

THE MONTHLY ROUND-UP



Webb County Judge , Tano E. Tijerina's Newsletter

November 2015

Message from the County Judge



Dear Webb
County,

This year was my first Thanksgiving with you and I would like to begin by expressing how thankful I am for the warm embrace my family and I have received from you.

I also want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you who took the time to vote this past Election Day. Earlier this month you had the opportunity to make your voice heard on constitutional amendments ranging from transportation funding to increasing property tax exemptions. It goes without saying that it is your fundamental right to vote as citizens and I am grateful for those of you who showed up to cast your ballot.

This month was also “No Shave November,” and like many of you, I also decided to take up the challenge in order to raise cancer awareness. I was reminded on a daily basis of the countless brave cancer patients, survivors and those who have passed on due to this disease. Although the beard will be trimmed back again at the conclusion of this month, please know that you continue to be in my prayers each and every day.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday surrounded by your loved ones.

Un Abrazo Grande,

Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

Proposition 7



Traffic is a fact of life for the majority of us. No matter what amount of time we spend languishing on the road it seems we can never get used to it. Recently, however, Texans took to the polls to take action on this pressing issue. On November 3, 2015 voters passed Proposition 7, a constitutional amendment that will authorize a stable source of funding for Texas transportation. Proposition 7 will not impact general taxes—instead it will divert a portion of sales tax revenues to highway spending each year. It is estimated that \$2.5 billion will be deposited to the state highway fund in 2018 and 2019. By 2020, that figure will be close to \$3 billion. In Laredo, we face no shortage of our own transportation needs and so we welcome this as great news. We will work diligently to make sure our transportation needs in the area are addressed efficiently as the state moves forward with Proposition 7.

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WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



Judge Tijerina visited Mr. Adrian Montemayor at the Water Utilities Administration Office to see how things have shaped up after some crucial changes that took place in 2013. Since then, they have reorganized staff to prioritize the operation and maintenance of existing equipment, including new equipment that has been implemented. They have also increased training and added four operational members, all of whom have successfully obtained their state-required licensing.



Major changes in the equipment and instrumentation that is used to test and monitor the water quality have been completed, including new Turbid meters with backup chart recorders that can test and save data for required state reporting every 15 minutes. Along with improvements made to the computerized system that controls the operational events, the plant is now meeting TCEQ requirements for testing and proving to this agency as well as our customers that our water meets certain levels of quality.



Substantial investments, numbering in the millions of dollars, have been made to bring the water and wastewater systems closer to the operation required under state law and demanded by our communities. Cleaning of basins, reservoirs, settling basins, chemical treatment basins, and elevated storage tanks have been completed and placed back into initial working order.

We are proud to announce that prior violations in the water system have been rectified. Our county engineer and staff at the water utilities department have met their challenges head on.

“Mr. Luis Perez-Garcia and Mr. Adrian Montemayor, I would like to commend the two of you on your hard work and dedication. The water utilities department is running efficiently and it is obvious the positive changes that have occurred come from your hard work and that of your staff. Thank you for everything you have done for Webb County.” -Judge Tano Tijerina .

Veterans Columbarium



As a community, few things are more sacred than ensuring our veterans find a final resting place befitting their sacrifice. So when Jesus Segovia, Commander, Laredo Veterans Coalition noticed that space for deceased veterans was rapidly dwindling down he set out to find a solution. As he was looking for a columbarium for himself and his wife, it dawned on him that a columbarium for veterans could be the answer.



Earlier this year in April Mr. Segovia approached the Webb County Commissioners Court to seek funds to purchase a columbarium for local veterans. Without hesitation, the court motioned to provide \$8,500

for this cause.

Finally, on November 24, 2015, with assistance from Webb County, the City of Laredo and Javier Santos, trustee for the Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust, three columbaria were built. These columbaria have space for 144 veterans to be laid to rest and will reduce the cost to veterans' families.

Judge Tijerina would like to give thanks to Mr. Segovia for his help in ensuring that our veterans have the final resting place that they deserve.



Veterans Day



As a small token of appreciation, this Veterans Day Judge Tano E. Tijerina invited all Veterans for sweet bread and coffee before Commissioners Court.



“Today we pay tribute to our Veterans. Thank you to all the brave men and women who have selflessly served our country. I also want to thank their families that have supported them. God Bless each and everyone of you all and God Bless the Untied States of America.”

