



Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez Precinct One Journal

Jun 7, 2010 Volume II, Issue 5



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2010

- 8: 11:00am**
Commissioner's Court
- 1:30pm**
AACCOG Board Mtg
@ AACCOG Board Room
- 9: 1:00pm**
TCEQ Public Mtg
@ 14250 Judson Rd
- 10: 7:30am**
Southside Chamber Breakfast
@ Don Pedro's Restaurant
- 6:00pm**
City South Board Mtg
@ 1901 S Alamo
- 11: 8:00am**
Dress for Success Golf Tournament
@ Silverhorn Golf Club
- 12: 6:30pm**
St. Anthony's School Groundbreaking
@ 205 W Huisache
- 14: 6:00pm**
235th Army Birthday Bash
@ Grand Hyatt Hotel
- 17: 6:30pm**
Precinct 1 Flood Control Projects Public Mtg
@ Harlandale Civic Ctr
- 22: 11:30am**
State of the County Address
@ AT&T Center
- 28: 1:30pm**
MPO
@ VIA

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,

Month of May Commissioners Court Roundup: How I worked to better serve you as Commissioner:

Let's Play: Mission City Soccer is 1 of 13 amateur sports facilities funded with \$80 million in Visitor Tax funds derived from a 5 percent tax on vehicle rentals in Bexar County. In May 2008, voters approved the \$415 million Community Venues Program from the visitor tax funded projects proposed to the community. The Mission City Soccer Project will be built with \$5 million in Visitor Tax funds to create a complex of 10 soccer fields. Through the leadership of Commissioner Adkisson, this project will now be re-located to Precinct 1. I was so pleased when my fellow Court members supported us with a unanimous vote to relocate the Mission City Soccer project from Brooks City Park to the Verano development around the new Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus. This move will allow the youth soccer organization to expand its membership and have a state of the art tournament facility. Commissioner Adkisson stated "It's a win-win for all of Bexar County. I'm please to gain the strategic and high caliber partners of Texas A&M University and the Verano developers as we move this project forward for the betterment of all our children in Bexar County and beyond." Thanks to the hard work of Community Venues Program Director, Mike Sculley, and other project partners. There will be an Agreement for the developer, the Verano Land Group, and the City of San Antonio who will receive the land through donation. The City will then enter into a long term lease agreement with the soccer club who will maintain its practice fields at Brooks City Park and use the Verano site for expansion of the club and for tournaments. The University will also get to benefit from use of the fields for intramural games, club teams, and a potential varsity program. Verano will also serve as project manager and assist with building the roads and provide the infrastructure and utilities. For additional questions on any of the projects funded by the visitor tax, please contact Mike Sculley at (210) 335-2774.



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

Mental Health Initiatives: The Center for Health Care Services is Bexar County's authority on mental health, development disability, and substance abuse services. They do tremendous work under the leadership of their CEO, Leon Evans and the Chair of the Board of Directors, Margie Vera. I was proud to support Bexar County's allocation of \$1.25M to the Center so they can provide mental health support services that are necessary to divert persons in need of treatment and care from the Magistrate's office and from the Bexar County Adult Detention Center and into treatment. The funding provided by the County to the Center also supports a Public Safety Triage and Detoxification Program. The Center's focus is to identify and relocate persons with mental illness or substance abuse illness into treatment within three working days following Magistration or incarceration. Helping to treat these types of offenders adds to the initiatives by the County, the Sheriff's Department, and other local partners to increase the success rate for these offenders to become positive contributors into our society and decrease their probability to re-offend. If you or someone you know are in need of assistance, you may contact the Center for Health Care Services at (210) 223-7233.



Second Chance and Re-entry: The Bexar County Adult Drug Court was created in 2004 as the County's response to jail overcrowding in conjunction with the increase of drug related offenses. The County's Program is a highly regarded Program by which others strive to model. Dual diagnosis offenders currently

are not structured to fit into the Program. A dual diagnosis offender is one who suffers from substance abuse and a diagnosed mental health disorder. Through the hard work of County staff and the assistance of the Bureau of Justice Assistance for Drug Courts, Bexar County is going to partner with the Center for Health Care Services to create a special track of the Program through a CORE. The Co-Occurring Re-Entry Court Program will be modeled after the existing Drug Court and Mental Health Court and will focus on the dually diagnosed. Through the receipt of the requested \$600,000, Bexar County will be able to hire two therapists who will be tasked to create evidence based treatments for 80 offenders once enrolled in the CORE Court, allow for two specialized probation officers to conduct intense community supervision, and allow for a Judge of the Court to oversee this addition to the Program. Upon successful completion of the CORE Court Program, the offenders will be referred to a CORE Court alumni association. It was my pleasure to show support for the County's request of these funds because this community working together to improve the outcome of offenders and improve their success rate upon re-entry into our community gives everyone a second chance.

