



Newsletter of the South Plains Association of Governments

2-1-1 Helps Provide School Supplies for Returning Students

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Every August, various organizations become part of a Back to School “caravan” for the first three weeks of the month. Hundreds of families attend back to school fairs that are held annually to assist them with school supply expenses.

Supplies include back packs, pencils, pens, spirals, etc. Agencies that participate include 2-1-1 Texas South Plains, Molina HealthCare, Community Health Center of Lubbock, and Texas Tech University among others.

2-1-1 Texas also participates in South Plains Community



Action’s back to school fairs hosted in each of its counties. Each satellite office is required to submit applicant information in order to receive grade-related supplies. Participating agencies can also provide promotional items for distribution.



Other Back to School fairs held in Lubbock are hosted by Texas Tech University, the Dream Center, Familia Dental, and VOICES/ Managed Care. The South Plains Food Bank also begins its Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive in mid-August.

Callers can contact the



school their child is enrolled in and receive a school supply voucher from participating schools in Lubbock and redeem them at the South Plains Food Bank.

For anyone interested in participating in next year’s events, please contact 2-1-1 or any of the agencies listed above.





September 2011

Building Freedom for the Homebound

One of the most fundamental necessities for all active people in the SPAG region is the ability to enter and exit one's own house. However, many people find themselves unable to easily move to and from their homes due to age and disability.

In an effort to combat these dismal conditions, SPAG's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has been in partnership with the Texas Ramp Project (TRP) for the past three years. The non-profit Texas Ramp Project is exactly that: a project to build ramps for citizens who



rely on wheel chairs for transportation. This organization has been instrumental in providing assistance to seniors and low income clients through the coordination of ramp construction. Agencies such as SPAG's Area Agency



on Aging provide much needed funding to the non-profit organization, which then works to coordinate and provide volunteers for the necessary labor.

The program works on a referral basis, where social service agencies locate and refer possible clients through the Texas Ramp Project Web Site.

At present, the AAA has assisted in the construction of approximately 30 ramps in the South Plains Region, and will continue to be an active participant.

For more information, please contact the Area Agency on Aging at (806) 762-8721.

Total length of ramps built by TRP volunteers throughout Texas as of June 2011: exactly 42,240 feet, or 8 miles.

TDRA to Announce 2011/2012 CDBG Awards

Preliminary combined Regional Review Committee (RRC) and Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) scoring criteria has been calculated and released by TDRA for the 2011-2012 Community Development Block Grant cycle (scores are subject to change). There were 25 applications submitted in the SPAG region and based on



TDRA's predicted allocation for the 2 year period, approximately 10-11 awards will be made. Official funding recommendations should be made in the coming weeks, followed by contracts from TDRA to the grantees in late August. A complete list of the applicant scores can be found at www.tdra.state.tx.us or contact the Regional Services Department for more information at 806.762.8721.





SPAG Graduates 76th Basic Peace Officer Academy

The SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy graduated 23 students in the 76th Basic Peace Officer Academy program on August 2, 2011. The Graduation banquet was held at The KoKo Palace.

Master of Ceremonies was Kevin Ryan with the Lubbock County Sheriff's Dept. and the guest speaker was Shawn Lawler with the U.S. Marshalls office.

Representatives from State Wide agencies attended to show support for cadets as well as family and friends.

SPAG Executive Director Tim Pierce opened the evening with a wel-

come to all attendees and words of encouragement to graduates.

SPAG would like to thank all sponsoring agencies for their assistance and support of the Academy cadets and the Law Enforcement Program.

Congratulations to all of the Academy students for an excellent job!



SPAG Regional Law Enforcement Academy is currently accepting applications for the 2012 Night Basic Police Officer Academy. This academy will run Monday – Friday 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Julie Ryan at (806) 762-8721.



9-1-1 Specialist Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

Jim Kringle of SPAG Regional 9-1-1 was recognized twice at the TX NENA (National Emergency Number Association) Conference August 21-24, 2011.

During the opening ceremony the Membership Committee recognized Jim for coming up with the 2011 TX NENA membership drive slogan. During the Awards Brunch he was recognized as the TX NENA



Jim Kringle accepts award for TX NENA GIS Professional of the Year

GIS Professional of the year, nominated by his department, but chosen by his peers in the 9-1-1 field.

Jim is appreciated at SPAG for the roll he is playing in the advancements of this region's 9-1-1 services. He is well know and now recognized by the 9-1-1 agencies throughout the State of Texas for his abilities and his passion for 9-1-1.





Caprock Completes Largest 504 Loan in Program History

One of the first of its kind in Lubbock, TX, Crown Point Health Suites is a skilled nursing facility located at 6640 Iola Avenue, between Milwaukee and Frankford, south of Spur 327. The facility boasts three main housing areas to accommodate both short-term rehabilitation and long-term residency.

Care includes nursing, dietary, house-keeping, and other support as needed to help residents. Guests enjoy room service, a salon, laundry service, and a wide range of activities. All three houses converge in the main dining area, therapy room, and community center. Crown Point Health Suites also has

beautifully landscaped outdoor areas for guests to enjoy.

