

City of Balcones Heights

Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights

Gillian Nominated for Bexar Appraisal District Board

The Balcones Heights City Council has nominated Councilman Lamar Gillian to the Board of Directors of the Bexar Appraisal District.

“With his background in financial accounting and his years of experience in the U.S. Air Force, Lamar would be an excellent choice for the Bexar Appraisal District Board of Directors” explained Mayor Jim Craven.

At its November 14, 2005 meeting the Balcones Heights City Council voted to give all three (3) of the City’s representative votes to Mr. Gillian, and agreed to ask other member cities to also vote for him. Board members will be announced December 15, 2005.

NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Police Chief Kenneth Menn, right, introduces new BHPD officers Tom Peters, left, and Alejandro Salinas, center, during the November 14 City Council meeting.



It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas!

Business Alliance to Award Prizes for Best Decorated Home!

There are many of us who enjoy decorating our homes for the holidays.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance invites the residents of Balcones Heights to participate in the Business Alliance 2005 Best Decorated Home Contest.

CONTEST RULES

Residents interested in participating in the contest must register by completing and returning the entry form (See Page 6) to the Balcones Heights Justice Center lobby Entry Form collection box. Residences must be registered by 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 9, 2005.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance Holiday

Committee will judge all entries and select first, second and third place winners.

The winners’ homes will be adorned with yard plaques announcing their winning status.

First, second and third place prizes will be in the form of gift certificates to local businesses.

The winners will be announced on December 15th at the Balcones Heights Business Alliance Holiday event.

The winners’ names and pictures of the winning entries will be published in the January Balcones Heights newsletter.

Turn to page 6 for the entry form.

City Council News

Council Votes to Sell Old City Hall

In 2001 the new Balcones Heights Justice Center was built at the corner of Hillcrest and Gentleman and City Hall moved in. The old City Hall at 123 Altgelt Ave. was leased to the Bexar County Sheriff's Department for the County Detective Division. In July 2004, the county moved out and no other renters were found for the old building. In May of 2005, City Council solicited bids for the sale of the old City Hall to the public.

At the November 14, 2005 City Council meeting, a motion was made to sell the old City Hall to Slay Engineering for \$280,000.

Mike Slay, owner of Slay Engineering, says he plans to use the building as headquarters for the local engineering and architecture firm.

"We welcome this new company to Balcones Heights and are thrilled that a new use has been found for the elegant old City Hall, built in 1970," said Mayor Jim Craven.

The building should be open for business in the spring of 2006.

Council Members Eliminate Their Pay

Following the example set by Mayor Craven, the Balcones Heights City Council voted to eliminate their council salary, effective in the next Council term beginning May 2006. The present City Council salary is \$250 per month. The Council's decision will provide a savings of \$15,000 per year. This amount, added to the Mayor's salary savings of \$4,200, results in total annual savings of \$19,200.

"Well, if the Mayor doesn't get a salary then no one else should get a salary."

- Steve Walker, Council Member

A motion to eliminate the Council salary was made by Council Member Steve Walker, who first proposed to reinstate the Mayor's salary at the November 11, 2005 City Council meeting. When he received no second for that motion, he said, "Well, if the Mayor doesn't get a salary then no one else should get a salary."

Council Member Bennie Cass seconded the motion. The Council has not decided how to use the \$15,000 savings. The \$4,200 Mayor's salary was budgeted to purchase a new fire hose for the Fire Department.

DECEMBER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS!

SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
Civic Center

SURPLUS CITY EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Saturday, December 10, 2005, 9:00 a.m.
Balcones Heights Justice Center, 3300 Hillcrest
Call 735.9148 x 227 for more information.

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
- Civilian Investigator Dianna Bowers x240
- Dispatcher x232
- Fire Chief/
Fire Department Ben Hoeffner (210) 735-9206



CITY SPOTLIGHT

Rafael Ruiz

Rafael (Ralph) Ruiz and his wife, Janis, are now grandparents. Their legacy of service to their fellow man will not be lost, nor forgotten.

