

SOCORRO NEWSLETTER

Council Meetings

We invite every resident of Socorro to attend our City Council Meetings. They are a great way to be involved and stay informed with what's happening in your community. They are held the first and third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers (860 Rio Vista, Socorro, TX 79927)

This month;

October 2nd & 16th

Upcoming Events

- National Night Out - October 7, at Rio Vista Park and Community Center from 7p.m.-10p.m.
- Fall Festival - October 24, at Rio Vista Community Center from 6p.m.-11p.m.

Sandbags

For those in need, sandbags can always be picked up at;

- 241 Old Hueco Tanks Rd. (Recycling Center)
- 901 N. Rio Vista Rd. (Rio Vista Community Center)



Council Approves \$10 million Infrastructure Investment

Socorro city council has been making the necessary steps to invest in Socorro's infrastructure. In early September council approved a '5 Year Capital Program List' that details the paving of streets, the installation of street lights and the building of sidewalks here in Socorro.

Included on this list are also three major projects throughout the city, the paving of Old Hueco Tanks Road, the renovation of Rio Vista Community Center and the building of the Socorro Bridge in District 4. Here are some informative details about some these projects;

- Old Hueco Tanks Rd is a private road owned by several owners. This is the reason for it not being paved previously. We are currently working with the State of Texas and the County to purchase the land and pave the road. At this point in time

Entertainment/Lifestyle

**Whataburger
Returning to Socorro**

As many of you know, a new Whataburger location will be opening here in Socorro.



Construction has already begun and the new location will be east of Rio Vista Road on Alameda.

Chile War Festival

We would like to thank everyone that came out to the Chile War Festival on September 20. The live music, food, games and contest made for an entire day of family entertainment.

Council approved making this an annual event for the city, meaning for years to come you can look forward to this fun and exciting event. We look forward to making next years experience even better.



TxDOT estimates that the funding would be available in Fiscal Year 2016.

•Construction on Horizon is being done by TxDOT, as it is owned by the state. Irrigation season along with waiting on various utilities are the reasons for the current delay in construction. This project, while in Socorro, is not being worked on by Socorro. TxDOT has stated that the time table for completion is the Summer of 2015.

•While the City itself is not doing the construction work on Old Hueco Tanks and Horizon, as they are not owned by the city, Socorro still needs to provide its share of funding towards these projects. As such, council has approved a \$10 million investment into the cities' infrastructure, which again includes the above mentioned project, along with street paving around the city, the installation of street lights and the building of sidewalks.

Along with these efforts, the city has made controlling the runoff waters that flows from the north of I-10 a major priority. In early September the city applied for a grant totaling \$300,000 to the Department of Agriculture, Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief Program. This grant will be used to help deal with the runoff water that effects the Stockyard road area.

Government

Special Election, District 4

During the city council meeting held on September 18, Socorro City Council approved the scheduling of a special election due to the passing of District 4 Representative, Joseph Bowling. This special election will be held on December 20, 2014, with early voting taking place December 3-17. Anyone interested in running for this position we ask that you please inquire at City Hall, 124 S. Horizon Blvd.

Public Works Department

It has been a busy year for our Public Works Department. Most recently their top priority has been responding to heavy rains and runoff waters from north of I-10. To help in these efforts, city council approved the purchase of a new water truck that will help

Community

City Staff Meets with High School Students

Recently, Mayor Ruiz along with, Representative Gloria Rodriguez, Recreation Supervisor, Victor Reta, Public Works Director, Doug Lobdell, Chief of Police, Carlos Maldonado, Judge Elia Garcia, and Officer Olvera, visited with Socorro High School students in AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) about their career paths and how having a solid education is crucial to achieving many of their career goals.

This was a great experience for our staff and the students. We thank SHS for allowing us to speak with their students.

Navy Junior ROTC

On behalf of the City of Socorro we would like to thank the 12 members of the Socorro High School Junior Navy ROTC program for filling 800 sandbags early one Saturday morning. We appreciate their dedication to their community and their help in keeping us better prepared for emergency situations. Thank You.



clear water from low-lying areas. Earlier this summer the city also purchased a sandbag machine. Meaning we can now manufacture our own sandbags, ensuring that we have plenty of supply on hand.

City Council has also funded overlays or paving for 22 streets in Socorro, currently 17 are complete. When the most urgent flood response and street repairs are finished, they will restart work to finish the remaining streets in District 1 and in District 3. Council has also budgeted for more street paving and overlays for the coming year as well, once again making strides to improve the cities' infrastructure.

