

Bexar County Connection

News, events, and information for Bexar County employees

The Glen Restored as County Helps Clean the Neighborhood



ABOVE: Bexar County employees and tenants celebrate the restored property.

Eight months ago, a drive through The Glen would be an unsettling experience. A collection of burned properties and vacant structures harboring drug activity and squatters, broken street lights, and years of illegal dumping left massive trash piles. Once the neighborhood fell on hard times, it stayed that way for decades.

Thanks to Bexar County and the North Pointe Village Revitalization Group, The Glen is on its way back to life. The North

Pointe Group is made up of investors who purchased the string of multi-family properties. They fully restored four properties, with seven in progress. Bexar County aided the rehabilitation effort by sending law enforce-

See "Restoration" continued on page 4

Benefits Spotlight: QCD of America Discount Vision Plan Changes effective September 1, 2009



Effective September 1, 2009, QCD of America Dental Plan members enrolled in the Red Base, Red EPO Base or the White Premium Dental Plan have an added discount vision benefit at no additional cost. Unfortunately, this special offering is not available to members enrolled in the QCD Blue Plan. This change does not affect the current employee paid Avesis Advantage Vision Plan.

Enrolled members should have received information regarding this change at their home address on file from QCD of America. This new vision discount program offered is Clear Vision accessible under Davis Vision as part of the QCD of America Dental Plan. The Davis Vision network of providers can be found by visiting www.davisvision.com and using this access code: 7619.

See "Benefits" continued on page 3

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Verify Your Address

Annual Enrollment for County employee benefits will begin Monday, October 19th and will end on Friday, November 6th.

Please verify your home address is accurate on your paycheck to ensure you receive your annual enrollment packet. Packets will be mailed to home addresses in mid October.



Bexar County Connection is produced monthly by Bexar County Human Resources.

Send us your news and events information via e-mail at CountyConnection@bexar.org or via fax at (210) 335-2857.





HealthWorks

Get Motivated. Get Going. Get Healthy.

Are You Prepared?

Every flu season has potential to cause illness and this season is no exception. With uncertainty of what the new H1N1 strand will bring, here are steps to help you stay healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth since germs are spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick.
- Find healthy ways to manage stress.
- Attend “Flu Shot Clinics”* at your location.

Upcoming flu shot clinics include:

Sept. 10th — Southton Service Center 3-4 p.m.
 Sept. 17th — Cagnon Service Center 3-4 p.m.
 Sept. 30th — Forensic Science Center 11-1 p.m.

**Only the regular flu vaccine will be provided. Look for information regarding the H1N1 vaccine with the Bexar County Medical Plans in an upcoming issue!*

Next month — The Annual Employee Health Fair, Friday, October 23, 2009 at the AT&T Community Centre at San Fernando.



Don't Forget!

The Employee Health Clinic (located at 459 S. Main) is here to serve you. Please call 335-4WEL (4935) for an appointment.

Visit Us on the Web

For current information on the Employee Health and Wellness Program, please visit www.bexar.org/PRM/Healthworks.html

Winning At Work: Awareness

Together, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke account for 2 of every 3 deaths in the U.S. each year. Some basic steps to prevent disease are the same:

- Don't smoke and get regular exercise.
- Make healthy food choices.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- See a doctor for routine screenings.



Don't know where to begin? Take the Diabetes Risk Test at www.diabetes.org/risktest to determine your risk of developing diabetes.

Packing Lunch for the Kids?

Try these tips to pack a healthy lunchbox:

- Instead of white bread, use whole wheat, multi-grain, dinner rolls or tortillas to make a wrap.
- Instead of processed lunch meat, create a healthy lunch using leftover cooked meat.
- Kids love dip! Pack easy-to-carry fruit and vegetables like bananas, baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, and grapes with low fat yogurt or ranch dressing for dipping.
- Try preparing healthy trail mix with mixed nuts, pretzels, and whole wheat chex to snack on.
- Water and milk are healthy choices for kids.

