



# City of Balcones Heights

*Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights*

## Bill Johnson Elected Mayor Pro-Tem

State law says the Mayor Pro-Tem will serve as Mayor of the City in the absence of the Mayor or in the event that the Mayor is unable to perform his duties.

Nominated by Mayor Craven, Bill Johnson was elected unanimously by the City Council at the June 12, 2006 City Council meeting. It is Johnson's third consecutive term as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Bill currently serves as Council Member, Place 5 on the Balcones Heights City Council. Bill is the longest

serving council member on the City Council.

Following Johnson's election Mayor Craven said, "It is an honor to have someone with Bill's knowledge and experience serving as my Mayor Pro-Tem! Bill is calm, polite, well-studied and knowledgeable of any issue that comes before the City Council. Bill is respected by the entire City Council and has served honorably for many years on the City Council. It is a relief to know that if anything happens to me, the citizens of Balcones Heights will be well-served by Bill Johnson as Mayor!"

## Benny Cass Elected Council Member, Place 1

At the General Municipal Election on Saturday, May 13th, Benny F. Cass was elected to serve City Council for another 2-year term. The vote for City Council, Place 1, was:

Bennie F. Cass	138
Lucille Wohlfarth	126

Citing his conservative approach to government, his support of the fire and police departments, and his long years of residency here in

Balcones Heights, Cass said he is "honored to be selected by the voters for another term and that he is always available to anyone that wants to talk about city government," as their council member.

## Suzanne de Leon Unopposed for Second Term on City Council, Place 2

Suzanne de Leon was elected for her second 2-year term by the voters of Balcones Heights in the May 13th General Municipal Election.

De Leon had no opponent in the election and she could've left her name off the ballot and be formally

declared the winner of Place 2. However, she chose to submit her name for voter approval on the ballot and to accept the vote of the public. She was elected to the City Council, Place 2 position by:

Suzanne de Leon	212
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"As the only woman on the

Balcones Heights City Council," de Leon states, "I try to be sensitive to the views and opinions of the residents of Balcones Heights. Please do not hesitate to call me if you see anything happening you don't like or if there is something you would like to see in our great little city."



## Meet Your New Police Officer: Jaime Leos Perales

The City Council voted to authorize two new patrol officers for the Police Department in April 2006. Hired by Police Chief Kenneth Menn and the Balcones Heights Police Department is Jaime Leos Perales. Perales left the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement as a Police Officer in Toba City, Arizona to join the Balcones Heights Police Department. Perales has also worked for the Methodist Hospital Police Department in Dallas, Texas and the Bexar County Sheriff's Department as a

Deputy Sheriff. With 15 years in law enforcement, Perales brings the skills and qualifications necessary to be a great police officer in Balcones Heights. Perales says that he, "wants to pursue employment and a long-term career with a law enforcement agency in this area."

"We are thrilled to have an officer with the skill and experience of Jaime Perales join us," says Chief Kenneth Menn of the Balcones Heights Police Department.

Please come by the Balcones Heights Justice Center to meet the City's newest police officer.



# CITY SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Adam Mercado

*Written by Mayor Jim Craven*

**“T**he bravest man I’ve ever known is my dad”, said Frank Mercado, as he told me about his father, Adam Mercado. Adam will celebrate his 78th birthday on September 7.

Adam Mercado was born to overcome adversity. His mother died when he was only one year old, so he was raised first by one aunt, then another. At age 17, Adam became one of millions of young Americans to sign up for military service. He shipped out as a Marine and joined the occupying forces in Okinawa.

After his tour of duty was over, Mr. Mercado enlisted in the Army, and served in Korea until 1954, when he returned to San Antonio.

One thing Adam loved to do was dance. After working hard at the Bell Furniture Company all week, he was often found at the dance halls called

the “Patio Andaluz Social Club” or the “Seven Oaks Country Club Resort,” dancing to the music of Glen Miller. It was at the Seven Oaks Country Club Resort where he caught the eye of his future bride. After being married, the couple moved into their first home, a three-story, at 526 N. Laredo, which was the home of her father. During this happy time, daughter Sonia and son Frank were born.

In 1965, the Mercado family bought their Balcones Heights home. Adam worked construction and drove trucks,

often taking Frank with him. He recalls when the only light in Balcones Heights was a flashing yellow light at Fredericksburg Road and Balcones Heights Road.

