



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

2-1-1 Texas South Plains Across the Region

Inside this issue:

2-1-1 Health Fairs	1
A Matter of Balance	2
Randy Neugebauer Visits SPAG	2
Agriculture Safety	3
SPAG Solid Waste Grants Scoring	4
Downtown Revitalization	4
Renewable Energy	5
Economic Census	5
Texas Connector	6
MPA Open House	6
TML Quarterly Meeting	7
Medicare Open Enrollment	7
Texas Water Smart	8
New Employees @ SPAG	8
SPAG Quarterly Calendar	9

Its health fair season time again. 2-1-1 Texas South Plains participates in a variety of health fairs in the spring and summer season. Many agencies and volunteer groups host events that provide many benefits to the Lubbock and rural communities.

Benefits can range from individual program awareness to health and safety and emergency preparedness. Many of those agencies are listed in the 2-1-1 Texas South Plains database. It has over 1,200 local programs and services for referral to the public.

2-1-1 Texas South Plains also distributes a monthly calendar with information to anyone who is interested in learning about local events. If anyone



would like to receive the monthly events calendar or publicize a local event, please send an email to southplains211@yahoo.com

2-1-1 on the Radio

2-1-1 Texas South Plains can now be heard on the radio! Recently, 2-1-1 Texas South Plains conducted a radio interview for K-LOVE/Air 1 radio.

The radio spot can be heard on 90.9 FM and 91.9 FM at 7:30pm and 8:30pm, respectively, on Sundays. The radio spot provides information about 2-1-1 such as what resources are available locally and as a network. Since 2-1-1 is a statewide network, it can provide disaster referrals, seasonal referrals such as summer food sites, back to school supply sites, as well as Thanksgiving/Christmas food referrals from one statewide database. 2-1-1 Texas South Plains is a program of South

Plains Association of Governments and operates locally from 8a-5pm Monday through Friday, except nights, weekends, and holidays. For information online, please visit www.211txsouthplains.org for regional resources, or www.211texas.org for statewide resources.



Felipe Aguilar with K-LOVE/Air 1 radio conducting recorded interview with Aida Martinez, 2-1-1 Texas South Plains Director, in SPAG Board room.





June 2012

AAA Holds Falls Prevention Class for Older Adults

Matter of Balance (MOB)- Falls Prevention Class Hosted by AAA

A "Falls Prevention Class" was held from 4/3/12 to 4/27/12 at Raider Ranch Assisted Living in Lubbock, Texas. The class started with 12 Participants and 10 graduated. The Graduation was held on Friday, April 27th at Raider Ranch at 2:00 pm. Kathy Payne, with Calvert Home Health and Master Trainer for the Matter of Balance Program served as the Coach teaching the classes.

A Matter of Balance is designed to reduce fear of falling and increase the activity level of older adults. Many older adults experi-

ence fear of falling and thus restrict their activities.

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls emphasizes practical strategies to reduce this fear and increase activity levels. Participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable; set realistic goals to increase activity; change their environment to reduce fall risk factors; and exercise to increase strength and balance.

A Matter of Balance includes eight two-hour sessions for a small group

of 10-12 participants led by a trained facilitator. This program was developed at the Roybal Center at Boston University, and has been nationally recognized. The SPAG AAA is partnering with Calvert Home Health and Humana to have these Matter of Balance Classes for seniors in the South Plains.

For more details, contact Master Trainers, Kathy Payne at (806)712-1110 or Francisco Sotelo at 806-687-0940.



A Matter of Balance Graduating Class Celebration

Falls prevention course help participants learn to:

- View falls as controllable
- Set goals for increasing activity
- Make changes to reduce fall risk at home
- Exercise to increase strength and balance



House Representative Visits SPAG

Congressman Randy Neugebauer attended the monthly SPAG Board Meeting on April 10, 2012. According to Executive Director, Tim Pierce, this was the first time a member from Congress has ever been to a Board Meeting.

Many SPAG employees and community members were in the audience to hear the Congressman give an update



Left to Right: Randy Neugebauer, U.S. House Representative; Judge James St. Clair, SPAG President; Tim Pierce, SPAG Executive Director

of news and events in Washington DC. Main topics for discussion were the federal debt and job creation.

