



The Commissioner's Correspondence

News from the office of
Jen Crossover,
Comal County
Commissioner Pct 4

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A note from Jen: Keeping an Eye on CommUNITY

I recently had the honor of addressing a crowd at the opening ceremony for Canyon Lake Hawks Youth Football...an organization that my family and I used to be part of. I found myself with chills as I watched the current board, coaches, parents and kiddos scurry about with the excitement of a new season ahead of them. I remember those days when my kids were shorter than me, and we were at that same ceremony with the next 3 months of time, hard work, dedication, and unknowns in front of us. I felt that same excitement for these families, and it's that same contagious excitement I still have with my job and involvement in the community—and that was my message to them. Focus on what it's about...building honorable young men and women. Building teams—teams that don't work with one or two stars—teams that only work if everyone does their job and does their best. Building a community, and leaving things better and more unified than you found them. And when times are tough and things are frustrating, break it down and bring it back to the basics...one team, one goal, and one community. Focus on that, and you'll do great things!



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Comal County Sheriff's Office
3005 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, TX 78130
830.620.3400 • co.comal.tx.us/so/

In case you didn't know, as of January 2017, there's a new sheriff in town. And with the new sheriff, a few new ideas, methods, and approaches have been employed—changing some of the ways the law enforcement officers in Comal County do business.

One of these initiatives is the Directed Patrol Unit, and the other is the re-engagement of the Inmate Trustee Program.

Directed Patrol Unit.

Several residents have commented on the greater visibility of patrols in the community. Some have even questioned the number of them, often seen

congregated together in different areas of the county.

Earlier this spring, Sheriff Reynolds began the directed patrol initiative. Neighborhoods and communities around Comal County have started to see an increased marked patrol presence. Though locally focused, the teams move from one neighborhood to another as progress is made.

With the help of the K9 units and Crime Stoppers, the newly formed Directed Patrol Unit is working towards eradicating drug trafficking and associated criminal activity from our neighborhoods.

As part of this effort, it's important to understand that it will be necessary to step up traffic



Chief Deputy Jimmy Jones & Sheriff Mark Reynolds

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enforcement on our streets. The goal is to identify individuals who are believed to be involved in criminal activity or are wanted. So if you are stopped, please be patient and understand that it is part of the Sheriff's new crime initiative. In most cases, you'll be warned about the violation and allowed to proceed.

In addition to stepped-up traffic enforcement (which in and of itself makes neighborhoods safer), deputies will be using a variety of tried and true police surveillance methods to help identify those involved in criminal activity. Methods, such as plainclothes officers, observation posts, and unmarked vehicles are being employed. In order to help us be even more effective, we ask that you continue to call the Sheriff's Office if you see someone or something that isn't quite right. If you see something, say something. Don't be the person who looks back, saying, "What if..."

There are a lot of people out there who have asked, "How can I help?" Glad you asked!

The Sheriff's Office is looking for locations—homes and businesses—to be used to conduct surveillance operations.

They are also looking for tips! Crime Stoppers (830.620.8477) is involved and ready to hear from you about what's going on in your neighborhood. Sheriff Reynolds has also set up a tip line (830.643.5846) in case you want to share something that you feel might be some form of criminal activity.

Inmate Trustee Program

At first, you may think there's been a jailbreak, but on second glance, you realize they're wielding lawn mowers, paint brushes and other useful tools.

Sheriff Reynolds, with the help of Sgt. Steve Garcia and Officers Ryan Gonyer and David Cochran, has re-engaged the



Inmate Trustee Program, also known as a work program.

After hearing about the work program tackling things like litter on some of the roads in our community, landscaping projects at the Sheriff's Office and the like, I contacted the sheriff about some projects I knew of in the community that may be beneficial. After a few meetings and working out some logistics, the sheriff and I have been able to expand the work program to include projects at Canyon Lake, in some of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Parks, and also at the Humane Society of New Braunfels.

Both organizations have benefited greatly from this relationship, and having some extra hands to help with some of the workload. The inmates also seem to enjoy the work, the privilege that comes with the change of scenery, and a break from the monotony of being behind bars.

These are just a few of the changes in operations as the leadership of the Sheriff's Office has begun anew. We look forward to measuring the impact in the community as a more aggressive stance is taken against criminal activity in Comal County.