Financing for Crown Point Health Suites was made possible by using the 504 loan program through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Jon Stephens with SouthWest Bank in Lubbock,



TX, presented the loan application to Caprock Business Finance Corporation, a department of South Plains Association of Governments, in August 2010.

Crown Point celebrated its ribbon cutting and grand opening in March 2011. The multi-million dollar project



included funding provided by SouthWest Bank, an SBA 504 debenture, and private equity from the owner. To date, Crown Point Health Suites is the largest 504 project facilitated by Caprock Business Finance Corporation and The South Plains Association of Governments.

To find out more information regarding small business financing through SBA, please contact Lance Bowman, Director of Economic Development at SPAG at 806-762-8721 or lbowman@spag.org. For more information about Crown Point Health Suites, please visit their website at www.crownpointhealth.com.

“Financing for Crown Point Health Suites was made possible by using the 504 loan program through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).”





iPad Fundraiser to Aid in Firefighter Support

In times of economic distress, disasters such as the recent Texas wildfires create a major challenge for fire departments and other first responders.

Working with the Lubbock Area Foundation, the South Plains Association of Governments invented a fundraiser that caught the attention of many people in the region: a drawing for a brand new iPad 2.

The idea took flight as SPAG sold tickets for \$10 a piece to be entered into a drawing for the iPad 2. The news of the drawing spread through email and word of mouth, and the 100 tickets that SPAG created for



SPAG Executive Director Tim Pierce (right) presents iPad 2 to Jeremy Morrison (left)

the drawing were quickly sold. In this first drawing, the winning ticket belonged to Jeremy Morrison, a student in the SPAG Law Enforcement Academy.



From left to right: Tim Pierce, SPAG Executive Director; Bob Simpson, Mayor of the City of Brownfield; Clinton Sawyer, SPAG Board Director

This fundraiser was so successful that SPAG Executive Director Tim Pierce moved to repeat the process to raise additional funds and give contributors another shot at winning.

As the second batch of iPad tickets became available, the SPAG region once again responded with enthusiastic support for the cause. Another 100 tickets were sold and this time it was Mayor Bob Simpson of Brownfield who held the winning ticket.

The prize was presented to the Mayor at the SPAG Board of Directors Meeting on August 9th, 2011.

As a result of the 2 drawings, SPAG will be donating \$1500 to the Lubbock Area Foundation's Rural Volunteer Fire Department Fund. The money that was contributed to this fund will be used to help replace equipment and keep our volunteer firefighters prepared for future emergencies.

ABOUT THE LUBBOCK AREA FOUNDATION

The Lubbock Area Foundation exists to help people who care about the Lubbock and the South Plains area to invest - at any level - in its future. As the community foundation for the South Plains, it provides a vehicle for individuals, families, businesses and organizations to establish permanent charitable endowments.

"Since fire season started on Nov. 15, 2010, Texas Forest Service and area fire departments have responded to 20,155 fires that have burned 3,529,261 acres"

-Texas Forest Service





Renewable Energy Project Approved For Additional Funding

In February 2011, the City of Slaton was awarded a contract for a renewable energy project at its waste water treatment facilities. This contract provided for the city to install a 50Kw wind turbine at the facility that will offset, if not completely cover electrical costs.

Drawn from the original projected program budget, the grant amount was set at \$294,500, but as the project progressed, it became clear that the present cost of constructing a wind turbine to meet the project requirements would exceed the allocated budget.

In response, the city took a proactive approach and constructed a revised budget that incorporates a more realistic perspective on funding necessary for project success.

This, coupled with an explanatory letter from the City Mayor, was sent to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA) to re-



Future Project Site, City of Slaton

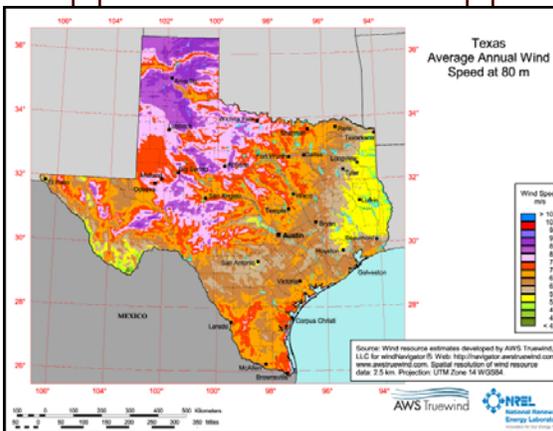
quest additional funding. As of September 1st, 2011, this request has found approval in the TDRA, and the city is in line to receive an additional \$165,500 to ensure successful comple-

About Texas Wind Energy:

According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), the State of Texas is home to more wind resource that any other state in the union.

According to a resource assessment from the National Renewable Energy Lab, Texas' wind resource could provide 19 times the state's current electricity needs

“As of September 1st, 2011, this request has found approval in the TDRA, and the city is in line to receive an additional \$165,500 to ensure successful completion of this renewable energy initiative.”



The state also has a target of reaching 10,000 MW of renewable capacity by 2025, a target that the industry will meet in the coming years.

tion of this renewable energy initiative.