Entertainment/Lifestyle

National Night Out

The City of Socorro has been ranked as the 16th safest city in Texas. We believe that by getting our community involved, we can bring that number up even higher. That's why we are hosting a National Night Out. It will be a chance for you to meet and socialize with your neighbors over food and refreshments, learn about the Neighborhood Watch Program and explore many other activities as we will have many different organizations represented at the event.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, as well as generate support and participation in local anti-crime programs.

We our very excited to bring this event to our community at it is the first time the city will be participating in this nationwide event. It will be held on October 7, at Rio Vista Park and Community Center located at 900 Rio Vista road, from 7p.m.-10p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!



Opinion

Public Works Director, Doug Lobdell

Pride. Orgullo. That’s one of the first Spanish words that I, as your Public Works Director, learned after taking charge of the Socorro streets department back in March of this year.

I want every citizen to be proud of the way our City looks. We’ve got a long ways to go, but I can see a day in the future when we’re going to drive down streets that are well-maintained, swept and striped, potholes fixed, shoulders maintained, smooth, with no weeds, and maybe even some landscaping here and there. I want our friends and relatives to drive here from the airport or south Chihuahua or Midland and say “You live in a great place!”

To get there, we need a lot of orgullo - great pride - in our work. Doing a job we’re proud of is the first step in making this City a great place. In my role leading the Public Works team, I want to inspire every member to finish each job they’re given, look back, and say - “That looks great - I’m proud of my work.” We can’t just throw some asphalt in the pothole and move on - it should be rolled and leveled before we leave. We can’t paint quick, uneven stripes on that speed bump - every stripe should be the same width.

It’s worth taking an extra minute to pick up the weeds, to trim that corner you missed, and to ensure the new stop sign is well-anchored and straight.

The first step to pride in our work is pride in ourselves - el amor propio. If our standard for ourselves is sloppy uniforms, no rules for safety, allowances for dirty vehicles, then that will show in our work, too. One of my first rules was that we’ll always wear safety vests and hard hats. Not because we need them in every case, but because it’s hard to think and act like a professional if you don’t carry yourself in a professional manner. We’re a team that takes pride in how we look, how we work, and in our City.

That’s why our motto is “Serving the Community with Pride/Sirviendo a la Comunidad con Orgullo!”



Opinion

City Mayor, Jesus Ruiz

Transparency in Action

Socorro is in a key moment in its history. After years of a cloud hanging over us regarding transparency, we have pushed forward and now have streamlined the way our constituents can obtain information. Never before has information been made so readily available to its constituents. During my time as Mayor, I have made increasing our transparency one of the key issues of my administration. In the past 18 months, we have become more active in social media, changed the structure of our City Council meetings, and have placed more information than ever on our website.

We are extremely active on our Facebook page and post on a regular basis. Through our Facebook page, we have been able to promote our events, provide breaking news, and allow our constituents to interact with us directly.

Opinion

City Mayor, Jesus Ruiz cont.

Thousands of people see our posts and at one point our post reached half of the population of Socorro in one day. Via our tweets, the media has been able to keep up with what goes on in our City Council meetings and we are able to see what other entities are doing as well. It has allowed us to form positive relationships with the region.

We encourage our constituents to attend our Council meetings and we have made changes that allow them to have their voices heard. We now allow Public Comment to happen in every City Council meeting. A constituent can sign up for Public Comment either on a Regular or Special meeting. This was not the case before. If a constituent wants to sign up to speak on every agenda item, they can do so and have a minute and a half to address Council. A Public Comment Card was also created for those constituents who might not want to speak directly to Council. They can fill out a card

and submit it to our City Clerk who will then distribute it to the rest of Council. Council wants to hear from our constituents at our meetings and these changes have allowed us to do just that.

Our City website is a key tool to providing information to our constituents. We want our constituents to be part of the process when we make decisions in our meetings and we have made changes that are aimed at doing just that. Under our City Clerk tab, you will be able to find the all of the information for a specific meeting. We post our agenda, the back up to the agenda, the video of the meeting once it is over, and we post the minutes of what occurred at the meeting once they are approved. This means that you can see what we are going to discuss, go through the material that is given to us, watch the meeting if you cannot attend, and then find out what decisions were made. This is transparency in action and we want you to take advantage of all of the information that we provide.

Socorro is moving forward. We had a certain reputation that hung over us, but we are making positive changes to our city. We are proud that we have taken the initiative in making changes so that our constituents have access to the information that they need. I thank you for signing up for this newsletter and appreciate your desire to be informed of what is going on in Socorro.

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ci.socorro.tx.us

Contact Us

City of Socorro Texas

124 S. Horizon Blvd.

Socorro, TX 79927

P.915.858.2915

F.915.858.9288

