



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

South Plains Communities Apply for Disaster Relief Funds

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Confronted by extreme statewide drought and reduced fresh water resources, the State of Texas recently implemented a Disaster Relief Grant Program through the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).



Normally reserved for restoring infrastructure damaged by natural disasters such as tornadoes or hurricanes, eligibility for these Disaster Relief Funds were expanded to include drought disasters that have been declared by Governor Rick Perry. Originating from Community Development Block Grant funds, assistance is made available to rural communities throughout the state that show severe depletion of public water sources.

Working in concert with the SPAG Regional Services Department, seven communities joined together to collectively address the problem. Crosby County, Dickens County, Garza County, City of Crosbyton, City of Dickens, City of Ralls, and City of Spur jointly submitted a multi-jurisdiction application to TDA that is currently under review.

With the drought affecting multiple areas, the seven entities decided that a cooperative effort would not only create a more comprehensive solution, but also increase project funding. As each entity applied for the maximum funding of \$350,000, the combined ef-



Arial view, White River Reservoir

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WATER  
**CONSERVE IT**

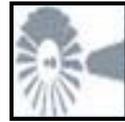
fort seeks to maximize financial support for the project as a whole.

With no source of local match required, the six communities will have over \$2 million to combat dwindling water supplies in the region if fully awarded.

The City of Dickens has been the first of the seven applicants to receive funding. The funding will be used to construct a water storage tank for the city, as well as a direct pipeline to the White River Reservoir where much of the region's water comes from.

*Continued on pg. 2*





With the awarded funds, officials remain positive that the money is a step in the right direction. "With the assistance provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the City of Dickens will be able to make improvements

to the water infrastructure that will provide a reliable supply for current and future generations," said Dickens Mayor pro tem Wayne Goodwin. "Dickens extends its sincerest gratitude to the TDA, as this

project will maintain the future vitality of its community," he added.

For more information on this project, please contact the Regional Services Grants Team.

Following a disaster declaration, The TDA **Disaster Relief Fund** is available by competitive application to non-entitlement cities and counties for qualifying urgent water and sewer needs

### 78th SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy Graduation

On August 13, 2013, the South Plains Association of Governments 78th Basic Peace Officer Academy conducted a graduation ceremony for 16 police cadets at the Koko Palace. The police cadets completed 618 hours of basic police training that included practical training, penal code, code of criminal procedures, transportation code and other academic topics. Practical training included firearms instruction, police driving, defensive tactics and active shooter scenarios. The Master of Ceremonies for the graduation was Lt. Trevor Barnes with the Slaton Police Department followed by guest speaker, Floyd Price who is a City Council member with the City of Lub-

bock. After Mr. Price talked about the hazards of police work, awards and diplomas were issued.

Valedictorian for the 78th Basic Peace Officer Academy was awarded to police cadet Tommie Wilson who was sponsored by the Muleshoe Police Department. The Salutatorian award was presented to police cadet Roy Handlin

II who was sponsored by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office. The South Plains Association of Governments would like to congratulate the 78th Basic Peace Officer Academy Cadets upon the occasion of their graduation.



*SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy 78th graduating class*





## 79th SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy Graduation

On August 16, 2012 the South Plains Association of Governments 79<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy conducted a graduation ceremony for 13 police cadets at the Koko Palace.

The police cadets completed 618 hours of basic police training that included practical training, penal code, code of criminal procedures, and various academic studies. Practical training included firearms instruction, police driving, defensive tactics, and active shooter scenarios.

The Master of Ceremonies for graduation was Lieutenant Trevor Barnes of the Slaton Police Department followed by guest speaker Tony Ser-

bantez who is the Chief of Police for Brownfield, Texas. Chief Serbantez gave a short speech encouraging the cadets to continue to learn and grow as his or her career develops. Directly after Chief Serbantez's speech awards and diplomas were issued.

Valedictorian for the 79<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy was awarded to police Cadet Brandon Coulter sponsored

by the Lubbock County Sheriff Department. The Salutatorian award was presented to Kris Quintana sponsored by the New Deal Police Department. The South Plains Association of Governments would like to congratulate the 79<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy Cadets upon the occasion of their graduation.

Held at the SPAG Law Enforcement Academy, the Basic Peace Officer Course consists of a minimum of **618 classroom hours**.

Visit [www.spag.org/Law-Enforcement.html](http://www.spag.org/Law-Enforcement.html) for more information



*SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy  
79th graduating class*





Hog Out County Grants Program

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is seeking participation in the Hog Out County Grants Program. The Program is designed to encourage counties across the State of Texas to make a concentrated and coordinated effort to reduce the feral hog population and damage caused by these animals during the three-month period starting October 1, 2012.

