

FROM THE OFFICE OF
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County Eye Newsletter

Change is in the air. Fall has arrived and the temperatures are dropping and trees are beginning their annual color change. Change is a catalyst for humanity. It can inspire us to be better, try harder, or accomplish more.

Much has changed in our community in the past few months. Political, educational, and economic leaders (both past and present) have moved on to other positions, retired or passed away. The loss of each in those positions leaves a temporary void in a community of our size.

New faces and new ideas will soon replace most of those folks and with each replacement will be the opportunity to bring new reasons for us to come together and adapt as a community.

Kerr County will soon welcome two new constables in Pct. 1 and Pct. 2. Both Tommy Rodriguez and Kenneth Wilke are retired from the Kerrville Police Department and both have extensive law enforcement experience to the office.

Deputy constables who provide law enforcement services in the Kerr County Animal Control and Environmental Services department moved their commissions effective Oct. 1 from Pct. 1 to Pct. 2 Constable Charlie Hicks' office.

Longtime 216th District Attorney Bruce Curry is preparing to turn over the reins of his office to his assistant Lucy Wilke at the end of the year. Curry retires as the longest serving district attorney in the state of Texas.

Veteran Pct. 1 Commissioner Buster Baldwin will turn the keys to his office over the radio personality and local businessman Harley Belew at the end of the year when Baldwin retires.

Not only the county but the City of Kerrville will see new faces soon. With the departure of City Manager Todd Parton and the death of Councilman Gary Stork there will be change in city government.

The Kerr County economic scene will change with the loss of Jonas Titas to a new position in Harris County.

Kerrville schools will be welcoming a new superintendent in the months ahead after the departure of Dr. Dan Troxell. Troxell recently moved on to become superintendent in the Leander school district. A new superintendent will surely bring change to the school system in the months ahead.

On a more personal level commissioners will soon be choosing a new Victim Rights Coordinator from applications submitted in recent weeks. The position was created in 2004 and serves victims in Kerr County and felony victims in Gillespie and Bandera counties. Funded primarily by a federal block grant that passes through the governor's office, the person selected will be the master of their own destiny.

A part of the new person's responsibility will be to continue to successfully write a grant to fund the position in the years ahead.

Serving victims and families of victims of violent crimes who are in crisis mode is a huge responsibility for whoever is selected. When this program began 12 years ago I had no clue it would make such a dramatic impact on victim services in this area.

During the time I worked in the media from 1999 to 2004 I realized victims had very limited support through the system that existed at that time. Each prosecutor office and each law enforcement agency, by law, must have a designated person to provide victim services.

By creating the current program as a single person and office serving the multi-agency role it brought the services together to more efficiently and effectively provide the help and support needed by persons and families in crisis. With the help of several dedicated volunteers over the years the efficiency of the office has been improved.

Most of you have figured out by now that I will be joining my husband John who is the current Pct. 1 constable as we both retire at the end of his term on December 31. Between now and then I will be working to train and mentor my replacement, a unique opportunity that often doesn't occur when change happens in a job.

Change is guaranteed to come at the national political level at the end of the year also. In recent days the challenge of selecting the right leader has become a huge issue for all voters. Early voting is set to begin in Texas in less than two weeks. Hopefully the pathway to help all of us make the right decision will soon become clear.

Years ago someone told me that "this too shall pass" so hopefully the days and weeks ahead will bring calm and rational solutions to this country and to our community.