That same year, Adam was electrocuted by 2,500 volts in a construction accident that took his

left arm and all but two of his toes. Much of his skin was burned. Against all predictions, Mr. Mercado survived and rehabilitated himself, giving God the credit. He re-trained his remaining arm and damaged hand to pick up and handle objects, and eventually, to feed himself. Unstoppable, he mowed his own lawn and worked on his own, as well as his son’s, cars for more than 30 years.

I asked Mr. Mercado what advice he had for younger generations. He said, “Have faith in God, and never give up. If you really want to do something, you must keep at it. You will accomplish it.”

Adam Mercado is a great role model, and his perseverance is inspiring.

**“Have faith in God, and never give up. If you really want to do something, you must keep at it. You will accomplish it.”**

— Adam Mercado

<b>RUMMAGE SALE</b>
<b>benefiting</b>
<b>Senior Citizen Organization</b>
<b>9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>July 24 - July 29, 2006</b>
Community Center
107 Glenarm
<i>Everyone is invited to join us!</i>
Call Edna Moellering: 733-8718

### 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

## City Council Adopts City Employee Suggestion Improvement Program

**W**ho best knows about the success and failures of his/her job than the employee who performs those duties? With the financial constraints and restrictions on the City of Balcones Heights in the 2006-2007 budget, the Balcones Heights City Council on June 12, 2006 adopted a program to reward employees who save the City money.

Calling the program the Employee Suggestion Improvement Program, the City Council tells all city

employees that if you save the city money, and if those savings are real and identified by the City Administrator and the City Treasurer, then you can have 10 percent of these savings — up to \$5,000!

The program was suggested by Council Member Suzanne de Leon as a way to encourage city employees to look at new ways to save the City money.

Please call City Administrator, Lanny S. Lambert, at 735-9148, ext. 227 to look at the program.

# CVB NEWSNET

### CVB Web Site Visits Up 375 Percent

May 2006 visits to the official Web site of the Balcones Heights CVB, [www.reachfortheheights.org](http://www.reachfortheheights.org) were up 375 percent from May 2005. This remarkable growth was reported to the Balcones Heights City Council on June 12 by the City's Director of Tourism Lorenzo Nastasi. May visits also increased by 39 percent over the previous month.

### Hotel Occupancy Continues Upward Trend

Balcones Heights year-to-date hotel occupancy continues to show improvement over last year, despite a slight dip in May occupancy. Year-to-date hotel occupancy, January through June is up two percent over the same period last year. The May dip in occupancy, from 71 percent in May 2005, to 62 percent for May 2006, is primarily the result in the flag change at the former Comfort Suites on IH-10. The property was re-branded as an Amerihost Inn & Suites, the first in San Antonio. According to hotel staff, the lack of name recognition and familiarity with this brand contributed to the drop in May occupancy.

### Conference Center Continues to Draw Visitors

The Norris Conference Center and Crossroads Convention Center in Crossroads Mall continue to attract visitors to Balcones Heights. The front page of the *San Antonio Express-News*, Saturday, June 17, 2006, published a front-page photo, above the fold,



showing some of the more than 7,000 individuals who showed up for a Toyota Job Fair.

In May, the Conference and Convention centers hosted 61 events, and were directly responsible for more than 150 hotel room nights in Balcones Heights. Year-to-date, excluding June figures, more than

21,000 people have attended events at the facilities.

### Official Jazz Festival T-Shirts

For the first time, jazz fans will be able to purchase an official Balcones Heights Jazz Festival t-shirt. The shirts, in blue, khaki, and white, will be sold at a kiosk in Crossroads Mall the week proceeding the first concert, July 7, and will be available for purchase at each of the 8 Jazz Festival Concerts. The Balcones Heights CVB produced the shirt, and the shirts will be sold by volunteers from Dress For Success, which is located in Crossroads Mall. Dress For Success will receive a percentage of sales.

### Visitor Center

Plans are nearing completion to establish the Balcones Heights Visitor Center in Crossroads Mall. The CVB is close to completing negotiations with Trammell Crow on leasing space on the lower level of the mall. The space will house a visitor center and the CVB office. Plans are also being developed to initiate a volunteer program at the visitor center. Details should be available soon.

