



The Oracle

Success is the Fruit Reserved for Those Who Endure

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Congratulations to LaTasha Phillips, recent graduate of the San Marcos Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. Born and raised in Bryan Texas, Ms. Phillips has two daughters, KaTresha, age 13, and Sheila, age 9.

Ms. Phillips is a sterling example of success. Through our program she repaired her credit rating, enhanced her budgeting skills, and improved her social skills. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administra-

tion from Texas State University in 2006 and is employed at Texas Oncology. She is working on a Master's degree in Human Resource Management. Ms. Phillips said, "The FSS program kept me on track even when I didn't want to be." She said there were times when she was weary and tired of meetings and paperwork but she stayed with it.

Ms. Phillips attributes her greater success to her faith in God. "God gave me the courage and strength to complete my

education. I know that God has a plan for my life and I intend to live it abundantly."

How about you? Are you ready to change your life? All you have to do is make up your mind and then enroll in one of our self-sufficiency programs. Call 396-3367 for more information!



From left to right: Stewart Dale Spencer, Resident Services Director, LaTasha Phillips, & Rebecca Espinoza, FSS Coordinator.

Big Fundraising Event at Springtown Villa



Springtown Villa's Resident Council is having a Rummage Sale on Thursday, June 5, 2008 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Springtown Villa is located at 503 Springtown Way, across the street from Logan's Road House and behind the Rent-a-Center and the Springtown Veterinary Clinic. Anyone going to the rummage sale should park at the Springtown Mall parking lot. *Please do not attempt to park at the Springtown Villa parking lot! There is only enough parking for residents and their guests.*



Get your Voter's Registration Cards at the Housing Authority site offices and at the Resident Services offices such as the PORDER Learning Center at Allen Woods and at the KAD Korner Store at C. M. Allen. You must be registered if you want to vote in the Presidential election in November. Your vote is too precious to waste!

Boys & Girls Club Happenings

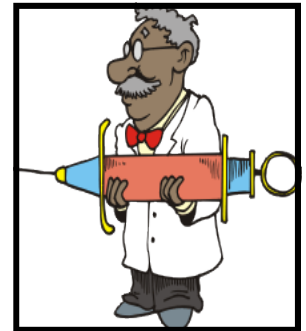
The Hays County Health Department will conduct immunizations for children on June 20 and August 15. This is open to the community and will take place at the Boys and Girls Club of San Marcos, 400 Uhland Road. Be sure to have your child vaccinated and ready to return to school in September.

Also the Boys and Girls Club presents a career launch program to assist

persons who need skills in interviewing for a job, preparing their resume, completing an application, finding job leads, or selecting the proper clothing for the work place. For ages 13 and up, the program will run June 11 through July 18 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am till 11:00 am. The program is free and transportation is provided.

Lastly, the Boys and Girls Club conducts a

Family Plus program to promote family unity. Two classes will be held this summer on Thursday, June 26 and Monday, July 14. For more information contact Brandy Russell at 557-2839 .



Good Food! Good Friends! Good Fun!

Items leftover from the San Marcos Area Food Bank distribution at Springtown Villa are being put to good use. Every week, residents use these

and other items to prepare a simple, nutritious meal. The food is prepared by volunteers and every Springtown Villa resident has an open invitation to lunch in the community room. Food

is also taken to those residents who are homebound. Everyone enjoys the good meal and the good company!



Very Special Guests

Recently, Stewart Dale Spencer, the Resident Services Director, provided tours of Housing Authority facilities and programs to local VIP's. Phyllis Snodgrass, President of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Patty Shafer, the Superintendent of the San Marcos School District, learned about

the innovative programs we operate and the things we do to make a difference in the lives of our residents. In this picture, Spencer describes our youth services to Ms. Snodgrass.



More Family Entertainment

If you are looking for more fun things to do this summer, don't forget the San Marcos Parks & Recreation Department has a lot of activities for the whole family. Beginning in June and continuing through August, you can see *free movies* in the park. And if you love great music, you won't want



to miss the *Summer in the Park* concert series on Thursday evenings. And no summer would be complete without the 4th of July *Summerfest*. Call 393-8400 for more information.

The Dunbar Heritage Association's *Juneteenth Festival* is another great activity to participate in this summer. Contact Harvey Miller for times and dates at 396-4903.

If you're a kid who loves to play, then join the fun at the Boys and Girls Club's "*Lets Just Play*." It's every Friday from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. at 400 Uhland Road. It's free for children ages 3 to 8. Call Brandy Russell for details at 557-2839.



Get College Credit for Life Experience!

Texas State University's Occupational Education Program can help you obtain a Bachelor of Applied Arts & Science degree. On Saturday, June 7 at 11:00 am, learn how you can document your past work experience for college credits. Military training, restaurant management, bookkeeping, human resources work, and training of other employees are examples of work experience that can get you some college credit. Join us for a computer interactive session and get facts. Light refreshments will be available. Call H.K. Ellison at 396-3367 for more information.



Completed in 1903, the red-roofed, castle-like landmark called Old Main, was Texas State's first building. Back then, it was called Southwest Texas State Normal School.

A Celebration of Life

Add this event to your list of things to do this summer. Bring the whole family. You won't be sorry! The Hays County Literacy Action GED Graduation Ceremony will be on Friday, June 13 at 6:30 pm at the new San Marcos High School Auditorium. It's an uplifting and powerful event where everyday people are turning their lives



around and you can be a part of it. Support your neighbors. Join the celebration and this rite of passage to better opportunities. Think a GED doesn't make a difference? *Mayor Susan Narvaiz* says, "I was a 10th grader when I left school to have a baby. Getting my GED was an important step to my future success."



SAN MARCOS HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHO WE ARE

Board of Commissioners:

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

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)
Korner 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 King Ellison; Senior Editor: Stewart Dale Spencer. Please send your inquiries and submissions to SMHA Resident Services, 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.

Energy & Health Tips from the Maintenance Department

In case you haven't noticed, summer is here. But don't sweat it! The Maintenance Department has a few tips to help you keep cool without spending a fortune on electricity:

If you turn off your air conditioner at night, turn it on again *before* the afternoon heat sets in. It takes less electricity to keep your house cool than it does to cool it down *after* the walls and the furniture are warm. Otherwise, leave the system on all the time. Do not block the return air vent. Place fans in

various locations in your home and set the temperature at the highest setting you can tolerate, as much as 78° degrees or higher. This is also healthier. Your body will adjust to the higher temperatures of summer and it will not feel as hot when you go outside. Close blinds and curtains on windows that get direct sunlight. Wear loose-fitting clothes and drink plenty of water.

And please, check on your



elderly neighbors! *Heat stroke* is a true medical emergency that can be fatal without immediate help.

Common signs of heat stroke include:

- *high body temperature*
- *the absence of sweating, with hot red or flushed dry skin*
- *rapid pulse, difficulty breathing*
- *strange behavior*
- *hallucinations*
- *confusion or agitation*
- *disorientation*
- *seizure or coma*