Mr. Neugebauer also presented some of his views and plans for his 2012 campaign. For more information on the details of his speech, please give us a call at 806-762-8721.





June 2012

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day



The 14th annual SAFETY DAY in Hockley County was held on May 11, 2012 at the Whitharral School.

The event was coordinated by Lynette Spencer Payne and Amber Parkinson of NRCS Levelland.

Grades K – 6 learned about 4-wheeler safety from Agriculture Agent Robert Scott; Sun Safety from Texas AgriLife Extension FCS agent Marsha Blair; Seat Belt Safety from Brandon Henry of TXDOT; Fire Safety from Bobby Bell of Levelland Fire Dept; Chemical Safety

from Nathan Shrode of NRCS; and Electrical Safety from Xcel Energy linemen.

Health Safety was taught by Deborah and Kimberly Albus, who are students at Whitharral and local 4-H members. Instruction included how and when to call 9-1-1 from Elsa Cavazos of Hockley County Law Enforcement Center and Gail Crittenden of SPAG Regional 9-1-1.

With the help of Sheriff

Paul Scarborough and the Hockley County Sheriff's Office the High School and Junior High students attended a session on Distracted Driving.

Thank you to all of these and the numerous other volunteers, teachers and students who made this event possible.



Retiring from 9-1-1 in the SPAG Region.

- **Cathy Sanchez**, Dispatch, Hale County Sheriff's Office
- **Cisco Sissions**, Dispatch, Dickens County
- **Beth Long**, Dispatch, Dickens County

SPAG 9-1-1 thanks you all for your years of hard work in developing our region's 9-1-1 system!





Solid Waste Management Grants Program to Award Funds

SPAG's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) will meet on June 8th, 2012 to score project applications for the Regional Solid Waste Management Grants Program. Funds for this program originate from landfill tipping fees, and are passed-through from the Texas



Commission on Environmental Quality to each of the 24 Councils of Governments in the State of Texas.

After the opening of the application cycle on April 1st, SPAG hosted a mandatory training workshop for potential applicants on April 26th to receive guidance on grant application requirements. In order to continue to provide significant grant service in light of recent state budget cuts to the program, FY 2012 & 2013 funds were combined into one

grant cycle, resulting in a total of \$120,000 available funding.

Applicants for solid waste grants will make brief project presentations at the SWAC scoring meeting on June 8th. Proposals will then be ranked based on their merit, and funding will be awarded in-order until it is exhausted.



Regional Services Contacts:

- Elena Quintanilla, Director
 - Kelly Davila, Criminal Justice, Community Development
 - Christian Shotts, Solid Waste, Community Development
 - Cristina Ash, Census, Community Development
- 806-762-8721
1323 58th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412

Downtown Revitalization Grant Opportunities

Is your city interested in the revitalization of your downtown area? TDA offers Downtown Revitalization Project (DRP) grants in the amount of \$150,000. This includes construction as well as grant administration. The City is required to pay for engineering out of matching funds.

Eligible projects include sidewalk improvements, ADA ramps, some parking, lighting and curb and gutter.

DRP grants are a statewide competition, but



SPAG has successfully written and secured more DRP grants for this region than any area of the State.

Applications will be due in July so time is ticking away for those interested in the program.

If you are interested in this program, please contact the Regional Services Department.





Renewable Energy Program Accepting Applications

The Office of Rural Affairs with the Texas Department of Agriculture has opened solicitations for 2012 Renewable Energy Demonstration Pilot Program (REDPP) grant applications. Priority for awarding grants shall be given to projects that incorporate



renewable energy technologies into water and waste water infrastructure to help rural communities reduce energy costs.

Eligibility for funding is open to non-entitlement, incorporated cities and counties under the federal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Similar to other CDBG programs, applicants must demonstrate a 51% threshold of low-to-moderate income among residents within the proposed area of benefit. A total of \$500,000 is available through the REDPP

for fiscal year 2012, and will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications must be submitted by July 13, 2012, and award announcements will be made by August 15, 2012. Approved projects will have a start date of August 31, 2012 and must be completed by August 31, 2014.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Christian Shotts or Kelly Davila in the Regional Services Department at 806-762-8721.