Making Our Community Safer: By virtue of our State Legislature working to protect our communities through SB 55, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts has been charged with the task and responsibility to implement and administer enforcement of regulations that concern the sale, distribution and use of tobacco products including sale of tobacco products to our minors. Our Bexar County community has identified approximately 1,700 retailers of tobacco products. It is my intention to continue Bexar County's efforts to protect our youth so it was necessary for me to support the County's request for funding of \$58,000 from the State CPA to fund overtime salaries and benefits for law enforcement, travel and training reimbursements for deputies, and a stipend to minors who volunteer to work as decoys while our uniformed officers perform sting operations. The intent is to educate retailers on how to verify the age of patrons who purchase tobacco products, judicial education and discussions of the importance of streamlining the filing process through the JP Courts, performing on site inspections for vendors, and submitting monthly compliance reports to the Comptroller. The County's mission as carried out through the Sheriff's Department under the leadership of Sheriff Ortiz, is to enforce the current laws as efficiently as possible, protect the lives, property and rights of all Bexar County residents, and develop strong community partnerships to improve the quality of life for the entire community.



Showcasing Our Treasures: It was my pleasure to host the first art exhibit in the Bexar County Courthouse with artwork displaying the hidden talent of the Columbia Heights Elementary School students from the Harlandale Independent School District. Art teacher, Noe Garza, under the leadership of principal Priscilla Lighthall, was instrumental in making certain our walls in the Courthouse corridor were decorated with the children's colorful impressions of our local culture, traditional events, and cultural and historic landmarks. Superintendent, Robert Jaklich was most proud as we honored the kids during one of our Court meetings. We truly have gifted artisans in our



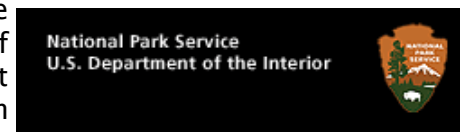
public schools and must continue to support the arts! For more information on how you can volunteer or become involved, please contact the Columbia Heights Elementary School, (210) 989-3000.



Investing In Ourselves: In 2005, the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and Henry Cisneros as the Chair of the Economic Development Committee created a new 501(c)3 tax exempt organization called Healthcare Bioscience Development Corporation. The objective of this organization was to utilize the complex of medical assets in the San Antonio and Bexar County community to create, sustain, and attract bioscience related companies, research funds and investments. In addition, the Corporation focused to attract the best professionals in the world to San Antonio's healthcare and bioscience institutions. The Corporation was later re-named BioMed SA and although the name changed, its mission remained constant. In 2009, BioMed SA submitted a request for a Chapter 281 grant for \$100,000 in an effort to continue its ongoing efforts to promote the healthcare and bioscience industries in Bexar County. It was my pleasure to show support and help to approve this funding request because I firmly believe it is an investment in our future for continued economic development. If you are interested in economic development in Bexar County, please contact our Director David Marquez at (210) 335-0667.



Beyond The Missions: The Missions National Historic Park is one of the hidden gems in the Bexar County Precinct 1 community. I know my words of the importance of preserving this area and developing enhancement have not fallen on deaf ears. I was proud when my fellow Court members followed me in approving a funding Agreement with the Missions National Historical Park that was necessary for us to move forward with the boundary study and land protection plan we have worked so closely to develop. Bexar County's funding commitment for \$20,000 will allow the National Park Service to conduct a boundary study to assess the impact of a potential boundary adjustment to the Missions National Historical Park on the Park and affected communities, land owners, and agencies. The funding also includes a land protection plan to identify priorities for protection of land around the Park to ensure Park resources are preserved. This planning effort has been brilliantly executed by the hard work of County Staffer Betty Bueche in collaboration with the South Reach of the River Improvements Project.