In order to participate, the county must complete the Notice of Intent to Participate and submit it to TDA by **September 28, 2012**. Any county that submits their Notice of Intent after the deadline will not be eligible for grant funds. Notices may be submitted via mail, fax or email to one of the addresses above. Filing a Notice of Intent to Participate does not legally bind the county to participate in the Program.

In order to be eligible for a grant, Texas counties will be required to submit a completed Grant Application by January 18, 2013. Counties that received, or are currently receiving grant funds from TDA's previous 2012 Hog Out County Grants are eligible



TODD STAPLES, COMMISSIONER

to receive another award in 2013; however, performance submitted toward the current year program competition cannot be funded by TDA grant funds from the previous Hog Out County Grant award. Participating counties will be required to document the following results for the period of October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012:

- Number of feral hogs taken in the county, as certified by the county.
- Number of participants at a county-approved education program about feral hog abatement technologies.

Based on the criteria above and historical participation, awards will be made in the form of a grant that the county will be able to

use on feral hog abatement related expenditures during the 2013 calendar year. Awards will be made as follows: The three highest scoring counties will be awarded grants, ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Additional awards may be made to other counties that demonstrate feral hog abatement. Award amounts will vary depending on total program feral hog abatement and available funds.

For more information contact:

Address: P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711

Physical Address: 1700 N. Congress Avenue, 11th Floor Austin, Texas 78701

Voice (800) 835-5832 or (512) 463-4075

Fax (888) 509-1159

[www.TexasAgriculture.gov](http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov)  
E-mail  
[Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov](mailto:Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov)

**The Texas Department of Agriculture**

is a diversified state agency that provides value-added services through our regulatory and marketing and initiatives. TDA is headquartered in Austin and has five regional service offices, six satellite offices, six laboratories and six livestock export facilities





## September 2012

### Regional 9-1-1 holds TTY Class for Dispatchers

On Friday, August 31, 2012 Regional 9-1-1 hosted the TTY class for 9-1-1 dispatchers. Gail Crittenden facilitated the event.

Dispatchers from Lamb, Crosby, and Dickens County Sheriff's offices were in attendance. Also, Dispatchers from Levelland, Muleshoe, and Brownfield Police Departments and Lubbock Fire Department were present.

Guest speaker, Mary Dickson, a Deafness Resource Specialist with CSD, Com-



munication Service for the Deaf Inc.; spoke about the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and explained the difference.

After lunch, Edith Tillery with CSD spoke about Deaf and Hard of Hearing from the emergency perspective.

Aaron Alanis from the SPAG 211 Department came in to inform the group about 211 and the services they provide for deaf and hard of hearing population. SPAG Regional 9-1-1 would like to say "Thank You" to all guest speakers and to all attendees.



### Regional Solid Waste Management Grant Awards

SPAG's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met 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 hearing brief presentations on each of the seven applications for solid waste management funding, the SWAC members scored each project according to its perceived merit.

Because funding for the program has been cut by approximately 50%, only three of the seven applicants were able to

be fully funded. These include the cities of Levelland, Lubbock and Olton— all of which will be using grant funds to enhance their current recycling capability.

A partial award was given to Lamb County to provide assistance for

an ongoing used tire collection project.





**Medicare Part D Open Enrollment**

The **Area Agency on Aging** will be hosting 17 Enrollment Event's for the rural counties throughout the South Plains from October 15<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Enrollment Event dates are:



The Area Agency on Aging provides an inclusive and coordinated variety of services and opportunities so that seniors can lead dignified, independent, and productive lives. These services are for those living in the South Plains region.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Hale Center Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-3:00</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Senior Citizens of South Dickens</b>	<b>8:00-3:00</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Hockley County Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-4:30</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Slaton Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-4:00</b>
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Floydada Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-2:00</b>
<b>October 23</b>	<b>Lorenzo Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-3:00</b>
<b>October 24</b>	<b>Anton Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-2:00</b>
<b>October 25</b>	<b>Crosby County Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-4:00</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Motley County Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-3:00</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Motley County Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-3:00</b>
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Garza County Trailblazers</b>	<b>8:00-2:00</b>
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Bailey County Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-4:00</b>
<b>November 1</b>	<b>Cochran County Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-4:00</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>Lynn County Pioneers</b>	<b>9:00-3:00</b>
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Abernathy Senior Citizens</b>	<b>8:00-4:00</b>





## September 2012

### Economic Development Revolving Loan Closes

On August 14, 2012, SPAG's department of Economic Development closed and funded a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loan to Ortega Bath Environments, Inc. These RLF loans are somewhat similar in structure to the US Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program.

However, the RLF funds are provided through a different federal agency called the Economic Development Ad-

ministration (EDA). The RLF program limits SPAG's maximum participation in the overall financing needs to one-third (1/3) of the project cost. The approximate other two-thirds (2/3) are provided by the borrower's equity injection and/or a conventional bank loan. The program also limits the maximum loan amount from SPAG to \$250,000 and must create or save one job for every \$10,000 borrowed.

