

City of Balcones Heights

Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights

Craven Elected to Third Term as Mayor

Incumbent Mayor Jim Craven was elected to his third two-year term in the May 13 election, defeating City Councilman Steve Walker.

Citing steady economic growth, such as the Texsan Heart Hospital Medical Arts Office Complex and the new Wachovia Bank, a stable city budget with increased fund balances, increased law enforcement, two new officers and one new detective, a new park playground, increased hotel occupancy and visitors to Balcones Heights, the completion of the new Norris Conference Center, new city-wide handicap access ramps, new street signage, and an improved community image, Mayor Craven vows to continue the course of progress for the City.

“Balcones Heights is a great place to live and do business! Our location, our low tax rate, our professional fire and police protection, and our progressive leadership make us the premier suburb in this area. I am proud

to lead this city as Mayor and look forward to 2 more years of progress. Thank you for your vote of confidence! Whenever you have a question or complaint, please do not hesitate to call me. My number is 735-9148, ext. 235.”

Unofficial Summary of Precinct Returns

| Office | Candidate | Early Voting | Election Day | TOTAL Votes |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Mayor | Steve Walker | 71 | 47 | 118 |
| | Jim Craven | 100 | 65 | 165 |
| City Council, Place 1 | Bennie F. Cass | 86 | 52 | 138 |
| | Lucille Wohlfarth | 74 | 52 | 126 |
| City Council, Place 2 | Suzanne de Leon | 124 | 88 | 212 |

Dated the 13th day of May 2006

Four Police Officers Recognized for Excellent Police Work

Printed below is a letter sent to City Administrator Lanny Lambert by Sergeant Salvadore Onofre.

Re: Arrest on Burglary of Business Suspects

Dear Mr. Lambert,
I write you this letter with the intent of recognizing several Balcones Heights Police Officers who played an important part in apprehending two burglary suspects. On 04/16/2006 at approximately 0200 hrs., Officers were notified by Police Dispatch of an audible alarm going off at the Dollar General store, located at 96 Crossroads Blvd. I and training Officer Moreno #565, arrived at the scene within a minute of being dispatched, and observed glass breakage to the front entry door. Believing that the burglars might still be inside the business, we entered with duty weapons drawn, and

began clearing the location. After several minutes, I notified Police dispatch that the scene was secured and advised several field officers, including Officers Robert James #564 and Thomas Peters #557 to remain on the streets to look for suspects, as it was apparent that the burglary had just occurred.

After several minutes, the officers began checking out suspicious persons. Officer Peters noted two males at Wendy’s Restaurant and Officer James noted a skateboarder on Siesta Lane. Officer James contacted me and advised me that he remembered seeing two males walking near the Dollar General store approximately 20 minutes prior to the burglary, and that he knew the male on the skateboard was somehow involved in this incident. Officer James accompanied the male as he

Continued on page 2

2006-2007 Budget Workshops

Work began on the 2006-2007 fiscal year municipal budget for the City of Balcones Heights at the May 8, 2006 regular City Council meeting. At the meeting, the City Council reviewed the anticipated revenues for the City in 2005-2006. The 2006-2007 fiscal year runs from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007.) Total anticipated revenues for the General Fund were projected at \$2,113,300, an increase of \$12,397 from last year.

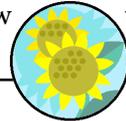
The Council will view expenditures on June 12, 2006 and view the

proposed budget on July 10, 2006. Please come to any of these City Council meetings at the Balcones Heights Justice Center at 3300 Hillcrest Drive at 6:00 p.m. if you would like to witness or participate in the budget process or if you have suggestions for the City Council.

Council must adopt the new budget and tax rates by September 11, 2006 in order for the budget to be effective October 1, 2006. Call City Administrator, Lanny S. Lambert, at 735-9148, ext. 227 with questions.

New Landscaping at Justice Center

Residents and visitors may have noticed the bright red Cannas lining the south wall of the Balcones Heights Justice Center, facing the front parking lot. These plants were donated by Lorenzo Nastasi, the City's Director of Tourism, and planted by David Castro. The plants are perennial, drought tolerant and should grow to at least three feet.



