



The Oracle

Jerika Abdul-Razik Is Back On Track

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Born in Lake Jackson, Jerika Abdul-Razik, the daughter of Reed Nokes and Pamela Griffin, grew up in Brazoria and Bandera, Texas. When she was 10 years old, she was living with her father. Her parents had divorced and Jerika was having difficulty coping with the changes in her life.

Jerika's father took her to Bandera to live with her mother. Pamela had established another relationship and later married John Griffin, who came from a large family. This new marriage and large family presented a challenge for Jerika since she was used to a family of

three. New surroundings, squabbling siblings, and being homesick for her father led Jerika down the path of teen rebellion. The next step was substance abuse. It could have been a very unhappy ending for Jerika.

However, Jerika beat the odds and conquered her substance problem. She has since married Muhir Abdul-Razik. Muhir is working in Dallas. Jerika is here because of a high-risk pregnancy and wants the support of her mother. Jerika plans to rejoin her husband in Dallas. Meanwhile, she has put her time to good use. She just earned her high school

diploma and she plans to continue her education after the baby arrives. Jerika's story proves that it is never too late (or too early) to turn your life around. Let us help you! Call Herod K. Ellison at 878-0773 for more information on how you can get started. LATE BREAKING NEWS FLASH: Charles Jaden Adbul-Razik was born on Nov 23rd! Mother and child are doing fine. (See picture on page 4.)



Homes for Rent



The San Marcos Housing Authority is receiving applications for the rental of 3BR/1.5 bath homes.

Flat Rate- \$825

Security Deposit- \$825

Eligibility is based on, but not limited to, household size, combined household income, and criminal history. Other restrictions apply. For more information, call 512-353-5058.



Don't miss an incredible Mariachi concert, Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 — 8:30 p.m. at Evans Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$3 for Texas State students and the elderly.

Let's Keep It Beautiful



The San Marcos Housing Authority is continuing its efforts to ensure that our public housing remains safe and attractive. On the left, Wagner's Pressure Washing Company cleans the main office building, sidewalks, and the parking lot at Allen Woods. On the right, contractors are creating new sidewalks for the C.M. Allen Homes.

Home Health Fair at Allen Woods Homes



Anna Maciel from Resource Care Home Health will be visiting the Meals-on-Wheels lunchroom at Allen Woods on Thursday, December 11, from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. She will inform residents of the services her company provides. Their company only accepts Medicaid and Medicare. This is important information that you can use so don't miss it. Tell your friends and neighbors about it. If you need transportation to the event, please call 353-5062 to make arrangements.

The Senior Nutrition Volunteer Recognition Luncheon



Combined Community Action's Meals on Wheels presented a Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Friday, December 7, at the San Marcos Activity Center. The site manager, Beatrice Pacheco, did a wonderful job of organizing the gala affair. Mayor Susan Narvaiz was on hand with a rousing dedication to the volunteers who unselfishly give of themselves to ensure that homebound elderly persons have a hot, nutritious meal to get them through the day. There was roast turkey with all of the trimmings. Eric Gonzales was the DJ for the event.



A Fair to Remember



On the left, Melissa Davis, from SMHA Resident Services, poses with a large, furry creature alongside social work student volunteers Dulcinia Sanchez and Johnny Saiz at the SOAR education fair. Attendees received information about educational grants, and other useful information.

When Mailing Your Christmas Cards This Year, Take One and Send it to This Address.

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20307-5001



Medicare Premium Savings



Juanita Vargas will be speaking to interested residents regarding the Medicare Premium Savings Program on Thursday, December 4th. She will be visiting C.M. Allen at 10:30 a.m. and Springtown Villa at 1:30 p.m. If you live at Allen Woods and need transportation to another site, please call 353-5062.

Congratulations Are In Order

Friday evening, November 14 at 7 p.m., the “Hands of Hope,” formerly Christian Women’s Job Corps, conducted their end-of-the-semester celebration at the First Baptist Church on McCarty Lane . Edna Gilmore, of Allen Woods was one of several recipients of the 2008 Certificate of Training from the Hands of Hope. From left to right, Edna Gilmore is pictured with Cindy Yonkers and Jessie West as they display their awards.





SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:

Earl Moseley—Chairman
Gloria Salazar—Vice-Chair.
Stacy E. 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*



Jerika, Muhir, and baby Charles pose for the camera at Methodist Hospital. Our prayers are with them as they start their journey as a family!

Food Assistance Services are Changing

Increased demand and decreased donations at the Hays County Area Food Bank forced them to reduce their services to Housing Authority residents. As of December, they will no longer be able to provide bags of food every week for the 90 or so residents we served as an agent of the Food Bank. We notified the affected households in mid-November. All residents remain eligible for the Food Bank's public distributions, where they can get food up to two times a week. The schedule is posted at all offices. However, that does not help *homebound* elderly and disabled residents.

Therefore, we have worked out an arrangement with the Capital Area Food Bank to participate in a program they call HOPE (Healthy Options Program for the Elderly). It is a monthly distribution of 25 to 30 pounds of food for elderly and disabled persons. We must restrict this to people who cannot get to the public distributions. We also plan to establish a food pantry at each site to help any resident who has an urgent need. We will get food from various sources, including limited amounts from the Hays County Area Food Bank.

To help our families, we are seeking approval from the Capital Area Food Bank to expand the Kid's Café program to provide hot meals five days a week at Allen Woods, C. M. Allen, and Chapultepec. Currently, this program serves kids after school at the PODER Learning Center and at the KAD Korner Store but only three days a week.