

Conservation Committee. Because of the flooding that occurred in 1991, many local farmers are eligible for the program.

WARFIELD CONCERT

Philander Smith Collegiate Choir under the direction of Stephen L. Hayes will be the next Warfield Concert at 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 9 at the Lily Peter Auditorium. Free tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce

LIONS MEETING

The Helena Lions Club will hold their meeting at 1 p.m. February 11 at the Holiday Inn. Guest speakers will be Adrian and Barbara Duncan of Little Rock. He is with the Lion's World Services for the Blind and she works for the Arkansas State Government.

DAR LUNCHEON

The James Bate Chapter DAR annual National Defense luncheon will be Saturday, February 15, at the Helena Country Club, 11:30. L'Anguille Chapter will be guest. LTC John Sullivan will be the speaker. Make reservation by Tuesday, February 11, with Patsy Penney, 338-9070.

CHARITY BALL

Make reservations now for the Junior Auxiliary's annual Charity Ball to be held February 15 in the Fine Arts Center at Phillips College. For reservations call Alisa Parker at 572-1503.

BASS CLUB

The West Helena-Helena Bass Club will hold its first meeting at Tony's Barbeque February 20 at 7 a.m. All members are urged to attend. For more information

"Search for Shelter"

Helena and West Helena are the focus of a proposed affordable housing plan by the Washington, D.C.-based American Institute of Architect's "Search for Shelter" program.

The towns were brought to AIA's attention by the Delta Center Foundation, a non-profit group aiding community renewal efforts in the Helena-West Helena area. Through researching ways to address housing needs for the area, the Foundation came in contact with AIA, Ken Hubbell, director of the Delta Center Foundation, said.

"One of our primary missions is to bring people together to find new solutions to nagging problems," said Hubbell. "Our preliminary assessments led us to national groups, such as the AIA, who had a

great capacity to affect some positive change."

Charles Buki, director of "Search for Shelter," and a team of regional architects arrived in the Twin Cities Friday to begin planning comprehensive housing goals for the area. The group, which will be in Helena through today (Saturday), has toured local neighborhoods and is discussing possible strategies in a series of meetings with local and elected public officials today. Strategies used in the Twin Cities may serve as a model for other small communities in the Delta.

Architects involved in the project are Samuel Mockbee and Colman Coker of Canton, Mississippi, Billy Wenzel of Tunica, and Fay Jones of Fayetteville.

Residents eligible for FmHA housing loans

By AUDREY FRASURE
Special Writer

The Farmers Home Administration has determined that the cities of Helena and West Helena are now eligible for financial assistance under the gaency's Guaranteed, Single Family, and Multi-Family Housing programs.

The 1990 U.S. Census computed the combined population of the two cities at less than 20,000, which qualified the region as a rural area under FmHA regulations. Prior to this determination, persons seeking agency assistance were confined to construction sites outside established city limits.

"The opening of this area will enable FmHA to take a more active role in community development by utilizing Single Family Housing programs and community programs in conjunction with local government," said Lena Milton, Phillips County FmHA supervisor.

The basic objective of the three programs is to assist eligible applicants obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing.

a conventional basis due to risk factors. The Single Family Housing program allots funding for the purchase and/or repair of existing dwellings and new construction at affordable interest rates.

The Multi-family housing program affords potential borrowers economically-designed rental complexes, elderly housing, cooperative housing and related facilities in areas where there has been an identified shortage.

"To be eligible for these programs," Ms. Milton said, "applicants must have a stable and dependable income, good credit history, and show repayment ability for assistance requested." She added that the homes could be financed for periods from 33 to 38 years.

The programs are administered by the FmHA office located in room 235 of the Federal Building. Interested persons may contact Ms. Milton.

Questions regarding the multi-family housing programs may also be directed to the area District