

October 28, 2015

FROM THE OFFICE OF
ROSA LAVENDER
KERR COUNTY VICTIM'S
RIGHTS COORDINATOR
700 MAIN ST.
KERRVILLE, TX 78028

County Eye Newsletter

County leaders are moving forward with plans to build a wastewater collection system for the East Kerr County area to include the community of Center Point. The project is estimated to cost more than \$44 million, most of the funding to come from clean water development grants from state sources.

Commissioners earlier this month agreed to provide \$5 million in matching funds, if needed, to secure state grant funds for the early phase. At the time the 2015-16 county budget was adopted these matching funds were not included but commissioners agreed the funds could be drawn from the county's reserves.

The state recommends that a county maintain a reserve fund of 25% or more of the county's annual expenditures for emergency needs and Kerr County luckily has met that threshold this budget year.

Infrastructure projects like this are always multi-phased, long-term and very expensive but will have a long time positive impact on all Kerr County residents.

The positive effect of similar wastewater collection systems completed in Kerrville South and the City of Ingram have already significantly improved the water quality in the Guadalupe River and several of its tributaries.

With the engineering phase almost complete, the county is moving forward with negotiations with landowners along the route the collection lines will need to go to carry the gathered wastewater to the Comfort wastewater treatment plant for processing.

Early in the process the decision was made to send the wastewater collected into the new system downhill to the Comfort facility rather than trying to pump it back uphill to the Kerrville plant which probably would not be able to treat additional capacity as the Kerrville and Ingram systems already provide adequate capacity for that plant.

The community of Center Point has already begun to benefit from the new interest in improving that area of the county. One new discount retail store has already opened and one is under construction at the intersection of Texas 27 and F.M. 480.

Private investors have begun work on several of the buildings in the historic downtown area which may soon house new restaurants or retail interests that will hopefully compliment other businesses already established in the community.

Hopefully work on restoration of the historic railroad depot which was moved back to Center Point's downtown historical park will be spurred by other growth in that area.

The potential for positive change in Center Point and along Texas 27 to Comfort will be enhanced by the construction of a reliable wastewater system and that will be good for all of Kerr County in the years ahead.

Rain, although much needed and appreciated, put a damper on many weekend activities last weekend. The Kerr County Fair saw a significant impact with several activities cancelled and the crowds who did attend were pretty sparse. Unfortunately those kinds of events can't be rescheduled.

Market Days on the courthouse square was cancelled but will be back for a two day market on Thanksgiving weekend.

Hopefully some of the other activities can be rescheduled. Looking ahead, the next Hill Country Swap Meet will be on Nov. 7 at the Hill Country Youth Event Center.

The holiday season is fast approaching. Volunteers will soon begin decorating the courthouse for the Christmas season. Watch for several new changes this year.

Have a safe Tivy homecoming on Friday and watch out for the little ghosts, goblins and superheroes that will be on the streets on Saturday. Don't forget to change your clocks back one hour on Saturday night as daylight savings ends for another year.