## Council Appoints City Board and Commission Members

Nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council at the June 12, 2006 meeting were:

### Board of Adjustments & Appeals

#### Term

Place 1 – Henry Hannasch	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 3 – Gary Martin	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 5 – Ellie Chapa	June 2006 – June 2008

### Planning and Zoning Commission

#### Term

Place 2 – David Sellars	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 4 – Madeline Slay	June 2006 – June 2008

### Citizens Street Repair Committee

#### Term

Place 2 – Gloria Cantu	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 4 – Sal Mendez	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 6 – Phoebe Hardy	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 8 – Robert North	June 2006 – June 2008
Place 10 – Carol Walker	June 2006 – June 2008

### Convention and Visitors Bureau Board

#### Term

Nominated by CVB Board and confirmed:	
Linda Hampton	expires 7-12-08
Nominated by Councilman Steve Walker and confirmed:	
Kent Martin	expires 4-12-07

These citizens are to be commended on their willingness to serve the citizens of Balcones Heights! If you would like to serve, please contact City Secretary, Delia Flores at 735-9148, ext. 236.

## Congratulations to Roslyn Gonzalez 2006 UT-Austin Graduate



Roslyn Gonzalez, daughter of Angelina Gonzalez both residents of the City of Balcones Heights, graduated on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from the University of Texas at Austin and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree. We are very proud of her. Our sincere congratulations Roslyn!

## Balcones Heights Community Survey Results

**A** Community Survey acquired from the Texas Municipal League in Austin was included in the April 2006 newsletter. Because only 12 surveys were returned the results are statistically insignificant. Nonetheless, the responses were tabulated for results.

Following are survey results:

**The respondents were most satisfied with:**  
Fire Department  
EMS

Solid Waste Collection and  
Brush Pick Up  
Police  
Electric Service  
Newsletter

**Respondents were most dissatisfied with:**  
Code Enforcement  
Appearance of the City  
Street Maintenance  
Overall City Maintenance  
Cable TV  
City Parks (Rogiers and Novak)

Based on this survey, The City of Balcones Heights needs to improve Code Enforcement, improve public safety and improve the appearance of the city.

To get a better response next year the City Council instructed staff to mail out the questionnaires randomly, and to provide self-addressed stamped envelopes.

Please call Lanny S. Lambert, City Administrator at 735-9148, ext. 227 if you would like to complete the 2006 Community Survey.

## City Council Authorizes Bids for Handicap Access Ramps

To complete the last portion of the Local Assistance Program (LAP) from VIA, the Balcones Heights City Council authorized city staff to advertise and accept bids for the construction of handicap access ramps for every private driveway from Gentleman Road to Fredericksburg Road.

The following are the list of driveways involved in this project:



Street	Driveways	Ramps
Gentleman Drive	13	26
Siesta Lane	13	26
Glenarm Place	12	24
Concord Place	9	18
Altgelt Avenue	5	10
Balcones Heights	5	10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>114</b>

Bids will be opened and awarded in August. Work should begin in September, and be completed by December 2006.

If you live along these routes and have any questions, please call City Administrator, Lanny S. Lambert at 735-9148, ext. 227.

## National Night Out 2006!



The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is sponsoring a unique, nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program on August 1, 2006 entitled "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" on August 1st, 2006. We would like to have more block parties this year. To schedule a block party or to find one you can attend contact Betty Bryant at 732-6857.

**JULY 7** Balcones Heights  
**JULY 14** **JAZZ**  
**JULY 21** **FESTIVAL 2006**  
**JULY 28** **FRIDAYS**  
**AUGUST 4** **7:30 PM - 9:30 PM**  
**AUGUST 11** **The Amphitheater @ Crossroads Mall**  
**IH10 & Loop 410 San Antonio**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**balcones heights** convention visitors bureau  
[www.reachfortheheights.org](http://www.reachfortheheights.org)

Visit us on the Web at [www.balconesheights.org](http://www.balconesheights.org)



**City of Balcones Heights**  
**3300 Hillcrest Drive**  
**Balcones Heights, Texas 78201**

PRESORTED STD.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 SAN ANTONIO, TX  
 PERMIT NO. 130

## Balcones Heights Calendar • July 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4 <b>Fourth of July Holiday</b> City offices will be closed.	5	6	7	1
9	10 <b>Regular City Council Meeting</b> Balcones Heights Justice Center 6:00 p.m.	11 	12	13	14	8
16	17	18	19	20 <b>CVB Meeting</b> Balcones Heights Justice Center 5:30 p.m.	21	5
23	24 <b>Rummage Sale!</b> Mon - Sat	25 <b>Rummage Sale!</b> 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.	26 <b>Rummage Sale!</b> Civic Center	27 <b>Rummage Sale!</b> 107 Glenarm	28 <b>Rummage Sale!</b>	22
30	31	1	2	3	4	29 <b>Rummage Sale!</b> Come shop!
						5

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