

July 2005

City of Balcones Heights

Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights

Council Honors Lucille Wohlfarth

Longtime Councilwoman and former Mayor of Balcones Heights, Lucille Wohlfarth was honored for her many years of community service to the City at the June Council Meeting. Presenting a plaque to Wohlfarth, Mayor Jim Craven thanked her for the

many years and long hours she dedicated to the City. Wohlfarth said she was grateful for the opportunity to serve and, having lived in Balcones Heights for 56 years, added that she certainly knows a lot about the City and its history.

Former Councilman Sal Mendez Receives Plaque

Former City Councilman Salvador Mendez was recognized by the Balcones Heights City Council on June 13 for his four

months of service as an interim Council Member. Mendez was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the December resignation of

City Councilwoman Melissa Castro. In the May election, Mendez was defeated by Steve Walker.

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Drainage Project Approved

Because of serious flooding in 1999 and in 2002, the Balcones Heights City Council asked Bexar County for grant funding to support a detailed drainage evaluation study from a qualified hydraulic engineering firm. In November 2004, the San Antonio firm of Half Associates was hired to perform such a study.

The detailed engineering report was presented to the City Council in April 2005 and again in May 2005. Nine (9) alternative solutions were presented to City Council. After several meetings and a workshop, the Council, during the June 13 meeting, selected Alternative #7 as the most effective solution to long-term flooding problems in Balcones Heights. The description of this plan follows.

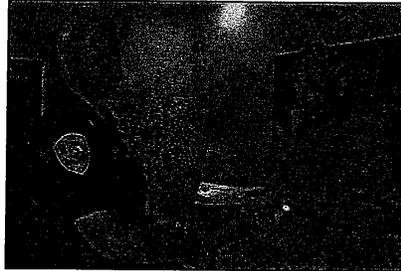
Alternative 7 – Channel Modifications (Deepening):
This alternative consists of deepening Woodlawn Creek from Bobbies Lane

to downstream of Balcones Heights Road for approximately 990 feet. The channel will be dropped by approximately 3 feet from the existing flow-line at Bobbies Lane for an approximate span of 990 feet and introducing a drop at the downstream portion of the existing culvert structure at Bobbies Lane. New boxes are being implemented into the bridges at Glenarm, Concord Place and Balcones Heights Road. The system will still remain "closed" at the park area downstream of Concord Place. There are no other modifications to the channel, the channel will stay at the current width throughout its entire span.

Copies of the report are available at the Balcones Heights Justice Center. Please call City Administrator Lanny Lambert at 735-9148 ext. 227 if you would like to see the report.

Frank Mercado Earns \$200 Reward

On October 11, 2004 Mr. Frank Mercado witnessed two people spray-painting the restroom walls at a Balcones Heights city park. Mercado immediately reported the incident to the Balcones Heights Police Department. As a result of Mr. Mercado's call and cooperation, the responding officers made two arrests and the Balcones Heights Police Department Investigator has filed charges with the District Attorney.



Balcones Heights Police Chief Kenneth Menn, left, presents Frank Mercado with a reward check in the amount of \$200 following the June 13 City Council meeting.

At the June 13 City Council meeting, Police Chief Kenneth Menn presented Mercado with a check for \$200.00. The Mayor praised Mercado for being a "good neighbor" by quickly reporting crime in his neighborhood. Mr. Mercado was nominated for this reward by Menn who wanted to recognize Frank for his "good deed to the community."

Citizens are encouraged to report any crime they witness to the Balcones Heights Police Department at 735-9212.

Bill Johnson Elected Mayor Pro-Tem

At its first regular meeting since the May 7 election, the Balcones Heights City Council, unanimously elected City Councilman Bill Johnson to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2005-2006 (a one year term). This is the third time Mr. Johnson has been elected to this prestigious position.

The Texas Local Government Code (Section 22.037.6, Part C) states:

At each new governing body's first meeting or as soon as practicable, the governing body shall elect one council member to serve as Mayor-Pro-tempore for a term of one year.

If the Mayor fails, is unable, or refuses to act, the Mayor Pro-Tempore shall perform the Mayor's duties and is entitled to receive the fees and compensation prescribed for the Mayor.

