



The Oracle

Texas State and the San Marcos Housing Authority: Planting the Seeds of The Future!

Inside this issue:

Your TV may not work next February! 2

Help with the cost of medicine. 2

How to become our boss. 2

Feasting with friends. 3

Tutors are here to help you succeed. 3

Learn how to buy a home. 3

Special programs for teenagers. 4

It is the biggest event of the year as Texas State University's "Bobcat Build" and the San Marcos Housing Authority come together for several events throughout the Housing Authority — College Awareness Fairs at the C. M. Allen Homes & the Chapultepec Homes and three different projects at the Allen Woods

Homes. There the volunteers will begin a long term project to renovate the playground. They will also work on the garden and do some interior work at the PORDER Learning Center.

All these activities take place on Saturday, April 5 beginning at 9:00 AM.

At C. M. Allen there will be nonstop activities for the kids including the Hip Hop Congress with its message of unity, inspiring young people to get involved through social action, civic service, and cultural creativity. Contact the Resident Services office at your site for more information.



Rebates Coming Soon!



In May, the U. S. Treasury will begin sending out economic stimulus payments to eligible persons. 130 million Americans will receive a tax rebate. To receive a payment, taxpayers must have a valid Social Security number,

\$3,000 of income, and file a 2007 federal tax return. The IRS will take care of the rest. Eligible single taxpayers will receive between \$300 and \$600. If you are married and filing jointly, you will receive between \$600 and \$1200.

Retirees, disabled veterans, and low-wage earners who don't normally file a tax return must file one this year in order to receive a stimulus payment. You won't owe any new taxes. Contact your Resident Services office for help.



The November Presidential Election Will Be Here Sooner Than You Think! If you are not registered to vote, you can pick up a Voter Registration Application at any SMHA Resident Services office. Fill it out, mail it in, and be ready to vote!

TV Converter Box Coupon Program!

By midnight on February 17, 2009, all U.S. TV broadcasts will be required to be in digital format. So, if you have an old-fashioned TV and you use rabbit ears or an outside antenna, you will need to either switch to a digital TV or attach a special converter. If you don't have this equipment, you will

not be able to watch any broadcast television shows. But don't panic! All U.S. households are eligible to request up to two coupons worth \$40 each, to be used towards the purchase of up to two converter boxes. A certified converter box is expected to cost between \$40 and

\$70. Simple applications are available at your Resident Services Office. You can also apply online at dtv2009.gov or call 888-388-2009 to apply by phone.



Need Help With Prescription Meds?



Community Action's Prescription Assistance Program will help people struggling to pay for their medication. This program will help you get

medicine directly from the manufacturer at little or no cost. Simply tell your doctor you need assistance and have him send a referral form to

Community Action Prescription Assistance program. For more information call Cathy Culver at 392-5816 (ext. 125). She will get you fixed up!

The Housing Authority Wants You to Have a Voice on the Board of Commissioners!

There is an opening for a Resident Commissioner on the Board of the San Marcos Housing Authority. This is a great opportunity to learn about, and help make decisions on, policies that affect

people living in assisted housing. Meetings are held at 5:30 PM on the second Tuesday of every month. The City Council appoints the Commissioners. Call Donovan at 393-8088 to learn how to apply.



Feast With Your Friends at Meals on Wheels

If you're polite, considerate and the kind of person who would like to make new friends, then you are just the person we are looking for to join us at Meals On Wheels. However, if you're not any of the above, you're still welcome to come and dine with us! We're just one big, crazy



family. "Meals On Wheels" is a nutrition program for seniors and persons with disabilities. We provide a pleasant social atmosphere where people can come and enjoy lunch with their friends. So come join us! We serve at 11:30AM and would love to have you as our guest. For more information call Sara at 353-5018.

TUTORS MAY BE YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS



Do you or your children need a little help with school work? Academic success will lead to increased income! SMHA Resident Services is offering personal tutoring for parents, and the children of parents, who are enrolled in the Resident Self-sufficiency

program. If you are not participating in this program, you should be! The RSS program can get you started on the path to a brighter future. Contact Herod the RSS Program Coordinator at 396-3367. Our tutors are waiting for you to call. What are *you* waiting for?

Get a Home of Your Own

The dream of owning a home of your own is no longer a dream! It is a real possibility! Get the facts! Learn the basics of buying and owning a home. Attend a

free first-time home owners seminar on Monday, April 28, 6:30 PM, at the San Marcos Public Library and get busy building your dreams. We can help.





SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:

Richard Cruz, Earl Moseley, Rev. Samuel Montoya, Gloria Salazar, (Resident Commissioner pending)

Administration:

Albert Sierra—Executive Director
James Snell—Section 8
Misty Sanchez—Public Housing
Albert Hernandez—Maintenance
Lana Bronikowsky—Accounting
Stewart Dale Spencer—Resident Services

Resident Services Offices:

- Administration
396-3364
- Family Self-Sufficiency
353-5062 (Chapultepec)
- Resident Self-Sufficiency
396-3367 (all other sites)
- P.O.D.E.R. Learning Center
878-0773

- Elderly & Disabled Services
353-7343
 - Kids Against Drugs (KAD)
Corner Store, 392-6273
 - Allen Woods Nutrition Center
353-5018
- ### Housing Offices:
- Allen Woods
353-5058
 - C. M. Allen
353-1116
 - Springtown Villa
396-3363
 - Housing Choice Voucher
353-5061

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

The San Marcos Housing Authority provides decent, safe, and sanitary housing for about 555 low-income families and individuals, including the elderly and disabled. Our Resident Services Program consists of several initiatives designed to support Self-Sufficiency & Family Development, Elderly & Disabled Services, Crime & Drug Prevention, and Resident Organization & Community Development. All Resident Services initiatives are united in the overall goals of improving the quality of life for public housing residents, reducing dependence on the welfare system, and empowering our residents to take charge of their lives and of their environment.

The Oracle is produced and published monthly by the Resident Services Department of the San Marcos Housing Authority. Managing Editor: Herod K. Ellison; Senior Editor: Stewart Dale Spencer. Please send your inquiries and submissions to SMHA Resident Services, Chapultepec Homes Office, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666. Website: www.smpaha.org

Helping Our Teens!

The White Roses, a Sorority group from Texas State University, sponsors activities for young ladies living in public housing to encourage self-respect and to teach the importance of education. They meet every Friday from 4:30 to 5:30 PM at the C. M. Allen Homes. They have plenty of games, snacks, and fun!

The Hays Caldwell Council on Alcohol &

Drug Abuse has a similar program aimed at helping teens survive their teenage years. They meet every Wednesday from 4:45 to 6:00 PM at C. M. Allen.

If you are a parent of a teenager, encourage that teen to get involved. These programs promote positive choices and help set teens on a better path to the future! Call Bonnie at 392-6273 for more information.

