



The Oracle

A Brutal Playing Field for Those Without Education!

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So you think education is a joke and you don't need it to succeed in life! Well, perhaps so, but lets look at the facts! What are the odds of you achieving success without an education? What does your competition look like? Lets say you are a recent high school drop out or you never completed high school, you've learned a few skills gaining hands on experience while working odd jobs and now you want to get a

job or advance in today's market. Lets examine the situation!

Many local colleges are breaking records with high enrollments for the years 2007 and 2008. Austin Community College (ACC), the eighth largest community college in the nation, is expecting a continual increase in the student enrollment because of their efforts to close the education gap and build a strong work force for the future.

Texas State University is next door and they're turning out thousands of students with degrees each year. And there you are with no degree or certification, barely able to pay rent and trying to compete against an army of qualified applicants.

So, what do you do? Think about what you want do with your life . . . then enroll in the Resident Self-Sufficiency program and get to work! Call 396-3367.

Emergency Assistance with Gas and Utilities

Community Action Inc. offers the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) that provides energy assistance to low-income households. Priority is

assigned to individuals 60 years and over, persons with a disability, and families with children six years of age and under. If you need help with your utilities and

gas bills contact Community Action at 392-1161 and request an application for assistance.





Vote in the Democratic or Republican Primary Election on Tuesday, March 4. If you are not registered to vote, get a voter registration card at any SMHA Resident Services office so you can vote in the General Election in November!

Farmer Fred's Garden Spring Carnival

City Park, March 20, 6 – 9 PM. Admission is free with carnival games and plenty of prizes and candy! A free Easter egg hunt for children 2 - 5 years old starts at 6:45 PM. The second egg hunt begins at 7:15 PM for children 6 - 8 years of age and at 7:45PM children from 9 - 12

years old get in on the action. It's fun for the whole family! You can have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny for one dollar or purchase a glow necklace and ride the Wiggle Waggle train for two bucks. For more information call (512)-393-8400.

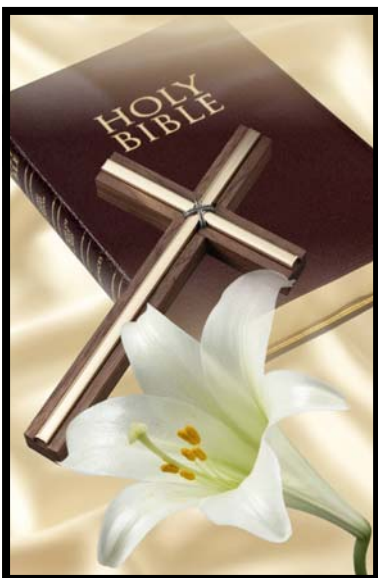


Enroll in the Head Start Program



The local Head Start Program, run by Community Action, has been nationally recognized for excellence! The A. Washington and Henry Bush Child Development Centers will

begin accepting Head Start applications in March for the 2008—2009 school year. You may pick up an application at the Resident Services office at your site.



The Good News Comes to PODER

Every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, Sister Anita Lopez presents a bible study at the PODER Learning Center. Everyone is welcome so bring your bible

and rejoice in the Lord! Come share the gospel. There is plenty of room. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Call 878-0773 and make your gospel connection.



Health Check: Resident Health Screening

Central Texas medical Center presents, **Health Check**, an annual community health screening, on Thursday, April 24 from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM at the Central Medical Center. Pay only \$30.00 for \$350.00 worth of testing! Have your blood pressure tested. Get checked for diabetes. Get your car-

diac risk profile and a complete blood cell count. Also get fitness screening, vision/ glaucoma checks, and pulmonary function testing. Prostate or thyroid testing are \$15 each. For more information call 753-3622. Most fatal diseases can be treated if they are discovered early.!



Like to Get Acquainted With the Computer?

We want to give adults, including older adults, an opportunity to learn something about computers. The Resident Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Herod Ellison, wants to open the PORDER Learning Center for one hour on Saturday. We'd like to

know if you want to learn some basic computer operations. The class will start at 12 Noon if enough adult residents want to participate in our program. These classes are for adults only.

There is no need to be afraid. Just come prepared to get some

hands on experience on the computer. There is no pressure. You work at your own pace. Enroll in the program and get started. Call 396-3367 for more information.



Join Us in Serving the Community



Soon new officers will be elected to the Resident Assemblies. You can have a positive effect on your community! We need your help. Volunteers make our programs successful. Don't just complain about problems! Get

involved! Become a volunteer for your Resident Assembly and help strengthen your community. Leave the gossip behind! Contact the Resident Services Office at your site to get started.



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

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.



Texas State University's "Bobcat Build" is the largest community service project of its kind in the entire nation! On Saturday, April 5 beginning at 9:00 AM, there will be a variety of activities all over San Marcos, including at the C. M. Allen Homes, the Allen Woods Homes, and the Chapultepec Homes. These activities include a College awareness fair at C. M. Allen and at Chapultepec. Allen

Woods activities will include improvements to the new storage building behind the PODER Learning Center. Other activities are in the planning stages. Watch for flyers and posters at your site to see how you can help the wonderful college kids who are giving up a precious Saturday to help make your life a little better!

