

March 2005

City of Balcones Heights

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

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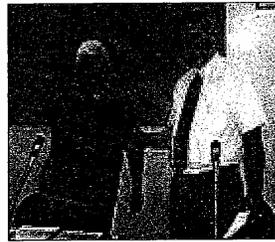
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City to Buy Winn Property; Expand Rogiers Park, Ease Flooding

As part of a \$145,000.00 Woodlawn Creek Drainage Grant from Bexar County and the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Balcones Heights City Council voted to purchase the property and home at 208 Vivian at the February 14, 2005

City Council meeting. The City Council authorized spending up to \$85,000.00 for the purchase of this property, which is owned by Cecil and LaNelle Winn.

The property has been subject to repeated flooding over the past few
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Mayor Welcomes Councilman Sal Mendez

Balcones Heights Mayor Jim Craven, right, congratulates newly appointed City Councilman Sal Mendez following Mendez's swearing in during the January 10, 2005 City Council meeting. Mendez was appointed to fill the City Council Place 3 vacancy created by former City Councilwoman Melissa Castro's December resignation.

A Note From Mayor Jim Craven...

Disposing of Household Hazardous Waste

The City of Balcones Heights does not have access to a hazardous waste dump site. So, for the third year in a row, the City is participating in a grant program sponsored by Bexar County. This program provides a safe method for each of us to properly dispose of household hazardous waste.

All you have to do is call Curbside Hotline at 1.800.449.7587. An operator will take your name and address, and tell you a date when they will pick up your items. A special bag will be

mailed to you. Place your items in the bag and then place the bag at your doorstep the morning of the scheduled pickup. That's all there is to it!

You may dispose of paints, cleaners, aerosols, pool chemicals, pesticides, garden chemicals, motor oils and filters, and hobby chemicals.

This is neither part of the regular trash pickup, nor the brush pickup. You must call 1.800.449.7587 to arrange for your pickup. There is no charge. I encourage all residents to take advantage of this free program.



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Woodlawn Creek Drainage Study

At its December 2004 meeting, the Balcones Heights City Council hired the engineering firm of Halff Associates to study the Woodlawn Creek drainage area and make recommendations to the Council regarding possible improvements to the creek's drainage. These improvements could include how to increase capacity and prevent bank overflow and flooding.

At the February 14, 2005 City Council meeting, John A. Espinoza, P.E., Water Resources Manager with Halff Associates presented the firm's study options to the City Council. Those options are:

- Enlarge the depth and or width of the channel.
- Build detention ponds
- A combination of the above

Mr. Espinoza stated that costs for construction, land acquisition and potential funding sources are being examined. A final report for approval will be presented at the March 14, 2005 City Council meeting.

In concluding his presentation Espinoza stated "the adoption and construction of this plan will provide long-term flood protection to the citizens of Balcones Heights."

Winn Property Purchase

Continued from page 1

years and is no longer the Winn's main residence.

If successful in purchasing this property, the City will demolish the home and use the property, approximately 1 acre, as an extension of the adjoining Rogiers Park. A detention pond for overflow drainage from Woodlawn Creek would be constructed on the property as well.

Drainage plans have not been completed, but the land could be used for athletic fields, parking, picnic tables or other uses

unharmful by occasional flooding.

The expansion of Rogiers Park will provide many years of recreation to future generations of Balcones Heights citizens, while also alleviating overflow water from Woodlawn Creek. For these reasons, the City Council believed the Winn property was a good investment and voted unanimously to make a purchase offer. "Hopefully, the Winns will accept our offer," said Mayor Jim Craven in endorsing the purchase.

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 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

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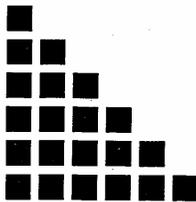
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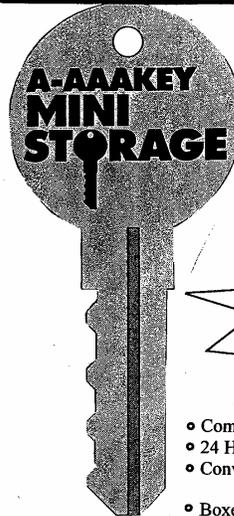
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#6	\$75	6x8	
#7	\$85	8x8	
#8	\$100	8x10	

The March meeting will be at 11:45 AM, March 16th at Grady's. All businesses are invited to attend. Call 732-5736 for more information.

