



August 2006

City of Balcones Heights

Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights

Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions Offered to Residents for 2006-2007 Budget

The Balcones Heights City Council adopted the following Ad Valorem tax exemptions to the residents of Balcones Heights for the 2006-2007 fiscal year budget. (i.e. on your taxes due 10-1-06).

When you get your tax bill in August or September 2006 from Sylvia Romo, Bexar County Tax Collector Assessor, make sure that the proper exemption has been calculated on your tax bill for the City of Balcones Heights. It is the policy of the City Council of the City of Balcones Heights to give a tax break to the homeowners and elderly of the city.

Please call Sylvia Romo's office at 335-2251, or

City Treasurer, Roy Miller at 735-9148 ext. 244, or City Administrator, Lanny Lambert at 735-9148 ext. 227 with questions.

EXEMPTIONS:

Residential Homestead	15% or \$5,000 Whichever is larger
Over 65 and/or Disabled Homestead	\$50,000.00
Veteran	as prescribed by law
Freeport Goods	as prescribed by law



Up Close and Personal:

Balcones Heights Jazz Festival headliner Will Donato serenades one of the estimated 3,000 jazz fans who attended the opening night event. Donato moved throughout the crowd during his performance at the July 7 concert. For more Jazz Festival news see CVB NewsNet.

New Board Appointments

The following citizens and local business operators were appointed to serve as members of the listed Board or Commission by the Mayor and City Council at the July 10, 2006 meeting.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Betty Pfeiffer Place #3
Lili Cruz Alternate

Citizens Street Repair Committee

Anita Herrera Place #11

Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Edna Moellering Alternate

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Robert Cantu Place #1

These volunteers are commended for their willingness to serve the community! If you would like to serve on a City Board or Bureau, please contact City Secretary, Delia Flores, at 735-9148 ext. 236.

Slay Engineering Selected for Gentleman Road Re-Build

After interviews in June, Mayor Jim Craven announced that the high score for engineering for the proposed reconstruction of Gentleman Road to be Slay Engineering Company of San Antonio, Texas.

Interviewed by the City Council for the project were:

- Mike Coyle Engineering of Boerne
- Half Associates Engineers of San Antonio
- Slay Engineering

While all were well qualified and provided excellent interviews, Mike Slay was able to point out to the City Council that he and his wife Madeline were the only applicants who actually lived on the project! Mike and Madeline have lived in Balcones Heights for many years

and he and Madeline both serve on city boards – he serves on the Street Committee, she serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Few applicants could make this claim and Mike’s firm was selected to proceed in the process for the contract on this project.

An engineering contract will now be prepared and presented to this City Council and, if approved, Mike will begin the process of designing the re-build for Gentleman Road. Hopefully, this project will be designed, bid and re-built by the spring of 2007.

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

National Night Out Proclamation

On July 10, 2006 at the regular City Council meeting Mayor Jim Craven proclaimed August 1, 2006 “National Night Out.” The “23rd Annual National Night Out” provides a unique opportunity for the City of Balcones Heights to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in



promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts. It is essential that all citizens be aware of the importance of crime prevention programs and impact that their participation can have on reducing crime, drugs and violence in Balcones Heights.

We hereby call upon all citizens of Balcones Heights to join in supporting the “23rd Annual National Night Out.”

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

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#2	\$35	2x4
#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
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The Balcones Heights Business Alliance
has volunteered to help the
Balcones Police Officers Association
again this year with their annual
holiday **Toy Drive**.

We have supplied storage for safekeeping of the
toys until the holiday season. We are asking
businesses in the Balcones Heights area to donate
toys, cash, holiday wrap, tape, name tags, and/or
time to make this years campaign a successful one.

The BHPOA works hard every year to help
children in need have a happy holiday season.
Let's all pitch in for this worthy cause.

Call 857-9571 with your donation.

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- Queen
- King

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Closet & Wardrobe Kit, Office Kit

CALL FOR DETAILS

<p>\$5.00 off</p> <p>14 POINT OIL AND FILTER CHANGE (Up to 5 quarts)</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIALS</small></p>	 <p>733-8366</p> <p>2800 Hillcrest at Babcock</p> <p>Other services included: *PVC Valves*Wiper Blades*Breathers*Fuel Filters *Light Bulbs*Air Filters*State Inspections*Batteries</p>	<p>\$10.00 off</p> <p>The following services: *AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SERVICE *FUEL INJECTION SYSTEM CLEANING *POWER RADIATOR FLUSH *SERPENTINE BELT REPLACEMENT</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIALS</small></p>
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Know
 before you go!



RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARD

The Residential Beautification Award Program will resume for Halloween. Start planning now to decorate your yard and enter the contest. You could be the winner of first, second or third prize and get your picture in the newsletter! The contest and judging are scheduled for September and October 2006.

Call 857-9571 for further details.

Before your next visit, take a ride on the Web to find great sales and events on our new website.

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CVB NEWSNET

And All That Jazz...

The onset of the 13th Annual Balcones Heights Jazz Festival, which kicked off Friday, July 7, was accompanied by flurry of media coverage. The free, smooth-jazz series was heralded by major mentions in the *San Antonio Express-News*, including placement on the cover of the Weekender insert, in Jim Beal's Night Lights column, Edmund Tijerina's Around the Town column, and notably Susan Yerke's widely-read column. Broadcast coverage included a live report on Fox 29's Nine O'Clock newscast, and inclusion on WOAI-TV's 10 p.m. newscast. The *San Antonio Current* and the *San Antonio Business Journal* also gave the Jazz Festival significant coverage. Additional coverage throughout the series is anticipated.

The non-profit Dress for Success, located in Crossroads Mall, will continue to sell official Balcones Heights Jazz Festival T-shirts at each of the remaining events, August 4 and August 11. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the shirts goes directly to Dress for Success, through a special arrangement with the Balcones Heights Convention & Visitors Bureau, which produced the shirts. Shirts are only \$10 each, and are available in khaki, light blue, and white while supplies last.

The Jazz Festival and Balcones Heights are featured on the home page of the popular Web site, MYTEXASVACATION.COM. This promotion is made possible through Soft Rock 101.9, and its parent company, Clear Channel Communications. Inclusion on this site is a direct benefit as it reaches tourists and visitors across Texas and beyond.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY UP

Despite a name change at the former Comfort Suites and a resulting dip in occupancy, the City's overall hotel occupancy is up more than one percent from the previous month. In light of continually rising gasoline prices and its negative impact on drive



traffic, this is a very positive indicator.

In other hotel news, Amerihost Inn & Suites will be changing its flag shortly to become Baymont Inn & Suites. The name change is the result of the Baymont chain purchasing the Amerihost chain. The new manager of this property is John Nizza. Mr. Nizza

is the former night auditor at Springhill Suites. Jeremy Neesham is back as Sales and Marketing Director.

WEB SITE VISITS UP

June visits to the official CVB Web site, www.reachfortheheights.org, were up 73 percent from June 2005. June traffic was also up three percent from May.

NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER

The Norris Conference Center and Crossroads Convention Center, which made the newspaper headlines and television newscasts in June when more than 7,000 people attended the Toyota Job Fair, continues to make headlines. The July 14 edition of the *San Antonio Express-News*, on the front page, included the headline "Spider lovers' invasion, Arachnids take spotlight at Crossroads convention." The story included two photos on the front page. Overall, more than 14,000 people attended 57 events at the conference and convention center during June.

CVB BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Balcones Heights City Council has appointed two new members to the Convention & Visitors Bureau. City Councilman Steve Walker appointed Kent Martin. Mr. Martin is Property Manager for Roy L. Martin & Associates. Councilman Bennie Cass appointed Robert Cantu, General Manager of Springhill Suites by Marriott. The City Council also confirmed the CVB Board-Member-At-Large appointment of Linda Hampton, Executive Vice President of Norris Conference Centers.

Crime Control Budget Approved

At the July 10, 2006 meeting the Balcones Heights City Council adopted the 2006-2007 fiscal year Crime Control Budget. The budget was adopted after two public hearings giving the public the opportunity to comment and includes the following expenditures:

Building Debt Service	\$279,383.00
Building Operations & Maintenance	72,319.00
Lease Payment for 6 Police Cars	46,074.00
3 Sergeant Investigators	170,079.00
Police Overtime	6,089.00
Video Camera & Recording	2,000.00
Audit and Administrative Costs	8,900.00
TOTAL COSTS	\$584,844.00

The Budget begins the fiscal year with \$185,029.00 in the estimated fund balance and ends with \$195,185.00.

If you would like to see copies of the Crime Control budget or have any comments, please call Police Chief, Kenneth Menn at 735-9148 ext. 237.

Free Home Pickup Program for Household Hazardous Waste

Call 800-449-7587 and a Collection Hotline Operator will fully explain the program, schedule a convenient collection date, and discuss where the kit they provide should be safely placed outside for collection.