Funds can be borrowed for the use of commercial real estate, equipment, furniture and fixtures, and limited working

capital. RLF loans are only available to small businesses in the SPAG region.

Ortega Bath Environments, Inc. also known as Ortega Kitchen and Bath is located on 2834 Clovis Highway. They are a wholesale manufacturing company specializing in the following kitchen and bath products: marble, natural stone, quartz materials, and other engineered composite materials. Not only do they sell their products to residential and commercial customers, they also install them. Owners Thomas Lowrie, Linda Brown, and Royce Newsom have over 40 years of combined experience in the manufactured stone industry.



Using the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 Program, **Caprock Business Finance Corporation** provides financing to small businesses in the South Plains and Permian Basin areas who wish to acquire or construct their own building

### Caprock Closes Two 504 Loans

On April 6, 2012, Caprock closed the SBA 504 loan for Batteries Etc. Inc. doing business as Battery Joe.

Battery Joe is a retail battery operation that stocks batteries for everything ranging from electronics to lawn equipment. They offer a convenient online ordering system as well as free battery disposal. The business is family owned and operated by Daniel and Grant Gafford. The father and son duo have over 30 years of combined experience in the battery industry and have locations in Amarillo and Lubbock. The Gafford's used the SBA program to purchase land and construct a larger building on 82nd & Milwaukee.



On May 7, 2012, Caprock closed an SBA 504 Loan for Gold Properties, LLC doing business as Golden Chick.

The Golden Chick franchise has been around since 1967 and finally opened their first Lubbock location in late 2011. Their secret marinating method and batter mix have created the 'Original Golden Tender' which continues to draw in customers and franchisees alike. The business is owned and operated by Gary Lawrence and Bobby Stinson. Mr. Stinson has owned and operated a Golden Chick restaurant in Olney, Texas since 2007. Mr. Lawrence has over forty years of commercial banking experience serving as the past President for both the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance and Wells Fargo Bank.





September 2012

### Texas Municipal League Region 3 Quarterly Meeting

The **City of Plainview** along with Mayor Wendall Dunlap is proud to host the September 2012 TML Region 3 Quarterly Meeting. Make plans to join us as we learn more about our host city, the City of Plainview.

Come early for the workshop at 4:30 PM. The workshop will be presented by TML Legal Counsel, Bill Longley. The keynote presentation on current legislative updates will be presented by Shanna Igo, TML Deputy Executive Director.



Don't miss the "social hour" proudly sponsored by the law office of Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott at 5:30 PM- it's a great time to network with counterparts across our region!

For more information or to request a registration form please contact:

*Belinda Solis @ 806-762-8721 or via e-mail at bsolis@spag.org*

We look forward to seeing you on September 27<sup>th</sup>!

## New Employees @ SPAG

**Cristina Ash** is the new Program Assistant in the Economic Development Department. Cristina is originally 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 from Texas Tech, Cristina joined SPAG. Outside of SPAG,



Cristina enjoys traveling, learning new things and spending time with her husband and two dogs.



**Reilly Webb** joined SPAG's Regional Services team in June. Reilly is originally from Toronto, Ontario and comes to Lubbock after living throughout the United States and Canada as well as overseas. He graduated from Texas State University in 2011 with a degree in Criminal Justice. After relocating to Tallahassee, FL last year in order to begin his MPA degree at Florida State University, Reilly is excited to be back in Texas, a place he now calls home. He looks forward to using his education and experience to serve the SPAG region and is eager to become involved in the area. As a former certified personal trainer, Reilly still enjoys working out in his free time and is an avid hockey fan.

**Leah Smith** was born and raised in Lubbock, but left shortly after high school to live in New York and Europe. After testing her wings, she returned back to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech University. She received dual bachelor degrees in Public Relations and Political Science. She is currently in the MPA program at TTU, with a focus in Public Policy. She plans to graduate with her Masters in December. Leah was very excited to join SPAG in May as a REGIONAL intern.



# South Plains Association of Governments



## Quarterly Calendar

### Save the Date!

#### **SPAG Annual Meeting**

September 12th @  
Cagles Steakhouse

What	September	Where
General Assembly Meeting	September 12th, 7 PM	<b>Cagle Steaks and BBQ</b>
Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting	September 21st, 10 AM	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Texas Municipal League Quarterly Meeting	September 27th, 6:30 PM	<b>Cagle Steaks and BBQ</b>

	October	
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	October 9th, 10 AM	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Resources United Meeting	October 11th, 3 PM	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Advisory Council on Aging Meeting	October 16th, 2 PM	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>
Directors & Bookkeepers Meeting	October 18th, 2 PM	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>

	November	
SPAG Board of Directors Meeting	November 13th, 10 AM	<b>SPAG Boardroom</b>

*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](http://www.spag.org).*



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**Tim Pierce**, Executive Director

**James St Clair**, President