Renewable Energy on the South Plains

The Panhandle contains the state's greatest expanse with high quality winds. Well-exposed locations atop the caprock and hilltops experience particularly attractive wind speeds.

-infinitepower.org



Watch for Your Economic Census Form

Businesses throughout the SPAG region will receive 2012 Economic Census forms from the U.S. Census Bureau in December. Forms go to all but the very smallest businesses in this tally done once every five years.

The forms ask for basic information like location, employment, payroll, and

sales by type of product or service. Businesses that receive a form are required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code) to respond.

Businesses, communities, and governments use Economic Census data for planning and market development. Statistics are published for more than a thousand industries as well as for states, counties, cities and

metropolitan areas at business.census.gov.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke has called this census "indispensable to understanding America's economy."

2012 Economic Census
YOUR RESPONSE
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE





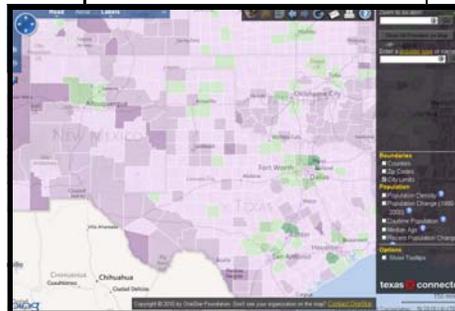
June 2012

Texas Connector: Linking Community Needs and Nonprofit Solutions

Texas Connector is a statewide, online, interactive geo-mapping tool that overlays needs and nonprofits to strengthen Texas communities.

The Texas Connector will help local government leaders identify the areas of greatest need so they can more effectively allocate resources and better serve constitu-

ents. For example, locally elected officials could use Texas Connector to identify local/regional organizations and relay that information to citizens in their community.



Texas Connector will display nonprofit information pulled from the Texas 2-1-1 database and GuideStar, USA's Texas dataset (and a variety of other state and national databases to come) and overlay this information with requested demographics and socioeconomic data derived from a variety of governmental and other resources.

TTU Master of Public Administration Open House



The Texas Tech University Master of Public Administration (MPA) program

will be holding an open house on June 12th, 2012 to provide information for individuals seeking to begin or advance their career in public administration.

The program is suited for both students and working professionals, and can be attended part or full time. Classes will take place once a week in the evening to ensure that the program is manageable within a nor-

mal working schedule. Applicants to the program can gain acceptance through administrative work experience in lieu of traditional standardized tests.

Program areas include health administration, government management, nonprofit management, fiscal administration, and policy analysis.



Driving Directions:

1. Enter TTU Campus from intersection of Broadway and University.
2. Take the 1st right on Akron Ave
3. Holden Hall is on the left
4. Take the 1st left into Holden Hall Parking Lot

Please direct any questions to Era Ibarra at 806.742.3125 or era.ibarra@ttu.edu



DATE:

JUNE 12, 2012

TIME:

5:30 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Location:

Holden Hall, Room 107

Plenty of free parking

Refreshments will be served





June 2012

TML Quarterly Meeting

Texas Municipal League Region 3 Quarterly Meeting

The City of Olton, along with Mayor Mark McFadden will proudly host the TML Region 3 Quarterly Meeting on June 28, 2012.

In response to the increasingly limited water supplies and drought in Texas, a workshop entitled "Water Ballet" will be held to address the issue from the local government perspective. As a leader in water conservation, preservation, protection, and recharging the High Plains Underground Water District will provide guidance and insight into the issue. Jim Conwright, Gen-



eral Manager of the District, will engage the audience in a presentation on the methods of preventing waste of the groundwater stored in the Ogallala Aquifer within the district's boundaries.

We are privileged to have Tony Privett, a Lubbock-



based lobbyist, present our "motivational" keynote lecture entitled "Wine, Water, & Wall Street". This presentation will explore the thoughts of a former city employee as he reflects on the impact of national politics on cities in West Texas.

This inspirational piece of entertainment promises to be both informational and thought provoking, as we see our local connection with the nation as a whole.

