

November 25, 2015

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
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## County Eye Newsletter

Thanksgiving is the time each year when we give thanks for all the blessings in our lives and reflect on the importance of family. The tradition goes back almost 400 years in America's history.

Children create turkeys and pilgrims in a variety of ways in classrooms across our community and share in modified meals to celebrate the true meaning of the holiday but the adults often are lost in football games and shopping plans.

In light of the events around the world and in our own country in recent months we might need to pause and say thanks this year for our freedoms and the safety we enjoy in this holiday period.

While we enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner and a bit of football or maybe head out to shop or hunt, we need to give thanks for the law enforcement officers, firemen and emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers who are on the job keeping us safe.

Additionally we should be grateful for all the medical professionals in our community who are available around the holidays to treat the sick and injured. Sometimes we take for granted the dedication of those folks this time of year.

The Kerr County Courthouse and associated county offices will be closed Thursday and Friday to allow county officials and employees to enjoy the holiday weekend with family.

Candidates have begun to file for places on the March primary ballots. Filing continues through Monday, December 14. The only race so far to draw multiple candidates is the open seat race for Precinct 1 commissioner.

Several people have picked up the information to file but only three candidates have formally announced. The other two open seats, 216<sup>th</sup> district attorney and Pct. 1 constable, had only one candidate declaring in each race at the end of last week. All of the open seats have been created by retirements.

Much is said on the national level about "vetting" a candidate. It is no less important to do the same process with local races. Candidates must be prepared to discuss their goals for running for public office and their views on issues facing their particular office.

Especially important in this year's election will be the open commissioner's race. A county commissioner is one of five people (including the county judge) that makes up the so-called legislative branch of county government. Their deliberations and decisions can have a real impact on our daily lives.

State and federal legislative actions can also impact our daily lives but we have almost no real control over those entities, but we do have direct control in the ballot box over local elections that lead to changes in our immediate lifestyles.

The next four years will bring real challenges to county leaders especially in budgeting and economic growth. Ongoing demands for more services and better services provided by the county will not decrease and taxpayers will continue to demand efficiency and accountability from our elected leaders.

Several political forums after the first of the year will give voters a chance to meet all the candidates. Hopefully there will be more than the one contested race but, if not, then the voters in Precinct 1 will bear the burden of vetting the commissioner candidates and

**selecting the person who best reflects the goals, beliefs and values of the residents of that precinct that make up one-fourth of the voters in Kerr County.**

**We wish everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.**