



Happy Cinco de Mayo



Way To Go Wynetta!

LOOK INSIDE!

STORY & PAGE	
<i>Fair Housing Law</i>	2
<i>The Oracle Is #1</i>	2
<i>First-Time Home Buying and More</i>	2
<i>Bobcat Mural</i>	3
<i>Retired Senior Volunteer Program</i>	3
<i>Kids Playing in the Dirt</i>	3
<i>Employee Spotlight</i>	4

As a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) participant, Wynetta Wheeler is required to improve her credit score as one of the program goals. Within the past year, Wynetta has dedicated herself to maintaining a personal budget by purchasing only what she needs. She lives by cash only.— no credit cards! Every month she budgets her finances and does not overspend, or purchase anything she does not need. Wynetta saves money for emergencies and uses her extra cash to

pay towards improving her credit rating. Like everyone in the FSS Program, Wynetta was required to prepare a budget and develop a plan for how she would spend her income tax refund. Instead of spending her refund on needless items, Wynetta paid off old school loans. Others in the program use their money for paying ahead on monthly bills, thus creating more money which they can save throughout the year. With this responsible

spending method, Wynetta is on the road to successfully graduating the FSS program. Be like Wynetta! Learn to create a budget and manage your money by enrolling in one of our self-sufficiency programs. Call Rebecca Espinoza, our Senior Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, at 353-5062 to get started.



Swine Flu Update and Information



It's not your fault, little fella!

Symptoms of Swine Flu are fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, with some diarrhea and vomiting. There is no reason to panic or even become alarmed. Each year, thousands of people die worldwide from complications caused by influenza. It is sad but normal. Your life is in greater danger when you drive on Interstate 35. (Over 41,000 people died on U.S. highways in 2007.) Take reasonable precautions and go about your business as usual. Protect yourself and others from getting sick by observing the following guidelines. Cover your nose or mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough. Throw the tissue in the trash immediately after you use it. Wash your hands often with soap and water. You may also use alcohol-based hand cleaners. Avoid contact with people who are sick. If you are sick with influenza, PLEASE stay home from work or school and limit contact with others. Sharing is nice — except for germs. By the way, you cannot get swine flu from eating pork or pass the bacon! For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm. As of May 3, there have been only 226 confirmed cases in the States. One child with an underlying condition has died.



SMHA offices will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.

**REGISTER TO VOTE!
IT'S IMPORTANT!**

FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW

Mayor Susan Narvaiz proclaims April as "Fair Housing Month" to recognize the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and its goal to achieve equal housing opportunity for all Americans.



Left to right are Pam Couch (Mayor Pro Tem), Susan Narvaiz (Mayor), Fred Terry (Council Member), Janis Hendrix (Community Development Block Grant Coordinator), Kim Porterfield (Deputy Mayor Pro Tem), Albert Sierra (Executive Director of the Housing Authority), and Chris Jones (Council Member).

The "Oracle" Is Voted the Best News Letter In Texas



The Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials held their 33rd Annual Conference and Trade Show in Galveston, Texas on Sunday, April 19, through Wednesday, April 22. The agency presented awards of excellence to housing authorities around the state for their stellar performance in Management and Communication. This publication was voted the best newsletter by a small housing authority. We hope you enjoy it!

For the First-Time Home Buyer and More



Want to learn why this may be the best time to finance a home or car or to open a savings account and learn about which savings accounts earn the most interests? Then, you won't want to miss our presentation on Thursday, May 14 at the PODER Learning Center and Friday, May 15 at the KAD Korner Store. Join our guests Russell and Charlton from Broadway Bank. The presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.



MIGHTY FINE MURAL!



Kids and Texas State volunteers posing in front of the newly painted mural at Allen Woods.



Job Corps is the Answer

Want a career? Gary Job Corps will hold orientation and a guided tour of their facility on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19th and 20th at the PODER Center at 4:30 p.m. Lunch will also be provided. Call 396-3367 for details.

Make a Difference! Join the Retired Senior Volunteers Program!



Are you 55 years or older and looking for something interesting and productive to do? Why not give back to your community by volunteering with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This program connects prospective volunteers with a variety of organizations in the area in need of help. Even if you can only give a few hours of your time each month, each little bit counts. Think of the impact you can have on your community and how rewarding is the feeling of helping others. For more information on RSVP, contact Melissa, our Elderly & Disabled Services Coordinator, at 353-7343.

The Kids In Public Housing are Really Digging This Community Gardening Thing!





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
Accountant/Program Mgr.
Lana Bronikowsky
Maintenance Director
Albert Hernandez
Public Housing Manager
Rose Miranda
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, Youth Services, 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.smpha.org*

Hey Lana! Show Me the Money!



Lana Bronikowsky has been working for the San Marcos Housing Authority for over fifteen years now and is currently the Accountant and Program Manager. She oversees all of the financial transactions for SMPHA and works directly with the Executive Director, Mr. Albert Sierra. Lana has a daughter, loves cooking, and loves all outdoor activities. She enjoys her job and the people she comes in contact with day to day. Lana is about to become a grandmother and is very excited about the prospect. When she retires, she plans to do a lot of traveling.