Backing Law Enforcement: On June 16, 1998, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act was signed into law. This Act was meant to protect the lives of law enforcement officers by assisting state, local, and tribal governments to purchase the necessary armor vests to be used by the law enforcement officers. The United States Department of Justice reports that larger jurisdictions, like Bexar County, with populations over 100,000 will equitably receive allocated funds up to



50% of the costs of armor vests. Bexar County estimates that during this next fiscal year, approximately 168 additional vests will be needed. The bulletproof and stab resistant vests have a 5 year projected life after which, replacements are necessary and the cost to purchase this equipment runs \$572 for bulletproof vests and \$796 for stab resistant vests. At all costs, we must protect our law enforcement and equip them with the necessary tools to protect them as they protect us. It was my honor to support the request to the Department of Justice to receive 50% of the cost to purchase the necessary body armor for our law enforcement. We must protect our heroes.

Governments Supporting Each Other: The United States Department of Justice has developed a State Criminal Alien Assistance Program that provides assistance to local governments. Through this Program, the federal government provides payments to local jurisdictions, like Bexar County that have incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented, adult criminal aliens who have been convicted of one felony or two misdemeanors for violations of state or local law and who have been incarcerated for four or more consecutive days. Keeping our community safe is always priority so I was very happy to support the County's request to the Federal Government to reimburse payment to the County for its inmates that qualified to be counted in reimbursement numbers. Last fiscal year Bexar County housed 1,513,871 inmates for which we received payments.

Cleaning Up Our Neighborhoods: The month of May continued to stay busy with National Public Works Week. In an effort to commemorate this month, I was so excited to go out to the Northwestern part of Precinct 1 and host an all day neighborhood trash clean up. The Silverleaf neighborhood off 1604 and Wiseman Road welcomed me, County staff, and Katie Williams from Texas Disposal Systems who was kind enough to provide the trash dumpsters for our event. Texas Disposal Systems also joined with members of the Bexar County Department of Community Resources, Board members from Emergency Services District No. 2, staff from the Bexar County Fire Marshal's office, Bexar County Public Works crew and our volunteers from the Juvenile Probation Program. It was a great success. We worked together to clean up the neighborhood, provided useful information to the homeowners, and continued to make differences in peoples lives. Thank you to Silverleaf for inviting us to the community! For information on how to schedule a neighborhood clean up in your neighborhood, please contact my office at (210) 335-2611.



Community Improvements: Last June, 2009, I was proud that my fellow Court members supported my request to assist my community in the City of Somerset with their need for a Waste Water Treatment Plant Project. Through the allocation of CDBG funds Bexar County receives from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mayor Cuellar and I were able to identify the need to have a water impact fee study performed; a topographic survey developed and have a design planned for a force main route to a new waste water treatment plant. The final stage of this Project was recently accomplished with again, another vote of support from my fellow Court members when I led the charge to approve the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the City of Somerset. The study will be funded with \$137,562 and this Project will help meet the City of Somerset's quality of life objective and infrastructure improvements. If you have any questions about the City of Somerset or would like to become involved in their urban development and improvement efforts, please contact their City Administrator, Miguel Cantu at (830) 429-3639.

Community Action Month: The Community Action Advisory Board is a collaborative initiative between Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, local agencies like SAMM Ministries, SAILS, and the Center for Health Care Services in conjunction with locally elected representatives of identified low income council districts. The CAAB Board serves as a bridge between poverty and self-sufficiency. Today, there are nearly 1,000 agencies across the U.S. serving 96% of our nation's cities and counties and is the primary source of support for the more than 35 million Americans living in poverty. Community Action Agencies offer eligible citizens a variety of human services such as emergency financial assistance, fair housing counseling, and homeless assistance services to provide them with opportunities to improve their lives and living conditions. On a national level, the month of May has been known as Community Action Month and it was my honor to present to the CAAB Board a Proclamation acknowledging their work and efforts to ensure needed community services are provided and funded in our Bexar County community. My Chief of Staff, Veronica Gonzalez has represented Bexar County and Precinct 1 fabulously and I want to thank her for her devotion to carry out my mission to serve my community. For information about the Community Action Advisory Board, please contact their Board liaison, Carolyn Knight at (210) 207-2128.

