



Spring and Summer 2004  
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Cyd V. Grimes, C.P.M.  
Purchasing Agent

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**TRAVIS COUNTY  
PURCHASING QUARTERLY**

- Sylvia Lopez, Contributing Editor
- Jorge Talavera, Contributing Editor
- Betty Chapa, Designer/Associate  
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# Travis County Purchasing Quarterly

## In the Spotlight Sylvia Gonzalez



By Betty Chapa

As you enter into the Purchasing Office and turn to the west wing, you will find Sylvia Gonzalez busy, but always making time to welcome you. Sylvia is known in our office for displaying beautiful flower arrangements in her office brightening up everyone's day.

Sylvia stands at petite 4'11" inches, but she stands tall with a huge heart for life.

She has been active for over 20 years in the purchasing profession and was previously a Contracting Officer for the United States Air Force.

After several years of training, experience, and certification she became a Certified Acquisition Professional II.

After 20 years of dedicated service,

Sylvia's life changed in 2001 when she decided to retire from the Air Force.

Her decision was stirred by a fifteen-minute traffic jam with her two children, Carlos and Christina. Her then 7 year-old son commented that he was happy to see his mama laugh again.

Due to the events of 9/11 her retirement was official in 2002.

Sylvia joined Travis County Purchasing in July 2002 after hearing about the vacancy from a former buyer David Moreno.

Sylvia and her husband of 19 years Tony knew this would be a great opportunity to return to the place, "they wanted to live for the rest of their lives.

See Spotlight on Page 2

## Travis County Celebrates its HUB Program 10-Year Anniversary

By Betty Chapa

May 19, 2004 marked the date of Travis County's 10-Year HUB Program Anniversary celebration. A celebration recognizing the importance of spending tax dollars fairly in a diverse business community.



See 10-Year Anniversary on Page 2

**Purchasing Liaison SPOTLIGHT** Interviewed By Sylvia Lopez    Written By Betty Chapa



**Gwen Carroll** is an Accounting Associate for Juvenile Probation. She proclaims, with her winning smile, that her professional mission is to ensure that all items purchased

for her department of 500 are paid for in a timely manner.

Gwen's positive outlook on life reflects in her career where she enjoys helping everyone and sees communication as the key for every situation she is faced with. She is new to Juvenile Probation but not new to

County government.

Previously employed with CSCD for 16 years, Gwen felt the need for a change and joined the probation team.

Her late mother, Beatrice, gave her the best advice she lives by each day. ***"You're no less than anyone, but you're no better than anyone. You have to give respect before you can receive it."***

This outlook helped Gwen in becoming a successful wife, mother of five, and employee of Travis County. People would not guess that

Gwen is a firm individual...**only** when necessary.

Her greatest accomplishment is her ability to communicate effectively with those in need.

Gwen is a woman of desire, motivation and fearlessness when welcoming challenges.

Gwen can be reached at 512-854-7002 or [gwen.carroll@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:gwen.carroll@co.travis.tx.us).

**Do you know a purchasing liaison you would like to nominate for this article? Email [sylvia.lopez@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:sylvia.lopez@co.travis.tx.us).**

**Link up...to helpful purchasing information on the Web: resources for building specifications**

[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org) – American Society for Testing Materials provides a global forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems, and services.

[www.tbpc.state.tx.us/spec\\_lib/](http://www.tbpc.state.tx.us/spec_lib/) – formal standards and specifications for a number of commodities purchased in volume by the State which establish minimum quality requirements, identified by a standard/specification number and an effective or revision date

[www.county.org/market/purchasing/guide.asp](http://www.county.org/market/purchasing/guide.asp) – The Texas County Purchasing Association presents a Guide to County Purchasing which provides a basic understanding of procurement activities, the County Purchasing Act and many useful purchasing resources.

**Spotlight · Continued from Page 1**

Austin was the place to raise their two "kiddo's" and the place they had in their hearts."

Sylvia has achieved many successes in her life and owes them to her parents. "I learned a lot from the two."

Aside from her marriage and her two children, Sylvia has earned two associates degrees, one in contract management and the other in business management. Also a bachelors and masters in human resources.

She has intentions of going back to school to focus in the medical field. "There is never enough education," says Sylvia.

Professional courtesy, taking care of her customers and remembering that "each customer is number one" is Sylvia's description of the most important qualities in being a Purchasing Agent Assistant.

"If you take care of your customer then you have done your job successfully. Everyone at one point or another is a customer of someone else."

There is never a boring day in the Purchasing Office where Sylvia faces challenges in her work and in dealing with diverse personalities.

Her latest challenge is the Travis County Precinct 3 Project due to the speedy turn around time required for each phase.

Regardless of the welcomed challenges, Sylvia loves what she does and confirms it in her work.

While stationed in Spain they became adapted to the atmosphere and way of living amongst the beautiful fields of sunflowers and the smells and flavor of olive oil.

Returning to "the states" and leaving part of their hearts in Spain was difficult for Sylvia and her family.

