



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

Area Agency on Aging Joins “Heat The Town” Project

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South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG), Area Agency on Aging (AAA) partnered with the South Plains Chapter of the Air Conditioning of America (ACCA-SP) on the “Heat the Town Project”, Saturday, October 27, 2012, from 8:00 am-12:00 noon. Heating and Air Conditioning contractors and other business donated time, money and materials to make the repairs free.

The first 60 people to call the AAA were placed on a list for a free inspection of their heating units. This helps the elderly residents in Lubbock as they will feel safe and secure that their heaters are in working condition and ready for the winter.

All receiving the inspections of their heating systems are low-income elderly and disabled residents in Lubbock.



Technician checks the smoke detector at senior's home.

ACCA-SP visited 54 homes and checked the heaters to make sure they were winter ready.

According to the project Chairman, Ron Chambless, the project was successful again this year. He recommends people to get their heating units professionally serviced by a licensed contractor annually. Problems with heating units have contributed to a number of

house fires and carbon monoxide poisonings in the Lubbock area in the past.

SPAG, AAA staff members, Francisco Sotelo and Linda Rautis were recognized at the Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, November 14th for their help and support of this project.



Central Heat Unit inspected and cleaned



Ron Chambless, Coordinator of the Heat the Town Project giving final instructions to all the volunteers.





Disaster Relief Awards for Drought Mitigation

Crosby County, Dickens County, Garza County and the City of Crosbyton were all recently notified that they will receive Disaster Relief funding from the Texas Department of Agriculture.

These four entities are all part of the White River Municipal Water District which has reached critically low water levels due to severe drought.

Each entity will receive \$350,000 to rehabilitate existing wells and/or to drill a new well to support the existing water system. The projects were submitted for funding in August and the grants officially began in November.



Aerial view, White River Reservoir

An unexpected addition to these awards was recently announced to include the cities of Ralls and Spur.

These two cities were part of the original disaster relief plan, but funding was not initially guaranteed.

However, the Texas Department of Agriculture's decision to include funding for these projects raises the total project award to \$2.1 million.

The funding cycle for Disaster Relief begins again in February 2013, and SPAG Regional Services is happy to assist any community in applying for these funds or determining eligibility.

In order to qualify, an applicant must be within 180 days of losing their primary water supply among other qualifying factors.

Please contact the Regional Services Department for more information.

Regional Services Grants Team:

- Elena Quintanilla, Director
- Kelly Davila, Criminal Justice, Community Development
- Christian Shotts, Solid Waste, Community Development
- Reilly Webb, Community Development, HOME Program

806-762-8721

1323 58th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412

Criminal Justice Application & Implementation Workshops

SPAG will conduct two training sessions for potential Criminal Justice applicants as well and current Criminal Justice grantees. This training will take place on Thursday, December 13th—with exact meeting times and schedules to be sent out soon.

This training is mandatory for anyone who currently has a grant from the Criminal Justice Division-Office of the Governor or who wants to apply for funding to the Criminal Justice Division—Office of the Governor.

If you think you might be interested in attending this training, please contact Kelly Davila with Regional Services to be added to the contact list.





Ralls & Springlake To Receive CDBG Funding

The City of Ralls and City of Springlake will be awarded 2012 Community Development Block Grant funds to provide infrastructure improvements in both communities.

Each city will receive \$275,000 from the Texas Department of Agriculture to be combined with matching city funds to make improvements. The City of Ralls will make water system improvements and the City of Springlake will make improve-

ments to their sewer system.

Both cities applied for funding in the fall of 2010 and scored competitively enough to be awarded in the second round of funding (2012



awards).

The Texas Department of Agriculture made site visits to each community on October 1st and 2nd to review the award and prepare the cities to begin the projects.

SPAG wrote and will administer both of these awards for Ralls and Springlake. For more information on CDBG applications or funding, please contact the Regional Services Department.

Law Enforcement Academy Accepting Applications

The South Plains Association of Governments Regional Law Enforcement Academy is currently accepting applications for the Basic Peace Officer Academy.