~Special thanks to the law office of Shotts, Trevino, & Guevara for sponsoring our social hour~

When: Thursday, June 28, 2012

Location: The Legacy Event Center, 1500 14th Street, Lubbock, TX

Agenda

4:30pm – Workshop: "Water Ballet"

5:30pm – Social Hour

6:30pm – Business Meeting/Dinner

Cost: \$30.00 (Register by June 22, 2012) \$35.00 (After June 22, 2012)

Menu: 12 oz. Ribeye Steak, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Dessert, Rolls and Drink catered by Tanya Noack

Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment is just around the corner and the South Plains Area Agency on Aging will be scheduling Open Enrollment Events throughout the 15 county region to help Medicare beneficiaries compare and/or elect new Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans.

Your health needs change from year to year, and your health plan may change the benefits and cost each year too. That's why it's important to evaluate your Medicare choices each year. Open Enrollment is the one time of year when ALL people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their

coverage. There's never been a better time to check out Medicare coverage. There are new benefits available for all people with Medicare - whether you choose Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan - including lower prescription costs, wellness visits, and preventive care.

Take advantage of Open Enrollment and you may be able to save money, get better coverage, or both. Open Enrollment starts October 15th and lasts through December 7th; which ensures Medicare enough time to process your choice, so your coverage can begin without interruption on January 1st.





June 2012

Texas Water Smart Coalition Launches Campaign

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples urges all county judges, mayors and local business representatives to join him and many others as a partner in an important initiative on water conservation. It is called Texas Water Smart and it is a statewide education campaign for Texans that want to maintain their yards while being water smart.

The sole purpose of this campaign is to educate the public through TV and radio spots and printed material on basic outdoor water conservation (it will not weigh-in

on specific local or state issues).

The Water Smart Coalition launched the campaign last month in the Dallas area. The next stop is the Texas Panhandle! We are planning two press conferences on June 6 to promote the messages. The first is



in Lubbock at 10:30 am and the second is in Amarillo at 2:00 pm (locations TBD)

Investment in the Lubbock and Amarillo media markets will follow the launch. Please join Commissioner Staples, Senator Duncan and Senator Seliger as a member of the coalition and attend the press conference. Joining the coalition will provide your organization with access to the creative materials to use in communications with the residents it serves.

For more information, please visit www.TexasWaterSmart.com or call the Regional Services Department at (806) 762-8721.

New Employees @ SPAG

Brent Chapman recently joined the SPAG 911 team in April as the 911 Program Assistant. Brent will be working closely with vendors, PSAP's, committee members, and 911 mapping. He was born in Muleshoe, Texas and has lived in Lubbock for the past 7yrs. He enjoys playing trumpet in the Southcrest Baptist Church orchestra, and serves on the planning committee for its singles group. He is divorced and

has a son, Colby 17yr old who lives in CA. In his spare time, he enjoys Texas Tech sports, softball, baseball, golf, fishing, and volleyball. He feels truly lucky to be here at SPAG and is looking forward to what the future holds.



Cristina Ash joined the Regional Services Department in March. Cristina is from the rural community of Big Lake, Texas but came to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech University. After receiving her Bachelor's in multidisciplinary science and Master's in Forensic Science, Cristina joined SPAG. In her free time, Cristina enjoys travelling, learning new things and spending time with her husband and two dogs. Cristina will be coordinating all Census activities for the SPAG region as well as working on the grants team in Community Development Block Grants, Downtown Revitalization Project grants and other grant projects as they arise.



South Plains Association of Governments



Quarterly Calendar

Save the Date!

SPAG Annual Meeting

September 12th @
Cagles Steakhouse

What	June	Where
Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting	June 8th, 10 AM	SPAG Boardroom
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	June 19th, 10 AM	SPAG Boardroom
Texas Municipal League Quarterly Meeting	June 28th	The Legacy Event Center (1500 14 th Street, Lubbock, Texas)

	July	
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	July 10th, 10 AM	SPAG Boardroom
Resources United Meeting	July 12 , 3:00 PM	SPAG Boardroom
Advisory Council on Aging Meeting	July 17 , 2:00 PM	SPAG Boardroom
Directors and Bookkeepers	July 19th, 2:00 PM	SPAG Boardroom

	August	
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	August 14th, 10 AM	SPAG Boardroom

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.



Christian Shotts, Editor

Tim Pierce, Executive Director

James St Clair, President