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COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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New county GIS site overhauls map software for public

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NEW BRAUNFELS — An overhaul of the Comal County mapping system has brought an easier-to-use interface, more color and a wealth of information to residents' fingertips.

The county's new GIS (geographic information system) is at <http://cceo.org/gis/gismain.asp>. It includes easier zooming and panning, as well as layers that provide information on everything from city limits and school zones to topography and floodplains. It retains the old system's connection to the Comal County Appraisal District's property-tax information.

The GIS website serves about 200 people per day.

"The old website was definitely in need of an upgrade," said County Engineer Tom Hornseth, who oversees the GIS office. "The new maps give users more flexibility, more information and an easier platform to get what they need."

The new system is viewable on both traditional computers and mobile devices, and it provides 114 layers mapping school districts and county precincts, providing historical satellite imagery for the past 10 years, and showing voting precincts and locations, among much more. It also includes search capabilities by address, street, subdivision, parcel or intersection, and the ability to measure, annotate and print the map to a PDF.

GIS Manager Pedro Salazar, two analysts and an address coordinator finished the upgrade in about six months. Along with the base map, Salazar's team created several interactive maps based on recreation,

schools and commissioners precincts that also can be found on the GIS webpage.

“Pedro and his crew did a great job,” Hornseth said. “This tool is an important service the county offers to residents free of charge, and our GIS team has made it one of the best out there.”

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