



City of Balcones Heights

Serving the residents and business community of the City of Balcones Heights

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Monday, March 7

A Few Words from Mayor Jim Craven

Dear Friends,

This year has started well for our City. The Second Annual Balcones Heights Cowboy Breakfast will be held on Friday, January 28, starting at 6:00 a.m. I attended last year's, and had a truly great taco and the best coffee I ever had. The event is great fun, and is a fine, family friendly event for Balcones Heights to host.

Trammell Crow has assumed ownership of Crossroads Mall, and is making moves to improve the mall. It has signed a long-term agreement with Norris Conference Centers, and already begun renovation of the two areas that will comprise the best conference space in this section of Bexar County. The City

was able to partly fund the deal, using dedicated hotel-motel tax money that will be REPAID to the City over the life of the agreement. This is the first deal of its kind in the state of Texas, and we are proud to play a part. Along with Target and the Heart Hospital and its office building and the sale of the Mall itself, we believe this agreement is in the best interest of the City.

Thanks to the efforts of our Planning and Zoning Commission, new, but minimal landscape ordinances have been adopted for any new construction in the commercial zones.

Mr. Sal Mendez was unanimously confirmed at the January Council

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Sal Mendez Appointed to City Council

At its regular meeting on Monday, January 10, the Balcones Heights City Council appointed Sal Mendez to fill the remaining term of Melissa Castro, Place 3, who resigned in December. Mendez will serve until May 2005 when the position is up for re-election.

Mendez is a 4-year resident of Balcones Heights, and operates his own company, Legal Process Services, Inc., a legal support service for attorneys. Mendez is a native of San Antonio, married to Alma Mendez, an employee at USAA. Mendez has served on the City's Board of Adjust-

ments and the VIA Study Committee, which recommended the retention of VIA to the City Council. Mendez is a member of the Balcones Heights Business Alliance and presently serves as its Treasurer.

Mendez says he is excited about the opportunity to serve on the City Council and asks that anyone who wishes to speak to him contact him at 735-9148.

"Sal has a long history of service to Balcones Heights and will be a positive addition to the City Council," said Jim Craven, Mayor of Balcones Heights.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Reports to Council

The Balcones Heights Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) presented its first formal report to City Council at the Council's January 10 meeting. The report, presented by CVB Chairman Pamela Hodges, summarized CVB activities from August through December 2004.

The report began with the hiring of Director of Tourism, Lorenzo Nastasi in mid-August. Mr. Nastasi has established an office in the



Balcones Heights Justice Center. In September all board members participated in a 6-hour workshop

to develop a mission statement, bylaws, and plans for promoting Balcones Heights to tourists and visitors. An official CVB logo, as illustrated in this article, was approved by the Board in October.

One of the first priorities of the Board was to establish guidelines and an application for those organizations requesting funding from the City's Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax.

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Words from the Mayor

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meeting to fill the seat of Council member Place 3, recently vacated by Melissa Castro. Mr. Mendez now vacates his seat on the Board of Adjustments, where he has served faithfully and well. He brings thoughtfulness, experience and commitment to the job, as well as civility.

The contract to install handicap access ramps at every sidewalk street-corner has been awarded, and we look forward to those being completed in

the next few months. In addition, all the driveways along Gentleman will be made ADA compliant. The City will not have to pay for any of this work. Outside funds will be used.

The Flood Study that was commissioned in December will soon be complete. We are hoping for a report at the February Council meeting. Again, no City funds will be used. We obtained a grant to pay for this study, and for the work on the ditch that will prevent future flooding in Balcones Heights.

We will continue to seek outside

funding for as many projects as we can. In February, I will again be privileged to present our requests to the Community Development Block Grant program. We are applying for money for our parks and streets.

Please don't forget to observe the brush pickup dates; do NOT put brush out before the proper time.

Conditions indicate steady, positive activity for our city; a city that is truly "set upon a hill."

*Jim Craven
Balcones Heights Mayor*

Balcones Heights City Officials

Jim Craven, Mayor
 Bill Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Councilman, Place 5
 Lucille Wohlfarth Councilwoman, Place 4
 Sal Mendez 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 Jo Ann Vidal x244
 Municipal Court Clerk Yvonne Baez x223
 Deputy Court Clerk Michelle Garcia 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

CVB Reports

Continued from page 2

Thus far the CVB has provided funding to the Warm Springs Winter Wonderland held in December at Crossroads Mall. Pending applications include requests from the San Antonio Symphony to conduct a free Fiesta concert in the Crossroads Amphitheatre, a request from Texas Events Group to hold a regional BBQ cook-off, and a request from Clear Channel Communications for this year's Jazz Festival.

In conjunction with the Warm Springs Wonderland, the CVB created a special "Winter Wonderland" hotel promotion. This promotion consisted of a special poster on display at the Winter Wonderland, and a drawing held December 21, 2004 for a free hotel night (one each at Comfort Suites, Siesta Inn and Suites, and Springhill Suites by Marriott). The posters for the promotion and the drawing were a joint effort of the CVB and Warm Springs. The CVB drafted the poster copy and Warm Springs created the posters. At the suggestion of the hoteliers, this promotion was extended to residents and businesses within Balcones Heights as well. An ad published in the City's November newsletter promoted a special "Balcones Heights" holiday hotel rate.