Excellent Police Work

Continued from page 1

returned home, and was immediately alarmed of the actions exhibited by the skateboarder's roommates. Officer James quickly requested additional officers to the location and began speaking with one of the occupants, who readily admitted his involvement in the burglary which had just occurred. Officer James contacted me and advised me that one of the males involved in the burglary had jumped from a second floor balcony into an adjacent abandoned apartment and was possibly still hiding inside.

With the assistance of the Balcones Heights Fire Department, and a very STRONG ladder, I and Officer

James were able to enter through the second floor balcony door, and were able to apprehend the male suspect that was hiding inside the location. After viewing the surveillance tape at the Dollar General store, the officers were able to formally charge both suspects with Burglary of Business (a third degree felony) and book them at the Bexar County Magistrates Office. Prior to being booked, officers were able to receive statements from one of the suspects, possibly tying them to several other recent burglaries in our city. Due to the quick actions of the officers both on the crime scene and on the street, Balcones Heights Police Department was able to efficiently and quickly put two burglary suspects in jail.

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

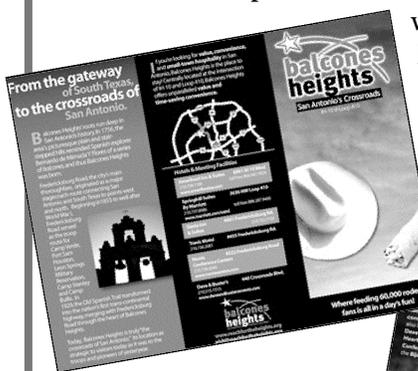
Director of Tourism Lorenzo Nastasi x230
 Accts. Payable/
 Payroll Clerk Albert Y. Solis x243
 Municipal Court Clerk Yvonne Baez x223
 Deputy Court Clerk Jo Ann Vidal x224
 Building Code
 Enforcement Officer David Cadena x246
 Police Chief Kenneth Menn x237
 Asst. Police Chief Robert de la Garza x238
 Police Secretary Grace Lerma x222
 Investigator/Sergeant Joyce Pena x239
 Dispatcher x232
 Fire Chief/
 Fire Department Ben Hoeffner (210) 735-9206

CVB NEWSNET

CVB Brochure Wins Prestigious Award

Balcones Heights reached new heights of recognition on May 4, honored along side such notable entities as City Public Service, USAA, The University of Texas Health Science Center, and Frost Bank. The San Antonio Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators awarded the Balcones Heights CVB brochure a Bronze Quill Award in the category of publications. The awards, recognizing excellence in the realm of professional business communications,

were presented at the IABC annual awards banquet at the Westin Riverwalk.



Hotel Occupancy Up

Balcones Heights' hotel occupancy continued to show a increase through the April 2006, rising five percent from April 2005. Last year's April occupancy average was 67 percent compared to 72 percent this April. Year-to-date occupancy continues to be strong with a nearly five percent increase for the months January through April.

Norris Draws 14,000 to Balcones Heights

During the first four months of 2006 more than 14,000 people attended events at the Norris Conference Center and Crossroads Convention Center at Crossroads Mall.

On May 5, 2006 Norris Conference Centers hosted the Greater Chamber Business to Business Trade Show, with an estimated attendance of more than 600. This event provided great exposure to the center, the mall, and Balcones Heights.



Year-to-date, this first class conference facility has been responsible for 418 room nights in local hotels. More than 500 room nights are booked through January 2007.

Hotel News

Many changes have taken place at the Comfort Suites on IH-10. This hotel property recently changed its "flag" to AmeriHost Inn and Suites, the first of this national chain to be established in San Antonio. At the April 27 Board of Adjustments meeting, approval was granted for the hotel to replace the current sign face with the new name at the existing height. The hotel is undergoing a renovation estimated to cost several hundred thousand dollars.

The City of Balcones Heights and CVB has bid farewell to a long-time friend and City booster. Elizabeth Wells, long-time Director of Sales at Springhill Suites by Marriott, has left to accept a position at a new Residence Inn on Loop 1604 in the Stone Oak area. Wells was recognized at the May 10 City Council meeting, and the City Council and CVB Board were unanimous in wishing her well in her new endeavor.



