



Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez Precinct One Journal



Jun 15, 2010 Volume II, Issue 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 2010**
- 17: 5:30pm**
James Avery
Grand Opening
@ City Base
Landing
 - 19: 9:00am**
VIA Smartway SA
Community
Workshop
@ Sam Houston HS
Cafeteria
 - 21: 10:00am**
SA Redistricting
public hearing
@ UTSA downtown
campus, Buena
Vista Theater
 - 22: 11:30am**
State of the
County Address
@ AT&T Center
 - 23: 6:00pm**
VIA SmartWay SA
Public mtg
@ Harlandale Civic
Center
115 W Southcross
 - 24: 6:30pm**
Mission Reach
Concessions
Public Workshop
SARA boardroom
100 Guenther
 - 26: 10:00am**
Applewhite
neighborhood
cleanup
@ Applewhite
neighborhood
 - 10:30am**
Bexar County
Flood Control Mtg
Somerset Multi-
Purpose Center
19375 "K" Street
 - 28: 1:30pm**
MPO
@ VIA
 - 30: 6:30pm**
Bexar County
Flood Control Mtg
Harlandale Civic
Ctr
115 W Southcross

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as County Commissioner for Precinct 1. It is truly an honor to serve the fastest growing and largest Precinct in the County. I strive to maintain the promise of accessibility by holding frequent town hall meetings, organizing constituent meetings through neighborhood visits, and by being actively visible in the community. Please provide any feedback and comments that will allow me to better serve you.

Sincerely,

Weekly Commissioners Court Roundup: How I worked to better serve you as Commissioner:

Community Improvements: Every year in January, Bexar County hosts its public meetings regarding Community Development Block Grants. CDBG funds are received by the County every year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide the County a way to improve our community by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities for persons of low and moderate income. Each Commissioner schedules public meetings to allow members and organizations in their community the opportunity to learn about the CDBG federal funds the County receives and how the application process works for those who wish to be considered for funding. This past January, 2010, I had the privilege to host four meetings throughout Precinct 1. Meetings were held in Somerset, Von Ormy, MacDona, and Southside High School. Aurora Sanchez, Executive Director of Community Resources and her CDBG staff met with my constituents and organizations. They were extremely instrumental in identifying projects of need. Now that the submittal deadline passed, the County began its next step in the selection process this past Court meeting. Sanchez and staff summarized the preliminary selection of Projects proposed to be funded with the Program Year 2010 CDBG funds and HOME Program funds. Community Resources proposes 43 CDBG projects to be considered and 10 HOME applications to move forward for processing. Following this past Court meeting, a public notice was set to be published in the San Antonio Express News and La Prensa to initiate the required thirty day comment period prior to making the final selection of projects. Final project selection is scheduled to occur on July 13, 2010 after which the One Year Action Plan describing use of the funds for the selected projects will be submitted to HUD on August 15, 2010. For details regarding CDBG funds, please contact our CDBG office at (210) 335-6648.



Helpful Numbers

Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez
(210) 335-2611
chico@bexar.org

Public Works

Cagnon Service Center
(210) 465-4528
Southton Service Center
(210) 465-9004

Community Resources

(210) 335-3666
Utility Assistance
(210) 335-6770
Housing & Development
(210) 335-6538
Mental Health Advocacy
(210) 335-6638
Veteran's Services
(210) 335-6737
Community Programs
(210) 335-6598
CDBG Grant Funds
(210) 335-6648
Community Health
(210) 335-3581