The data collected from the free hotel room drawing indicates that the Warm Springs Wonderland was a significant tourist draw. More than 400 entries were submitted. These entries reflect visitors from 44 San Antonio zip codes, 29 communities outside the San Antonio metropolitan area, and three states, Arizona, California, and Louisiana. While this data reflects only those visitors who chose to enter the drawing it does reflect a great diversity of visitors to Crossroads Mall and Balcones Heights.

In an effort to attract more

**THE CITY OF BALCONES HEIGHTS
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
MISSION STATEMENT**

THE MISSION OF THE BALCONES HEIGHTS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VISITORS AND TOURISTS TO BALCONES HEIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT PATRONAGE OF THE HOTEL, DINING, RETAIL, MEDICAL, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY.

***The City of Balcones Heights
Convention and Visitors Bureau Board Members***

<p>Chairman: Pamela Hodges</p> <p>Vice Chair: Elizabeth Wells Director of Sales Springhill Suites by Marriott</p> <p>Secretary: Mary Lou Baack Director of Sales Comfort Suites</p>	<p>Robert Cantu General Manager Springhill Suites by Marriott</p> <p>Nancy Jeffreys President Nancy J's Gift Services</p> <p>Martha Kleine Director of Sales Norris Conference Center</p> <p>Mel Villarreal Branch Manager, S.A. Employees Federal Credit Union</p>
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tourists to Balcones Heights from Mexico the CVB executed a trial advertising campaign in Monterrey, Mexico. A special ad, published in December and January in the weekly publication *Texas Y Turismo* promoted special holiday hotel rates, and the added incentive of a free Dave & Busters Powercard. This incentive was a cooperative effort of the CVB, the hoteliers, and Dave & Busters. Results of these promotions are being compiled.

A tentative 2005 advertising campaign has been approved by the CVB.

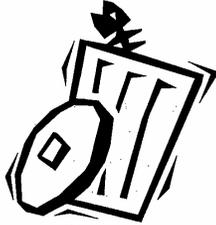
It includes ads in key issues of *Texas Monthly* including spring and summer travel editions, the October San Antonio issue and the 2005

Travel Planner. Ads are also planned for summer issues of *Texas Journey* and *Texas Highways*.

In concluding the report Hodges commended Mr. Nastasi and her fellow CVB Board members. "Our accomplishments are due in great part to the talents and expertise of Mr. Nastasi," Hodges stated. "A start-up process such as the creation of a CVB is not easy. All Board members have given freely of their time and expertise, and we are all deeply committed to applying a professional standard and approach to reaching our goals," added Hodges.

Questions or comments about the CVB can be directed to Mr. Nastasi, 735-9148 ext. 230.

Waste/Brush Pick-up: Monday, March 7



The first of four annual clean-ups is scheduled for the residential areas of Balcones Heights on March 7, 2005.

**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 7, 2005.

Items should NOT be put to the curb earlier than 10 days prior to the pick-up (Friday, February 25, 2005)

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 7, 2005.

Madeline Slay Appointed to Planning and Zoning Commission

The Balcones Heights City Council appointed Madeline Slay to the Planning and Zoning Commission at its regular City Council meeting on January 10, 2005. Slay will complete the remaining term of George Monsive who resigned.

Slay is an architect with Slay Engineering a company she owns and operates with her husband, Michael M. Slay, who is an engineer. Slay and her husband are long-term residents of Balcones Heights and

she will bring the professional skills and training of her profession to this very important commission. Slay has served as an alternate to this board and now will be a voting member with this appointment. "I look forward to serving with Madeline and believe with her experience and knowledge, she will help us make excellent decisions," said George Moellering, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

City Council Candidate Packets

February 7, 2005 is the first day to file for a place on the ballot for the May 7, 2005 General Election. Deadline to file for a place on the ballot is March 7, 2005. Candidate packets will be available as of Monday, January 31, 2005. The offices up for election are: Council Place 3, Council Place 4 and Council Place 5. Candidate packets may be picked up at the Justice Center, 3300 Hillcrest

Drive in the City Secretary's Office, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The Council Members presently serving in these seats are:

Council Member Place 3
Sal Mendez (Appointed 1-10-05)
Council Member Place 4
Lucille Wohlfarth
Council Member Place 5
Bill Johnson

Proposed City Mission Statement

Many organizations and many cities have mission statements. The mission statement is just that – a statement of what the organization is trying to do. City Council Member Suzanne de Leon says "it is time that Balcones Heights adopts a mission statement! Where are we trying to go? What are we trying to do? What do we value as a City? If we don't have a map, then any road will do. We need to have a map!"

