



The Oracle



LOOK INSIDE!

STORY & PAGE	
<i>New College Readiness Program</i>	2
<i>Farmer Fred's Fall Harvest Carnival</i>	2
<i>The Oldbam's Little Girl</i>	2
<i>Thanks For the Love</i>	3
<i>Texas Night Out</i>	3
<i>Hands of Hope Classes</i>	3
<i>Public Hearing on Flat Rents</i>	4



It Takes Courage to Face Life's Challenges

Paul Byars is a shining example of what it means to persevere. He has always struggled with reading and writing but he has never let that stop him. He is relentless in his efforts to improve his life. Paul came to San Marcos by way of Beeville, moved into public housing in 2003, and took a job as a stocker at Brookshire Brothers in Wimberley. He wasn't making enough money to meet his expenses and needed a better job. Paul enrolled in the Resident Self-Sufficiency (RSS) Program and began learning how to use a computer. He took classes on handling money and

started to brush-up on his reading and writing skills.

The RSS Coordinator assisted Paul in refining his resume. A neighbor took Paul to Gary Job Corps and introduced him to some of his friends in the human resources department. Paul then applied for a job at Gary and two weeks later he was hired. Paul started working in the maintenance department and was recently promoted to a maintenance supervisor position. He currently supervises two co-workers. During his employment at Gary, Paul has earned three raises and two bo-

nuses. Now, he rents a two-bedroom apartment, pays his bills on time, makes regular payments on a new pickup, and adds to his savings account every month.

Is it time for you to make a change in your life? Are you tired of being left behind? Enroll in the Resident Self-Sufficiency Program today! Call 396-3367 to get started.



Vehicles for Sale

The San Marcos Housing Authority is receiving bids for the sale of the following vehicles:

- 1995 Ford F-150 V8 Long Bed — 157,000 miles (approx.), minimum bid \$3,200
- 1999 Ford V8 Econoline 15-passenger van — 57,000 miles (approx.), minimum bid \$3,200
- 1994 GMC V8 Rally 15-passenger van — 85,000 miles (approx.), minimum bid \$2,400

Vehicles can be viewed at the Allen Woods Homes, 1201 Thorpe Lane. Vehicles are sold without any implied warranty. We will accept sealed bids at the Allen Woods Homes until 3 p.m. on Oct. 10, 2008.



“Freedom From Drugs” is the theme of this years Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week starts Saturday, October 18 through Friday, October 24. The annual event which celebrates a drug free life, brings the San Marcos community together to promote healthy lifestyles. Call 396-7695 for more information.

NEW! Community Action College Readiness Program

Community Action is a partner in our self-sufficiency efforts. The purpose of their *College Readiness Program* is to prepare students who have dropped out of a Texas public school for college. This includes getting your GED, getting a passing score on a college placement test, and successfully completing at least one college course from the college’s core curriculum. To help, Community Action will do the following:

- Provide instruction and tutoring to prepare you for college-level classes in math, reading and writing so you don’t have to waste valuable time and money in remedial courses.
- Counsel you on an individual graduation plan which will include the areas you need to work on most and a timeline for completing certain goals.
- Counsel you on researching and selecting careers and schools so you can pick the program that’s best for you.
- Help you with getting financial aid, including grants, loans, and scholarships.
- Work with you on developing higher-level critical thinking skills needed to succeed in college.
- Work with you on developing success skills, such as time-management, study skills, and the ability to navigate complex college systems.
- Provide you with a student mentor who has been where you are and can help you succeed.
- Provide you with limited assistance for things such as childcare and transportation so you have a better chance for success.
- Provide a combination of on-site and online learning to best fit your schedule and learning style.

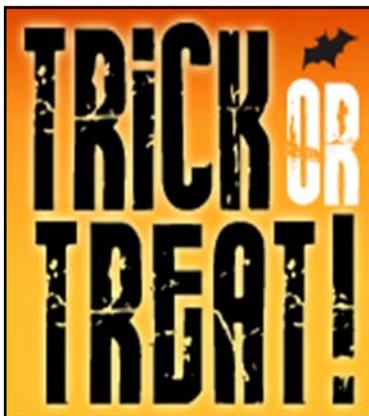
Eligible participants must:

- Be 16-25 years old.
- Have dropped out of a Texas public school.
- Spend at least 6-12 hours per week in class or using the online software.
- Commit to an individualized learner’s contract, and stick with it.
- Be motivated, be prepared to work hard, and be prepared to learn.
- Be committed to completing a two-year college degree program.



