



# CRIS MEDINA

## City Councilman

# District 7



Putting Our Community First

## THE STATE OF SEVEN (7)

★★★ A Community Impact Report for the Citizens of District 7 ★★★



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**CRIS MEDINA**  
CITY COUNCILMAN  
DISTRICT 7

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and enjoying some of our classic San Antonio spring weather. The last few days have certainly been picture perfect!

In our continuation of keeping you the taxpayer up to date on the latest news in and around our district and at City Hall, we have compiled this newsletter of projects, upcoming events, and our contact information for your convenience.

As someone who loves the outdoors and as a father of two boys, there is no higher mission for me than protecting our children, pedestrians, and bicyclists as they commute, exercise, and play on our local streets and sidewalks. So, recently we submitted the framework for a new policy that will give neighborhoods unprecedented local control over speed limits on their streets. Data shows the survivability rate of a vehicle pedestrian collision at 20 mph is 95% -it drops to 15% at 40 mph. Called "Safe Streets SA", this proposed ordinance will reform the speed hump request and approval process, expand lower speed zones around daycares, senior centers, and parks, and allow you and your neighbors to petition for lower speed limits on your local streets.

Currently, we are ushering through several major initiatives that will drastically improve the quality of life in our community. We are taking the fight to taggers by proposing a comprehensive, citywide, anti-graffiti ordinance—the first in San Antonio history. This proposed ordinance will toughen penalties and employ more "proactive" rather than "reactive" methods to combating graffiti in our neighborhoods and businesses. In addition, we've secured funding for a new, comprehensive Senior Center for District 7 (read more on page 3), created the first ever city office for volunteer coordination and community projects to work with our faith-based communities and worked with TXDoT to ease traffic congestion all along Bandera Rd.

Over the coming months, we will continue to roll out several new initiatives aimed specifically at improving the access and quality of city services, and keeping our neighborhoods safe for your family

The state of District 7 is strong and getting stronger. I appreciate your continued friendship and support. My staff and I stand ready to serve you.

Sincerely,

Cris Medina  
City Councilmember, District 7

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*In an effort to improve safety on Mainland Dr., Councilman Cris Medina has implemented several traffic calming measures which included newly installed chevrons along the road.*



*Councilman Cris Medina regularly meets with members of the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to discuss increased economic development for District 7.*

# THE STATE OF SEVEN (7)

## POLICY NEWS

### Traffic Relief Remains a Top Priority in District 7

Traffic relief and transportation issues are very important to District 7 residents. In an effort to provide relief for traffic congestion in the District, Councilman Medina issued a proposal that called for the City to look into the installation of notification signage along the Bandera Road corridor. The request also included the prospect of asking local major employers staggering arrival and departure times for employees – which could result in better traffic flow.



along Bandera Rd.

To ensure the continued safety of drivers and pedestrians along Fredericksburg Rd, Councilman Medina allocated funds for the installation of the HAWK Pedestrian Crosswalk System. The first of its kind in San Antonio, the HAWK System allows for pedestrians to safely cross the road by alerting drivers there are pedestrians in the crosswalk. Councilman Medina hopes to have more HAWK systems installed across District 7 to increase safety in the community.

As the District continues to grow, Councilman Medina’s involvement in transportation initiatives remains strong as is his dedication to continue pushing for traffic safety improvements throughout District 7.

Councilman Medina also led the effort on an agreement with TXDoT, the City of Leon Valley, and the City of San Antonio to synchronize the lights along Bandera Rd to ensure a steady traffic flow. This new effort will help to reduce those travel times and allow drivers a more positive experience

## NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

### Ask Your Local S.A.F.F.E. Officer Nicole Quintanilla, Northwest Substation Unit

The S.A.F.F.E. unit stands for San Antonio Fear Free Environment. These are units that exist to serve as a partnership between the community and San Antonio Police Department. If you are unsure who your S.A.F.F.E. officer is you can contact the Police Public Information number (210) 207-7484 to find out.



**Q: What services does my S.A.F.F.E officer provide that regular patrol officers don't?**

**A:** We speak at neighborhood and HOA meetings as well as school and other community outreach programs. If we are contacted by someone about a specific problem they are having with either a neighbor or nearby business, we coordinate and schedule a meeting.