Retrieved from www.healthcastle.com

Feeling Stressed?

Reduce stress in your life with these tips:

- Practice deep breathing and get plenty of sleep.
- Exercise daily in 10 minute increments.
- Eat lots of fruits and vegetables.
- Attend stress management classes.



Upcoming workshops include:

Wed., Sept. 16 – Coping with Stress and Change
 12-1 p.m. at Employee Health Clinic

Tuesday, Sept. 29 – Webinar: Reducing Job Stress
 12-1 p.m. at Employee Health Clinic

Contact wellness@bexar.org to register.



"Benefits" continued from page 1

Davis Vision Customer Service: Please call 1-877-923-2847 for Customer Service from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday – Friday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Enter Client Control number 7619 when prompted. At the main menu, press "0" to reach a customer service representative.

Members receive discounts at the time of service and are responsible for payment after discounts have been applied. This program is very similar to the Avesis Simple Vision Plan.

What's the difference between Avesis Simple Vision and Clear Vision discount plans?

Network Providers: Most network providers remain unchanged. The most accessible network provider in San Antonio is EYEMASTERS.

Comprehensive Eye Exams: Clear Vision provides a 15% discount off the Usual and Customary (U&C) Rate of service. AVESIS provides for a payment of up to \$45 per exam. This applies to both Eye and Contact Lens examinations including dilation, when professionally administered.

Eyewear (Frames, Lenses, or Contact Lenses):

	<u>CLEAR VISION</u>	<u>AVESIS VISION</u>
	Member Pays	Member Pays
Frames		
Priced up to \$70 retail	\$40	Based on wholesale cost
Priced over \$70 retail	\$40 + 10% over \$70	Based on wholesale cost

Spectacle Lens (uncoated plastic)

Single	\$35	Up to \$35
Bifocal	\$55	Up to \$50
Trifocal	\$65	Up to \$65
Lenticular	\$110	Up to \$80



Lens Options (add to lens prices)

Standard Progressive	\$75	Retail less 20% discount
Premium Progressive	\$125	Retail less 20% discount
Glass Lenses	\$18	Retail less 20% discount
Polycarbonate Lenses	\$30	Retail less 20% discount
Blended Invisible Bifocals	\$20	Retail less 20% discount
Intermediate Vision Lenses	\$30	Retail less 20% discount
Scratch Resistant Coating	\$20	Retail less 20% discount
Standard Anti-Reflective Coating	\$45	Retail less 20% discount
Ultraviolet Coating	\$15	Retail less 20% discount
Solid Tint	\$10	Retail less 20% discount
Gradient Tint	\$12	Retail less 20% discount
Photo chromic Lenses	\$35	Retail less 20% discount
Plastic Photosensitive Lenses	\$65	Retail less 20% discount
High Index Lenses	\$55	Retail less 20% discount
Polarized Lenses	\$75	Retail less 20% discount

Contact Lenses (in lieu of eyeglasses)

Conventional	U&C less 20%	Retail less 10 – 20%
Disposable/Planned Replacement	U&C less 10%	Not available

See "Benefits" continued on page 5



"Restoration" continued from page 1

ment and public works crews to make the neighborhood clean and safe. This project shows private and public agencies working together to better the community.

The North Pointe group of investors purchased the entire street of four-plex properties along Glen Terrace. As the crew began work, they noticed drug activity and called the Sheriff's Office. Deputies began to regularly patrol the area and eliminated the drug element. Bexar County Public Works removed over 700 yards of trash to give the area a fresh look not seen in years. The Juvenile Probation Department brought in the Community Service & Restitution (CSR) program to aid in the clean up. The County street sweeper came through and damaged street lights were replaced. The once crime-riddled dumping ground was suddenly cared for, and many hands were involved. "Bexar County was ready and willing to join the effort to make The Glen a clean and safe place," said Commissioner Adkisson. He added, "I couldn't be happier that we are able to help restore this neighborhood that has suffered so much. Hopefully this sends a strong message to other challenged communities that with partnerships like this we can build a brighter future together! "

Once the crime and trash were gone, public utilities were able to reinstate service. In the past there was no garbage or water service and the area was deserted. Now the area has water, gas, meter service and trash pick up.