Fire Marshal

(210) 335-0300

Dispute Resolution Center

(210) 335-2128

Parks & Facilities

Reservations
(210) 207-PARK
Security
(210) 335-4950

JP Precinct 1, PI 1

(210) 335-2803

JP Precinct 1, PI 3

(210) 335-4500

Sheriff's Office

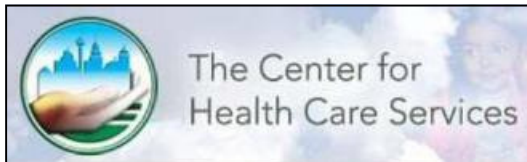
(210) 335-6010

Constable Precinct 4

(210) 335-4950

Bexar County Elections

(210) 335-8683

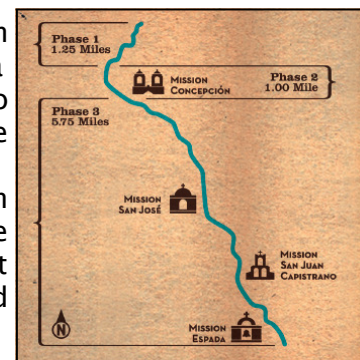


The Center for Health Care Services

Second Chance and Re-entry: Bexar County is a large, urban jurisdiction with an estimated 1.7 million residents. The County shares struggles with the jail population that is currently exploding with 81% repeat offender occupancy. The Bexar County Adult Drug Court was created in 2004 as the County's efforts to respond to the jail population increase and elevation in drug related offenses. The Bexar County Drug Court offers a state of the art Program that others' strive to mirror. Aurora Sanchez and her Grant staff have diligently strategized for ways to find funds necessary for capacity and expansion. Staff has identified a Competitive Grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance that will allow for the creation of a special track for 80 offenders per year that will focus on the Adult Probation's population, the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, and the Mentally Impaired Offenders Facility. The \$709,164 grant will allow for the development of specialized probation to provide officers the ability to conduct intense community supervision and also allow for the evidence based treatment for the drug offenders. The County's authority on mental health and substance abuse issues, the Center for Health Care Services, has proudly offered to become the primary service provider for the offenders. I was proud to support these efforts and will continue to push staff to collaborate with more local partners and think outside of the box and reduce recidivism and increase re-entry success.



Reaching Beyond the Missions: The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project is a transformation of an eight mile stretch of the San Antonio River into a quality riparian woodland ecosystem. The Mission Reach project is funded by Bexar County in



collaboration with the City of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the San Antonio River Foundation. The San Antonio River Authority has local oversight of the project, operations, maintenance, and concessions, when the project is complete. What concessions would you like to see on the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River? Would you like to see bike rentals? Segway rentals? Food and beverages? Please join me, Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 6:30pm and Suzanne Scott and the San Antonio River Authority in their boardroom in a public meeting to discuss the Mission Reach concessions. For more information, please contact my office at (210) 335-2611 or visit www.sanantonioriver.org

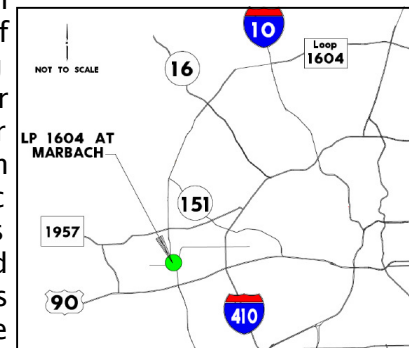
Move Over Traffic: The Northwestern portion of my Precinct continuously changes daily with new residential growth and economic development. A common complaint my office



Texas Department of Transportation

Providing safe, effective, and efficient movement of people and goods.

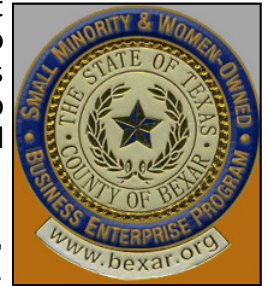
receives is from the Big Country area. My fellow Court Members have been responsive to my complaints and needs as they are shared with other local leaders like Texas Senator Leticia Van de Putte. Recently, the Texas Department of Transportation took our concerns to the Texas Transportation Commission to ask for traffic relief and safety enhancements. The Commission heard the call and approved a \$19 million dollar project to construct a grade separation at Loop 1604 and Marbach Road. This project will improve safety and operations at the intersection and includes the construction of one lane in each direction on Loop 1604 that will overpass Marbach Road. This lane will diverge from the existing lanes, overpass Marbach Road, and merge with existing lanes once the driver has reached a distance beyond the Marbach Road intersection. Traffic barriers and necessary shoulders will be constructed to provide a safe barrier and facility for the two directions of traffic on the overpass. A grade separation will be constructed between the existing lanes of traffic which will leave the existing intersection in place to serve the turning movements. According to Senator Van de Putte, "the highway improvements for Loop 1604 and Marbach Road approved by TxDOT will enhance safety in our growing neighborhoods." Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff stated "Population growth in this region of Bexar County has resulted in an increase in traffic congestion and decline for roadway safety. I sympathize with our community's frustration from daily travel time and have always had confidence that TxDOT would listen to us local leaders and implement transportation improvements to areas of need like the Loop 1604 and Marbach Road sector. This project will provide safety to the traveling public which has always been a number one concern for this community." I am extremely grateful to TxDOT for hearing my concern for safety in my community. The action to fund these road and safety improvements is a clear indication that they have listened to our concerns and understand the importance of improving road conditions for our community." For information on other transportation projects in Bexar County or Precinct 1, please contact the local TxDOT office at (210) 615-1110.