The Mayor Pro-tempore (or Mayor Pro-Tem) serves as the "Vice Mayor" or assistant Mayor and serves in the Mayor's absence or if he is incapacitated.

"The City is blessed to have people of Bill's caliber willing to serve on the City Council and I am honored to have him as my Mayor Pro-Tem," said Mayor Jim Craven.

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 Jo Ann Vidal x244
 Municipal Court Clerk . . . Yvonne Baez x223
 Deputy Court Clerk Vacant 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

<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:</p> <p>*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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NEIGHBORHOOD

News

Free Garden Mulch

Residents are invited to take mulch for their gardens from the large pile of mulch at Rogiers Park. The mulch is surplus from the park's recent renovation. The mulch will be available until it is gone, first come, first served.

**99.5 KISS
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**SATURDAY,
JULY 30, 2005
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Crossroads
Convention Center
Crossroads Mall
Lower Level**

New Board Appointments

On June 13 2005, the Balcones Heights City Council appointed or re-appointed the following individuals to serve on City boards and commissions:

Board of Adjustments and Appeals	Planning and Zoning Commission	Citizens Street Repair Advisory Committee
Fred Jones	Jimmy Berchelmann	Dan Antrobius
Sal Mendez	Beryl Jones	Betty Bryant
George Monsive	George Moellering	Cecilia Gardon
Ambrose Vince	Hallie Vince	Mike Slay

If you would like to serve on a City board or commission, please contact City Secretary, Delia Flores, 735-9148 ext. 236.

**City Council Passes Ordinance
Restricting Parking**

On June 13, 2005 the Balcones Heights City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting parking of vehicles, boats, trailers, recreational vehicles, and tractors in front or side yards off-pavement.

Pavement is defined by the ordinance as:

- asphalt
- concrete
- gravel with barriers or permanent curbing to define the driveway



Councilman Bennie Cass asked the ordinance be brought back at the July 11 City Council meeting for further amendments.

National Night Out 2005: August 2

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is sponsoring a unique, nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program on August 2, 2005. This "22nd 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 the impact that their participation can have on reducing crime, drugs and violence in Balcones Heights.

City leaders are calling upon all citizens of Balcones Heights to join in supporting the "22nd Annual National Night Out" on August 2, 2005, and are hoping that residents and businesses help organize more block parties this year.

As of June 17, the following block parties are scheduled:

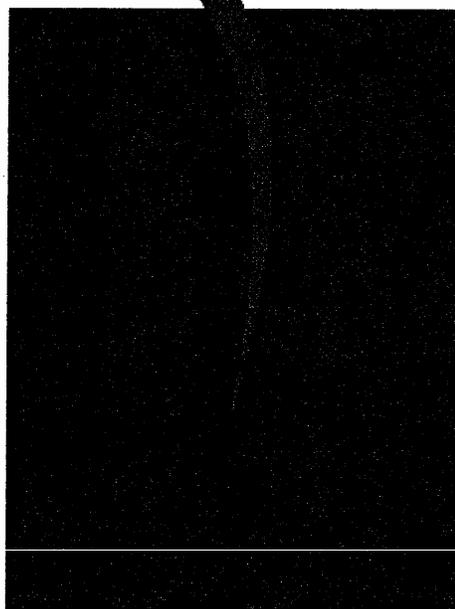
- 203 Concord
- 220 Pleasant
- 211 Leisure
- 323 Crestview
- Villa Madrid
- Apartments



Santa Fe Place Apartments

To schedule a block party or to find one you can attend, please contact Betty Bryant at 732-6857.

Balcones Heights JAZZ FESTIVAL 2005



The 12th Annual Balcones Heights Jazz Festival is slated to kick off on Friday evening, July 8 at The Amphitheatre at Crossroads Mall. This year's event promises to be bigger than ever and you won't want to miss it!

Headliners

- July 8 - Will Donato
Smooth Jazz Saxophonist
- July 15 - The Brew
Latin Jazz
- July 22 - Slim Man
Smooth Jazz Vocalist
- July 29 - Joseph Vincelli
Smooth Jazz Saxophonist
- Aug 5 - Michael Ward
Jazz Violinist
- Aug 12 - Lara & Reyes
Flamenco Guitar Jazz

For more details: www.reachfortheheights.org





CITY SPOTLIGHT

Rudy Torres

Conversation with Rudy Torres is a pleasure. His smile and deep laugh are contagious and soon, one is drawn into his story.