Ralph believes that city improvement and beautification should be exemplified by its leaders. So, while a member of our Planning and Zoning Commission, he and Janis re-landscaped their front yard.

As a young man, Ralph was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest in 1965. In 1967, working with the poor in the neighborhoods in San Antonio, he founded the organization now known as Inner City Development. During that time, CBS television produced and nationally broadcast a program titled "Hunger in America." The program featured Father Ralph Ruiz, and focused the nation's attention on the plight of the poor in every region of the United States.

In 1967, he founded a movement of Mexican American priests, called PADRES. In the wake of Vatican II, this group became a strong voice within the Roman Church. One of the results of their work was the realization by the Vatican that Hispanic Catholics should have access to Hispanic priests. It was because of the work of PADRES and Ralph's prompting that Patrick Flores became the first Hispanic bishop, and later the first Hispanic archbishop in the United States. Because of the work of PADRES, a Hispanic Pope may one day be named. Recently, the University of Texas Press, telling the PADRES story, and Ralph's involvement, published a book entitled PADRES.

Ralph obtained a dispensation

releasing him from active priesthood, but continued to advocate for the needs of the poor. In 1969 he met Janis, who worked as a vocation-

al evaluator for Goodwill Industries. They married in 1971.

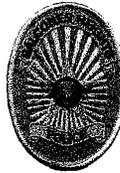
Motivated by the words of Jesus to "love God, and your neighbor," Ralph still seeks to help meet the needs of his fellow man. Both he and Janis are professional counselors, sweet and kind neighbors, and examples of humble service.

Balcones Heights Police Officers Association

(C.L.E.A.T. Affiliated)

P.O. Box 4823

San Antonio, Tx 78201-4823



Blue Marshall Toy Drive

Ho....Ho....Ho....

Hello Citizens of Balcones Heights, It's that time of year again and the Balcones Heights Police Officer's Association is having their yearly "Blue Marshall Toy Drive" for the needy children of Balcones Heights. The B.H.P.O.A. would like to extend an invitation to our residents to help nominate "needy families" in the city of Balcones Heights.

We are hoping to brighten their Holliday Season and spread joy to as many needy families as possible.

All members of the B.H.P.O.A. would like to invite anyone interested in participating in the toy delivery event, which will be held at Crossroads Mall, 4522 Fredericksburg Road, on Friday, December 23, 2005 from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. For a list of locations that are accepting donations for the Toy Drive, please stop by the BHPD at 3300 Hillcrest Drive.

If you have Toys to donate, children to nominate, or businesses who would like to participate in a memorable Christmas for a needy child, please contact B.H.P.O.A. President, Sgt. Salvador Onofre, Officer Martin Garcia, Investigator Robert Acosta, or B.H.P.O.A. Secretary Rusty Roper. Call the non-emergency PD line at 735-9408.

Bexar County Awards \$250,000 Grant to Balcones Heights

The Bexar County Infrastructure Services Department awarded a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to the City of Balcones Heights Woodlawn Creek Drainage Project.

This grant brings the total received from this program for the important drainage project to \$573,366. To date, the City of Balcones Heights has used approximately \$147,000 of this money to purchase and demolish the structure at 208 Vivian and to perform a hydrology study on the creek. The remaining grant money, \$426,000, will be used to design and build improvements to the creek.

City Council members will review construction plans for the improvements at the December 12th Council meeting and award a construction project in the spring of 2006. Construction will start in the summer of 2006 and be completed in the fall of 2006.

Citizens are invited to call City Hall with any questions.

Sam's Club Gift



On October 24th Sam's Club 8227, 5055 NW Loop 410, presented the Balcones Heights Fire Department with a check in the amount of \$1,125. Pictured left to right: John Talamantez, Liz Hernandez, and Fire Chief Ben Hoeffner. This money was used to purchase new safety equipment and several training video tapes. This gift to the Fire Department is part of a Sam's Club community service initiative. It is their way of saying thank you. Many thanks to our friends at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.

Holiday Safety Tips

From the Balcones Heights Fire Department

In 2002 there were 240 Christmas tree fires in U.S. homes, resulting in 23 deaths, 12 injuries and \$11.4 million in direct property damage.