Bravo, Sheriff Reynolds, and your men and women who serve. Thank you for your service.



Listed are a few items of public interest that the County has taken action on in the past few weeks:

- The County, jail architect (HDR, Inc.), and project manager (Broaddus & Associates) are busy working on the last details of planning for the jail project. A groundbreaking will be scheduled in the late summer/early fall to kick off the construction of this long-anticipated project.
- County Court at Law #1 and the County Court-at-Law Clerks have been temporarily relocated from the Landa Building (downtown) to the old City Hall (424 S. Castell Ave.).
- The Comal County Elections Office will relocate to their new home in August. The new location is the old "TCOR Building," located at 396 N. Seguin Ave. Remodeling of that building is underway at this time.
- As the Landa Building is emptied out (Courts, Clerks and Elections relocated), we will prepare to remodel that building for better use, including additional courtroom space to help our judicial branch run more efficiently.
- Commissioners Court recently held budget hearings for the 2018 county budget. We are currently working through the requests for the upcoming year. Hearings will be held on August 17 (at 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.) to amend and adopt the 2018 budget.
- Public Health Director, Gwen Mills, retired in June, and we welcomed our new Public Health Director Cheryl Frasier to the county team in July.

Crime Stoppers:
830.620.8477
Directed Patrol Tip Line:
830.643.5846 - leave message
Sheriff Non-Emergency Number:
830.620.3400
or dial 911 for an emergency!

"My heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect our world and make it a better place - police, firefighters, and members of our armed forces."
~Sidney Sheldon

TOPIC

I'm sure many of you have noticed or maybe even engaged in the great fireworks debate of 2017. I assure you we (county officials) have been watching the threads on social media with great interest and attention. Many folks have demanded action where there had been none (as of July 4), and some even claimed incompetence on behalf of the county for the lack of action.

With regard to this topic, there are thresholds associated with burn bans and firework bans, and we cannot legally take action unless we meet those criteria. For example:

 *Burn Ban: The KBDI (Keetch-Byram Drought Index... <http://twc.tamu.edu/kbdi>) typically needs to be at least 500 to declare a Burn Ban for the County.

 *Fireworks Limitations: According to state laws, the KBDI needs to be at least 575 in order to limit *some* fireworks (ones with sticks & fins) by about a month before the holiday (to allow for it to post on our action agendas in the required amount of time before the sales window starts)

 *Fireworks Ban: Under state law, the KBDI needs to be at least 750, and we need to be under a disaster declaration (including possible action by the governor), in order to ban fireworks completely.

Believe me, there is a method to the madness, and there are rules for what we can and cannot do legally.

 *Fireworks "Safe" Zones: The county does not have zoning authority, and cannot designate such zones (as cities can in some cases).

Changing these rules happens at the state level, and requires legislation to be passed by the House and Senate, and then signed into law by the Governor.

Summer Road Improvements

Dozens of roads in subdivisions spread throughout Comal County will receive a new seal coat this summer, including many in Precinct 4.

As part of the county's annual seal coat program, contractor Fuquay Inc. will resurface 41 miles of roads including those the following subdivisions:

- The Point at Rancho del Lago
- Sattler Village & River Valley Estates
- Canyon Lake Island
- Cypress Cove and parts of Mystic Shores

Additional seal coating and road preparation by county crews will continue throughout the summer in these, and other neighborhoods.

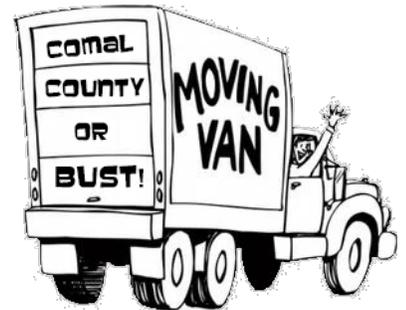
"Comal County's annual summer seal coat program helps extend the life and improve the drivability of county-maintained roads," said County Engineer Tom Hornseth. "We don't anticipate major disruptions, but we do appreciate residents' patience and consideration if they encounter any delays over the summer."

NEW TO TOWN?

The Comal County Office of the AgriLife Extension Service is helping new residents find information about the area.

In an effort to help new homeowners find information about Comal County services, learn about native planting and best landscaping practices, home upkeep issues and much more, the Comal County Extension Office is holding a Realtor and homeowner open house on Friday, Sept. 22 from 9-11a.m. at 325 Resource Drive, New Braunfels (behind the Recycling Center on Hwy 46 West).

