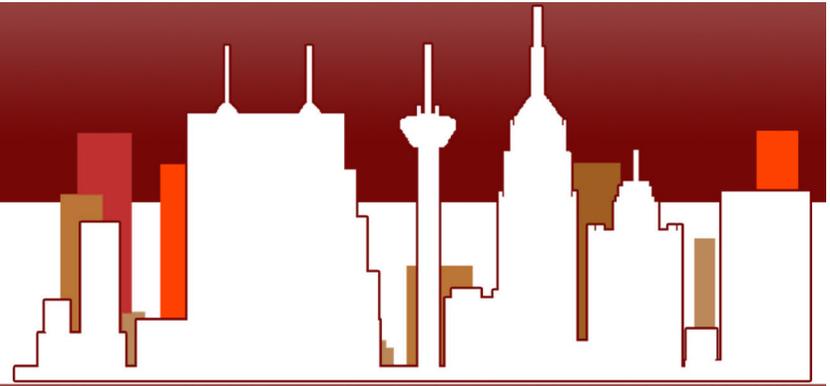




CRIS ★ MEDINA

City Councilman
District 7



THE STATE OF SEVEN
FALL 2014 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCILMAN



Dear Neighbor:

Home is truly where the heart is, and after two and a half months at U.S. Defense Information School, it feels great to be back home! The training received while at Fort Meade, MD will serve our district well. I was also reminded how the men and women in our Armed Services remain trained and ready to defend our country when called upon, and for that, I am grateful and proud to serve.

I also want to give my sincere appreciation for the tremendous amount of support and encouragement you offered to my family and staff while away. It's never easy being away from home, but your support reminded us why San Antonio is proudly called "Military City U.S.A"!

As we transition back, we are grateful to be surrounded and supported by many strong neighborhood and community leaders who have a passion for our community that is unrivaled in any other council district. Together, we have worked hard and produced real results for the families and businesses of District 7.

We will continue to make progress on completing projects from the 2012 Bond, fixing streets and building more sidewalks, improving our libraries, and adding amenities to our parks district wide. Our office will also roll out the expansion of the Seeling Channel drainage project and announce more paving projects for alley ways in our neighborhoods.

Community outreach also remains a high priority for us. From our Back to School Supply Giveaway, Movies at Woodlawn Lake, and our numerous upcoming volunteer projects, the next few months will remain more busy and productive than ever.

As 2014 comes to a close, we anxiously await the opening of our brand new senior center in District 7! You can find more details inside our newsletter. We will also announce three important new policy proposals that will greatly improve the quality of life in our community. And we are also working on a small business expansion initiative that will help create well-paying jobs for our city.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the input and support of residents like you. In 2015, we will rely on you again to help us identify critical needs and quality of life improvements throughout our community.

We have accomplished much, but there is still much to do. We look forward to continuing the work that we have started together and being your advocates at City Hall.

Yours in service,

Cris Medina
City Councilman, District 7

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Councilman Medina's wife Jackie and sons, CJ and Jake, hand out school supplies at the annual District 7 Back to School Supply Giveaway.



Neighborhood leaders, State Representative Justin Rodriguez and Councilman Medina break ground on the new Walmart site, located at Woodlawn and Bandera. Opening Spring 2015.

The District 7 Comprehensive Senior Center

After much anticipation, I am happy to report that the new District 7 Comprehensive Senior Center (CSC) is slated to open late fall 2014. The facility will be co-managed by the city of San Antonio and the WellMed Charitable Foundation and will provide senior citizens (60 years of age or older) with comprehensive services that will enhance their social, psychological, and physiological well-being.

The facility is over 22,000 square feet with hours of operation Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The District 7 CSC is located at 6157 NW Loop 410 just east of Ingram Park Mall.

The facility houses a full size kitchen that will provide lunches to seniors daily at no cost. Nutrition and Health Education programs will also be available.

The fitness area will have an array of exercise equipment. Seniors may energize and strengthen their bodies by using the stationary bikes, treadmills, elliptical machines or a variety of weight equipment. In addition to the fitness equipment; various fitness activities, cultural dance classes, Zumba®, Arthritis Foundation Stretch, Folklorico, Line Dance and Tai Chi will be offered.

The District 7 CSC will have a computer lab with open lab times as well as structured classes for seniors who like to learn more about computers. Classes offered will teach Intro to Computers, Intro to the Internet, Intro to Microsoft Word and Excel, Facebook, Smart Phones, and topics of interest.

The Department of Human Services Family Assistance Division will offer on-site case management services which will include assistance with utility payments (gas, water, and electric), rent, prescriptions and basic medical equipment and employment referral. Consultation will also be available on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Food Stamps, Guardianship, and Financial Coaching.