**Q: Would it be possible for my local S.A.F.F.E officer to speak at our next HOA meeting?**

**A:** Yes, we speak at neighborhood meeting when requested, but please give us a week or more advance notice. If you neighborhood has a specific problem, please alert us in advance to allow us time to sufficiently answer questions you may have.

**Q: What can I do about the graffiti problem in my area?**

**A:** Report graffiti by calling 311. Ask for the Graffiti Hotline to report the tag, along with the date, time and location of tagged area. A crew will come out and paint over the tag. If it's on your property, you'll need to file a police report, take photos of the tag and get an estimate for the repair. If you wish, you can obtain a free paint-over kit through Lisa Mackenzie at 210-207-5430.

For more information about S.A.F.F.E, please call (210) 207-SAPD (7273) or visit <http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/COPPS.asp#safte>.

## NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

### Meals On Wheels



Founded in 1977 as a joint venture between St. Johns and Grace Lutheran Church, Meals on Wheels of San Antonio has been preparing and delivering hot and nutritious meals to senior residents of Bexar County for 35 years.

Operated by Christian Senior Services, the non-profit organization is one of the largest within the county providing services to adults over the age of 55.

With a registered dietitian on staff, the meals provided are often the primary source of nutrition received by senior clients. Daily interaction between staff and volunteers not only combats loneliness, but provides opportunity for early intervention in life-threatening situations.

Meals on Wheels of San Antonio relies heavily on the community, donors and volunteers to operate efficiently.

To learn more about Meals on Wheels of San Antonio or ways to be involved and volunteer, visit [www.christianseniorservices.org](http://www.christianseniorservices.org) or call 210-735-5115.

# THE STATE OF SEVEN (7)

## IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### Understanding and Combating Oak Wilt

Oak wilt is an infectious disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which invades and disables the water-conducting system in susceptible trees. All oaks are susceptible to oak wilt to some degree, but some species are affected more than others. The successful management of oak wilt depends on correct diagnosis and an understanding of how the pathogen spreads between different oak species.

If oak wilt is suspected in your neighborhood, look for established businesses that reside in your city or service your county. Make sure the vendor you choose is fully insured to cover liability for personal and property damage and worker compensation. Ask to see current certificates of insurance. Many vendors employ Certified Oak Wilt Specialists who have received special training on the Identification and Management of Oak Wilt in Texas.

After oak wilt affects an area, the devastation can be enormous, not only in loss of the trees themselves, but in both landscape and property values as well. There are some solutions that can help. Replanting is the best way to start establishing that tree population again in your yard or landscape. Remember, since all oak species are susceptible to oak wilt; therefore, it is advised to not immediately plant oaks within a diseased area or just ahead of an expanding disease center.

In an effort to raise further awareness of oak wilt in our neighborhoods, Councilman Cris Medina has organized a public input meeting at Braun Station Elementary School on Tuesday, March 19, from 6pm-7pm. Experts from the City of San Antonio and the State of Texas will make a presentation and answer questions to address resident's concerns. For additional online information regarding oak wilt, please visit <http://www.texasoakwilt.org/>

### New DPS Mega Center



On January 22, 2013 the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) opened a new DPS Driver License Mega Center in Leon Valley. Located at 7410 Huebner Rd, the office will increase driver license capacity in the greater San Antonio area. The 82nd Legislature provided \$63 million in funding to DPS to open six mega centers, hire 266 additional employees, and purchase equipment and technology to improve customer service and the efficiency of the state's driver license system.

The San Antonio-Leon Valley Driver License Mega Center has 24,000 square feet with 22 customer service stations, and will be staffed by 36 full-time employees with the capacity to process more than 700 transactions daily. The mega center also will leverage new technology to help DPS employees more quickly and efficiently serve customers at these driver license offices. A new queuing system offers customers the convenient option to reserve a spot in line without going to the office.

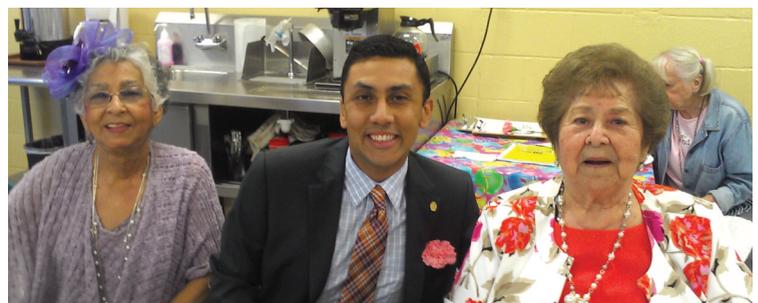
The office will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about Texas driver licenses and identification cards, please visit: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/OnlineServices.htm>.

