

## **EDITORIAL**

### **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY BEXAR COUNTY!**

**February 12, 2009**

Valentine's Day is a tradition commonly associated with the celebration of love and relationships. The legend states that Valentine was a priest who defied an order set by an Emperor to disallow any young man to marry because he felt unmarried men helped to build a stronger army. Valentine secretly married young couples because he believed that love and relationships should be honored. After Valentine was caught and imprisoned, he fell in love with his jailer's daughter and before he was put to death wrote her a note signed "your Valentine".

I tell you this shortened history of Valentine's Day because as we embark on this day designated for love, I think of my strong passion to establish the best relationships between loved ones, co-workers, and neighbors within the Precinct 1 community.

Precinct 1 is not only my home and backyard; it is truly the best precinct in Bexar County. I am proud of how the Precinct 1 community has come together like a *familia*; to accomplish great things and help our part of town positively grow and develop. This past weekend, the citizens of Somerset and the surrounding area partnered with the Sheriff's Department, the County, and volunteers to start a month long beautification campaign to clean up the community. Graffiti is unattractive and trash that is littered in the streets and fields is not only an eye sore, but can pose risks for the environment and health hazards for nearby families and pets. The kick-off event was a huge success and could not have been possible without the love and dedication of the residents from the Bexar County Precinct 1 community who cared enough to come together and make a difference. This past weekend I witness relationships built among city and county leaders, residents, non-profit groups, and business owners that I certainly think are worth recognizing!

Another relationship worth celebrating is that of the Bexar County Community Investment Department, CPS Energy, and Well Med. This partnership was formed in an effort to answer the need for awareness and social services available to the residents of my precinct. The County, CPS Energy, Well Med, and volunteers have put together an outreach program to educate Bexar County residents on energy conservation, provide utility assistance, donate free energy saving light bulbs, and educate senior citizens about wellness and safety. The free education sessions occur every Monday during the month of February through March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Harlandale Civic Center.

The continued growth and positive future of Precinct 1 is limitless. Additional programs and community service campaigns are currently being developed to focus on the specific and unique needs in my precinct. My goal is to touch the lives of all my constituents in a positive way because I truly believe that my constituents are an extension of my family. They are the kindest and most generous people in Bexar County.

My Valentine's Day gift to Precinct 1 is to continue giving gifts of community outreach, commercial and residential development, and structured programs geared to fill the need of those in my community and make the south side an even greater place to live. Lo qué nosotros no tenemos en la riqueza, nosotros los tenemos en el corazón. Happy Valentine's Day from "your Valentine".