

March 2006

# City of Balcones Heights

*Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights*

## Beautify Balcones Heights

**A**s we conclude the winter of 2005-2006, it is time to consider the spring. Now is the time to look at your yard and your neighborhood for ways to clean up!

Let us review the City Ordinances pertaining to clean-up and fix-up:

### **Junked Automobiles**

A junked automobile is defined as a vehicle that has an expired license plate or an invalid inspection sticker and is inoperable. The Police Department has been asked to notify property owners of the violation if a junked vehicle is on their property. The property owner has 10 days to remove the vehicle or the City will remove it. Please call the Balcones Heights Police Department if you own a junked vehicle or if you see one in your neighborhood.

### **High Weeds and Grass**

High weeds and grass are in violation of City ordinances when they exceed 12 inches in height. When notified of the violation, the property owner has 10 days to mow the grass or weeds. If the owner

fails or refuses to mow the City will contract to mow the property and have a lien filed against the deed records of the property with a penalty of 10 percent per year on the lien. In addition, charges may be filed against the owner in Municipal Court.

### **Rodent Control**

The City's Health Officer is authorized to enter private property to look for stagnant water, filth, carrion, or trash that causes the promulgation of mosquitoes and rodents. If evidence of the mosquito or rodent infestation is found, the property owner will be notified and the owner has 10 days to remove the offending conditions. If no corrections are made by the owner, then the City can contract the removal of the trash and/or stagnant water and file a lien against the property for the cost of the work plus 10 percent per year.

Let's clean up our City this year! Please call Code Enforcement Officer, David Cadena, at 735-9148 ext. 246 to report violations.

## Wachovia Bank Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting

**B**alcones Heights welcomed Wachovia as city officials and Crossroads Mall representatives joined the Balcones Heights Business Alliance on February 2 for the official ribbon cutting at Wachovia's newest branch at Fredericksburg Road and Loop 410.



## Holiday Beautification Award Winners

The first winners of the Beautification Awards, sponsored by the Balcones Heights Business Alliance, were announced Monday, February 13 at the City Council meeting. First Prize, “The Gold” went to Charlie and Alice Matthies, who live at 215 Vivian. The Matthies were not able to attend the ceremony, but a certificate and \$50 Target gift certificate were delivered to them at their home.

Second prize, “The Silver” was won by Hector and Anita Cabello and family at 218 Pleasant. The Alliance was thrilled to present them with a certificate and \$25 gift certificate to the Bijou at Crossroads.

Third Prize, “The Bronze” was presented to Adrian Gonzalez at 206 Leisure Drive. Mr. Gonzalez was also given a certificate and \$20 gift certificate for lunch at Garibaldi’s.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance is honored to have been asked by City Council to host and pilot this new program. We are pleased to be given the opportunity to say thank you to the residents of Balcones Heights for supporting our businesses. We congratulate each of these winners in the first Holiday Beautification Award and look forward to the next edition celebrating spring and Fiesta.



Welcome to Balcones Heights: Mayor Jim Craven welcomes the crowd attending this year’s Cowboy Breakfast held January 27 at Crossroads Mall. Mayor Craven addressed the crowd prior to participating in the Cow Chip Toss.



YOU ARE HERE! A bright banner welcoming one and all to the January 27 Cowboy Breakfast clearly identified Balcones Heights as home of this spectacular event. The banner was made possible by the Balcones Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### Balcones Heights City Officials

- Jim Craven, Mayor
- Bill Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem . . . . . Councilman, Place 5
- Lamar Gillian . . . . . Councilman, Place 4
- Steve Walker . . . . . Councilman, Place 3
- Suzanne de Leon . . . . . Councilwoman, Place 2
- Bennie Cass . . . . . Councilman, Place 1
- Lanny S. Lambert . . . . . City Administrator
- Balcones Heights Justice Center . . . . . (210) 735-9148**
- Mayor Jim Craven . . . . . x235**

### Balcones Heights Staff Roster

- City Administrator . . . . . Lanny S. Lambert . . . . . x227
- City Secretary . . . . . Delia Flores . . . . . x236