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.

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New Police Officers



Four new officers have been hired by the Balcones Heights Police Department. Ron Deal and Bill Stannard have been hired as new detectives in the plainclothes division of the Police Department. Long time Officer Ron Deal and long time Police Chief in Leon Valley Police Department, Bill Stannard bring a combined total of 60 years experience to the Detective Division.

Two new officers, Larry Samaniego and James Wollums, join the patrol division in crime enforcement and prevention. These staff additions will provide better and more effective patrols of City streets.

"We are thrilled to have employees of this caliber and experience, and we believe our department will provide the finest law enforcement in the State of Texas!" says Police Chief Kenneth Menn.

Call Chief Menn at 735-9148 extension 273 if you have any questions about the Police Department.

Language Skills Pay

The Balcones Heights City Council is taking steps to more effectively serve the City's Spanish-speaking population. Recognizing that it will be beneficial to have more City employees who can proficiently speak, read, and understand Spanish, the City Council is offering an incentive program to those employees who can do so.

At its February 14, 2005 meeting, the City Council adopted a policy that will pay an additional \$20.00 per pay period to each employee in the City's Police, Fire, and Municipal Court Departments who can speak, read and understand Spanish. Employees interested in acquiring the additional pay will be required to pass a Spanish proficiency test and will be expected to effectively apply those skills in the course of performing their duties.

"In this way the City of Balcones Heights intends to provide excellent service to all our citizens," said Lanny S. Lambert, City Administrator.

Citizens who have questions about this program can call Mr. Lambert at 735-9148, extension 227.

Council Gives 239 Shadyview a Short Reprieve from Wreckers Ball

In 1996 the owner of 239 Shadyview purchased a building permit and began to pour a concrete slab. After construction of the slab, no more work was done to the property.

Based on nine years worth of neighbors' complaints about high grass, weeds, debris, junk, skunks, and rodents, the City Council was scheduled to condemn the slab and require its demolition at the February 14, 2005 City Council meeting.

The property owner appeared before the City Council at that meeting and requested that no action be

taken because he intends to finish the structure started at this location.

Based on the owner's insistence that he intends to complete structure, the City Council voted to give the owner 30 additional days to re-activate a building permit and to begin work on the structure.

At the March 14, 2005 meeting the City Council will again decide whether or not to condemn the property.

Call Building Inspector David Cadena with questions at 735-9148 extension 246.



CPS Pole Removal Grant Sought

The City of Balcones Heights is in the process of constructing wheelchair ramps at every intersection in the City. "By doing this, we hope to make our entire city accessible to wheelchairs," said Mayor Jim Craven when the project was initiated.

There was however, one obstacle to achieving Craven's stated goal. Throughout the City, electric power

poles are located right in the middle of the sidewalks, preventing wheelchairs from using these sidewalks even after the ramps are in place.

At the February 14, 2005 meeting, the City Council voted to request a grant from City Public Service to remove and re-locate these electric poles, beginning on Gentleman Drive, a major north-south artery through Balcones Heights.

Jim McAden, municipal and wholesale account manager for City Public Service, believes that Balcones Heights will be successful in obtaining this grant and anticipates that the grant will be approved in March 2005.

If the grant is awarded, the work to re-locate the poles on Gentleman Drive would begin sometime between May and July 2005.

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Balcones Heights Calendar • March 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Brush Pick-up!</i>	7 P&Z Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center <i>Last day to file for a place on the ballot</i>	8	9 Drawing for order of name on the ballot. 4:00 p.m. City Secretary's Office Justice Center	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	29	30	31		
Brush Pick-up: Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 a.m. Hazardous Waste Disposal Pick-up: Call 1-800-449-7587 to schedule						