- Use caution with holiday decorations, and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas Trees.
- Purchase only lights and electrical decorations bearing the name of an independent testing lab, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and maintenance.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging in. Do not overload extension cords.
- Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Don't mount lights in a way that can damage the cord's wire insulation (i.e., using clips, not nails or staples).
- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.



Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Fire Chief Ben Hoeffner
and the Members of the Balcones Heights Fire Department

Waste/Brush Pick-up

November 28 through
December 2, 2005

**Actual Pick-up:
Monday, December 5, 2005**

No household hazardous waste
No appliances with freon

All discarded items such as old furniture, hot water heaters, 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, December 5, 2005.

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

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, December 5, 2005.

Public Hearing for Flood Plain Map

Mayor Jim Craven has called for a Public Hearing to be held at the December 12, 2005 City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m., at the Balcones Heights Justice Center, 3300 Hillcrest. The purpose of the hearing is to review the proposed FEMA flood plain

“Please plan to attend this meeting to review your property’s exposure to flooding.”

maps for Balcones Heights.

Please plan to attend this meeting to review your property’s exposure to flooding. FEMA has released the proposed Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) for review and comment.

PLEASE CUT HERE AND DELIVER FORM BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9



Balcones Heights Business Alliance

1st Annual 2005 Best Decorated Home Contest

CONTEST RULES

Residents interested in participating in the contest must register by completing and returning this entry form to the Balcones Heights Justice Center lobby Holiday Entry Box.

**Residences must be registered by
4:30 p.m., Friday, December 9, 2005.**

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

BALCONES HEIGHTS RESIDENT NAME

BALCONES HEIGHTS RESIDENT ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE:



Please complete this form and drop off at the Balcones Heights Justice Center Holiday Entry Box. Deadline for entries are December 9, 2005.

Winners to be announced December 15, 2005.

Pictures of winning entries to be featured in the next BH Monthly Newsletter.



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CDBG • HOME PROGRAMS
233 N. Pecos La Trinidad, Suite 420
San Antonio, Texas 78207
(210) 335-6700 • Fax (210) 335-6755

October 21, 2005

Hon. James Craven
Mayor, Balcones Heights
3300 Hillcrest Drive
San Antonio, TX 78201

Re: Emergency Housing Repair Program

Dear Mayor Craven:

Bexar County Infrastructures Services – CDBG program has allocated a limited amount of money to assist income eligible homeowners living in Precincts 1 and 3. The purpose of this funding is to eliminate health and safety hazards in their homes.

The Emergency Housing Repair program can assist eligible, low to moderate income homeowners with the following repairs to their homes:

- Roofing
- Plumbing
- Handicapped Accessibility
- Electrical
- Water service connections
- Replacement of door, windows and locks.

Could you please help us to publicize the program by making these flyers available to persons who live in Balcones Heights?

We appreciate all your work for the benefit of the residents of Bexar County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Woodrum".

Larry Woodrum
CDBG Program Manager

Cc: Lyle Larson, Comm. Pct. 3
Gabriel Perez, Exec. Director Infrastructure Services

BEXAR COUNTY

EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM



Bexar County Infrastructure Services Department has limited funds available to assist eligible low to moderate income homeowners who need emergency repairs made to their home.

The program will provide the assistance needed to eliminate a health and safety hazard in the owner's home.

The program can address roof leaks, septic systems, water service connections, Handicapped Accessibility, replacement of doors, windows, locks, plumbing repair, and electrical work. Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Assistance is limited to Bexar County residents who live in the unincorporated areas of Bexar County (outside the city limits of San Antonio) in Precincts 1 and 3 or in one of the following cities: Balcones Heights, Grey Forest, Helotes, Shavano Park, or Somerset.

To Qualify for Assistance

To qualify for the program:

- ▶ The home must be your principal residence
- ▶ Property and school taxes must be current
- ▶ Have a household income that falls within the program guidelines

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income Limit	28,850	32,950	37,100	41,200	44,500	47,800	51,100	54,400

Application Process

Call Bexar County Infrastructure Services - CDBG program at 335-3741 and request an application.

