



# The Webb County Link

A Publication Of The Webb County Public Information Office

January 2014

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## Important Dates

- \* 2/10 Jury Duty
- \* 2/10 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- \* 2/14 Valentine's Day
- \* 2/17 President's Day County Offices Closed
- \* 2/19 New Employee Orientation
- \* 2/24 Jury Duty
- \* 2/24 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am

## Community Action Agency Awarded CEAP Grant

Good news for the Webb County Community Action Agency as word has been received that over one million dollars have been awarded for the agency's Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). Three years ago the program was halted after an investigation by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) found irregularities in the operation of the program, but was reinstated in 2012.

The Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is a utility assistance program. It is designed to assist low income households in meeting their immediate energy needs and to encourage consumers to control energy costs for years to come through energy education. The program is designed to pay energy consumption bills for eligible clients for up to eight months for those who qualify.



CAA caseworker Sandra Perez explains the application process for the agency's CEAP program to possible participant Elsa Pruneda.

"This is great news for the residents of Webb County who really need the assistance offered by the program," said Webb County Judge Danny Valdez. "It couldn't come at a better time as Laredo is experiencing an extremely cold winter."

Community Action Agency Director Juan Vargas says the return of the program will offer assistance to approximately 6,000 households in Webb County and will help improve the quality of life for Webb County residents. The priority of the program is to help those most in need by providing assistance with cooling and heating bill assistance. This includes paying bills, disconnection services, and crisis aid.

To qualify for the program certain criteria must be met. Potential participants are encouraged to contact one of the many community centers and make an appointment to apply for assistance. Centers currently taking applications are the Lily Perez, Fernando Salinas, Rio Bravo, and the Larga Vista Community Centers.



**WBCA**

Webb County is an official host of the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association. Visit [www.wbcalaredo.org](http://www.wbcalaredo.org) to view the celebration calendar, catch up on news on all the upcoming events, and learn about the long and storied history about this landmark celebration and tradition.

## Heroes Honored

Commissioner Wawi Tijerina and the rest of the Commissioners Court recognized members of Angel Care Ambulance Service, the Webb County Volunteer Fire Department, and U.S. Border Patrol for their valiant efforts in rescuing a Webb County resident during an accident. Their quick response and efforts ensured that the resident would, through rehabilitation, make a full recovery. The Commissioners Court thanked them for their heroic and valiant efforts in going above and beyond the call of duty.



## Working Towards A Healthy County

Webb County, in conjunction with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Region 11, local hospitals, and other local health care providers, has hosted several flu vaccine clinics in the rural areas and community centers of the county, providing over 650 county residents with flu and other vaccines at no cost to the client. While DSHS Region 11 has provided vaccines to those persons who are uninsured, Webb County has purchased its own private stock of flu vaccines to be administered to those who have medical coverage through private or public insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP.

During the Commissioners Court meeting held on Monday, January 13, 2014, Commissioner John Galo sponsored an item that authorized the County Indigent Health Care Services Department to schedule flu vaccine clinics in Webb County that would be open to all county residents regardless of residency within or outside the Laredo city limits. In addition, the court unanimously voted that residents would not be assessed a fee for the vaccine.



Flu Clinic at Santa Teresita Community Center



Flu Clinic at Larga Vista Community Center

"The most important thing is the health of all county residents, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city limits. The state clinics have been open to all county residents though the target population has been those who cannot obtain vaccines from the Laredo Health Department," stated Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina. "A healthy community is what matters and we will continue to work with the state and local partners to continue to provide services to all county residents."

"More than half of the people in my precinct that received the flu vaccine had never been immunized against the flu before, so not only are residents receiving a much needed vaccine but they are receiving it free of charge and at locations that are convenient to those who don't have reliable transportation into Laredo," stated Commissioner Mike Montemayor.

"By providing the county residents with the flu vaccine, we are potentially reducing the number of persons who will suffer from complications of the flu and end up at their doctor's office or worse, the hospital," said Commissioner Jaime Canales.

"Webb County will continue to collaborate with DSHS Region 11, local hospitals, and local health care providers to help ensure that as many county residents receive the flu vaccine as possible," stated Judge Danny Valdez.

Residents are encouraged to contact the County Indigent Health Care Services Department at (956) 523-4747 to get up-to-date information on future vaccine clinics and other options that may be available to them.



Flu Clinic at La Presa Community Center

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Submit your department stories for next month! E-mail your story along with any pictures to [webbpio@webbcountytx.gov](mailto:webbpio@webbcountytx.gov). Stories will be edited for style, grammar, and length. Please be advised that, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that all stories will be publicized.