## SERVING OUR SENIORS

### The New District 7 Multi-Purpose Senior Center

With the passage of the FY 2013 Budget, Councilman Cris Medina was successful in allocating \$375,000 toward the development and opening of the first of its kind District 7 Multi-Purpose Senior Center. Understanding the growing needs of our seniors, Councilman Medina wanted to ensure they have a state-of-the-art center that can address many of their concerns. Some of the highlights seniors can look forward to with the new center:

- A hot, nutritious meal served daily
- An exercise area for equipment and exercise classes
- On-site staff support to address senior concerns and issues
- Computer/internet café to search the web
- A gaming area to include pool tables, table tennis and bingo
- Arts and crafts supplies and classes
- Library/reading area



A district-wide search began in earnest to determine a location for the new senior center. Multiple sites have been considered but one has not yet been selected. Since District 7 covers a large part of the City, from Bandera and 1604 to Woodlawn Lake, a site that a centrally located and easy for all residents to access is preferred.

If there is something you would like to see in the new District 7 Multi-Purpose Senior Center, please give our office a call at 207-0870 or email us your suggestion to [district7@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district7@sanantonio.gov).



**CRIS MEDINA**  
**City Councilman**  
**District 7**  
**4414 Centerview Drive, Suite 160**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78228**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- March 19 Oak Wilt Public Input Meeting at Braun Station Elementary School, 6:30 pm
- March 23 Movie Night at Woodlawn Lake Park, begins at dark
- March 30 17th Annual Cesar Chavez March for Justice
- April 19 – 2013 Fiesta Oyster Bake at St. Mary’s University
- April 20
- April 20 Earth Day at Woodlawn Lake Park, 10am-2pm
- April 23 Fishing stocking and community presentation at Woodlawn Lake Park, 10am
- April 23 – A Night in Old San Antonio (NIOA)
- April 26
- April 26 2013 Fiesta Battle of Flowers Parade
- April 27 Movie Night at Woodlawn Lake, begins at dark
- April 27 2013 Fiesta Flambeau Parade
- April 29 - Early Voting for 2013 Mayoral, City Council, and School Board Elections
- May 7
- May 11 - Municipal Election Day

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

To help you and your family save energy and money, here are some money-saving tips you can use:



- Clean or replace your filters every two weeks during warm months
- Avoid planting shrubs against AC Units
- Have your unit inspected before summer by a licensed and bonded professional
- Use a programmable thermostat such as the one offered by CPS Energy through the Peak Saver Program
- Install solar screens to help minimize heat gain into the home
- Check duct work in the attic for leaks and repair if necessary.
- Set your thermostat between 78° and 80°.



Looking for ways to save money on your next water bill? Stop leaks! Leaky faucets and toilets can waste hundreds of gallons per month. Look and listen. Look at your water meter. The little blue or red dial will rotate if there is a leak when nobody is using any water inside. Listen for water leaking from the tank.

SAWS has financial assistance programs available such as the Senior Citizen, Disability and Temporary Hardship Billing programs. For more information, please call Customer Service Agents at 210-704-7297.

**DISTRICT 7 CONTACT INFORMATION**

**CRIS MEDINA**  
**CITY COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT 7**  
Council Committees:  
**Economic & Community Dev.**  
**Educational Excellence**  
**Intergovernmental Relations**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
P.O. Box 839966,  
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966  
Tel.: 210-207-7044  
Fax: 210-207-8181  
[district7@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district7@sanantonio.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/CouncilmanCrisMedina](http://www.facebook.com/CouncilmanCrisMedina)

**FIELD OFFICE**  
4414 Centerview Drive, Suite 160  
San Antonio, Texas 78228  
210-207-0870

- Derek Roberts . . . . . Chief of Staff
- Gabriel Castillo . . . . . Field Office Director
- Colin Strother . . . . . Policy Advisor
- Winslow Swart . . . . . Senior Advisor
- Darlene Diaz . . . . . Council Aide
- Joseph Cortez . . . . . Council Aide
- Gerina Barrera . . . . . Senior Executive Secretary