"I've been able to please every customer and I've been a good mom, good wife and everything else is icing on the cake, honestly."



**10-Year Anniversary · Continued from Page 1**

Guests included local vendors, County employees, state agency HUB Coordinators and event sponsors.

TCTV-17 Media, News-8 and KAZI provided news coverage.

A standing room only audience showed their support and appreciation to Travis County and enjoyed remarks from two local certified businesses.

Travis County Purchasing was honored with a proclamation by Commissioners Court, a Congratulatory Letter from Senator Gonzalo Barrientos and a Certificate of Recognition from Governor Rick Perry.

***"Throughout the history of this great state... Texans have worked tirelessly to build a foundation of economic strength. Small and large businesses, through...entrepreneurship, have constantly sought new avenues of excellence, laying the foundation for the Texas of the future."***

***Rick Perry, Governor of Texas***

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What is the typical contract term for commodities contracts?

**A:** Most Travis County commodities contracts are set up for one year with 2 optional renewal years. So long as the user department is satisfied with vendor performance, optional renewals are utilized as often as possible to save county tax dollars and administrative time on re-bidding yearly.

**Q:** How can I get more business opportunities with Travis County?

**A:** Visit the website <http://www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp> to view and download all formal procurements or set up a meeting with a Purchasing Agent Assistant or County department representative to explore future and small dollar opportunities.

*-LEISURE CORNER-*

Are you looking for exciting, educational fun for you and your family? Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources has what you're looking for!

**Summer 2004 events scheduled for Pace Bend Park**

*Moonlight Hike 7/3 & 7/31*

*Stars and Satellites 7/10*

*Blacklight Theater: Insects of the Night 7/17*

*Moon Exploration 7/24*



For more information regarding times, check out the County Internet site at [http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/pace\\_bend\\_summer.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/parks/pace_bend_summer.asp)

**Purchasing Staff Phone List**

**Main Number (512) 854-9700**

<i>Purchasing Agent</i>	<i>Cyd Grimes</i>	<i>854-9761</i>
<i>P.A.'s Executive Assistant</i>	<i>Lana Boling</i>	<i>854-9766</i>
<i>Purchasing Clerk IV</i>	<i>Melissa Hanson</i>	<i>854-9915</i>
<i>Purchasing Clerk III</i>	<i>Juan Gonzalez</i>	<i>854-9916</i>
<i>Purchasing Clerk III</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>854-9917</i>
<i>Purchasing Clerk II</i>	<i>Vera Cervantes</i>	<i>854-9918</i>
<i>Asst. Purchasing Agent</i>	<i>Frank Holder</i>	<i>854-9451</i>
<i>Business Sys.Consultant</i>	<i>Scott Worthington</i>	<i>854-4851</i>
<i>Fixed Asset Manager</i>	<i>Ron Dube</i>	<i>854-6458</i>
<i>Warehouse Supervisor</i>	<i>Dan Rollie</i>	<i>854-6459</i>
<i>Fixed Asset Associate</i>	<i>Matt Phillips</i>	<i>854-7438</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Mike Long</i>	<i>854-4850</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Jason Walker</i>	<i>854-4562</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Rebecca Edwards</i>	<i>854-9853</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. IV</i>	<i>Richard Villareal</i>	<i>854-4881</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. IV</i>	<i>Jerry Raisch</i>	<i>854-9724</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. IV</i>	<i>Marvin Brice</i>	<i>854-9765</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. IV</i>	<i>Sylvia Gonzalez</i>	<i>854-5860</i>
<i>Asst. Purchasing Agent</i>	<i>Bonnie Floyd</i>	<i>854-4173</i>
<i>HUB Program Coordinator</i>	<i>Sylvia Lopez</i>	<i>854-4561</i>
<i>HUB Program Specialist</i>	<i>Betty Chapa</i>	<i>854-9914</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Lolly Jones</i>	<i>854-4204</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Lori Clyde</i>	<i>854-4205</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Rose Garcia</i>	<i>854-9763</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Loren Breland</i>	<i>854-4854</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. III</i>	<i>Jimmy Ramirez</i>	<i>854-9764</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. II</i>	<i>Jorge Talavera</i>	<i>854-9762</i>
<i>Purchasing Agent Asst. II</i>	<i>Donald Rollack</i>	<i>854-9760</i>

**New Beginning**

Each day we start anew afresh  
 Ready to strive after our rest  
 We face the dawn and rising sun  
 Waiting for labors that haven't begun  
 The joy of life should fill our souls  
 And give us strength to reach our goal  
 It makes us go that extra mile  
 And lends to us a happy smile  
 But troubles sometimes last past day's ending  
 To be conquered by each new day beginning

Copyright June 3, 2004 by  
 Donald E. Rollack

**“Quarterly Quote”**

*“You will be happier if you will give people a bit of your heart rather than a piece of your mind.”*  
 - Author Unknown

**Special Events Calendar**

**Arlington  
 July 13, 2004**

Alliance Texas Opportunities for Small Businesses

**Sponsored By:**  
 ShoWorks, Inc.

**To register, and for additional details, visit:**

[www.allianceforbiz.com](http://www.allianceforbiz.com) Or call ShoWorks, Inc. 1-800-421-8475