With this addition, the city hopes that the project can now move forward without the budget constraints that threatened to stop it prematurely.





September 2011

Regional Services to Host Grant Administration Workshop

The Regional Services Grants Team will host a Grant Administration Workshop on Tuesday, September 13 from 2-3:30 pm in the SPAG Boardroom.

This training is for grantees who currently have or have been recently awarded

a Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP) Grant. You will receive a postcard reminder and follow up phone call if you fall into this category. During this training we will cover the various phases of

your grant, how SPAG, as your administrator, will help you with grant paperwork and what you can expect from a CDBG or DRP grant.

Attendance is critical as there are several updates to the CDBG/DRP program guidance so please RSVP to Kelly Davila no later than Friday, September 9th.

2011 Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Event

The 2011 Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Event

will begin a month earlier this year. This year's Open Enrollment will be from October 15th – December 7th.

The Area Agency on Aging has scheduled Open Enrollment Event's for the rural counties throughout the South Plains. Please contact the Director at the nearest Senior Center for an appointment. The Enrollment Event dates are:

Anton Senior Center (201 Main Street, Anton TX) – October 26th 9:00-2:00pm
Director – Carol Rendon Phone Number - (806) 997-2781

Lynn County Senior Center (1600 S. 3rd, Tahoka TX) – November 8th 9:00-3:00pm
Director – Bianca Baker Phone Number - (806) 561-5264

Hale Center Senior Center (416 West 2nd St, Hale Center TX) – November 17th 9:00-3:00pm
Director – Vickie Rosales Phone Number - (806) 839-2428

Hockley County Senior Center (1202 Houston, Levelland TX) – November 22nd 9:00-4:00pm
Contact Person – Olga Gonzales Phone Number - (806) 894-2228

Brownfield Senior Center (500 W. Bridges, Brownfield TX) – October 18th 9:00-2:00pm
Director – Betty Charlebois Phone Number - (806) 637-6933

Slaton Senior Center (230 W. Lynn, Slaton TX) – November 30th 9:00-4:00pm
Director – Charlotte O'Connell Phone Number - (806) 828-3784

Garza County Senior Center (205 E. 10th, Post TX) – November 14th 9:00-2:00pm
Director – Doyle Wilborn Phone Number - (806) 495-2998

“The Area Agency on Aging has scheduled Open Enrollment Event's for the rural counties throughout the South Plains.”





New Employees @ SPAG

Isabel Dzamko was hired in June as 2-1-1's new Outreach Specialist. Isabel's previous position at Kaplan College included being a Computer and Medical Office Instructor for adult students. She continues to teach in the evenings at American Commercial College. She also received a Bachelor's degree from Lubbock Christian University in Organizational Management in December 2003. Isabel's position responsibilities include: conducting program presentations, publicizing the program throughout the 15 county region; passing required Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) certification exams; compiling and maintaining monthly community events calendar; maintaining www.211txsouthplains.org website; and compile and maintain quarterly 2-1-1 newsletter. Isabel also takes care of her 4 year old grand-son who recently began his first day of Kindergarten. She also likes to read in her free time.

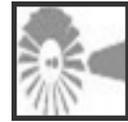


We are excited to welcome Rick and Isabel to the South Plains Association of Governments family!

Rick McDowell began his career in Childress, Texas and has been involved in the law enforcement field for over 23 years. He comes to SPAG from the Slaton Police Department where he was the Sergeant/Detective. Currently, Rick is the Law Enforcement Training Specialist with the SPAG Law Enforcement Academy. As part of his duties at SPAG, he will be training new police cadets and providing continuing educational services to local law enforcement entities. Rick is married to Corina McDowell who works for the Department of Aging and Disabilities. Together they have three children Michelle Shelly, J.C. Casarez, and Jessica McDowell and three grandchildren, Madison Brown who is four years old, Jadev Casarez who is two years old, and Jaden McDowell who is almost one year old.



South Plains Association of Governments



Quarterly Calendar

| What | September | Where |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Texas Municipal League Region 3 Quarterly Meeting | 9/22/11 | Ransom Canyon Lake House |
| | October | |
| Advisory Council on Aging | 10/18/11 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. | SPAG Boardroom |
| Directors & Bookkeepers Meeting | 10/19/11 2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. | SPAG Boardroom |
| Caregiver Conference | 10/20/11 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. | SPAG Boardroom |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Brownfield Senior Citizens | 10/18/11 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. | Citizens 500 W. Bridges, Brownfield, TX |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Anton Senior Citizens | 10/26/11 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. | 201 Main Street, Anton, TX |
| | November | |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Lynn County Pioneers | 11/08/11 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. | 1600 S. 3 rd St. Tahoka, TX |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Garza County Trailblazers | 11/14/11 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. | 205 E. 10 th Post, TX |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Hale Center Senior Citizens | 11/17/11 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | 416 West 2 nd Hale Center, TX |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Hockley County Senior Citizens | 11/22/11 9:00a.m.— 4:00 p.m. | 1202 Houston, Leveland, TX |
| Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Slaton Senior Citizens | 11/30/11 9:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. | 230 West Lynn Slaton, TX |

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.

