

City of Balcones Heights

Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights

Police Department Adds Two New Officer Positions

Reporting for many years that the Police Department was understaffed, Police Chief Kenny Menn requested that the City Council use budgeted overtime pay and municipal court revenues to hire two new police positions. The Balcones Heights City Council voted 5-0 at their April 10, 2006 meeting to amend the 2005-06 fiscal year budget by \$29,480.89 to hire two police officers beginning in June 2006 (\$85,810.46 for the next fiscal year.)

When these positions are filled (in late May or early June 2006) and when all Police Department positions are filled there will be three Sergeants and nine Patrol Officers for a total of 12 "street" officers (one Sergeant and three Officers per shift!)

This should substantially increase police patrol presence on the streets and reduce response time for emergency calls, according to Police Chief Kenny Menn. Please call Chief Menn at 735-6244 with questions.

Council "Shelves" Drainage Project

For the last two years, the City Council has been using CDBG monies (Community Development Block Grant) to study, plan and design flood drainage improvements along Woodlawn Creek through the middle of Balcones Heights.

The City of San Antonio has been very reluctant to allow Balcones Heights to construct this project because of past drainage of this creek, (which drowned a little girl in 2002.) San Antonio fears that improvements to the drainage system through Balcones Heights will increase flow and water velocity below Balcones Heights

into San Antonio.

In order to avoid a direct confrontation with San Antonio, the Balcones Heights City Council decided to "shelve" this plan until a joint project can be performed with the City of San Antonio, which will help drainage in both cities.

The City's engineer, John Espinosa with Halff Associates, says this joint project could be built in 2007-2008, if the City of Balcones Heights continues to ask San Antonio for help. The Mayor and City Council have committed to keep this pressure up on San Antonio.

In the meantime, the already

allocated grant monies must be spent or given back to H.U.D. So, at the April 10, 2006 meeting, the City Council voted to re-group and re-program the existing CDBG monies from drainage to street improvements, up to \$750,000. The Council instructed City staff to prepare bids to bid out the reconstruction of Gentleman Road with a portion of these grant monies, if approved by HUD and Bexar County.

We will keep you informed of this project.

Call City Hall at 735-9148 with questions.

Notice of Call for Projects

The Board of Directors of the Balcones Heights Texas Crime Control & Prevention District has issued a "Call For Projects" from authorized local agencies for project funding for the District's fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006 and ending September 30, 2007.

Funding applications and information may be obtained in the Office of the City Secretary, 3300 Hillcrest Drive, Balcones Heights, Texas 78201, Monday

through Friday during normal business hours. All Project Applications must be received by the City Secretary NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. on May 12, 2006.

All applications must be signed and dated by an authorized official of the requesting local law enforcement agency, local public agency, or local non-profit corporation or association, and shall become the property of the District.

Council Adopts New Dog Control Ordinance

Based on the recommendation of Councilman Lamar Gillian (Council Member, Place 4), the Balcones Heights City Council amended the animal control ordinance to require all dogs to be kept behind a dog-proof fence, except when being walked on a leash by the owner. Lamar said, "I would hate to see anyone hurt because of a dog that slips off a rope or a chain. This ordinance will require the owner to keep dogs behind a fence."

The ordinance reads as follows:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person owning and/or controlling dogs whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, licensed or unlicensed, to allow such animal to be restrained or anchored by means of a tether, chain, cable, rope or cord, unless the tether or other restraint is being personally held by the owner, caregiver, or keeper of the dog to include that no dog may be attached to any inanimate object. This section does not apply to any dog kept within a fenced area as described in Section 2.

Section 2. Dogs shall be confined within a fenced yard. Provided, further that where dogs are kept or housed on property without a fenced yard, the owner of such dogs or persons having custody of such dogs shall provide an enclosure for such dogs meeting the 150 square foot per dog dimension. Such enclosure shall be constructed of chain link or similar type materials with all sides enclosed. The enclosure shall be sufficient height to prevent the dog from escaping from such enclosure.

Section 3. Nothing in this ordinance shall be

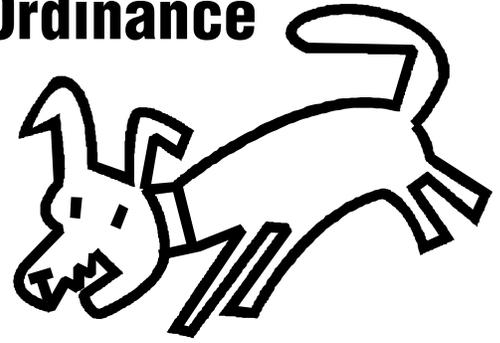
construed to prohibit owners or others walking dogs with a hand-held leash.

