



The Remarkable Tubby Reyna

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Much has been written about the secret of success but for Toribia (Tubby) Reyna the secret is simple. To be a success, you simply show up every day and work to reach your goal. In short, you make it happen. This is what Ms. Reyna did to accomplish her goal of getting a drivers license. Now she no longer has to depend on others for transportation.

Ms. Reyna is a remarkable woman and truly an inspiration to others. At age 64 she decided to embark on her journey of liberation. After years of depending on others for

transportation, she decided to get her driver's license. After years of trying to acquire her license on her own, she enrolled in the Resident Self-Sufficiency Program (RSS) after reading about it in this publication. The RSS program provided Ms. Reyna with a tutor who coached her and encouraged her. A year later she passed the written part of her driving exam. She is still working on parallel parking but now that she has her Learner's Permit, she can practice her parking skills. She is getting

her vehicle ready for inspection and will soon enjoy the freedom of the open road. How about you? Are you just going to let life pass you by or are you going to grab the steering wheel of your life and make it go where you want it to go? Enroll in one of our programs today! Call 396-3367. No more excuses!



Taking Control of Your Personal Finances

The San Marcos Public Library, the San Marcos Housing Authority, and the Friends of the Library have teamed up to help you learn how to get control of your money. If you don't do it, someone else will! You will learn basic budgeting skills, "cash flow" budgeting, how to save money (yes, you can!), and how to use a computer to track your money and pay your bills. Participants will receive a free copy of Quicken Starter Edition 2008 for first-time users (one per family). The class is limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be held in the large meeting room of the San Marcos Public Library on Monday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.





Kids making Valentines to decorate the PODER Learning Center.

Enchanted Rock: A Perfect Getaway



If you are a kid in grades 6—12 who is working to get good grades in school and is involved in various youth activities sponsored by SMHA Resident Services, you're going to get the best treat ever! You're going to "Enchanted Rock." You'll climb to the top of a pink granite dome that rises 425 feet above the countryside and walk where the Tonkawa Indians roamed. What better way to top off a Spring Break vacation than at Enchanted Rock. Spring Break activities begin March 16. We have room for a few more kids but you gotta act fast and you have to earn the trip! Call Bonnie at 392-6273 for more info.



Luther Harris (on the right) grew up at C. M. Allen in the KAD Program and now works for the city of San Marcos.

Josh Williams on the right, recording his hours of community service at the PODER Learning Center.



To the Left, Volunteer working with kids at CM Allen.

Tutors Working Hard to Ensure Excellence



If you or your children are attending an educational program and not making the grades you need to have the kind of future you want, there is help for you. The Resident Service Department provides free tutors, Sunday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Family Self-Sufficiency Office, the PODER Learning Center, and the KAD Korner Store. Why are you struggling when there is help available? Get with the program and you will accomplish your goals much faster. Contact the center nearest you for more information.

AVANCE Helps Parents Prepare their Children for Success

Toni Aguirre, Program Coordinator for AVANCE, and her assistants dropped by the PODER Learning Center to speak with Herod Ellison about their program. They seek to strengthen families, children, and the community through education and support programs. Contact Toni at 512-326-9335 for details.



They're Back! Bobcat Build 2009



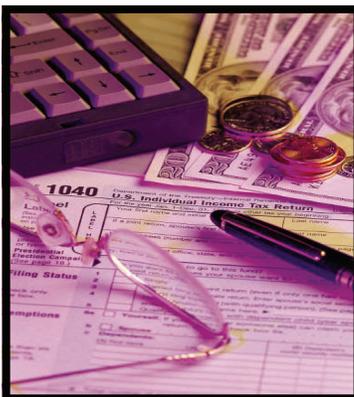
Bobcat Build is returning to the Housing Authority for the next phase of Bobcat Backyard and for several other projects at Allen Woods, Springtown Villa, C. M. Allen, and Chapultepec. We encourage resident participation. You can help with the projects or provide refreshments to these hard working Texas State students. All projects will be on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



St. Patrick Day Bingo is at noon on March 4 in the Allen Woods Dining Room.



Free Help Preparing Your Income Tax Return



DO NOT PAY SOMEONE TO DO YOUR TAX RETURN! "Rapid Refund" is a loan with fees and interest! Volunteers from AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, is offering free income tax assistance at the San Marcos Public Library for handicapped, elderly, and low income families. The service is guaranteed to the first 50 people per day and includes E-filing. If you want help, bring a photo ID, your property tax receipt (for home owners), last years tax return, W-2 forms, 1099 forms, unemployment compensation statements, social security cards for everyone in your household, child care provider information (name, employer ID, social security number), and the amount of last years stimulus rebate. Call 393-8200 for details.

Dine With Your Friends at Meals on Wheels



Why dine alone, when you can eat with your friends at "Meals On Wheels" in the Allen Woods Dining Room. It is the best ticket in town and you can't beat the price. The food is free but donations are welcomed. So, if you are 65 years old or older or have a disability, you qualify. If you have friends or neighbors who need help, call Beatrice Pacheco at 353-5018.



SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:
Gloria Salazar—Chairperson
Earl Moseley—Vice-Chair.
Stacy Green—Resident Rep.
Rose Brooks
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:
Family Self-Sufficiency
353-5062
KAD Korner Store
392-6273
PODER Learning Center
396-3367
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*

In With the New . . . Still Stuck With the Old!



My name is Megan Spiller. I was born and raised in San Marcos. I am a 2003 graduate from San Marcos High School. I briefly attended Texas State University where I studied Social Work. After two years I decided to take a break and moved into the world of finance. I began working for a finance company and eventually moved into the assistant manager's position for another finance company. After six months of hard work I was promoted to manager. After two years, I decided to use what I had learned to help people live a better life. I began my search for new employment knowing that I wanted to work in a positive environment. I enjoy working with people and supporting their efforts to gain success and personal fulfillment. After a long search, I applied for the Assistant Self-Sufficiency Coordinator position at the Chapultepec Homes Office and I began on February 9. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, Anthony, and our two dogs Pickles and "G." Anthony and I will marry in August. In our spare time we watch movies, spend time with family and treat our dogs to outings at the dog park.



Resident Services Director, Stewart Dale Spencer, is also a teacher at the San Marcos Family Learning Center. He was recently awarded the Adult Education Credential by the Texas Education Agency.