The Basic Peace Officer Academy consists of 643 hours of training. The training will equip the student with the necessary knowledge and skills to work as a peace officer in the state of

Texas. Successful completion of this academy will allow the student to take the state peace officer licensing exam. We will have two academies starting in January, 2013. The 80th Basic Peace Officer Academy



will start on January 14, 2013, and the hours will be 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Monday – Friday. The 81st Basic Peace Officer Academy will start on January 21, 2013, and the hours will be 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Monday – Friday. For more information, contact Julie Ryan at 806-762-8721.





South Plains Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team Training

On October 27, 2012, the South Plains Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team had a full scale search and rescue training. A call went out around 6:00 a.m. stating that the Marvin D. Brewer Fire & Rescue Training Facility had collapsed. Rescue teams were encouraged to respond as if the situation was real, in case they are ever faced with a similar situation in the future.

The purpose of the training was to learn how to safely retrieve and recover victims from collapsed structures utilizing protocols and procedures modeled after the Federal National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Many of the responders brought unique skills that helped contribute to the overall search and rescue effort. Some had knowledge of carpentry while others had knowledge of welding, masonry, and rescue equipment systems. The rescue team was not the only component that was able to practice their skills.



The training included a planning division as well as a logistics team. The purpose of the planning team was to obtain information and disseminate it in the most effective manner. Information from weather, equipment, coordinates, communications, etc. helped contribute to the formation of an Incident Action Plan.

This Plan is the key tool used to keep everyone informed and focused on the objectives. The logistics team practiced obtaining and distributing resources, rehabilitating the search and rescue team, and established points of contact with possible resources outside of the jurisdiction.

The overall exercise has been over six years in the making. Marvin Brewer, along with Bill Durham, David Corder, and Otis Stark, helped initiate this effort over six years ago.

The formation of the South Plains Regional Urban Search and Rescue Team was partially due to the fact that there is no organized search and rescue team on this side of Texas. The only other teams are Texas Task Force 1 out of College Station and Texas Task Force 2 out of Dallas.

Should a natural or man-made disaster occur, it would be several hours before either one of these teams could adequately respond. Incident and emergency responders involved in this effort are hoping that the training equipment available in the South Plains region will be sufficient enough to establish a state-recognized urban search and rescue team. Chuck Jones from Texas Task Force 1 was one of the observers during the exercise. He provided the leadership with tips and advice on how to improve the overall response.





Caprock Holds Annual Membership Meeting

On November 8, 2012, Caprock held their Annual Membership Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect the loan board from the Caprock Membership and to have the loan board elect its officers.

Caprock also recognizes each loan officer that closed at least one loan, and gave special recognition to the loan officer and financial institution with the greatest total 504—



Top Left: Barry Ballinger & Mike Phelps;
Top Right: Barry Ballinger & Tyler Haynes;
Bottom Left: Barry Ballinger & John Richardson

dollar volume closed.

Gary Lawrence, the co-owner of Golden Chick was the guest speaker.

Caprock would like to thank all of those individuals who have helped make the SBA 504 loan program a success in the South Plains & Permian Basin areas.

Nikki Patel—Premier Commercial Bank

John Richardson—Security State Bank

Mike Phelps—Peoples Bank

Tyler Haynes—Plains Capital Bank



Steve Seabourn—Happy State Bank

Tim White—First Bank & Trust

Loan Officer with the Greatest 504—Loan Volume:

Steve Seabourn
Happy State Bank

Financial Institution with the greatest 504—Loan Volume

Happy State Bank

Caprock Business Finance Contact

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Caprock Closes 504 Loan for Sam C. Gregory, PLLC

On September 6, 2012, Caprock closed the SBA 504 loan for Sam and Jana Gregory doing business as Sam C. Gregory, PLLC.

Sam Gregory is the owner of Sam C. Gregory, PLLC and is a board certified consumer bankruptcy law attorney.



The firm offers professional legal services to the general public, with an emphasis on chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases.

Mr. Gregory started his law practice in 1994 and formed the operating company in 2002. His firm is a federally designated Debt Relief Agency that assists people filing bankruptcy under Title 11 of the United States Code.





Caprock Business Finance Loan Closures

On September 12, 2012 SPAG's department of Economic Development closed and funded a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan to Healthsynthesis Enterprises, LP. They have three locations in Lubbock.

