



The Oracle

When It Comes to Business, Monica Cleans Up

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In 2006, Monica Cherry and her son left Nevada to start a new life. Unsure of what her future held, she came to San Marcos to stay with her sister until she could get on her feet. After a fall out between the two, Monica sought refuge in the local women's shelter. Hays-Caldwell Women's Center case-workers encouraged her to apply for the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program.

She and her son moved to the Chapultepec Homes and through the

FSS program she began to rebuild her life. Frustrated with the job market, Monica started her own business, "Whirlwind Cleaning Services." She worked with the Small Business Development Specialist at the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, got help from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program, and now has several customers, including a local restaurant.

Monica is grateful for what hard work has taught her and is thank-

ful for those who have provided support. She says, "I may not be totally self sufficient yet, but I'm certainly on my way. I used to joke and say I ran away from home, but I really didn't run away from anything. I ran to everything!"

Monica made a choice that changed her life. You can too! Call 396-3367 and enroll in one of our programs. A life changing experience is just a phone call away.

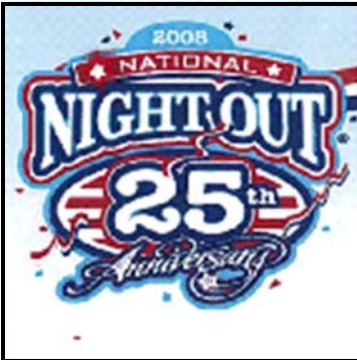


Monica Cherry stopped in for a quick picture and was sporting her cool, new uniform. She approaches her work in a very professional manner. Call her at 512-216-9694.

Increase in Flat Rates Proposed



The Housing Authority is considering establishing new rates for public housing residents who choose the flat rent option. The Board of Commissioners will discuss the new rates at their next meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Central office. The Commissioners will consider the rates carefully and will hold a public hearing before any changes become final.



National Night Out will not be observed in Texas. Instead, we will have *Texas Night Out* on the first Tuesday in October! Even firefighters can do without the heat!



Keep your water hoses off the ground so maintenance can mow the lawns! There is a \$10 fine if they have to pick it up.



Computer and Internet Usage Agreement

Starting August 1, anyone who uses the public access computers in our computer labs will be required to sign a computer and network user agreement. Minors (less than 18) will have to get the form signed by a parent or guardian. Because of safety and liability concerns, social networking sites such as MySpace.com and video or music sharing sites such as YouTube.com are off limits to minors. If minors break the rules, they



will not be able to use the computers unless a parent or guardian is with them. We have Internet filters but the kids get around them using “proxy

web sites.” If you have Internet at home, just remember, kids teach each other how to get around the rules, which isn’t new. Threats reaching your children through the Internet is new. Keep your kids safe!

Gang Awareness Presentation



In a recent presentation at the C. M. Allen Homes, Detective Frank Alvarez teaches the finer points of how to recognize gang symbols and gang paraphernalia. Knowledge is power. You are your child’s first line of defense!

Free Batteries For Your Hearing Aids

If you wear hearing aids this message is for you. Springtown Villa received a donation of thirty-two hearing aid batteries. They are #10 zinc air batteries and they can be yours for free. Just call Alma at Springtown Villa at 353-7343.



Start an Exciting Career in the Hospitality Industry

The PODER Learning Center will host the Director of Human Resources from the new **Embassy Suites San Marcos Hotel, Spa and Conference Center** on Saturday August 9 at 11:30 a.m. Get the facts on an exciting career in the hospitality industry. See if you've got what it takes to have a career in hotel service. Salaries are great and not all positions require a college education. So what are you waiting for? Join us on Saturday August 9 at 11:30a.m. Call 396-3367 for details.



Good Things Come to Those Who Work



Persistence pays! According to Cade Humphries of Texas State University, this is what the *Bobcat Backyard* playground at Allen Woods might look like when it is finished. The Allen Woods Resident Assembly and the SMHA Resident Services Department worked together to get approval to rebuild the playground. City Council member Kim Porterfield and the organizers of Bobcat Build have joined forces with the Texas State University student chapters of the Associated General Contractors of America, National Association of Home Builders, and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers to help make it possible.

Trashy News

Trash pickup has been a bit confusing lately. Here is the new schedule for trash pickup.

- Porter Homes — Monday
- CM Allen Homes — Tuesday
- Allen Woods Homes—Friday

Please do not park in front of the trash bins on those days and remind your guests too!





SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:

Earl Moseley—Chairman
Gloria Salazar—Vice-Chair.
Stacy L. Green—Resident
Commissioner
Richard Cruz
Rev. Samuel Montoya

Administration:

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

Housing Offices:

Allen Woods Homes
353-5058
C. M. Allen Homes
353-1116
Housing Choice Voucher
353-5061
Springtown Villa
396-3363

Resident Services Centers:

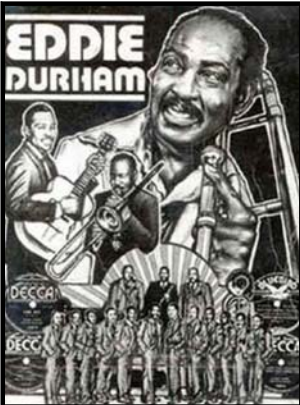
Allen Woods Homes
878-0773
Chapultepec Homes
353-5062
C. M. Allen Homes
392-6273
Springtown Villa
353-7343

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 King Ellison; Senior Editor — Stewart Dale Spencer. Contact SMHA Resident Services, 701 South LBJ Drive, San Marcos, Texas, 78666. Phone — 396-3364 * Website — www.smpba.org*

Family Entertainment



If Jazz is your thing, catch the Second Annual Heritage Music Festival with its tribute to jazz legend Eddie Durham on August 21st at 3 pm at the San Marcos Plaza. Call 888-200-5620 for visit www.durhamjazz.com for more information.

Also make plans to attend Fiesta 2008 on August 30th and 31st at Saint John's Catholic Church. It's two days of great music, food, and fun for all ages. Call 353-8969 for times.

San Marcos has great entertainment throughout the month of August. Bring a blanket or chair and relax to American music each Sunday at the San Marcos River Pub at 7:30 pm.

Here is the schedule:

- August 3 — Walt Wilkins
- August 10 — Jimmy La Fave
- August 17 — The Belleville Outfit
- August 24 — To Be Announced



Springtown Villa resident Bette Gulley is all smiles as she receives her economic stimulus payment. Yup! That's 300 big ones. Which way to Vegas?