Council Member de Leon recommended the following mission statement at the January 10, 2005 City Council Meeting:

The City of Balcones Heights is committed to improve the quality of life of its citizens, employees, businesses, and visitors by providing [or offering] a wholesome and friendly environment, excellent law enforcement and fire protection, safe and enjoyable parks, and community events and activities. The City is dedicated to create a more friendly, efficient, and civil operation of city government.

The City Council will consider adopting a mission statement at the next City Council Meeting on February 14, 2005. If you have any comments or would like to suggest a mission statement for Balcones Heights, call Suzanne de Leon at 735-9148 ext. 274 or City Administrator Lanny Lambert at 735-9148 ext. 227.

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Vice President-Tiffany Gailan	#3	\$35	2x8
Gailan	#4	\$50	4x4
Secretary-Cathy Oliver	#5	\$65	4x8
Treasurer-Sal Mendez	#6	\$75	6x8
	#7	\$85	8x8
	#8	\$100	8x10

Board of Directors
 Mike Alcoes
 Mel Villarreal
 Danny Davila

Executive Director
 Lynn Calkin

Special Events Coordinator
 Ana Rasmussen

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 or Tiffany Gailan
 @ 669-5721.

Wheelchair Access Ramp Construction

Randy Myers Construction of Wimberly, Texas was the successful bidder to build 114 Wheelchair Access Ramps in Balcones Heights. The City received a grant from VIA to construct wheelchair ramps throughout the City to make all VIA bus stops accessible to those

customers in wheelchairs. And, 47 ramps will be built along every driveway on Gentleman Rd. Total cost for the project is \$113,544.00 with construction estimated to take about 90 days. The ramps should be completed by the end of April 2005. The ramp locations are:

INTERSECTION	# OF RAMPS	T'S	
Fredericksburg Rd. & Siesta Lane	2		
Beryl & Dewhurst	2		
Gill Rd. & Beryl	2	1	
Hannasch & Dewhurst	2		
N. Crossroads Blvd. & Dewhurst	2		
Leisure Drive & Gentleman Rd.	2	1	
Vivian Lane & Gentleman Rd.	2	1	
Pleasant Dr. & Gentleman Rd.	2	1	
Bobbies Lane & Gentleman Rd.	2	1	
Glenarm Place & Gentleman Rd.	4		
Concord Place & Gentleman Rd.	4		
Altgelt Ave. & Gentleman Rd.	4		
Balcones Heights Rd. & Gentleman Rd.	2		
Ronald Lane & Leisure Drive	2	1	
Ronald Lane & Vivian Lane	2	1	
Ronald Lane & Pleasant Drive	2	1	
Hillcrest Drive & Crestview Drive	2		
Leisure & Crestview Drive	2	1	
Pleasant Drive & Crestview	2	1	
Bobbies Lane & Crestview Drive	2	1	
Crestview Drive & Balcones Heights Rd.	1		
Shadyview Drive & Balcones Heights Rd.	2	1	
Babcock & Balcones Heights Rd.	2	1	
Siesta & Gentleman Rd.	2	1	
TOTAL	53	14	67



Swimming Pool Fencing



Recently I have received complaints regarding fences around swimming pools. Many of you have swimming pools whose fences do meet the City of Balcones Heights' regulations regarding pool fencing. Section 1533.035 (A) 5 (c) states that "it shall be unlawful hereafter for any person to construct, use or maintain upon premises in his or

her possession or under his or her control any swimming pool unless the pool be enclosed within a permanent fence not less than four feet in height and unless the gates or entrances to enclosure be securely locked at all times other than when being actually used for purposes of ingress or egress. This requirement may be satisfied by a fence six feet high

that encloses the lot or lots where the pool is located."

If you have a pool take note of the fence that surrounds it and take appropriate corrective measures to come into compliance with the above sited regulation.

David Cadena
Building Code
Enforcement Officer

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Please call Lynn Calkin @ 857-9571 or the Alliance @ 732-5736 on or after February 1st for the time and place of the February 2005 meeting. We regret that the meeting cannot be held at Bonanza Family Steakhouse, but due to unfortunate circumstances the family eatery has been closed.

Please join the Alliance in wishing all Bonanza's employees the best in their efforts to find other employment, as well as our hopes for a bright future for each of them. The restaurant and the great people who worked there will be missed in our community.

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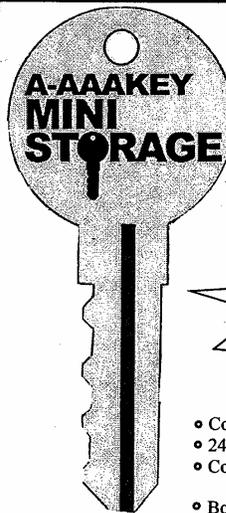
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Balcones Heights Calendar • February 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 P&Z Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center <i>First day to file for a place on the ballot</i>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	15	16	17 CVB Meeting 5:30 p.m. Justice Center	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Senior Citizens Dinner 6:00 p.m. Civic Center	25	26
27	28					

Brush pick-up scheduled on Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 a.m.