

FROM THE OFFICE OF
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County Eye Newsletter

Clean-up from the recent storms has kept Kerr County maintenance personnel and employees of the Kerr County Road and Bridge Department quite busy over the last few days. Their job isn't likely to be over for some time because of the widespread damage to all parts of the county.

Be patient because they will be working to correct all the issues as quickly as possible but they only have so much time and resources to cover lots of areas in need of services. A special thank you goes out to those folks as they work to restore our beautiful county facilities and roads.

Hopefully the sunshine and drier weather this week will spell a change in the weather for a while and we can all have time to clean up and repair the damage done to both public and private property.

Windshield repair, body shops and roofing companies are sure to stay busy for a number of months.

Such widespread damage to Kerr County vehicles has placed a special burden on this year's budget so commissioners' court and the county auditor are busy resolving those most immediate issues.

Insurance will cover some of the damage but additional funds will have to be allocated to cover the rest.

County leaders are moving forward to approve the preliminary documents that will lead to grant funds for the construction of the East Kerr County Wastewater Project. With the recent rains that have fallen the need for controlling the discharge of wastewater from residences along the Guadalupe River in the Eastern part of the county became more urgent.

Grant funding from the Texas Water Development Board will provide the bulk of the funds for the project which is rated as the #1 project in the state by the TWDB. They will be providing more than \$30 million dollars toward construction of the project. Construction will begin later this year on Phase I of the project.

Groundbreaking for the Kerr County jail expansion project will be coming in the next couple of months. The need for additional jail beds is getting more critical as time moves on. Last week there were several days when there were less than 10 beds available for new arrestees.

As a community we want persons who have committed criminal acts to be off the streets but when the jail is near capacity like it has been in recent weeks it brings challenges to law enforcement in making arrests. If our jail is full then prisoners would need to be transferred to other jails and the cost in money and manpower to transfer prisoners is astronomical.

Hopefully the jail overcrowding situation will be solved in the near future. Summertime is often a time when more people interact with law enforcement and find themselves in trouble.

Children are out of school for the summer and over 30 local summer camps in Kerr County are in full operation now. All of us need to be especially careful driving in areas of our county where children play in the summer months. Tragedies can be prevented by paying careful attention when traveling in those areas.

Stay safe and enjoy the improving weather in the days to come. We are blessed to live in an area that was only slightly impacted by the recent storms. Please keep all the victims in other areas of Texas who are suffering so much more damage in our thoughts and prayers.