LEFT: Chief Raul Fernandez and Sheriff Amadeo Ortiz enjoy the celebration.

RIGHT: Commissioner Adkisson talks with residents.



"The North Pointe Revitalization Group put their own money and time into these properties. Bexar County as a government steward did what we *should* do to provide a clean and safe neighborhood," said Commissioner Adkisson. Future plans include a laundry facility, a leasing office and a park to the area. The park may be funded with grant dollars from Bexar County's Community Investment Department. The North Pointe Revitalization Group is a committed group of owners and have formed a homeowners association to ensure The Glen remains a healthy, functional neighborhood.

On August 22nd, the North Pointe Revitalization Group joined with the County to host a barbeque for the owners, tenants, and project partners. It was a celebration of the work underway and a debut of the new property. Although there is much work left to do, there is no denying the uplifting impact of the project on those nearby. Thanks to Bexar County and the North Point Group, there is a complete transformation of the old neighborhood. "This has been very positive for the community," said Commissioner Adkisson. "We are glad to make a difference for the residents along Glen Terrace. We will continue to do our part to keep this a peaceful and enjoyable place to live."



ABOVE: Fire Marshal staff attend the celebration.



ABOVE: Mario Llano, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Adkisson.



"Benefits" continued from page 3

Value-Added Features

Lens 123 Membership	Free Membership	Not available
Laser Vision Correction Discount	U&C less up to 25%	Not available

Lens 123 is a mail order program that provides members the guaranteed lowest price on replacement contact lenses, saving up to 60% off retail prices -- Call 1-800-LENS123, with a current prescription.

Davis Vision's Laser Vision Correction program provides substantial discounts on laser vision correction.

Please contact QCD of America at 1-800-229-0304 with any questions.

The Advantages of Mail Order Prescription Medication

Mail order prescriptions are a less expensive and convenient way to obtain prescription maintenance medications, which are taken on a continuous basis. These prescriptions can be written for a 90 day supply instead of a 30 day supply.



Take advantage of the savings by utilizing the mail order program offered by Humana which provides home delivery service by "Right Source". Right Source customer service can be reached at 1-800-379-0092 or visit www.rightsourcex.com for more information.

The Bexar County Medical Plans with Humana provide:

Mail Order Pharmacy (90 day supply)		
Members may purchase a 90 day supply of a prescription or refill from a mail order pharmacy at a cost of two and a half times the monthly copayment. (Self-administered injectable drugs and specialty drugs received from a mail order pharmacy are limited to a 30 day supply).		
Prescription Drug Benefits	Premium PPO & Base PPO	EPO
Generic	No co-pay	No co-pay
Formulary	\$62.50	\$37.50
Non-Formulary	\$100	\$62.50
Non-Network Pharmacy	Co-pay + 30%	No Coverage

Utilizing a mail order pharmacy for prescription drugs provides direct cost savings which reduces the overall cost of the medical plan impacting employee premiums. Members are encouraged to utilize this program for maintenance medication or for a 90 day supply of any prescription medication. Every mail order prescription saves money and impacts prescription drug costs because of substantial discounts. A call to Right Source at 1-800-379-0092 can save the employee and the employer money. Be a smart health care consumer and know your Health Plan benefits.

Humana will be offering a Lunch and Learn seminar, "**Pharmacy Basics**" on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Employee Health & Wellness Center at 459 South Main. Bring your lunch and join us for this informative workshop.

Walk & Roll Challenge

What is the Walk & Roll Challenge?

