



Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez Precinct One Journal

Feb 9, 2010 Volume II, Issue 1



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2010

- 9: 11:00am**
Commissioners
Court
@ Courthouse

- 6:00pm**
Lackland JLUS
mtg @ Mendez
Cafe

- 13: 11:00am**
Ground
Breaking Phase
II Mission
Reach
@ Theo Ave

- 14: Valentine's Day**

- 15: President's Day**
County Holiday

- 16: Early Voting
Begins**

- 10:00am**
Groundbreaking
for S. Flores St
Parking Garage
@ Flores St

- 6:30pm**
Sienna Park N/A
mtg

- 18: 3:00pm**
Bexar County
Drug Court
Graduation
@ Cadena Reeves
Justice Ctr

- 6:00pm**
Public Meeting re
Phase II Mission
Reach
@ Southton
Service Ctr

- 7:00PM**
ESD No. 2 Board
Mtg @ 11511
Potranco Rd

- 20: 8:00am**
UHS Contractor
Kick Off Event
@ Sunset Station

- 22: 1:30pm**
MPO @ VIA

- 23: 11:00pm**
Commissioners
Court
@ Courthouse

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,

This week during Commissioners Court, here is how I worked to better serve you:

Serving Our Seniors: Christian Senior Services ("CSS") is a non-profit organization focused to provide nutritious meals to frail and disabled seniors. Proudly, every year while serving as Commissioner for Precinct 1, I have been able to provide funding to CSS in an effort to assist them to continue to serve the seniors in the unincorporated areas of Bexar County. Their Meals on Wheels program has resulted in 65% of the seniors who receive home delivered meals experience improved health conditions and 75% of the seniors who receive this service improve their mental health by eliminating their sense of isolation. Today, the County decided to provide additional funding to CSS and that additional funding will allow them the ability to receive a grant from the TX Department of Agriculture. More money means more meals for seniors and now the Program with CSS will be able to provide 233,724 meals!



Helping Our Youth: In 1999, Bexar County implemented a Juvenile Drug Court focused on first time offenders for substance abuse offenses. The Drug Court Program offers an opportunity for young offenders to obtain quality intervention and education without having to incur a juvenile adjudication component. This Program attempts

to divert young children from placement outside their home by opening them up to substance abuse in home counseling for the children and their families. Because of the hard work put for by the Juvenile Drug Court, I was proud to approve an application requesting funding from the Office of the Governor through their Criminal Justice Division. The County will receive \$165,934 from the State and the County will contribute an extra \$16,595 for the substance abuse counseling Programs. Giving children all the tools necessary to correct their mistakes at a young age increases their chances for success!

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

Sheriff's Office

(210) 335-6010

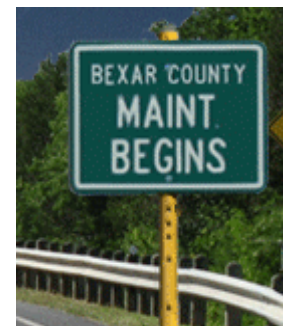
Constable Precinct 4

(210) 335-4950

Bexar County Elections

(210) 335-8683

Cleaning Up Our Neighborhoods: Many community members call on me to help them to clean up their neighborhoods. Bexar County is always happy to help. In 2009, Precinct 1 hosted six neighborhood clean up efforts which were all successful! If your neighborhood is involved and would like to coordinate a neighborhood trash pick up, please call our office and we can put the manpower together to clean up your streets. For additional information, please call (210) 335-2611.



Road Work Improvements:



Many parts of Bexar County are completely developed, they look inner parts of the city. There are also a few areas that look like “colonias”. One of my toughest challenges comes from home owners who live in areas victim to partial development. Some builders stopped building homes and never paved and developed the roads. This makes it difficult not only for the property owners who must live in that area, but also for emergency service vehicles and school buses because they have great difficulty driving through the roads. The Highland Oaks Neighborhood is one of these sensitive areas wealthy with need. I am happy to say that the County signed the contract with the Construction company that will develop and pave part of the main road, Memorial Lane. Through the Community Development Block Grants (“CDBG”) the

County receives, the cost will be reimbursed to re-develop this road. Out of the \$1.3 million dollars in CDBG funds, \$183,237.21 is going to fund this one Project. We are currently searching for additional funds to re-develop more of the neighborhood. For additional information or if you require road work assistance, please call (210) 335-2611.