October 6 is the last day to register to vote in the November Presidential election.

Farmer Fred’s Harvest Fall Carnival



Its Halloween again and Farmer Fred’s Harvest Fall Carnival is in full swing October 25 from 6—9 p.m. at City Park Recreation Hall. Admission is free. There will be lots of candy and prizes, Nancy Drew on the big screen, and an age group costume contest. The Haunted House is only \$1.00 and Glow necklaces are \$2.00. Registration for the costume contest starts at 6:00 p.m. and continues until 6:45 p.m. Call 393-8400 for details.

The Oldham’s Little Girl

Those of you who have been worried about little Karolynn Oldham, whose uncle and father passed away within weeks of one another, can now rest easy. She is doing just fine. Karolynn is being adopted by Gary and Mack’s older brother Steve Oldham who lives in Arkansas. Karolynn’s uncle Steve is an agriculture teacher in Arkansas and his wife works as an administrator for Wal-Mart. She is in good hands now, thanks to your prayers.



Thanks for the Love You've Shown Over the Years

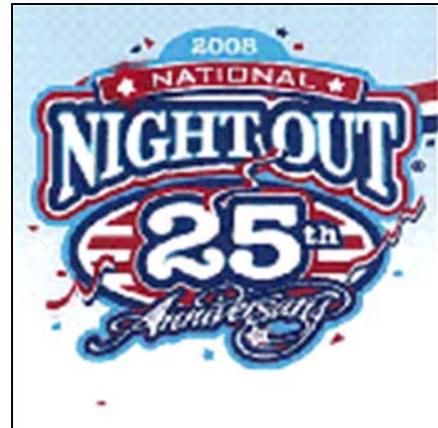


Left to right: Pablo Gomez, Dianna Banks, and Frank Hall. RSS Coordinator Herod Ellison is in the foreground.

Residents of the Allen Woods Homes and employees of the San Marcos Housing Authority gave Dianna Banks, the Resident Services Manager at the P.O.D.E.R. Learning Center, a lovely breakfast, gifts, and a plaque to thank her for 8 years of service to the residents of Allen Woods. Dianna's position was phased out as part of changes to the Youth Services component of our Resident Services Department. We all wish Dianna the best of luck in the future and we are forever grateful for the commitment and dedication she demonstrated over the years.

National Night Out is the Night We Unite in the Fight Against Crime

The San Marcos Public Housing Community will explode with a Huge Block Party at the Allen Woods, C. M. Allen, and Chapultepec Homes during National Night Out on October 7. There will be cook-outs, live music, free food, prizes, and games & contests for the kids. National Night Out is fun for the whole family and we'll have guests! Elected officials, various city employees, police, firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, and 911 operators could drop in to say hello. It's a giant block party and you are all invited. Texas got smart and decided to move National Night Out to October to avoid the August heat. It is the biggest event of the year. See you there!



Hands Of Hope Classes for Women

The women's group "Hands Of Hope" have begun their classes at C. M. Allen and will meet for ten weeks, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Hands Of Hope Bible classes will be conducted every Monday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Activities include English, math, and computer classes. Now is the time to add to the skills you need to get ahead. Join the ladies of "Hands Of Hope" and get started on a new career. Call 392-6273 for details.



Left to right: Edna Gilmore, Cindy Yonkers, Angela Salinas and Christina Garza.



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*

Public Hearing on Flat Rate Rents

HUD regulations require us to set our flat rate rents (ceiling rents) at the market rate for our area. A public hearing will be held to discuss a proposed flat rate rent increase. The hearing will be held on October 10, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at 1201 Thorpe Lane, the Central Office of the San Marcos Housing Authority.

The current and proposed rates are:

<u>Bedroom Size</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
0 (Efficiency)	\$451	\$500
1	\$508	\$575
2	\$542	\$700
3	\$605	\$825
4	\$671	\$1,050
5	\$714	\$1,150



Any questions and concerns should be addressed to Albert Sierra, Executive Director, San Marcos Housing Authority, 1201 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos, Texas, 78666.