**Corpus Christi  
 July 29-31, 2004**

TAMACC 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Business Expo

**Sponsored by:**

Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce

**To register, and for additional details, visit:**

[www.tamacc.org](http://www.tamacc.org) Or call TAMACC at 512-444-5727

**Arlington  
 July 30, 2004**

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressman Martin Frost Procurement Conference

**Sponsored by:**

University of Texas at Arlington Cross Timbers Procurement Center

**Location & Time:**

University of Texas at Arlington  
 300 W. First Street, University Center  
 Arlington, Texas

**To register, and for additional details, visit:**

<http://arri.uta.ed.crosstimbers/> Or call UTA Crosstimbers at 817-272-5915



*Thank You,  
Gracia's,  
Dankie, Merci,  
Supashi-bo*

The HUB Office would like to give a very special thanks to our active supporters for the continued support you have shown. Our program would not be successful without your participation. We would especially like to thank all of those who participated in our 10-Year Anniversary. Among those were, Cyd Grimes, Bonnie Floyd, Oralia "Lolly" Jones, Lori Clyde, Jimmy Ramirez, Jorge Talavera, Rose Garcia, Marvin Brice, Sylvia Gonzalez, Richard Villareal, Mike Long, Lonnie Bennett, Katrinna Hayner, Richard Scott, Alice Leslie, Dale Cornibe, Juan Campos, and Thad Yousling.



**Are You Wondering  
What's New With Our  
HUB Program?**

On July 15, 2003, Commissioners Court adopted the City of Austin's M/WBE Program goals and sub-goals replacing the overall 30% goal. These are scheduled to take affect in FY 05. If you have any questions regarding these changes, contact the HUB Office at 854-4561 or 854-9914.

### FAREWELL

*The Purchasing Office has lost one of its finest. After six years with the County, Elsa Uresti, Purchasing Clerk III, has decided to take a new journey through life. Elsa will be missed. Thanks for your dedicated service!*

The Travis County Purchasing Quarterly is a work in progress that will continue to grow and improve. We are always open to your suggestions so please feel free to email your ideas to [betty.chapa@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:betty.chapa@co.travis.tx.us). We at the Travis County Purchasing Office are striving to improve our service to you. Please let us know how we can better serve you.



When visiting the Purchasing Office, to ensure that you are serviced efficiently, please stop at the front desk. All documents will be logged in, date stamped and distributed appropriately. If you need to speak with a staff member, someone in the Purchasing Office will be happy to assist you. We at the Travis County Purchasing Office are striving to improve our service to you. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

## MOMENTUM 2004 A Governmental Purchasing Seminar



Betty Chapa

Once a year the National Association of Purchasing Management meets on the beautiful island of South Padre to discuss government purchasing. Among the speakers is our own Travis County Purchasing Agent, Cyd Grimes.



### Travis County Recognizes our Military

Travis County, as well as our Nation, recognized Memorial Day, May 31, 2004. This day is to remember those brave individuals who have died serving our country. This holiday was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and was first observed on May 30, 1868. Take a few moments to reflect on the true meaning of the day.



The Travis County Purchasing Office would like to wish all County employees and the local business community a very safe and happy Independence Day. On this day our nation will celebrate our individual rights.

## NOTEWORTHY...

*Travis County has added four new faces to our Purchasing team.*

*Mike Long, Purchasing Agent Assistant (PAA) III, joined us March 1, 2004. He was previously employed with the City of Austin Electric Utility and brings with him 23 years of purchasing experience.*

*Rebecca Edwards, PAA III, joined us April 19, 2004. She comes to us from the State Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and brings 5 years of purchasing experience.*

*Jimmy Ramirez, PAA III, joined us May 10, 2004. He comes to us from the Office of the Attorney General and brings with him 7 years of purchasing experience.*

*A new face in the Purchasing Office will greet you, but this person isn't new to Travis County. Vera Cervantes has been employed with the Auditor's Office for 11 years; she will take the place held by Betty Chapa. Vera joined us 6/21/04. Welcome aboard and best of luck!*

### ~Promotions~

*Travis County welcomed a new commodity buyer in January 2004. No stranger to County purchasing, Jorge Talavera, now a Purchasing Agent Assistant II, takes on the position left vacant by Richard Villareal who was promoted in December 2003.*

*The HUB Program Specialist has left the cubicle, but no need to worry, our own Betty Chapa, filled the position on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Betty was our Purchasing Clerk and has been employed with Travis County for 6 years.*

*The Purchasing Office extends congratulations to both Jorge and Betty on their promotions and wishes them good luck in their new roles.*

Two

Become

One



*Be sure to congratulate two employees from the Purchasing Office that have tied the knot! Matt Phillips, Fixed Asset Associate, and his new bride Sandy were married on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

*Jason Walker, PAA III, and his new bride Katherine were married May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*The Purchasing Office wishes you many years of happiness!*