To promote a better quality of life in this region, the Alamo Area Council of Governments and San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization challenge area citizens to log 200,000 “smart” miles during the month of September for the 5th Annual Walk & Roll Personal Challenge. Smart miles are those traveled for work, recreation, exercise, or errands that do not involve driving as a single occupant in a vehicle. Such miles improve health, reduce traffic, and save gas money.



Competition Categories: Walking Cycling Busing Carpooling/Vanpooling

Prizes in each category are valued at \$100 or more.

Please visit www.walkandrollchallenge.com for more information.



United Way Days of Caring

A “Days of Caring” event is not your typical work day. It is a day when employee volunteers leave their cell phones and laptops behind and go to work in a very different way by making a difference in our community and helping people in need. Last year, over 2,900 employees from more than 100 companies and organizations spread out across the community to construct playgrounds, host cook-outs for the disabled, conduct maintenance to beautify our community, and many other worthy projects.



United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County

If you want to participate in the United Way Days of Caring scheduled on Thursday, October 1, Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3 please contact Linda Amaro at lamaro@bexar.org or call 335-2643.

Bexar County employees are encouraged to participate in this event. Interested employees should obtain their supervisor’s approval and submit a request for leave. This is a great way to bring employees together, have some fun, and help our community.

Fixed Asset Inventory Control Procedures

New procedures for fixed assets have been recently approved by Commissioners Court and are intended to improve compliance, fiscal control, and track acquisitions and disposals more efficiently. Please plan to attend one of three training events scheduled to cover these changes.

- Thursday, September 10, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Monday, September 14, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Monday, September 21, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

These events are conducted by the Purchasing Department at the Training Center at 232 Iowa St. Please contact Linda Amaro at lamaro@bexar.org or 335-2643 to register.



Employee Training Calendar - September 2009

Date	Course/Class	Scheduled Time	Location
Tuesday, Sept. 1	PowerPoint XP — Level 2	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Wed., Sept. 2	Access XP — Level 2	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Thursday, Sept. 3	Sexual Harassment Awareness	9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.	Training Center
Thursday, Sept. 3	Word XP — Level 2	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Friday, Sept. 4	Outlook XP — Level 2	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Tuesday, Sept. 8	Typing 101	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Thursday, Sept. 10	Lunch & Learn: Pharmacy Basics	12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.	Employee Health Clinic
Friday, Sept. 11	MS Visio 2003 — Level 1	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Monday, Sept. 14	MS Project 2003 — Level 1	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Wed., Sept. 16	CHRIS System Timekeeping	8:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Training Center
Thursday, Sept. 17	CHRIS Personnel Administration	8:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Training Center
Thursday, Sept. 17	CHRIS Employee Self Service (ESS/MSS)	2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.	Training Center
Thursday, Sept. 17	MS Project 2003 — Level 2	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Friday, Sept. 18	MS Project 2003 — Level 3	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Wed., Sept. 23	Family Medical Leave Act — AM	9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Training Center
Wed. Sept. 23	Family Medical Leave Act — PM	1:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.	Training Center
Thursday, Sept. 24	Word XP — Level 1	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Thursday, Sept. 24	Supervisor Toolbox	9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Training Center
Friday, Sept. 25	Access XP – Level 1	9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	BCIS Annex
Tuesday, Sept. 29	Retirement Seminar — AM	8:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.	Training Center
Tuesday, Sept. 29	Retirement Seminar — PM	1:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.	Training Center

Course dates and times are valid as of the date of publication and subject to change. All classes are available for County employees. Employees should have their supervisor's permission to enroll and attend a class.

Register for Information Technology (Computer) classes at ISTrainingRequest@bexar.org. Please contact Linda Amaro at lamaro@bexar.org or (210) 335-2643 to register for all other training events.

SICK LEAVE POOL — It's that time again!

Contributing to the Sick Leave Pool can help a fellow employee during a period of incapacity and recovery from a catastrophic illness or injury. On October 1, 2009, vacation leave balances will be rolled back to 240 hours and any hours over 240 will be lost. Please consider donating a minimum of 8 hours of vacation or sick leave. The Sick Leave Donation Form is located at <http://intra/PRM/PDF/HR/SickLeaveDonationNew.pdf>. Completed donation forms should be forwarded to Human Resources at Heritage Plaza, 400 South Main.



**SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES FOR
September 2009**

FIVE YEARS

Commissioners Court	Jimenez, Ruben M.
Community Superv & Correction	Palencia, John E.
District Attorney	Jennings, Sarah E.
District Attorney	Neumann, Jay C.
Infrastructure	Estrada, Jerry G.
Infrastructure	Jacaman, Kerim Y.
Infrastructure	Martinez, Jorge A.
Juvenile Detention	Velasquez, Francisco P.
Juvenile Probation	Salazar, Gloria E.
Juvenile Probation	Smitherman, Krystal R.
Sheriff's Office	Barajas, David
Sheriff's Office	Berry, Georgia J.
Sheriff's Office	Flynn, Crystal A.
Sheriff's Office	Garza, Gabriel
Sheriff's Office	Garza, Gary
Sheriff's Office	Hendricks, Craig G.
Sheriff's Office	Hernandez, Adrian A.
Sheriff's Office	Montanez, Sonia C.
Sheriff's Office	Pena, Jose L.
Sheriff's Office	Quintero, Ray A.
Sheriff's Office	Rios, David A.
Sheriff's Office	Rogers, Arnold L.
Sheriff's Office	Ruiz, Raul A.
Sheriff's Office	Torres, Monica E.
Sheriff's Office	Torrez, Veronica D.
Sheriff's Office	Vasquez, Jose C.
Sheriff's Office	Velazquez, Saira M.

TEN YEARS

Community Superv & Correction	Mora, Ronald M.
County Clerk	Cervantes, Lilia B.
County Coliseum	Alvarado, Cynthia A.
County Courts at Law	De Hoyos, Jo Ann
County Courts at Law	Mery, Michael E.
County Courts at Law	Rios, Irene A.
District Attorney	Altis, Alaina K.
District Attorney	Piette, Joseph L.
District Attorney	Torbert, Jill
District Courts — Juvenile	Collins, Heather M.
Elections	Abrego, Deborah M.
Information Services	Shah, Harshad K.
Information Services	Sommerfeld, Marialuisa G.
Juvenile Probation	Carrasco, Christopher
Juvenile Probation	Hicks, Ardeanna B.

FIFTEEN YEARS

Community Superv & Correction
District Attorney
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Tax Office
Tax Office

Aguero, Mary L.
Campa, Juan I.
Escobedo, Ricardo R.
Henderson, Terry C.
Velazquez, Dennis C.
Wheeler, Steven J.
Esquivel, Jose A.
Garza, Rachel B.

TWENTY YEARS

Community Superv & Correction
Community Superv & Correction
Community Superv & Correction
Community Superv & Correction
County Courts at Law
District Courts — Criminal
Infrastructure
Planning & Resource Mgt.
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff's Office

Crenshaw, Nancy C.
Garcia, Rita F.
Garza, Michelle S.
Patridge, Vicky L.
Obledo, Sybil D.
Torres, Laura Y.
Villa, David S.
Ortega, Roberta Y.
Balderas, Raymundo A.
Burchell, Teresa D.
Costa, Joseph M.
Fuentes, Martin H.
Gonzales, Joe C.
Green, Jeffrey N.
Martinez, Robert D.
Montalvo, Victor M.
Roach, Thomas F.
Walston, Timothy D.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Community Superv & Correction
District Clerk
District Clerk
Sheriff's Office
Tax Office

Lozano, Roger
Jones, Annie R.
Pena, Morris L.
Barba, Veronica
Madla, Carmen M.

THIRTY YEARS

Tax Office
Tax Office

Hernandez, Mary A.
Mata, Velia

THIRTY FIVE YEARS

District Clerk
Sheriff's Office

Schaefer, Joan F.
Quintanilla, Victor