- Judge Tijerina





RIVALRY WEEK



Rivalry week kicked off in Laredo on November 2, 2015. Local leaders from our community, as well as students from both J.W. Nixon High School and Martin High School, gathered together at Shirley Field to proclaim November 2 – 7, “Martin vs. Nixon Friendship Rivalry Week in Webb County.” To view the proclamation, click on the following link https://youtu.be/bEQK_WxQg-s.



Judge Tano E. Tijerina is a graduate of Nixon High School, and as such reveled in the anticipation of rivalry week and activities leading up to the big game on November 7, 2015. The inclement weather was no match for the fans who showed up to cheer and support their favorite team. This year, Nixon laid claim to the Hammer Bowl.

“It’s amazing to see how this small rivalry that dates back from 1964 has evolved into what it is now. It gives everyone of all ages an opportunity to come together and show support towards their alma mater and at the end win loose or draw we are all still one as a community.” said Judge Tijerina.



THANKSGIVING RUN



On Thanksgiving, Judge Tijerina and his staff participated in the 8th Annual Jr. Hands Across South Texas Thanksgiving 10K-5K Run to benefit victims of domestic violence. All proceeds from the race go towards purchasing essential items such as warm clothing, blankets and Thanksgiving meals for families who would otherwise go without this during this time of the year.

“In a time of giving thanks, there is no better way to express how thankful we are for all of our blessings than by giving back to those less fortunate than ourselves and running for a good cause.”

-Judge Tano Tijerina



CIHCP TRAINING



On November 5th & 6th, Webb County hosted the County Indigent Health Care Program (CIHCP) regional training sessions for Region 8. Attendees from surrounding counties including McMullen, Uvalde, LaSalle, and Zavala joined Webb County Indigent Health Care staff in a very thorough training that covered everything from Chapter 61 of the Health and Safety Code, the CIHCP Handbook, and claims processing to Medicaid claim reimbursement. Many thanks to Mary Kathryn Zambrano, Taran Champagne, and Liz Gregg who provided the training as well as Mr. David Auzenne, Director of Community Health Services, for reintroducing the regional CIHCP trainings.

Fiesta De Los Jueces!



Judge Tijerina has brought back Fiesta de los Jueces! Fiesta de los Jueces allows his counterparts from all over South Texas to gather together to encourage camaraderie amongst each other. Fiesta de los Jueces gives them an opportunity to start a dialogue around important issues across our counties and in our communities.

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Do you know Carmen Lopez?

At some point or another, the majority if not all of the employees that make up our Webb County family, has crossed paths with Ms. Carmen Lopez. Ms. Lopez has been employed by Webb County since 2003 and has spent the last 8 years in the Administrative Services Department.

Aside from working at the county, Ms. Lopez enjoys reading a good book and spending time with her two grown boys. She also has an interesting preference when it comes to television—if it's not the Hallmark channel guarantees are she's watching the Walking Dead. But above all, Ms. Lopez is a fighter. She is a cancer survivor!



I've had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Lopez and if we can learn anything from her it is that no matter what color of day you are having, it will always be a bright day. Ms. Lopez, I embarked on No Shave November for everyone that has ever been affected by cancer. Her story and energy truly inspired me. You are a brave individual who fought cancer and won, and you are a true fighter Ms. Lopez. Thank you for always having a smile on your face and for everything that you have done for Webb County.

- *Un Abrazo Grande!*
Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge

National Adoption Month



There were many causes and designations that occurred during the month of November. One that hits exceptionally close to home for Judge Tijerina is that of National Adoption Month. Not everyone may know this, but Judge Tijerina's family was blessed over 9 years ago with two beautiful boys from Guatemala, Christopher Alfonso Tijerina and Keith Alexander Tijerina.

"People say how blessed children are to have families to adopt them when in reality it's the complete opposite, we were blessed with them. Even though you were not born in mommy's tummy you were born in mommy and daddy's heart." – Judge Tano Tijerina

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Webb County Judge Tano E. Tijerina



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@TanoTijerina



Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina

'Tis The Season of Giving!
Join the Webb County Judge's Office
in supporting the
Children's Advocacy Center of
Laredo-Webb County!
November 19th - December 18th
Donate a gift card from Michaels or
Hobby Lobby to help provide arts
and crafts supplies for the children.
Drop off any gift card donation at:
1000 Houston St, 3rd Floor
Weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Next Commissioners
Court Meeting:
December 14, 2015
at 9:00 a.m.

Deadline to Submit
Agenda Items for December:
November 30 @ 8:00 a.m.