

September 2006

# City of Balcones Heights

*Serving the residents and businesses of Balcones Heights*

## Police Chief Kenneth Menn Resigns

In a letter dated August 14, 2006, Police Chief, Kenneth Menn states:

*Dear Mayor and Council Members:*

*It is with mixed emotions that I must tender my resignation of employment with the City of Balcones Heights. I have accepted other employment, which will prohibit my continued appointment.*

*For over thirty-two years I have been privileged to serve as a Balcones Heights Police Officer, including the past twenty-one years that I have served as City Marshal. I sincerely express my appreciation to the City Council for allowing me to serve as your City Marshal. Please accept this letter as my official letter of resignation as a city employee and appointed officer of the City of Balcones Heights. As previously notified, I wish to make my last*

*scheduled workday August 18, 2006, and my last day of employment August 20, 2006.*

*Balcones Heights will always be in my prayers.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kenneth R. Menn,*

*City Marshal*

Chief Menn, the longest serving employee on the city's payroll, leaves Balcones Heights to pursue employment with the City of San Antonio. Chief Menn leaves a long legacy of service to the citizens of this city and the Mayor and City Council wish Kenny Menn continued success and good luck in his future career!

Please call or write City Hall at 735-9148 or 3300 Hillcrest, Balcones Heights, Texas 78201 to express your parting goodbye to Chief Menn.

## Bill Stannard Appointed Interim Police Chief

Citing his 36 years in law enforcement and 29 years as Police Chief in Leon Valley, the Balcones Heights City Council appointed Detective Willard "Bill" Stannard as Interim Police Chief of the Balcones Heights Police Department. He is replacing Police Chief Kenneth Menn who resigned effective August 20, 2006 to go work for the City of San Antonio.

Stannard joined the Police Reserve force in December 2004 and was appointed a full-time Detective in January 2005. He has a long history in the Texas and San Antonio area law enforcement community. He retired as Police Chief of Leon Valley in 2003, where it was

**"With 29 years experience as Chief and 36 years experience in law enforcement, we are very fortunate to have access to Bill Stannard to serve as our Interim Police Chief!"**

**– Jim Craven, Mayor**

pointed out that after 29 years as Chief, he was the longest serving Police Chief in Texas at the time.



*Willard "Bill" Stannard*

Stannard ran a department in Leon Valley with 24 Officers, 25 Reserves, and 12 civilian employees. After retiring in 2003, Stannard went to work for the City of Shavano Park as a Police Officer and then ran for election as a constable in Bexar County.

Stannard is married, has five children and two grandchildren. He owes his success to his wife Susette

who stays at home to care for their grandchildren.

"With 29 years experience as Chief and 36 years experience in law enforcement, we are very fortunate to have access to Bill Stannard to serve as our Interim Police Chief!" says Mayor Jim Craven.

The City will advertise, take applications and appoint a new full-time Police Chief in 3-5 months.

# Red Light Cameras Discussed in Balcones Heights

**A**t its regular meeting on August 14, 2006, the Balcones Heights City Council voted to authorize a study of lighted intersections to see if they would justify the installation of red-light cameras.

Several months ago, Councilman Lamar Gillian asked Police Chief Kenneth Menn to use police officers to more closely monitor traffic signals in Balcones Heights.

Councilman Gillian remarked that when he sits at Jim's Restaurant and watches the intersection of Hillcrest Drive and Fredericksburg Road, he sees many cars drive through the red light endangering themselves and the traffic in the cross-lanes. Chief Menn responded

that he does not have the manpower to watch every intersection and that in order to pursue the red-light runner, sometimes the officer themselves have to run the red-light, endangering themselves and the cross-traffic. He recommended that the City look at red light cameras.

At the July 10, 2006 City Council meeting representatives from American Traffic Solutions (ATS) made a presentation to the City Council about their red-light camera system and how it worked. They pointed out the average traffic signal in Balcones Heights had 17 red light runners per day causing accidents, property damage, and medical harm to Balcones Heights drivers daily.

After careful review and discussion, the Balcones Heights City Council authorized representatives of ATS to study four (4) intersections and to bring back their findings to the September 11, 2006 City Council meeting. The four intersections are:

- Hillcrest Drive and Fredericksburg Rd.
- Crossroads Blvd. and Fredericksburg Rd.
- Balcones Heights Rd. and Fredericksburg Rd.
- Hillcrest Drive and Babcock Rd.

At its regular meeting on September 11, 2006 City Council will consider the study results and consider an ordinance establishing the red-light cameras.

## Fire Truck Purchased

**M**onday, August 21, 2006 marked an event seldom seen in Balcones Heights – the purchase of a new fire truck! The Balcones Heights City Council authorized the expenditure of \$791,698 for the purchase of a new 100-foot extension ladder, Ferrara “Quint” fire truck. The purchase price includes hoses, gear, Jaws of Life, nozzles, and all of the fire fighting equipment.

Ever since the construction of the TexSan Heart Hospital, and the fire located on the roof of the hospital

during construction, the Balcones Heights Fire Department and City Council have worried about access and fire fighting capability on the upper floors of the hospital. With the purchase of this truck, all areas of the hospital and all multi-story buildings are accessible to fire fighters and fire hoses for fire rescue or fire fighting.