Investing In Ourselves: In 2001, Bexar County Commissioners Court approved an administrative policy that established the County's Small Minority Women Business Owners Program. An extremely significant component of the policy is to maximize local area resources without duplicating services. Not until 2006 was the Veteran business owners' component added to this Program. I was proud to receive news from Rene Watson, the Program Director for

the SMWVBE program that Bexar County and Commissioners Court were recognized for its high level business outreach Program. The recently published Texas Disparity Study 2009 compiled a benchmarking and best practices chapter and illustrated Bexar County among those taking the lead on a national level in its efforts toward business outreach. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts retained MGT of America in 2008 to perform an independent study to determine if there is still a need for Texas programs tailored to provide assistance for Historically Underutilized Businesses as set forth by the 1989 United States Supreme Court case *Richmond v. Croson*, 488 U.S. 469. During the study, a comprehensive review of how Texas utilizes HUB programs was evaluated in an effort to determine any program development options. MGT benchmarked the best practices for race and gender neutral prime contract programs into 5 different categories: small business enterprise bid preferences; HUB zones; DBE programs; bidder rotation; and outreach. Bexar County ranked as the best in outreach in comparison to other stated, cities, and counties on a national level. Our most proud form of outreach comes with our annual SMWBVE Conference. We are in our tenth year to host the conference which takes place in December and participation has grown tremendously. December was the selected month for the conference because it is a great time for planning work flow and need for contracts the following year. It is also the year end for most corporations that have developed their budgets for the upcoming year and they are usually ready to start the business process. It is also the first quarter for public entities that have budgets and are spending their dollars. I have worked diligently with Renee Watson, to ensure we continue to reaffirm our commitment to connect these specific business owners who are ready and able to fulfill procurement and business needs. It is so crucial to develop relationships, acquire knowledge, and access opportunities that exist within the public and private sector. The 2009 Disparity Study assessed the affects of race and gender based initiatives in Texas to redress the ongoing influences of past discrimination in the marketplace. All state agencies were included in the Study. For results of the Study, visit the Texas Comptrollers website at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog>. For information on the Conference, please contact Rene Watson at (210) 335-2478.



5 Water Sheds, 1 County-Bexar County: Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, along with the rest of Commissioners Court, were devastated by the floods of 1998 and then again in 2002. The entire County was affected by the floods in our region. This tragedy inspired a collaborative effort with local partners to develop a comprehensive and regional approach. Bexar County has invested \$500 million in the Bexar Regional Watershed Management Program to address the serious flooding issues in our entire region, both in and outside the city limits. Flood Control Program Manager, Art Villarreal has done an excellent job of illustrating the County's goals to incorporate regional development of long time solutions and benefits to Bexar County,

successful completion of flood control projects, management of funding allocations that occur at the local, state, and federal levels. Our goal is also to conduct on-going outreach with open lines of communication with the community throughout Bexar County. The watershed coverage area for Bexar County encompasses Cibolo Creek, Leon Creek, Salado Creek, Median River, and the San Antonio River. Bexar County is approaching its annual summer public hearing workshops to go out to the community and seek public input as we move along with project development and to inform the public of the service and work Bexar County is working to provide. Some projects in Precinct 1 include Live Oak Slough and Shepherd Road. At Live Oak Slough our County engineers' plan is to reduce the flooding along Trawalter Lane and Quintana Road. Shepherd Road will actually receive low water crossings at Elm Creek and Black Hill Branch. These two projects will ensure safety to our Precinct 1 neighborhoods. Thanks to the support of my fellow Court members, Bexar County Commissioners Court, took a proactive lead and adopted the largest capital improvements plan in the history of Bexar County. What this means for us is we were able to reinvest into our community through improving the value of our neighborhoods and increasing the useful life of our roads and drainage structures. With the support of my fellow Commissioners, Bexar County has re-invested more than \$5.6 million dollars into preserving Precinct 1! The Precinct 1 public meetings will occur on June 26th at 10:30am at the Somerset multipurpose center and again on June 30th at 6:30pm at the Harlandale Civic Center. For information on additional public meetings or for more information, please contact our Flood Control Program office at (210) 296-2124 or visit www.bexarfloodcontrol.org.