- Director of Tourism . . . . . Lorenzo Nastasi . . . . . x230
- Accts. Payable/  
Payroll Clerk . . . . . Albert Y. Solis . . . . . x244
- Municipal Court Clerk . . . . . Yvonne Baez . . . . . x223
- Deputy Court Clerk . . . . . Jo Ann Vidal . . . . . x224
- Building Code  
Enforcement Officer . . . . . David Cadena . . . . . x246
- Police Chief . . . . . Kenneth Menn . . . . . x237
- Asst. Police Chief . . . . . Robert de la Garza . . . . . x238
- Police Secretary . . . . . Grace Lerma . . . . . x222
- Investigator/Sergeant . . . . . Joyce Pena . . . . . x239
- Dispatcher . . . . . x232
- Fire Chief/  
Fire Department . . . . . Ben Hoeffner (210) 735-9206

## City Boards and Commissions

The City of Balcones Heights needs you! The City of Balcones Heights has four standing boards: the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustments & Appeals, Citizens Street Repair Advisory Committee, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Members are:

### Planning and Zoning Commission:

George Moellering	Gloria Cantu	Adrian Gonzalez
Madeline Slay	Beryl Jones	Hallie Vince

### Board of Adjustments & Appeals:

Henry Hannasch	Ambrose Vince	Salvador A. Mendez
Fred Jones	Ellie Chapa	George Monsive
	Edna Moellering	

### Citizens Street Repair Advisory Committee:

Dan Antrobius	Sam Barr	Betty Bryant
Loretta Evans	Cecilia Gardon	Phoebe Hardy
Patrick E. Haas	Robert North	Mike Slay
	Carol Walker	

### Convention and Visitors Bureau:

Pamela Hodges	Elizabeth Wells	Mary Lou Baack
Renee Storrie	Salvador Mendez	Carrie Anne Silvers
	Mel Montemayor Villarreal	

These groups of citizens who give of their time and expertise are to be commended for their service and support of Balcones Heights! The City Council is always interested in finding new citizens to serve on these very important volunteer boards. If you have any interest in serving your community, please contact City Secretary, Delia Flores, 735-9148 ext. 236. She will make the City Council aware of your willingness to serve.

Thank you!

## 2006 General Election

The Balcones Heights General Election will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Balcones Heights Justice Center located at 3300 Hillcrest Drive. The following are the city offices up for election:

### Mayor

### Council Member, Place 1

### Council Member, Place 2

Candidate packets may be picked up in the City Secretary's office through March 13, 2006 at the Justice Center located at 3300 Hillcrest Drive from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The last day to file an application for a place on the ballot is March 13, 2005 no later than 5:00 p.m.

### EARLY VOTING

**May 1 – 9, 2006,**

2nd Floor, Justice Center

**May 1 – 2, 2006,**

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**May 3 – 9, 2006,**

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact: Delia Flores,

City Secretary,

735-9148 ext. 236.

## Waste/Brush Pick-up: Monday, March 6

The first of four annual clean-ups is scheduled for the residential areas of Balcones Heights on March 6, 2006.



### No household hazardous waste

### No appliances with freon

All discarded items such as old furniture, appliances, brush, etc. must be placed at curbside in front of the residence to be serviced no later than 7:00 a.m. on Monday, March 6, 2006.

**ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE PUT TO THE CURB EARLIER THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE PICK-UP.**

(Friday, February 24, 2006)

Since the collection vehicles will pass down each street only once, pick-up cannot be assured if bulky waste items are placed on the curb after 7:00 a.m., Monday, March 6.



## 2004-05 Audit Report

Nancy Vaughan with Armstrong, Vaughan and Associates presented the City's 2004-05 Audit, (ending September 30, 2005) at the February 13 City Council Meeting.

Ms. Vaughan reported that the City's fund balances remain healthy (\$438,724 in the General Fund and \$241,509 for the Crime Control District) and that for the 2004-05 fiscal year, the city's financial condition has improved from the last year.