Healthsynthesis Enterprises, also known as Physical Therapy Today, offers state of the art outpatient therapy facilities and a variety of treatment options. Aquatic physical therapy, an innovative form of treatment, is offered at all three locations. The Underwater Treadmill Exercise Center is the only complete aquatic physical therapy center in the nation. Physical Therapy Today is owned and operated by Bill Lewis, Rick Stepp, and Marray Maddox.



On September 25, 2012 SPAG's department of Economic Development closed and funded a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan to TNT Grill & Bar, Inc. It is located at 906 50th St. right off of Interstate 27. Thomas Cummings, who owned and operated Barton's Boozery in San Antonio, decided to move to Lubbock and



make TNT Sports Grill & Bar a destination for fun dining and dancing that is both convenient and attractive. TNT offers a full service menu, 40 flat screen TVs, four pool tables, two dart games, a professional sound system, and a 1000 sq. foot dance floor.



On October 31, 2012 SPAG's department of Economic Development closed and funded a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan to Jenkins, Wagnon & Young, PC. The law office began operations in early 2011. Jody Jenkins, Dan Young, and Mark Wagnon bring together a variety of experience including bankruptcy and creditors rights, civil litigation, construction law, consumer collections, copyright and trademark, employment and labor law, energy and natural resources, estate planning, insurance defense, personal injury, and real estate. All together, these gentlemen have over 58 years of law experience.



Caprock Business Finance Corporation

is a private, nonprofit, community-based, development-oriented organization that assists small business access fixed-rate, long-term financing for real estate and equipment expansion projects. Caprock has industry knowledge and experience and is the only CDC in Lubbock and the surrounding area that administers the SBA 504 Loan Program.





Call for Texas Municipal League Host City

Is your city interested in hosting one of the three TML Region 3 Quarterly Meetings to be held in 2013? TML Region 3 Quarterly Meetings are held in March, June and September of each year and a different host city is used for each of those meetings.

March is confirmed to be hosted by the City of Littlefield, but June and September are

still available. The host city is responsible for any entertainment, door prizes or décor but in exchange gets to showcase the city to the rest of the region through a Host City presentation.

For more information, contact Belinda Solis at bsolis@spag.org or 762-8721 as soon as possible to sign up to host in 2013!



Texas Municipal League

Membership in the League is voluntary and is open to any city in Texas. From the original 14 members, TML's membership has grown to 1,121 cities.

Over 16,000 mayors, councilmembers, city managers, city attorneys, and city department heads are member officials of the League by virtue of their cities participation.

Resources for Recycling Electronics

During the holiday season as families receive a flood of new electronics as gifts—you may wonder how you can responsibly dispose or recycle your old electronics.



is an environmentally smart choice for Texas.

TCEQ encourages Texans to support the state's economy and environment by repairing, reselling, donating or recycling used electronics. Choosing to recycle electronics instead of landfill disposal



Texas law now requires television and computer –equipment manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities to consumers for these electronics. The following resources may be very helpful during this holiday season:

www.texasrecyclescomputers.org

www.texasrecyclesTVs.org

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/nav/elec_recy_waste.html



South Plains Association of Governments



Quarterly Calendar

What	December	Where
Criminal Justice Grant Application & Implementation Workshop	Dec/ 12th, @ 9:00 a.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Community Team Meeting	Dec. 13th, @ 1:30 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
SPAG Offices Closed	Dec. 24-Dec 25th	
January		
Resources United	Jan 10th, 3:00-5:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Advisory Council on Aging	Jan 15th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
Directors & Bookkeepers Meeting	Jan. 17th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.	SPAG Boardroom
February		
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SPAG is a voluntary association created by the local governments within State Planning Region 2. It is an independent political subdivision of the state and is one of 24 such organizations in Texas. All local governments in the region are eligible and invited to become a member. Regional Forum is published quarterly by SPAG and is available without cost. Please direct any correspondence or inquiries to SPAG, P.O. Box 3730 Freedom Station, Lubbock, Texas 79452, (806) 762-8721 or toll free 1-800-858-1809 or fax (806) 765-9544 or visit our website at www.spag.org.



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