The City's existing fire “snorkel” was built in 1978 and was approaching the end of its long career in Balcones Heights. It is only 75 feet long and the Fire Department was unable to reach the upper level of the hospital.

The new truck should be delivered in September.

### 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 . . . . . Vacant . . . . . x243
- Municipal Court Clerk . . . Yvonne Baez . . . . . x223
- Deputy Court Clerk . . . . . Jo Ann Vidal . . . . . x224
- Building Code  
Enforcement Officer . . . . David Cadena . . . . . x246
- Interim Police Chief . . . . Bill Stannard . . . . . x242
- 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

## CITY COUNCIL APPROVES BALCONES HEIGHTS VISITOR CENTER

Plans for the establishment of the first ever Balcones Heights Visitor Center moved a step closer to reality on August 14, 2006. On that day the Balcones Heights City Council approved the agreement with Trammell Crow to lease space A-37 to create the official Balcones Heights Visitor Center on the lower level of Crossroads Mall. The Visitor Center will be located in the center of the mall, at the intersection of the main hallway and the hallway that leads to the Food Court and Bijou Cinema Café.

City Council also approved the renovation agreement to transform the vacant space into the Visitor Center and Convention & Visitors Bureau office. Renovation is expected to begin after Labor Day with a projected completion of mid-October. Architectural Habitat of San Antonio, Inc. will be completing the renovation.

## And All That Jazz...

The 13th Annual Balcones Heights Jazz Festival came to a end on Friday, August 11, with the final free concert featuring the incomparable Lara & Reyes. It was literally standing room only at the closing concert and the crowd was undaunted by the triple digit temperatures. Plans are already underway for next year's event. If you have any suggestions or comments about the Jazz Festival please visit [www.reachfortheheights.org](http://www.reachfortheheights.org) and send an e-mail.

## WEB SITE VISITS UP

July visits to the official CVB Web site, [www.reachfortheheights.org](http://www.reachfortheheights.org), were up 73 percent from July 2005. July 2006 visits totaled 1,309, up 600 from July 2005. July visits also increased 665 from June for an increase of 103 percent. The City's Director of Tourism, Lorenzo Nastasi reported the traffic spike at both the August 14 City Council meeting and the August 17 Convention & Visitors Bureau Board



meeting. Nastasi attributes the surge to the outstanding media coverage of the Balcones Heights Jazz Festival and advertising targeting meeting planners.

## BALCONES HEIGHTS RECOGNIZED AT TACVB

Members of the Texas Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus recognized Balcones Heights during the association's annual Idea Fair held in conjunction with the group's annual conference held August 8-11, 2006 in Abilene, Texas. The Balcones Heights CVB entered three print advertisements in the advertising competition, and was awarded second place. The entry included the "A Lesson In Horse Cents" ad from January's rodeo issue of *Texas Monthly*, an ad targeting meeting planners that appeared in the *Texas Tour & Meeting Guide*, and the "Every Great City Has A Secret" ad that appeared in *Texas Monthly's* Spring Travel Planner issue.

## NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER

The Norris Conference Center and Crossroads Convention Center hosted 58 events during the month of July, attracting more than 4,800 visitors to Balcones Heights. Year-to-date, approximately 40,000 individuals have attended events at the facilities in Crossroads Mall.

## CVB BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Convention & Visitors Bureau Board will take place September 21, 2006. The meeting will take place at the Norris Conference Center in Crossroads Mall. Following the regular meeting, board members will view the mandatory Open Meetings Act video from the State Attorney General's Office.

Comments or questions about the Balcones Heights Convention & Visitors Bureau may be addressed to Lorenzo Nastasi, Director of Tourism, 735.9148 extension 230, or by visiting [www.reachfortheheights.org](http://www.reachfortheheights.org).

## Lower 2006-07 Tax Rate Adopted

**A**t their August 14, 2006 meeting, members of the Balcones Heights City Council authorized staff to prepare a budget based on the effective tax rate of .532404 cents per hundred-dollar valuation. This is a decrease in tax rate from last year of .558500 – a decrease of .026096 cents per hundred-dollar valuation. The effective tax rate is calculated by the Bexar County Tax Assessor Collector, Sylvia Romo, as the rate necessary to bring in the same amount of money as last year i.e. no tax increase.

Tax rates are stated as the rate collected per 100-dollar valuation. For example, if your home is valued at \$50,000, then your taxes paid to the City of Balcones Heights for 2006 are:  $\$50,000 \times .532404$  divided by 100 = \$266.20. For 2006 due October 1st, your taxes would be \$266.20. The City of Balcones Heights uses these tax receipts to pay for the Police Department, the Fire Department, EMS service, city parks, city streets, drainage system repairs, street signs, street lights, fire trucks, police cars, municipal court, building inspections and all the other administrative and municipals costs of a modern government.

If you would like to see a copy of the proposed 2006-2007 City budget, call City Administrator, Lanny Lambert at 735-9148, ext. 227.