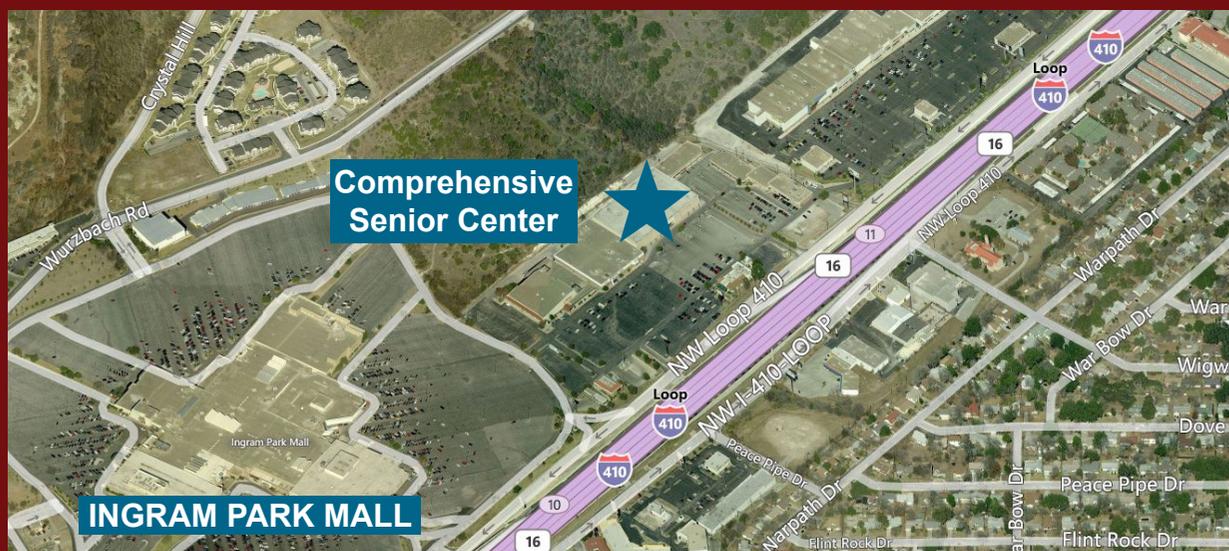
WellMed will provide basic medical services such as free flu shots, health risk assessments, health education/prevention classes, and basic vision/hearing screenings.

Recreation activities will include arts and crafts, bingo, loteria, dominoes, cards, table tennis, and billiards.

The City will provide free transportation Monday through Friday for seniors within a five mile radius of the senior center. The center is less than a ¼ mile walk from the bus stop on the 410 access road for the 607 bus and an approximate ½ mile walk from the Ingram Park Mall Bus Station served by lines 82, 89, 90, 534, 550, 551, and 607. The facility offers ample parking.



Pictures provided by the District 6 Senior Center.



The District 7 Comprehensive Senior Center is located at 6157 NW Loop 410 and is scheduled to open December 2014. The center will offer an array of services tailored towards seniors. For more information contact our office at (210) 207-0870.

A New Playground at Thunderbird Hills Park



Councilman Cris Medina and family, Bill and Jane Dubel, Sandy Jenkins, and State Representative Justin Rodriguez and his son, Aidan.



The completed KaBOOM! playscape built by over 200 volunteers.

Since 2002, the Thunderbird Neighborhood Association, under the leadership of President Jane Dubel, has asked for a park for the families of their community. Thanks to the 2012 Bond, that dream will soon become a reality. Not only will this park bring green space and a walking trail to the inner city, but will also be the site of a KaBOOM! Playscape. KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the daily lives of all kids. KaBOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve 16,000 playgrounds, and has engaged more than one million volunteers and served 7.4 million children. A playground is more than a playground. It's a brain-expander, friend-maker, and muscle-builder. Play is central to a child's ability to grow into a productive adult.

In September, dozens of local children were invited to come together to design an empty lot to a new playspace. Their ideas were then incorporated into the final playground design. A special thank you to the many people who made this park possible from the City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation, Thunderbird Hills Neighborhood Association, KaBOOM!, ESPN, and Disney. Through everyone's efforts, the children and families in Thunderbird Hills neighborhood now have a safe and accessible place to gather and play.

I am committed to continuously improve our children's lives through healthier lifestyles. The build day was a success and I am overjoyed to see all of the sponsors, community leaders, and volunteers who came out to support the kickoff celebration and for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

If you would like to volunteer for a future project or serve in other ways, please contact our office at (210) 207-0870.