Handicap Ramp Ordinance for Driveway Aprons

The Balcones Heights City Council is considering an ordinance to require private driveway aprons to meet the ADA (American with Disabilities Act) requirements for ramp construction where the driveway apron meets the city sidewalk.

Presently, City of Balcones Heights is building handicap ramps at street intersections throughout town with a VIA grant that meet the slope requirements, but the law does not apply to private driveways or aprons.

If adopted, this ordinance would require new construction to meet ADA slope requirements where the new driveway meets City sidewalks. (i.e. a gentle slope on which a wheelchair could maneuver up or down the sidewalk slope.)

This ordinance will be considered at the August 14, 2006 City Council meeting. If you have any comments or would like to speak, please come to the meeting or give your comments in writing to City Secretary, Delia Flores at 3300 Hillcrest, Balcones Heights, Texas 78201 before the meeting.

Council Considering Graffiti Ordinance

At their August 14, 2006 meeting the Balcones Heights City Council will consider an ordinance requiring property owners to remove graffiti from their property within 60 days of notification by the City Code Enforcement Officer or Police Department to remove the offensive graffiti. Studies have shown that gang-related graffiti marking and gang activity can be reduced by an aggressive graffiti removal policy.

For several years, the City has used public works employees to remove graffiti from the city signs, playground equipment, and park restrooms as soon as possible to reduce this problem. This ordinance would require private property owners to remove or paint over the graffiti on private fences, walls, signs, etc. to reduce this nuisance in our City.

If you would like to comment on this issue, please come to the August 14 City Council meeting or present your comments in writing to City Secretary, Delia Flores at 3300 Hillcrest Drive, Balcones Heights, Texas 78201 before the meeting.

No Parking Zone Extended on Crestview

Based on complaints received in the month of June regarding a trailer parking on the street, obstructing view of southwest bound traffic from Crestview, the Balcones Heights City Council voted to extend the no parking zone on the Northeast corner of the intersection of Crestview Drive and Balcones Heights Road from the intersection northwest through the curve on Crestview. This will restrict parking on Crestview, allowing traffic exiting this neighborhood to have an unobstructed view.

Campaigning the need for this ordinance was Council Member Lamar Gillian who drives and walks often through this neighborhood and Council Member Suzanne de Leon who lives on Crestview.

Call City Administrator, Lanny Lambert at 735-9148, ext. 227 with your street complaints.

Balcones Heights



Fire Department

News from the Balcones Heights Fire Department

The Fire Department sent three personnel to the Texas A & M Fire Training School this month: firefighters Aaron Baker, Garret Daugherty, and Mitchell Halbardier, who incidentally is a part-time

employee. He attended the Fire Fighter 2 Course. Baker attended the Rescue Course. Fire Chief Ben Hoeffner also participated in the training, attending the Fire Prevention VI phase 4 course that deals with Arson. The training took place July 23 through July 28. This training is afforded to us through E-911 Funding. The cost to the City is that of time for the personnel attending.

The street committee requested that the curve on

Dewhurst be striped. This has been accomplished. Three hundred and fifty feet have been double striped and the yellow reflectors have also been added. The sign is also now visible as the trees have been cut away.

Fire Safety Tip:

Install smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives by warning you about a fire while there's time to escape. Install alarms on every floor of your home. One should be mounted in each bedroom as well as the common area leading into the bedroom. Alarms should be tested once a month and you should change the battery once a year. Change your clock and change your battery at the same time. Smoke alarms lose their sensitivity over time. Replace smoke alarms if 10 years old or older.

City Council Photos



City Secretary Delia Flores, left, conducts the swearing in of Mayor Jim Craven during the June City Council meeting. Craven was re-elected in the May election.



City Secretary Delia Flores, left, conducts the swearing in of City Councilwoman Suzanne de Leon during the June City Council meeting. De Leon was unopposed in the May election.



Balcones Heights



Department

Balcones Heights Police Chief Kenneth Menn introduces the City's newest police officer, Jiame Perales during the June City Council meeting.



City Secretary Delia Flores, left, conducts the swearing in of City Councilman Bennie Cass during the June City Council meeting. Cass was re-elected in the May election.

Visit us on the Web at www.balconesheights.org



City of Balcones Heights
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Balcones Heights Calendar • August 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT! 	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Regular City Council Meeting Balcones Heights Justice Center 6:00 p.m.	15	16	17  CVB Meeting Justice Center 5:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3