Come see our demonstration garden, trail of trees, oak mott, and more. Learn how we can help your homeowners have a better Comal County home experience. Refreshments provided. You will also get one free voucher to attend any of our upcoming educational programs. Please call 830.620.3440 for more information.



Schedule Change Announcement:

Effective immediately: the Comal County Veterans Services Office will be available by appointment only on Fridays.

You may still book an appointment or take advantage of walk-in hours on the other days of the week, or at their remote office locations in Sattler, Garden Ridge, or Bulverde.

Please call 830.221.1170 for additional information.



Need a passport?

Come by the District Clerk's Office for friendly service and a quick turnaround. Passports are processed *by appointment only*, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 830.221.1105 for an appointment.

Comal County Public Health Office offers low-cost vaccines and additional clinic hours before school starts



Monday - Friday, 8a.m.-noon and 1-5p.m.
 Open late, until 7 p.m. Aug 15, 17, 22 & 24
 Saturday, August 12, 9 a.m.-2p.m.

Call 830.221.1150 for appointments and more information.
 The Public Health Office is located @ 1297 Church Hill Drive in New Braunfels.



We're working hard to make things easy for YOU!

- Information about Zika: ComalZika.org
- Information about elections & voting: VoteComal.com
- Jail Bond Project Updates: ComalCountyJail.org

Don't forget: As of July 7, we are under a BURN BAN. If you have any questions, please check out the Fire Marshal's office, or call 830.643.3748.

Dates of Interest:

- August 1 Property Tax Sale
- August 12 DIY Saturday: Slow Cookers for Fast Food
- September 4 Labor Day: County offices closed
- September 9 DIY Saturday: Sausage Making
- September 22 New Homeowner/Realtor Education Seminar at the AgriLife Extension Office, 9-11a.m.
- September 29 Fair Day: County offices closed
- October 3 National Night Out!
Property Tax Sale
- October 10 Last day to register to vote for November 7 election
- October 14 DIY Saturday: Kids Day in the Garden, 9 a.m.-noon, FREE!
- October 19 Pesticide Private Applicator License Training Course at the AgriLife Extension Office. \$60 class fee, please call 830.620.3440 to register. Space limited.
- Oct 23-Nov 3 Early Voting
- November 7 Election Day
- November 10 Veterans Day observed: County offices closed
- November 11 DIY Saturday: Traditions Start at Home

All DIY Saturday classes are \$15/person (except "Sausage Making," which is \$20) and take place from 9-11 a.m. Please call to register in advance: 830.620.3440. Classes take place at the Comal County AgriLife Extension Office, located at 325 Resource Drive (next to the Comal County Recycling Center).

Need to get in touch with Jen?
It's easy!
EMAIL:
JenCrownover@MyComalCounty.com
PHONE:
 830.221.1104
WEB:
www.co.comal.tx.us/Comal_County_Precinct_4.htm
FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/ComalCountyPct4

Also, there is a calendar on my website that features my Canyon Lake and Spring Branch hours. Come see me at either location if it is more convenient!

Jen's County Hours:

Canyon Lake Fire Station #1
 1074 Scissortail
 1st & 3rd
 Tuesdays
 10a.m.-3p.m.

Bulverde/Spring Branch Fire Station #2
 2016 Puter Creek Dr.
 2nd & 4th
 Tuesdays
 10a.m.-3p.m.

Comal County Recycling Schedule ~ For more information: co.comal.tx.us/rec.html					
Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
6:30-11:30a.m. Spring Branch Fire Station @ U.S. 281/FM 311	6:30-11:30a.m. Garden Ridge City Hall on FM 3009 AND Canyon Lake Fire Station #2 (Oblate/Startzville)	6:30-11:30a.m. VFW in Sattler River Road @ FM 2673	6:30-11:30a.m. Mystic Shores Boat Ramp 22100 N. Cranes Mill Road	6:30-11:30a.m. Bulverde County Annex 20470 Cougar Bend	8a.m.-noon at the Recycling Center 281 Resource Dr.
Also, you can come by the Recycling Center anytime Tuesday-Friday from 7a.m.-noon or 12:30-3p.m. to drop off recyclables or pick up mulch.					