## Street Condition List

**T**he Citizens Street Repair Advisory Committee presented their annual street repair ranking list to City Council at the August 14, 2006 meeting. Leading the list in worst condition is Bobbies Lane.

### Worst to Least Worst

Bobbies Lane  
Beryl Drive  
Balcones Heights Road  
Concord Place  
Crestview Drive  
Vivian Lane  
Glenarm Place  
Hannasch Drive  
Altgelt Avenue  
Shadyview Drive  
Ozark  
Ronald Lane  
Leisure Drive

The Citizens Street Repair Advisory Committee recommends that when repairs are scheduled that work begin on the worst street and proceed in order of the list.

Members of the committee are Dan Antrobius, Gloria Cantu, Betty Bryant, Sal Mendez, Cecelia Gardon, Phoebe Hardy, Patrick E. Haas, Robert North, Mike Slay, Carol Walker and Anita Herrera.

If you would like to serve on this committee or on any other board or committee, please contact Delia Flores, City Secretary, at 735-9148 ext. 236.



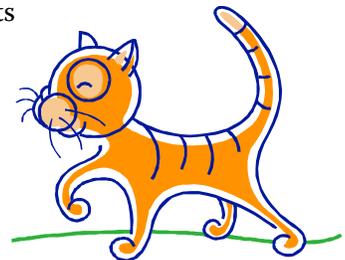
## 2006 Dog/Cat Tag Registration

**S**eptember 2006 and “NOT” many residents have their dog or cat’s registration up-to-date with the City of Balcones Heights. Please come in and get your dog and/or cat registered as soon as possible.

The City of Balcones Heights Code of Ordinance 90.55 states it shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, or harbor any dog or cat, more than four months of age, within the city without first registering said animal with the city and obtaining a valid permit and tag for such dog or cat. Section 90.43 states the owner of any dog or cat within the city is hereby required to have such dog or cat vaccinated against rabies by the time it is four months of age and within each subsequent 12 month interval thereafter.

Please bring proof of rabies vaccination and \$2.00, per animal, for your 2006 Dog/Cat Tags.

For further information, please call Yvonne Baez at 735-9148, ext. 223.



## Waste and Brush Pick-up Monday, September 18



**T**he third of four annual clean-ups is scheduled for the residential areas of Balcones Heights on September 18, 2006.

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 7:00 a.m. on Monday, September 18, 2006.

- No household hazardous waste
- No appliances with freon

ITEMS SHOULD "NOT" BE PUT TO THE CURB EARLIER THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE PICK-UP (Friday, September 8, 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 7:00 a.m., Monday, September 18, 2006.

## No Front Yard Fences

**A**t their August 14, 2006 meeting, members of the Balcones Heights City Council accepted the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and rejected a request to allow front-yard fences.

The present zoning ordinance does not allow a fence to be built that extends beyond the front-line of the house built on the lot. The purpose of the restriction is for sight-safety for automobile and bicycle traffic on city streets, for clear visibility by law enforcement personnel of private property-especially at night, clean access to the property by fire trucks and EMS trucks, and for continued high property values.

Councilman Steve Walker had asked Planning and

Zoning Commission to reconsider the front yard fence issue after receiving several requests from citizens wishing to build a front-yard fence.

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 24, 2006 to consider the issue and voted 5-For and 0-Against to continue with the front yard fence restriction based on safety issues.

The City Council met on August 14, 2006 to consider the recommendation of Planning and Zoning and voted 3-For and 1-Abstention to support Planning and Zoning's ban on front yard fences.

Please call Code Enforcement Officer David Cadena at 735-9148 ext. 246 with questions.

## City Solicits EMS Proposals

**B**ased on notification from the City of San Antonio that its EMS fee will increase from \$84,000 to \$244,160 per year effective Oct. 1, 2006, The City of Balcones Heights EMS study committee chaired by Council Member Lamar Gillian has authorized the solicitation of proposals from EMS companies in other cities to perform EMS services in Balcones Heights. In 2005 the City of San Antonio picked up 763 EMS calls from Balcones Heights and they propose to charge 320.00 per call for this service for a total of \$244,160. City Council will consider proposals at its September 11 meeting where it is anticipated the award of EMS service must be made to a private company or another city in order to avoid these tremendous cost increases from the City of San Antonio.

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



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## Balcones Heights Calendar • September 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 <b>Labor Day Holiday</b> City Offices will be closed.	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <b>Regular City Council Meeting</b> Balcones Heights Justice Center 6:00 p.m.	12	13	14	5	16
17	18 <b>Waste &amp; Brush Pick-up</b> 	19	20	21  <b>CVB Meeting</b> Justice Center 5:30 p.m.	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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The Balcones Heights Business Alliance  
will host the next meeting on **Wednesday,**  
**September 13, 2006.**

The meeting will be held at  
Garibaldi's Mexican Restaurant  
on Fredericksburg Rd.

Networking will begin at 11:30 AM.

Mr. Tony Roberts from Washington Mutual  
will speak to our group on identity theft  
and how it  
affects our businesses, employees  
and customers.

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