

EDITORIAL
INDEPENDENCE AND DISTINCTION
March 5, 2009

This week, as a community, we had the pleasure of celebrating Texas Independence Day. Texas Independence marks the day Texas and all its residents became marked with distinction and identified for having a unique culture. The culture of our Bexar County community has always been that of family and togetherness. I was proud to celebrate Texas Independence Day as a Texan and American. This holiday reminded me of difficult challenges and choices that had to be made by those who wanted Texas to succeed as one community working with others in its surrounding territories.

As a Bexar County Commissioner I too am faced with difficult challenges when I represent Precinct 1. The distinction possessed by Texas to work well with other reminds me of what Bexar County is today. The sense of community and togetherness is spread all across the Bexar County and resonates within Precinct 1. A clear sense of togetherness lingered in the air this past week not just in Precinct 1, but more specifically on Lovett Street.

Last week marked a special event for me. Many area seniors joined me on Lovett Street for the ribbon cutting for the newly completed gazebo at the South San Civic Center. This event was special for me because I made a promise to myself and the residents of my precinct to always put my community first and support the development of Precinct 1. Looking out for the best interest of my precinct does mean that I must reach out to others to join me in my efforts to improve the wellness of my community.

This event and all who attended reminded me of why I wanted to represent this growing community. This project began as a concept to meet the demands of the seniors and other community members who use the Civic Center. The request was made to add to the South San Civic Center with improvements; I felt challenged to respond to their call.

I knew the funding, creation, planning, and construction would have to be a collaborative effort of many people. Thanks to the wonderful staff of Bexar County and the cooperation of my fellow Court members, I was able to secure \$15,000 Community Development Block Grant funds for this project. The County matched \$3,978 and after detailed planning and construction, the new gazebo was unveiled and ready for immediate use and enjoyment.

This project represents one of many improvement initiatives I am currently working on to enhance the beauty of Precinct 1. I have always possessed a fondness for quality planning and development because I truly feel that positive development improves the quality of life for communities.

Since I began representing Precinct 1, I have been able to secure more than \$230,000 in CDBG funds to filter back into parks and facilities in Precinct 1. These funds mean improvements for the community, improvements to the quality of life for neighbors, and re-investment back into the community. The best investment is to invest in one's self. This precinct is the largest and fastest growing precinct in Bexar County. I am truly honored to represent such a fine community and my doors are always open to ideas for anyone who has a desire to get involved in their community and work together to make Bexar County and Precinct 1 a community to be admired.