	09/30/00	09/30/01	09/30/02	09/30/03	09/30/04	09/30/05
FUND BALANCE GENERAL FUND (Undesignated)	\$312,270	\$203,767	\$15,714	\$141,403	\$312,819	\$438,724
AVERAGE MONTHLY OPERATING EXPENDITURES (1)	\$178,228	\$169,233	\$171,705	\$164,289	\$179,713	\$185,561
GROWTH RATE PER YEAR - AVERAGE MO. OPERATING EXPENDITURES	-2.6%	-5.0%	1.5%	-4.3%	9.4%	3.3%
# MONTHS AVERAGE EXPENDITURES IN RESERVE	1.8	1.2	0.1	0.9	1.7	2.4
FUND BALANCE ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES (2)	\$3,882,851	\$1,924,987	\$1,704,538	\$1,808,250	\$2,349,486	\$1,776,062
GENERAL BONDED DEBT	\$2,905,000	\$2,735,000	\$2,560,000	\$2,380,000	\$2,312,514	\$2,072,124
RATIO OF FUND EQUITY TO BONDED DEBT	1.3/1	1.4/1	.7/1	.8/1	1.0/1	.86/1
NET ASSETS (3)	\$432,192	\$510,384	\$525,703	\$529,480	\$582,285	\$619,117

(1) Exclusive of Capital and Debt Service Expenditures

(2) Includes General, Special Revenue, Debt Service and Capital Projects Funds (exclusive of encumbrances) - 2004 & 2005 include change in method of recognizing sales tax receivable.

(3) Includes Sewer O&M and Sanitation Fund (Closed in 2004)

## Waste Management – CPI Rate Increase

The following is taken from a computerized print-out which reflects the Waste Management Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate increase:

**Waste Management of Texas, Inc., City of Balcones Heights, CPI Adjustment commencing January 1, 2006**  
**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): (All items) for: October 2005 - 199.2; October 2004 - 190.9**  
**Computation of Increase: (199.2-190.9)/190.9 = 4.3%**

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY OF COLLECTION	RATE PER MONTH	INCREASE FACTOR	CPI ADJUSTED RATE PER MONTH
Residential (curbside) A maximum of five (5) thirty (30) gallon containers or equivalent includes 1 X per week recycling	2/wk - garbage 1/wk - recycle	\$ 9.67	1.0430	\$ 10.09
Shops and Professional (Light load - A maximum of five (5) thirty (30) gallon containers or equivalent)	2/wk - garbage	\$ 9.67	1.0430	\$ 10.09
<b>Commercial Containerized Service</b>				
2 CY Container	1/wk	\$ 45.73	1.0430	\$ 47.70
	2/wk	\$ 70.81	1.0430	\$ 73.85
	3/wk	\$ 95.89	1.0430	\$ 100.01
	4/wk	\$ 122.22	1.0430	\$ 127.48
	5/wk	\$ 146.67	1.0430	\$ 152.98
	6/wk	\$ 172.37	1.0430	\$ 179.78
3 CY Container	1/wk	\$ 55.33	1.0430	\$ 57.71
	2/wk	\$ 90.05	1.0430	\$ 93.92
	3/wk	\$ 122.18	1.0430	\$ 127.43
	4/wk	\$ 158.18	1.0430	\$ 164.98
	5/wk	\$ 191.07	1.0430	\$ 199.29
	6/wk	\$ 225.02	1.0430	\$ 234.70
4 CY Container	1/wk	\$ 65.63	1.0430	\$ 68.45
	2/wk	\$ 107.39	1.0430	\$ 112.01
	3/wk	\$ 147.85	1.0430	\$ 154.21
	4/wk	\$ 188.99	1.0430	\$ 197.12
	5/wk	\$ 231.39	1.0430	\$ 241.34
	6/wk	\$ 272.51	1.0430	\$ 284.23
5 CY Container	1/wk	\$ 84.91	1.0430	\$ 88.56
	2/wk	\$ 140.78	1.0430	\$ 146.83
	3/wk	\$ 197.92	1.0430	\$ 206.43
	4/wk	\$ 254.45	1.0430	\$ 265.39
	5/wk	\$ 312.26	1.0430	\$ 325.69
	6/wk	\$ 368.76	1.0430	\$ 384.62
6 CY Container	1/wk	\$ 113.19	1.0430	\$ 118.06
	2/wk	\$ 185.74	1.0430	\$ 193.73
	3/wk	\$ 259.63	1.0430	\$ 270.79
	4/wk	\$ 331.51	1.0430	\$ 345.76
	5/wk	\$ 404.73	1.0430	\$ 422.13
	6/wk	\$ 476.64	1.0430	\$ 497.14
<b>Extra Pickups:</b>				
2 Cubic Yard Container		\$ 11.50	1.0430	\$ 11.99
3 Cubic Yard Container		\$ 14.00	1.0430	\$ 14.60
4 Cubic Yard Container		\$ 17.50	1.0430	\$ 18.25
6 Cubic Yard Container		\$ 20.50	1.0430	\$ 21.38
8 Cubic Yard Container		\$ 24.50	1.0430	\$ 25.55
<b>Roll-Off Containers:</b>				
Delivery		\$ 50.00	1.0430	\$ 52.15
20 Cubic Yard per Haul		\$ 240.00	1.0430	\$ 250.32
30 Cubic Yard per Haul		\$ 255.00	1.0430	\$ 265.97
40 Cubic Yard per Haul		\$ 275.00	1.0430	\$ 286.83