Multi-state Promotion

If you are a member of AAA you may have noticed that Balcones Heights is featured in the May/June issue of *Texas Journey*, the official AAA magazine for Texas AAA members. This coverage is part of a multi-state advertising campaign undertaken by the Balcones Heights CVB. Other states included in the campaign include Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Overall, the campaign is expected to reach more than 1.2 million AAA members in those states.

www.reachfortheheights.org

The CVB Web site logged 602 visits in April. While this number is down slightly from the previous month, it is clear that the site is continuing to draw a substantial number of visits from those interested in visiting Balcones Heights.

Council Soliciting Proposals for Engineering Services and Health Insurance

With the decision to postpone the Woodlawn Creek drainage project, the Balcones Heights City Council has asked Bexar County to re-program its \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant from drainage to street re-construction. If this request is approved, the Balcones Heights City Council proposes to use the money to re-construct Gentleman Road from Balcones Heights Road to Hillcrest Drive. This major north-south thoroughfare is used daily by many residents and businesses.

The City Council is accepting proposals from engineering firms to design this work. Proposals will be

received on Friday, June 9, and awarded following interviews at the regular City Council meeting June 12, 2006.

City Council is also accepting proposals for 2007 municipal employee health insurance coverage for employees and dependents. The City presently pays \$405.83 per month per employee for this coverage and the City Council hopes that future proposal prices will be lower or not increase. Proposals will be received in the City Secretary's Office until July 19, where awards will be made on August 14.

Please call City Administrator, Lanny Lambert at 735-9148, ext. 227 with questions.

Alarm Permit Renewal Reminder

Notice to all Residents and Business Operators

The City of Balcones Heights adopted City Ordinance No. 51-99, December 13, 1999, Requirements and Regulations for Alarm Systems located within the city. These regulations are currently in effect and require all alarm owner/locations to obtain an alarm permit. Annual license fee for residential alarm permit is \$5.00, and the commercial alarm license fee is \$10.00. A complete copy of these regulations (Ordinance No. 51-99) may be obtained in the office of the City Secretary or on the City's Web site, www.balconesheights.org. For questions regarding alarm permit renewals please contact, City Secretary, Delia Flores, at 735-9148, ext. 236.

Waste/Brush Pickup Monday, June 26

The second of four annual clean-ups is scheduled for the residential areas of Balcones Heights on June 26, 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 a.m. on Monday, June 26, 2006.

ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE PUT TO THE CURB EARLIER THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE PICK-UP. (Friday, June 16, 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 a.m., Monday, June 26, 2006.

JULY 7 Balcones Heights
JULY 14
JULY 21
JULY 28
AUGUST 4
AUGUST 11

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ADMISSION

www.reachfortheheights.org

balcones heights
convention visitors bureau

CPS Energy™ Projects Slightly Lower Summer Electric Bills

CPS Energy™ expects residential electric bills to be slightly lower this summer for several reasons including modest declines in fuel costs and energy use, the latter because of more-moderate weather.

The average residential electric bill for the months of June through September is projected at \$141.24 as compared to last summer's average of \$146.60, a reduction of \$5.36 per month, or 3.7 percent, said Sylvia Arnold, CPS Energy's director of customer services.

"If you remember, last year we had a really hot summer, with higher natural gas prices for electric generation," Arnold said. "At the end of the summer, we had record heat and two major hurricanes affecting fuel prices. This year, the average price of natural gas is estimated at \$7.02 per thousand cubic feet, more than a dollar lower than last summer."

CPS Energy uses information from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center to predict customers' use of electricity, primarily

for air conditioning. The forecast indicates the average residential customer will use 1,595 kilowatt-hours (KWH) per month from June through September versus an average of 1,644 KWH a month last summer.

"All in all, San Antonio will continue to have some of the lowest energy costs as compared to other major cities nationwide," Arnold said. "In fact, combined residential gas and electric bills in San Antonio continued to be the lowest among the nation's 10 largest cities. We are proud of this enviable record, and we are working every day to keep San Antonio in such a favorable position."

Arnold further noted that CPS Energy will continue to use its cheapest fuel sources – nuclear energy and coal – as much as possible to generate electricity. Last year, the company acquired an additional 12 percent share of the South Texas Project nuclear power plant near Bay City, increasing CPS Energy's ownership to 40 percent, enough to meet more than one-third of Greater San Antonio's electrical requirements.