Section 4. Any such animal so tied or staked shall be considered dangerous to the public in general and declared a nuisance and shall be impounded.

Section 5. Each violation of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10.00, nor more than \$200.00. Each violation of this ordinance shall be a separate offense for each day a dog is not lawfully restrained. Nothing in this section shall limit the remedies available to the City in seeking to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or illegal, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections of this ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared void.

Please call animal control at the Balcones Heights Police Department at 735-9148, ext. 232 to report a loose dog.



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 x243
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

New VIA Grant Program

VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority has notified Balcones Heights that \$66,942 will be available to the City for 2005 (based on 2005 VIA receipts) to use for VIA route improvements, and that similar amounts will be available in the future yearly for this program.

The monies are restricted to be used for bus stops, benches, and safer entrances and exits for bus riders, or for other improvements to existing VIA bus routes.

Right now VIA travels along Fredericksburg Road, along Babcock and through the Park & Ride area in Crossroads Mall. At the regular City Council meeting

of April 10, 2006, Council Member Suzanne de Leon and Council Member Lamar Gillian asked staff to prepare a plan to use these VIA monies for:

- Decorative street lighting along Fredericksburg Road (cast iron with brackets for flags)
- Landscaping along Fredericksburg Road
- Decorative entryway structures at both ends of Fredericksburg Road at the city limits.

Call City Hall at 735-9148, ext. 227 with comments and questions.

CVB NEWSNET

First Quarter Hotel Occupancy Up

Hotel occupancy for the first calendar quarter of 2006 (January, February, March) is up 4.33 percent from last year, despite a one percent decrease in the month of March. CVB Director Lorenzo Nastasi reported the increase to the Balcones Heights City Council at the April 10 City Council meeting. January occupancy was up 11 percent, and February occupancy was up 3 percent.



Vice President, Business Development at TexSan Heart Hospital. Mr. Kipp's appointment was unanimously approved by City Council. Councilman Lamar Gillian asked the Council to approve his reappointment of local property owner Pamela Hodges.

Ms. Hodges currently serves as Board Chair. City Council unanimously approved Ms. Hodges' reappointment. Mr. Kipp and Ms. Hodges were appointed to two-year terms.

Norris Conference Center

Norris Conference Center continues to contribute to occupancy rate. In March conference center attendees accounted for 48 room nights. Thus far this calendar year, the conference center has generated 224 room nights. Future room bookings, through January 2007, stand at more than 700.

www.reachfortheheights.org

The CVB's official Web site continues to draw visitors. March visits were up 18 percent from February. The site's home page currently features the Norris Conference Center.

Board Appointments

The Balcones Heights City Council confirmed one new appointment and one reappointment to the CVB Board. Councilman Bill Johnson nominated Wayne Kipp to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Carrie Anne Silvers. Mr. Kipp is the

Board Meeting Highlights

The Balcones Heights CVB Board met for its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2006. Councilman Lamar Gillian swore in new Board member Wayne Kipp, and reappointed Board member Pamela Hodges. Board member Renee Storrie, property manager at Crossroads Mall, presented the Board with a report from the Advisory Committee appointed to review CVB organization and functioning. The board will review the report and discuss it at its next meeting. Chair Pamela Hodges and Director Lorenzo Nastasi introduced a plan to increase hotel occupancy and its local economic impact. After discussion and input from Board members it was agreed that the plan requires additional work and a tighter focus. A revised plan will be presented at a future meeting. The CVB Board voted to pay for overtime accrued by the Police Department in conjunction with this year's Cowboy Breakfast. The amount of the overtime is \$505.21.

Meet Jennifer J. Carrillo: New Dispatcher



The Police Department has hired Jennifer J. Carrillo to work as a full-time Dispatcher. Jennifer comes to the City of Balcones Heights from First Health of San Antonio where she worked as a pre-authorization representative for the popular health insurance provider.

Before that, Jennifer worked for four years for Kinetic Concepts Inc. where she was the lead claim specialist for KCI and their various insurance products.

Before that, Jennifer was a dispatcher for Calls Unlimited for alphanumeric and numeric pager clients.

"Jennifer has a long history of handling specific work problems over the phone, and we are thrilled to get someone of her caliber to work for us as a dispatcher," says Bobby de la Garza, assistant police chief.