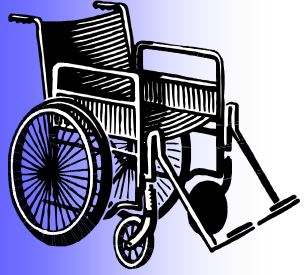


Mental Health: Mental Health issues have become one of my priority issues. Everyone in our community is affected by those who struggle with mental disease. Mental health issues affect adults, senior citizens, children, homeless, and even our Veterans. I am happy to be part of the development of the Bexar County Veteran’s Court. Through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is awarding funding to the County in the amount of \$915,250 to be spread over the course of three years to establish a Veteran’s Court Program. Drug addiction too often accompanies mental illness and the community must continue to take care of our Veterans. For information on veteran assistance programs, please call (210) 335-6737.

Outreach Services: Bexar County has become the model of giving that other counties aspire to duplicate. Every year, non-profit organizations request assistance from the County to aid them in their efforts to provide services to areas of need within Bexar County. I was pleased to inform Jefferson Outreach and Southeast Community Outreach that the County awarded to each of them \$8,333 to assist them in providing senior transportation services through the use of volunteers to include offering door to door services, and transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping. More than 470 seniors who reside in unincorporated Bexar County will receive transportation services. For additional information, please call Jefferson Outreach at (210) 734-5016 or Southeast Community Outreach at (210) 359-6678.

Another non-profit organization that I am happy to establish funding for is Catholic Charities who focus on providing a volunteer guardianship program for the elderly and mentally incapacitated individuals who do not have legal guardians who can make personal and financial decisions on their behalf. The Program offers also offers a money management component. With County funding of \$183,059, their Program will receive more than 100 volunteers to participate in this Program and at least 750 clients will be provided for once the County Probate Court requests the assistance for the elderly or mentally incapacitated. If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact the Probate Court at (210) 335-2638 or (210) 335-0490.

Community Resources: My office gets inundated with telephone calls from people who need assistance and don't know where to turn to. This only increases my determination to reach out to the community and let them know who my office can help them. I have always wanted my office to be considered a resource for people and my office will never turn anyone away. One of the many services the County provides to its residents is weatherization and appliance assessment. Low income households can contact Bexar County and request a heat and cooling appliance assessment under the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program ("CEAP") to receive energy efficiency assessments of water heaters, refrigerators, window air conditioning units, and cooling systems. Any appliances not energy efficient may be eligible for replacement. Not only does this assist households to become more energy efficient, this also helps to lower utility bills. In an effort to diligently provide this service, I was glad to approve an \$89,800 contract to a local renewable energy company that will be responsible for performing these tasks. For additional information on the County's CEAP program, please call (210) 335-3666.



Another resource for Bexar County residents is the service provided for through Project Mend. I am happy to fund \$25,000 for this Project that provides medical equipment for the disabled. This Project focuses to enhance the quality of life for people who are challenged with disabilities and in need of medical equipment. More than 72 pieces of Durable Medical Equipment will be received and refurbished, sanitized, and repaired to distribute to those in need. If you know someone in need of assistance, please call (210) 223-6363.

Medical Services: Of all the members of the Bexar County community that I serve and advocate for, those in need of life saving medical services challenge me the most to do all I can to get them what they need. The Ryan White Program is a Program that began when a young teenager who was fighting HIV/AIDS was expelled from his school because of his illness. Ryan White quickly became the national poster child and spokesperson who advocated for rights for HIV/AIDS patients. Our federal government heard his message with the passage of the Ryan White Act. Through this Act, Bexar County receives funds specifically for medical services for HIV/AIDS patients. Through our partnership with the University Health System, I was proud to add an additional \$83,638 to enable them to fund substance abuse programs and provide medical care for HIV/AIDS patients. For additional information, please call (210) 358-3710.



Backing The Blue: Bexar County Law Enforcement officers work diligently to ensure the streets in your neighborhood are safe. As a former member of law enforcement, I do know the challenges faced daily. I will continue to effortlessly support our law enforcement. It brought great pleasure to support the request of Sheriff Ortiz to add an additional twenty cadets to move on to begin training and then class completion to graduate and work hard for your safety. If you are interested in joining the Bexar County law enforcement team, please call (210) 335-6229.



Who Represents Me: If you not registered to vote, please contact our Elections Office at (210) 335-VOTE or visit their web site at <http://www.bexar.org/elections/>. If you are registered to vote, please don't forget to vote in the upcoming Primary election. Early voting begins February 16, 2010 and extends until February 26, 2010. If you vote during this time, you may vote at any early voting site. Election Day is on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 and voting on this day MUST occur at the designation polling site designated by your address on your voter registration card.