Applications are also available at our offices located at 233 N. Pecos Suite 590, San Antonio, TX 78207.

Because you must qualify by income, you will have to provide that information to ensure that your household qualifies for this no cost grant.

Incomplete applications cannot be processed or approved.

These grant funds are limited. If you are interested in qualifying, you must apply for assistance by December 30, 2005

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Bexar County

Michael Martinez
Housing Rehabilitation Inspector
210.335.3741

Andrew Alva
CDBG Supervisor
210.335-3742

Larry Woodrum
Community Development Block Grant Manager
210.335.6543

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City of Balcones Heights
3300 Hillcrest Drive
Balcones Heights, Texas 78201

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Balcones Heights Calendar • December 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Senior Citizens' Dinner Civic Center 107 Glenarm 6:00 p.m.	2	3 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8
4 Crossroads Mall Santa 12-6	5 Brush Pick-up	6 Planning and Zoning Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	7	8	9 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8 Holiday Home Contest Deadline 4:30 p.m.	10 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8
11 Crossroads Mall Santa 12-6	12 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	13	14	15 CVB Meeting 5:30 p.m. Justice Center	16 Crossroads Mall Santa 5-9	17 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8
18 Crossroads Mall Santa 12-6	19 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8	20 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8	21 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8	22 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8	23 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-8 Blue Marshall Toy Drive 2-6	24 Crossroads Mall Santa 10-3
25 Christmas Day 	26 Christmas Holiday City Offices will be closed.	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Back for the 2nd year!!

Secret Santa Storage

DECEMBER HALF OFF RENT!!

5'x10' climate controlled unit for \$29

or

5'x15' climate controlled unit for \$39

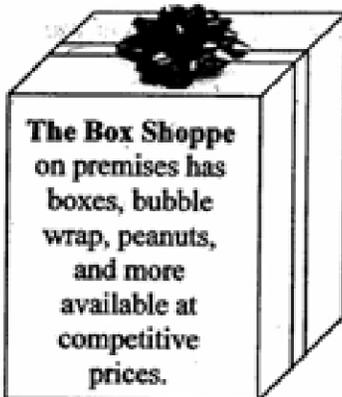
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Office hours

8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Monday through Saturday.

Office and Wrapping Station closed Sundays.
Gate Access 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM Daily

Valid on new rentals only between December 1, 2005 and December 20, 2005.

Available on 5x10 climate control and 5x15 climate control units only.

All sizes are approximate.

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

Please call Lynn Calkin @ 857-9571.



Ad Sizes & Prices

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

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Insurance and Financial Services Agent

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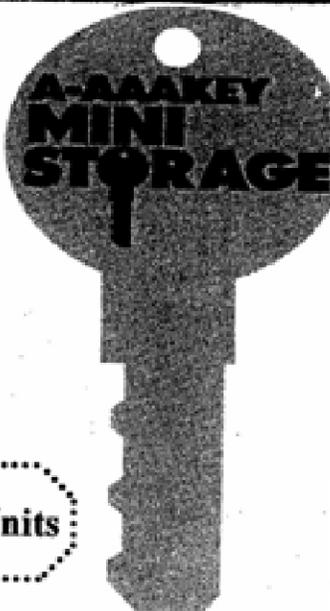
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*Happy
Holiday
Season*

The
**Balcones Heights
Business Alliance**

will host a mixer
December 16, 2005
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
at **La Fonda Oak Hills**
off Fredericksburg Rd. 1 block outside 410

All businesses are invited to attend.

We will serve appetizers, coffee, tea.
Cash Bar.



RSVP
Before 12/13/05
to confirm your
reservation.

For more information, please call the
Balcones Heights Business Alliance
857-9571



2005 OFFICERS

President Elizabeth Wells *Vice President* Tiffany Gallan *Secretary* Cathy Oliver

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director Lynn Calkin *Vice Executive Director* Mike Alceos
Liaison Mel Villarreal



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