm. Mittie Miller — Commissioner</p> <p>Executive Director Lana Wagner</p>	<p>HOUSING OFFICES</p> <p>Allen Woods Homes (Main Office) 512-353-5059</p> <p>CM Allen Homes 512-353-1116</p> <p>Chapultepec Homes 512-396-3364</p> <p>Housing Choice Voucher 512-353-5061</p> <p>Springtown Villa 512-396-3363</p>	<p>RESIDENT SERVICES</p> <p>Chapultepec Adult Learning Center Family Self-Sufficiency 512-396-3364</p> <p>CM Allen KAD Korner Store 512-392-6273</p> <p>Allen Woods PODER Learning Center 512-396-3367</p> <p>Springtown Villa 512-353-7343</p>
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