Let us restrict the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors

As a father, I am deeply concerned that children under the age of 18 can freely purchase, possess and use electronic cigarettes in our community. When we envision them stopping at a convenience store after school, we picture them getting bubble gum, not bubble gum-flavored liquid nicotine to smoke.

I have also learned that many e-cigarette products are manufactured overseas, with many of the ingredients not being disclosed properly. Flavors like bubble gum, chocolate, cola, and cherry all appeal to children.

According to the Center for Disease Control, the number of children using e-cigarettes has grown exponentially and emergency room visits for children poisoned by nicotine has risen. Liquid nicotine cartridges are actually marked with a skull and crossbones indicating that the contents are poisonous if ingested. Children should not have access to this poison.

That is why I took action and authored a Council Consideration Request (CCR) asking for a new city ordinance that will restrict the sale and possession of "E-cigs" to minors under the age of 18.

This proposal will ask for citywide restrictions on the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors and the possession of electronic cigarettes and liquid nicotine by minors.

I would like to know your thoughts on this issue. Should City Council ban the sale and possession of E-Cigs to minors? Your opinion is very important to me.



E-cigs are increasingly gaining popularity. Locally the sale of e-cigs to minors is not prohibited.

In Your Neighborhood...

Improvements continue at Woodlawn Lake Park and Seeling Channel Phase I. A pedestrian bridge with decorative art handrails, and new vehicular bridge across South Josephine Tobin Drive has been added enhancing safety and pedestrian access to the Park. Nearby streets including Wilson, Woodlawn, and Mistletoe will see upgrades after the channel improvements are made. A new fence along the channel will also be added. The Park's walking trail and east side playground area will also see upgrades to improve the quality of park amenities for visitors.



The Great Neighborhoods Now Initiative continues Councilman Medina's hands-on approach to working with our neighborhoods on community improvement projects such as graffiti abatement, park cleanup and other community service-oriented projects.

These beautification projects help to improve not only the aesthetic value of our neighborhoods, but also the safety conditions restoring a sense of pride across the district. In working with volunteers from across neighborhood

associations, schools, and nonprofits in the district, residents are seeing less litter in parks, streets and creekways. In fact, some neighborhood associations, like the Donaldson Terrance Neighborhood Association, have decided to adopt a vacant lot and turn it into a small pocket park.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or would like to spearhead a volunteer project, please contact our offices at (210) 207-0870.



"Pets for Vets" Program

As a member of the Armed Forces, I understand just how special a pet's companionship can offer a family who may be without their soldier. I developed the Pets for Vets program to make it easier for our service members and their families to connect with pets in need of a loving home. The department of Animal Care Services offers discount fees for pet adoptions and assistance with spaying and neutering, microchipping and vaccinations for active, reserve and retired military. I encourage you to take advantage of these resources today.

The City of San Antonio's Animal Care Services (ACS) department would like to remind our community to keep all humans and animals safe. Dog bites or attacks can be prevented by safeguarding the public from violent animals. A legally defined dangerous dog is one that has bitten a victim and that victim or a witness has filed a sworn affidavit attesting that the dog was involved in an incident, causing injury and was unprovoked. Filing this affidavit is the first step in declaring an animal a dangerous dog. Once an animal is deemed dangerous by ACS, the dog must:

- be kept in an enclosure defined as a house, or if kept outside, a secure pen or 6ft high fence to prevent escape,
- be muzzled when outside the enclosure and on a sturdy leash,
- have a special collar identifying the dog as dangerous, and
- be spayed or neutered.

The owner is required to have a special license, \$100,000 of liability insurance, and attach signs on their property warning of a dangerous dog.

I invite you to report dogs you feel may be dangerous to our offices and/or ACS. I also encourage you to adopt a pet; we all want loving homes and my wife, children and I can attest that our dog is a member of the family. For more information contact (210) 207-4PET.



Safe Streets SA Initiative

Safe streets in our community are a priority. In an effort to increase the safety of neighborhood streets for children, pedestrians and cyclists, I proposed the “Safe Streets SA” Initiative. Earlier this year, the City Council adopted this policy and directed the Transportation and Capital Improvements Department to install eleven pilot areas, including two in District 7, throughout the city to determine the effectiveness of reduced speeds.

The Federal Highway Administration finds that “a pedestrian hit by a vehicle traveling 20 miles per hour has a 95 percent chance of surviving. If the vehicle is traveling at 30 miles per hour, the chances of survival decrease to 55 percent...the distance required to stop a vehicle traveling at 20 miles per hour is 19.1 feet. The stopping distance increases to 43 feet at 30 miles per hour.” Slowing speeds on residential streets will save lives.