Jennifer has two daughters, ages 3 and 4, at home, and understands the importance of speed and concern in handling dispatch calls.

Balcones Heights



Department

"I look forward to serving the citizens of Balcones Heights," Jennifer explained. "Hope to hear from you, although, hopefully not in an emergency situation," she added.



CITY SPOTLIGHT

Meet Delia Flores Balcones Heights City Secretary

Delia Flores has been with the City since 1994, more than twelve years. Beginning as a Temporary Clerk, she then became a General Clerk, and then the City's Personnel and Finance Clerk in 1997. In June of 2002, Flores was nominated by Mayor Jim Craven to be City Secretary, and was unanimously confirmed by the City Council. She has served with efficiency, grace and kindness. This April, Flores achieved Official State Certification in her field. The office of City Secretary is a statutory position, and her duties include:

- Composing City Council Agendas, packets, meeting minutes, resolutions, ordinances, minutes orders, etc.
- Elections Administrator
- Records Management Officer
- Open Records Requests
- Insurance Administrator
- Food Permits
- Alarm Permits
- Swimming Pool Permits

- Coin Operated Machines Permits
- Court Supervisor
- Court Costs Quarterly Reports
- Quarterly OMNI Report (Failure to Appear Cases)
- Texas Workforce Commission Quarterly Reports
- Texas Municipal Retirement Monthly Reports
- Secretary to City Administrator – Typing, Filing, Research, other duties as assigned.
- Point of contact for all office equipment problems
- Civic Center Rentals
- Justice Center Training Room Scheduling
- Police Report deposits
- Secretary to the Board of Adjustments
- Secretary to the Planning and Zoning Commission

The City is very fortunate to have Delia Flores as its City Secretary. She can be reached at 735.9148 ext. 236.

Congratulations to Local Student!

Roland Mena, a 6th grader at Poe Middle School has been nominated by his teachers to the CYLC (Congressional Youth Leadership Council) Conference in Washington, D.C. He was recognized for his academic excellence and for his strong leadership potential. In Washington he will attend a week-long seminar on American history,

governance, and training which will result in an educational experience of a lifetime! Please congratulate Rolando and/or his parents at 320 Crestview Drive (and if you can help with his travel expenses.)

Congratulations Rolando, we are proud to have students like you in Balcones Heights.

JULY 7 Balcones Heights
JULY 14 **JAZZ**
JULY 21 **FESTIVAL 2006**
JULY 28 **FRIDAYS**
AUGUST 4 **7:30 PM - 9:30 PM**
AUGUST 11 The Amphitheater
 @ Crossroads Mall
 IH10 & Loop 410 San Antonio

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Fraud Policy Adopted by the City Council

At its regular meeting on April 10, 2006, the Balcones Heights City Council formally adopted a Fraud Prevention and Detection Policy.

The Policy was researched and compiled by City Treasurer, Roy Miller, and was recommended by the City Auditor, Nancy Vaughn.

Vaughn says, "the 2004-05 city audit was exemplary and showed no signs of financial fraud or any other impropriety. The city audit was in great shape. City Treasurer Roy Miller does an excellent job!"

"However," Vaughn added, "we are recommending to all our clients that they adopt a formal fraud policy that warns all staff members and employees of the City's policies and advises what will be done in the event of evidence of fraud or other financial improprieties.

City Council adopted the new policy by a vote of 5-0. If you would like to see a copy of the policy, call Roy Miller at 735-9148, ext. 244.



VOTE!

See our May 2006 Calendar on page 8 for dates, times, and location.

Visit us on the Web at www.balconesheights.org



City of Balcones Heights
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Balcones Heights Calendar • May 2006

	SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Justice Center	2 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Justice Center	3 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Justice Center	4 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Justice Center	5 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Justice Center	6
7	8 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Justice Center City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.	9 Early Voting 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Justice Center	10	11	12	13 Election Day 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Justice Center
14	15	16	17	18 CVB Meeting Justice Center 5:30 p.m. 	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Holiday	30	31	1	2	3

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	#5	\$65	4x8
	#6	\$75	6x8
	#7	\$85	8x8
	#8	\$100	8x10

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RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARD



The entry deadline is past, and the judges have tallied the results. Everyone is invited to the Balcones City Council meeting on May 8, 2006 for the presentation of plaques and prizes, as well as photo op for the June 2006 Newsletter.

Winners will be contacted before May 5, 2006.

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The next meeting of the Balcones Heights Business Alliance will be
Wednesday, May 10, 2006.

Networking begins at 11:45.

Call 857-0571 for further details.