A \$1.00 administrative fee will be assessed per month to each unit, e.g.,

## City Solicits VIA Monies

**T**he VIA Metropolitan Transit Board has created a new Suburban Transit Enhancement Program called STEP which will make grant monies available to the City of Balcones Heights for use in enhancing the VIA transportation infrastructure.

At the February 13, 2006 meeting, the City Council adopted an agreement with VIA to make the monies available on a yearly basis.

The monies can be used for:

- Street construction along a transit vehicle lane on an active bus route that will result in an upgrade of the street to better support buses and other transit vehicles;
  - Bus shelter/stop construction and repair;
  - Bus bench acquisition and placement;
  - Bus bays, pullouts, turn lanes and other traffic improvements with an identified transit benefit;
  - Traffic light prioritization and other traffic management systems with an identified transit benefit that is comparable with similar improvements used by or with the VIA transit system;
  - Bus pads;
  - Accessibility improvements such as sidewalks and curb cuts provided such improvements are within ? of a mile of an active bus route; and
  - Additional transit services.
- It is understood and agreed between the Parties that engineering and architectural costs are eligible costs under the Program.

Please call City Administrator, Lanny S. Lambert at 735-9148, ext. 227. if you have any ideas about how to use the monies.

## Council Accepts Grant for Drug Task Force

**F**or 19 years, the City of Balcones Heights has participated in a Regional Drug Task Force administrated by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The City Police Department provides one employee who participates in the Task Force and the State reimburses the City for the salary and benefits of this position.

At their February 13, 2006 meeting, the Balcones Heights City Council adopted the 2006 contract for participation in the program.

However, the Police Chief was notified in 2005 that this program would be eliminated in March 2006. So, for the first time in 19 years, effective March 31, 2006, the Balcones Heights Police Department will not participate in the Regional Drug Task Force – the Task Force is being disbanded. The employee will come back to work in the Balcones Heights Police Department.

Please call Chief Kenneth Menn with questions.

*Working For You*

**Balcones  
Heights**



**Department**

### **Meet Officer Karen Switzer**

*Officer Karen Switzer has more than five years experience as a police officer and is currently serving as a reserve officer assigned to the evening shift. Karen previously worked for Shavano Park Police Department.*



**JULY 7**

**JULY 14**

**JULY 21**

**JULY 28**

**AUGUST 4**

**AUGUST 11**

**Balcones Heights**

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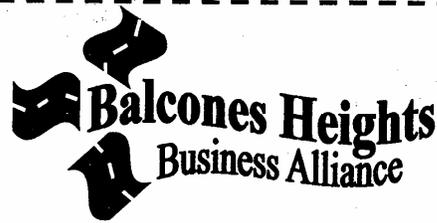
## Balcones Heights Calendar • March 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Clean-up Time! Waste & Brush Pick-up	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 City Council Meeting Justice Center 6:00 p.m. Last day for filing application for place on ballot	14	15	16 CVB Meeting Justice Center 5:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Board of Adjustments & Appeals Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Yearly dues for existing members are due now. Yearly dues for new members are prorated thru the end of the year based on the \$100 payment. An additional \$100 for each additional member may be paid in advance or additional associates may pay monthly. Monthly dues are \$10 per month and are due at each monthly meeting attended.

Advertising prices are listed on a previous page or call 857-9571 for information.

We regret the necessity to charge a 4% late fee after 30 days of nonpayment for either dues or advertising. This charge will be effective March 1, 2006.



