



# The Oracle

## What's New In the News?

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Welcome to the Oracle.

The Oracle is a newsletter written and published by the Resident Services Department of the San Marcos Housing Authority. The Oracle is a monthly publication designed to provide resource information, to acknowledge the achievements of people living in public housing, and to give recognition to the volunteers of the public housing commu-

nity who keep our programs operating.

Our goal is to encourage and enable Housing Authority residents to strive for excellence in their attempts to reduce their dependence on the welfare system. We assist and encourage residents to work towards independence through our educational and self-sufficiency programs. We want to develop in-

dependent free thinkers who make better economic choices and who take the lead role in the safety and development of their communities.

We appreciate your comments and suggestions. We also welcome you to submit stories and articles for publication.



**The Winds of Change are Blowing!**

## A Time for Growth and Development!

It's a new year and some of you have violated your lease agreement by not complying with the Public Housing Community Service requirements! When

you signed your lease you agreed to perform 8 hours of community service each month or to participate in 8 hours of training, counseling, or classes. Such activi-

ties help you to support yourselves. Some people are exempt from this requirement. If you are over 62 years old, if you are disabled, if you are working at least 20 hours



Keep the dream alive!  
Make the most of every opportunity!

### *-Continue Growth and Development*

a week, if you are participating in a welfare-to-work program (such as the FSS Program or the TANF Choices Program), or if you are a full time student, you are exempt from community service.

Otherwise, you must honor the terms of your lease agreement. Failure to meet this obligation can lead to eviction! That is a

problem. Fortunately, we have the solution to that problem. Call Herod at 396-3367 to sign up for the Resident Self-Sufficiency program or to volunteer your time supporting one of our other programs. We can also refer you to other agencies that rely upon volunteer support! We want to help you so call Herod and he will get you started!



\$18,500.00 in scholarships from PHADA and NAHRO are available to public housing residents graduating from high school this year with a high GPA. Deadlines for scholarships are February 11, 2008 and March 3, 2008. Get your applications in now! Contact the Resident Services office at your site for info!

### *Meals on Wheels!*

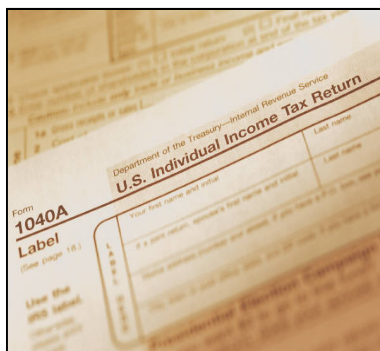
Meals On Wheels Senior Nutrition program 11:30 a.m. at the Allen Woods Senior Center Monday through Friday

If you are 60 years old or have a disability and you are tired of eating at home alone, then come and join us at the "Meals On Wheels" Senior Nutrition Program at the Allen Woods

Senior Center Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. You can have a good meal and a few laughs while you make some new friends. Call Sara for more information at 353-5018.



### *Free Income Tax Assistance!*



Volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) are offering free income tax assistance at the San Marcos Public Library for elderly and low income

persons. Tax Aid begins February 3rd and continues until April 12th. Service is guaranteed to the first 50 people and free e-filing is available. You must bring last year's tax

return, your social security card, a photo ID and any other tax related information with you if you want assistance with your taxes.

## Get Registered for the Free GED Preparation Classes at the Adult Learning Center in the San Marcos Public Library!

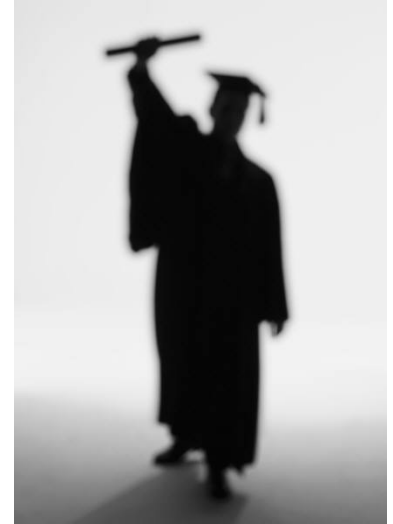
Interested in getting your GED? Then contact the San Marcos Public Library for registration dates and times. Two sessions are required to complete orientation, registration and assessment.

Part One is Tuesday, March 4. You can attend either the 1 p.m.

session or the 6:30 p.m. Session.

Part Two is Thursday, March 6, also at either 1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Volunteer math tutors are available by appointment on some mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The learning center office is open Monday through

Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 512-393-8215 for more information.



## *Under New Management?*

SMHA Resident Services is growing and changing. We have new programs, new staff, and new vehicles. We also have a new (well, almost new) Director. Stewart Dale Spencer, one of our FSS Program Coordinators, was promoted to Resident Services

Director when Gene Martin left to pursue new opportunities. Some of you might remember that Spencer was the Director from 1991—1998. He returned in 2002 to oversee development of the Section 8 FSS Program. Spencer said, “I’m grateful for the

opportunity to serve our residents and I’m excited about our plans for the future. We have great employees and one of the best social services programs in the country, especially for a small housing authority. We’re small but we think big!”

## *What does Texas State and Wii Have in Common?*

Texas State University is conducting an 8-month study at the PODER Learning Center to explore the physical and emotional benefits of participating in an

exercise program using the Wii gaming system. The program is open to all senior adults and persons with disabilities. Exercise classes are twenty minutes sessions

held twice a week. The baseline testing for the study is being conducted at Jower’s Center by the physical therapy department. Call 353-7343 for more info.



Esperanza Garza (left), Texas State volunteer, and Anita Lopez (right)



# SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

## WHO WE ARE

### Board of Commissioners:

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

### 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

*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](http://www.smpaha.org)*

## 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.

## City Appoints New Board Members

The City of San Marcos welcomed dozens of new board and commission members and honored outgoing members at a special reception Thursday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the San Marcos Activity Center. More than 250 new and outgoing board members were appointed by the City Council to serve on 27 boards.

Melissa Godina of Chapultepec Homes is the newly appointed Resident Commissioner for the San Marcos Housing Authority. Mayor Susan Narvaiz and City Council members recognized outgoing board members with the presentation of certificates. Mayor Narvaiz then conducted a swearing-in ceremony for new members.



Mayor Susan Narvaiz, Melissa Godina, and Daniel Guerrero.