CPS Energy is the nation's largest municipally owned energy company providing both natural gas and electric service. Acquired by the City of San Antonio in 1942, CPS Energy serves more than 640,000 electric customers and over 310,000 natural gas customers in and around the eighth largest city in the United States. Proceeds from CPS Energy remain in San Antonio and account for more than one-fifth of the City's annual operating budget for police and fire protection, street improvements, parks and other services. CPS Energy bills rank among the lowest of the nation's largest cities. More information about CPS Energy can be found on the Web at www.cpsenergy.com



Meet Your New Police Department Officers

Starting work in April 2006 for the Balcones Heights Police Department are:

Vincent Edward Moreno

Vincent comes to the Balcones Heights Police Department from the Bexar County Hospital District Police Department where he served as a Police Officer and a Security Officer for 9 years. Vincent attended the San Antonio College Training Academy where he obtained his law enforcement certificate. Vincent says he wants to, "advance and retire with a reputable, honest, and professional police department."

Michael Wayne Russo

Michael graduated from MacArthur High School in 1986. Michael comes to the

City of Balcones Heights from the Northside Independent School District Police Department where he was a Police Patrol Officer for 7 years. Before that he worked as a Police Patrol Officer for the City of Leon Valley for 5 years. Michael was awarded the "Officer of the

Year" for Leon Valley in 1999 and "Officer of the Year" for the Northside Independent School District Police Department in 2004.

With combined law enforcement experience of 21 years, the City of Balcones Heights is fortunate to have these two experienced officers in the Police Department. Please meet these two men as they patrol your streets or come by the Justice Center to say hello.



Vincent Edward Moreno



Michael Wayne Russo

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Balcones Heights Calendar • June 2006

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Regular City Council Meeting Balcones Heights Justice Center 6:00 p.m. | 13 | 14 | 15 CVB Meeting Balcones Heights Justice Center 5:30 p.m. | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 balcones heights <small>convention visitors bureau</small> | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Waste & Brush Pick-up | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 |



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

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

Call 857-9571

Due to recent events in our organization, the Balcones Heights Business Alliance has decided to hold meetings only 4 times per year. Our next membership meeting will be held September 13, 2006, 11:45 AM, at Garibaldi's Mexican Restaurant on Fredericksburg Rd. We look forward to meeting with you.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance was founded 4 1/2 years ago in December 2002 when Mayor Jim Craven called me to inquire about my membership in the Chamber of Commerce. At that time, I did not have a clear idea of where the Alliance could go or what the organization could become. I have given thought to the purpose of the Alliance and have identified 4 major purposes as:

You, the businesses of Balcones Heights and the surrounding area. This little mile sports over 200 businesses. The businesses in Balcones Heights cover almost 1/2 of the land mass and supply over 80% of the revenue in sales tax and ad valorem. The organizers of the Alliance identified a need in the business community to focus energy on a collective voice in the city.

The city. A business community in any city should work with the city leaders to make laws and ordinances that will protect both the city and the businesses, while allowing the businesses the freedom to simply conduct business.

The CVB came later. The CVB has worked diligently in it's 9 or so months in operation to bring tourism to the city. That effort has a trickle effect for the rest of us. Tourism dollars are not only spent on a night in a hotel, but also in our restaurants and shops. We can all help that effort in small ways like offering incentives to hotel guests. Contact Siesta Inn & Suites, Travis Hotel, SpringHill Suites by Marriott, and Amerihost Inn & Suites to offer coupons and services to guests.

Last, but not least, the residents of our city. The Alliance has been proud to play a part in various activities in the city, like the Cowboy Breakfast, the Senior Valentines Dance, the Beautification Award, the Holiday Parade, city council meetings, and the Jazz Fest.

We are anxious to find new officers to replace Mel and Elizabeth, who after 3 years of dedicated service have taken positions out of our city. We will miss their optimism and hard work for the good of the Alliance and the City of Balcones Heights. Our goal is to do our part in making Balcones Heights the destination of tourists, residents, and visitors and help to provide a safe, convenient place to live, visit, and shop.

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Balcones Heights
 Business Alliance

RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARD



We apologize there were no winners in the Residential Beautification Award Program. Entrants were not residents of Balcones Heights or not entries at all. There are so many beautiful properties in BH, we were disappointed no valid entries were submitted.