The March 2006 meeting will be at Garibaldi's on Fredericksburg. Membership will meet at 11:45 AM for an informal meet & greet session. Guest speakers from the Neo group will speak at noon on opportunities for small business success.

Bring an associate from another business, they get lunch free.

### JOIN THE TEAM

Wow. After 4 years of executive involvement with the Balcones Heights Business Alliance, it is time to travel a new direction.

The Executive Director oversees the daily workings of the Alliance.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance is searching for a business associate to take the reins of the Alliance and guide the organization and membership into 2006 and beyond.

This position needs strength and foresight of the business futures. You will be working closely with members of the City and City Council, the CVB, the membership and officers of the BHBA, and others in the areas surrounding Balcones Heights and into San Antonio on various projects.

Anyone interested in this position should contact Lynn Calkin at 857-9571.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance has restructured for 2006 with the elimination of some officer positions and creation of new ones. Lynn Calkin is currently serving as Executive Director, Elizabeth Wells as Financial Director and Mel Villarreal as Planning Director.

Margie Anastas will be assisting with Evites and setting up monthly meetings.

We are looking for a business associate in Balcones Heights who will join our team as Meeting Director. This candidate will lead the monthly meetings and work with Margie on the organization of membership attendance, as well as with Elizabeth, Mel and Lynn on projects already in the works.

Please contact Lynn Calkin at 857-9571.

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#1	\$20	2x3
#2	\$35	2x4
#3	\$35	2x8
#4	\$50	4x4
#5	\$65	4x8
#6	\$75	6x8
#7	\$85	8x8
#8	\$100	8x10

Ad Sizes, Prices, & Info

BHBA website coming soon. Call for listing.  
Prices of ads valid for newsletter & web. Advertise in both for a discount.

CALL 857-9571

All sizes are approximate. Ad copy and payment must be to the Alliance no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication.

THE BALCONES HEIGHTS BUSINESS ALLIANCE PROUDLY SPONSORS THE NEW

 **Balcones Heights Business Alliance**  
**Residential Beautification Award**

The next contest will begin April 1, 2006. Fill in the entry form below and drop it in the box set up in Crossroads Mall before April 15, 2006.

Participants will be judged on a Fiesta theme in keeping with the season. The Fiesta story goes that after the fall of the Alamo, the ladies of San Antonio saw the need to lift the spirits of the citizens. They organized a "parade" down the streets handing out flowers to all who gathered.

So pull out those weeds and replace them with the bright colors of a Texas spring and maybe a bird bath or two for our feathered friends.

**RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARD OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM 4/1-20/06**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Balcones Heights, TX 78201

TELEPHONE day \_\_\_\_\_ evening \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_

I am not a member of City Council or the Balcones Heights Business Alliance, and I am not a relative of any member of City Council or the Balcones Heights Business Alliance.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries must be signed to be considered valid.**

Entry deadline is 9:00 PM 4/15/06. Only entries submitted before the deadline are eligible for judging.

Entries must be submitted in the collection box located @ Crossroads Mall.

Entries mailed, faxed or delivered to any site other than the Crossroads Mall official collection box will not be valid.

Entrants must reside within the city limits of Balcones Heights.

Family members, including spouse, brother, sister, mother, father, cousin, aunt, uncle, niece and nephew of any member of City Council or Balcones Heights Business Alliance are not eligible.

Contest will be judged April 25-30, 2006. Winners will be contacted before the May 2006 City Council meeting for official presentation of awards and photo op for June 2006 Newsletter.

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join for 12 months and get the initiation fee

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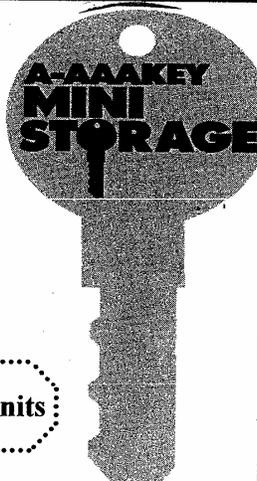
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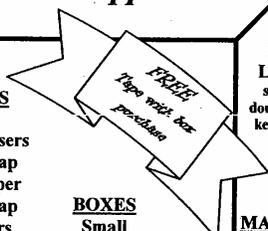
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