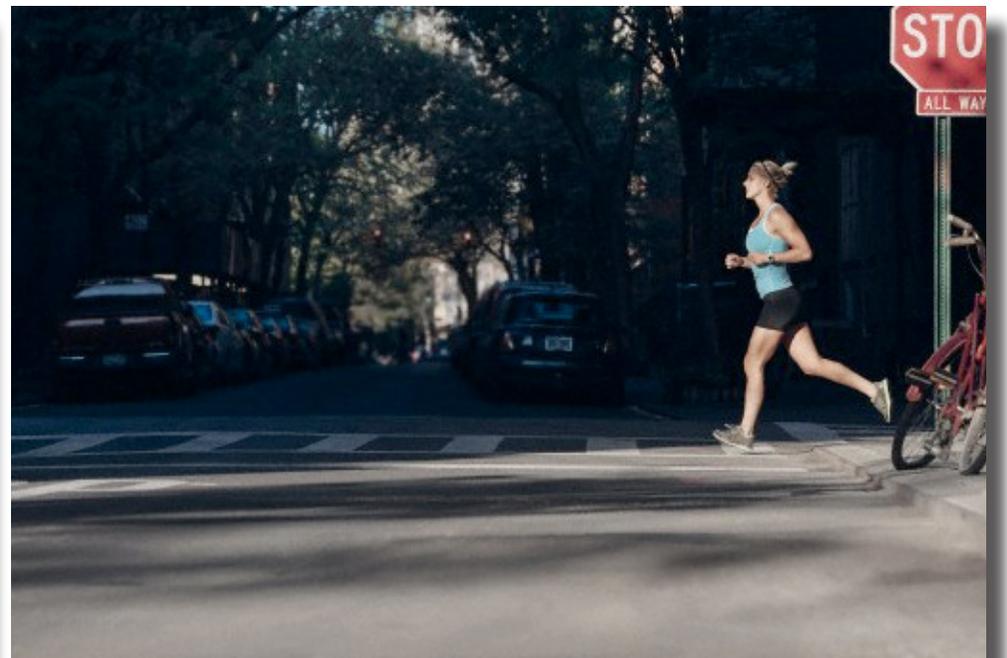
The SAFE Streets program was proposed, through the District 7 office, to address speeding along residential streets and other areas with high pedestrian traffic such as schools, daycares, churches, and community centers. The city’s Transportation and Capital Improvements department responded to this proposal by studying specific areas of the city where frequent speeding endangers lives. One such area included in this pilot study is the surrounding neighborhood of Woodlawn Lake Park.

Strategies for reducing speeding that are currently being implemented include:

- Lowering residential speed limits from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour
- More frequent re-markings of crosswalks
- More frequent sign installations
- Addition of speed humps
- A city-wide campaign educating pedestrians on the importance of using designated crosswalks, and drivers on the importance of sharing the road and monitoring vehicular speeds.

The SAFE Streets initiative enhances the SAFE Schools initiative. The SAFE Schools effort is designed to increase sidewalk connectivity and lighting around schools making it easier and safer for our children to move to and from school grounds. Better sidewalks mean designated paths for pedestrians.

The bottom line is that no one should lose their life crossing a street. The SAFE Streets and SAFE Schools initiatives help to improve our quality of life by improving the safety of our citizens. For more information contact our office at (210) 207-0870.





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Chief of Constituency

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Executive Secretary

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Helpful Numbers

24 Hour City Hotline.....	311
Emergency.....	911
SAPD Non-Emergency.....	207-7273
SAFFE Prue Substation.....	207-7169
SAFFE West Substation.....	207-0810
Fire Non-Emergency.....	207-7744
Animal Care Services.....	207-4738
Birth and Death Records.....	207-4214
Graffiti.....	207-7881
Health Department.....	207-8780
Bexar County Elections Department..	355-VOTE
Ask a Librarian.....	207-2500
Literacy, GED, ESL Classes.....	207-7227
SAWS.....	207-7297
Senior Citizen Services.....	207-7172
Tax Office.....	335-2251

Calendar of Events

November 27 th and 28 th	Thanksgiving Holiday City Offices Closed
December 1 st	Woodlawn Lake Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Woodlawn Lake Island House Event Starts at 5:30 p.m.
December 4 th	City Council Meeting
December 9 th	District 7 Excellence in Leadership Holiday Banquet at St. Luke's Parish Hall 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. 4603 Manitou Drive
December 11 th	City Council Meeting
December 24 th -January 1 st	Christmas Holiday City Offices Closed

Visit Sanantonio.gov for an extensive listing of events

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