The second of three Torres children, Rudy was born and raised in San Antonio. Torres attended Collins Elementary, and began working at age 11, making one dollar a day patching tires and cleaning the shop. He worked from seven in the morning until seven at night, 6 days a week. He got a "break," however, on Sundays, when he didn't have to start work until 9 a.m.! He went on to Harris Middle School and graduated from Tech High School in 1945. "Just in time for the draft," he says as he chuckles. "First, I had to register for the draft. I got a letter just a few weeks later. It said 'Greetings from the President of the United States of

America. You are hereby ordered to report to Fort Sam Houston.' A lot of young men received those letters back then."

Mr. Torres did his Army basic training in Alabama, and after being stationed several places, ended up at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served with the

82nd Airborne Division in the Paratroop Infantry. After 39 months of service, he received his honorable discharge. The Army paid for his ticket home, and soon he was back in San Antonio, and glad to be there.

Rudy had known Natalie, a girl in his neighborhood, for many years. So, after returning home, it didn't take long for the two to become a couple. Rudy took a job with the U.S. Postal Service, and married Natalie. The two have been married for over

fifty-five years; have four children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Several other Balcones Heights residents, including Ken Harris, Alfred Srubar and George

and Edgar Driffil also worked for the Postal Service with Rudy Torres. After 36 years of dedicated service, Torres retired.

In 1961, Rudy, Natalie and the Torres children moved to Balcones Heights, first living in a house on Glenarm. On November

1, 1965, they bought another home only a couple of streets away, and moved in. They still live there now, 40 years later.

The books stacked next to his favorite chair clearly illustrate Torres' love for history. "Not historical fiction," he says. Torres wants to know "the facts." Rudy Torres is a straight shooter. He believes in living an honest, straight life. "That way, you never have to look around to see who's watching".

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Stephens Retirement



Balcones Heights Fire Chief Ben Hoeffner, left, with retired Fire Captain Don Stephens. On June 13, 2005, City Council presented Stephens with a plaque commemorating his retirement after 26 years of service with the City's Fire Department.

CPS Energy™ Offers Rebates for Window, Central A/C Units

CPS ENERGY™ is currently offering rebates on the purchase of high-efficiency window and central air conditioning units.

While limited funds last, CPS ENERGY™ will award up to \$650 in credit on a customer's utility bill for replacing an existing central heating and cooling unit with a new unit having a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 13.0 or higher. Window units with the U.S. Government's ENERGY STAR® seal of approval can earn up to \$100 in utility bill credit depending on the size of the unit.

For more information about the rebate program, call 353-2SAV, or go to www.cpsenergy.com.

SUMMER SPECIAL

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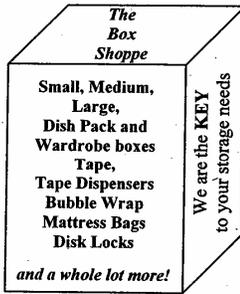
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- *Strength training is the secret to permanent results
- *Comfortable and friendly environment

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**ALL ROADS LEAD
TO SUMMER FUN**

12th Annual Balcones Heights Jazz Festival
Friday Evenings - 7:30pm - 9:30pm

- July 8 - Smooth Jazz Saxophonist, Will Donato
- July 15 - Latin Jazz artist, The Brew
- July 22 - Smooth Jazz Vocalist, Slim Man
- July 29 - Smooth Jazz Saxophonist, Joseph Vincelli

Mission Arts Group Craft Show
July 14-17



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

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Balcones Heights Calendar • July 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day Holiday City Offices will be closed	5	6	7	8 Balcones Heights JAZZ FESTIVAL 2005	9
10	11 Regular City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 CVB Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. Justice Center	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Balcones Heights Jazz Festival Fridays, July 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug. 5, 12 Crossroads Mall 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.	30 99.5 KISS Shots for Kids Immunizations Crossroads Mall 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
31	1	2	3 National Night Out August 2, 2005	4	5	6