

Silver Center Scene
Special to Seguin Gazette
For Publication: Sunday, July 19

For Information: Jan Almon janalmon@sbcglobal.net 830-372-4452 or Nancie Gonzales ng25@sbcglobal.net 830-303-6612

The Silver Center Transition Awaits You

By Jan Almon

When major changes occur, it is best to discuss them. It can put minds at ease and avoid a slew of rumors.

The Silver Center is undergoing an exciting and beneficial period of transition. It is the result of a series of events, each due to individual needs and decisions. Their timing converged to create a "perfect storm."

Nancy Stephens Gonzales has been Silver Center executive director for more than two years. Much could be written about Nancy's efficiency, dedication and the respect everyone has for her accomplishments. However, space is limited, so we'll quote the many who said, "You'll never find anyone as good."

Unfortunately, Nancy and her family decided we'd have to try. She announced the time for her to retire was August 15.

In quick succession, the kitchen manager resigned to move to San Marcos and a new job. The assistant director announced she would leave to take a full time position. The volunteer producer of the monthly Country Music Show discovered her regular job was expanding and she needed to keep the one with a paycheck.

Most of this occurred the week before Taste of Seguin, our largest annual fundraiser and the focus of everyone's attention. The unavoidable decision to temporarily close the kitchen was made.

In the meantime, two Board vacancies have been filled with new faces and Board elections are scheduled to take place in September.

We need to be crystal clear on a few things before we discuss more changes. The Silver Center's mission and vision are firmly entrenched. The Center remains committed to providing seniors of this region with a full slate of activities for a wide range of their needs in a safe environment. It is also committed to the community's needs supplying meeting rooms, a medical lending closet, thrift store, free lending library and other established services.

We need to be really clear that the Friday Night Dances will continue unfazed. This is a long-standing tradition and highly successful event. The large and avid audience is loyal and the slogan "Don't Mess With Texas" started here. We won't.

A new executive director has been selected; an administrative assistant is on staff and training. A new kitchen manager was hired last week. The lunch program begins again Monday (June 20). There is an active search for a Country Music Show producer.

You do not need psychic powers to figure out, with this many new faces coming together in the "perfect storm," a period of transition will occur.

Outgoing leaders are training new people. There are "old hands" to give insight and advice. Everyone is committed to the same goals. The best interests of the Center and its patrons are the primary concern.

Still, there are new skill sets, new ideas and new relationships forming. Organizational theory holds this is really very good. Consistency is important, but without some change, stagnation can result. Too much change, and chaos takes over.

New things are already happening. A computer lab and classes will soon be in place on a regular basis. The return of the lunch program will likely mean new menu items. The second Mahjongg Tournament is scheduled July 25. A monthly game night has begun. Other new ideas are bound to surface.

More than 20 years ago friends in their 60's formed the Center because they wanted a place to go as seniors. Even if 60 is the new 40, the same need exists today and we need everyone to come experiment with us. This is a time to suggest ideas, try out new things and comment so improvements can be made. The transition is underway and awaits your participation. Check out the Silver Center's Facebook page or website for updates.

#####