



A VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2016



1948

City of Balcones Heights

2016



DAVID HARRIS
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

CITY ADMINISTRATOR DAVID HARRIS SELECTED TCMA PRESIDENT-ELECT



City Administrator David Harris has been selected to serve as President-Elect of the Texas City Management Association effective mid-August; he will assume the position of President in June 2017. "It is humbling to be selected by your peers to represent them. It is an honor to represent a group of professionals whose professional association is not legislated, but self-regulating. Each member holds each other accountable through our Code of Ethics which promotes good management, civic engagement, and organization pride," Harris said.

David has more than 25 years' experience in management including 20 years in local government management. He began his current position as City Administrator of the City of Balcones Heights in October 2014. He has also served in various leadership positions in the cities of Alamo Heights, Schertz, Hill Country Village, and Terrell Hills, as well as Bexar County. He also in served various management positions working in the tourism industry in Alaska and Washington State with Holland America Line/Westours.

Though loosely affiliated beginning in 1916, Texas City Management Association was officially established in 1925. Presently it has 850 members representing over 650 cities, councils of government, and affiliated organizations.



National Night Out Tuesday,
October 4 from 6 - 9 p.m.

This year we will feature the movie *the Book of Life*, starring Diego Luna, Zoe Saldana and Channing Tatum.

We will be showing this movie on a large outdoor screen. Join us under the stars for this fantastic movie!! Bring your blankets and/or lawn chairs.

Hot dogs, nachos, soft drinks and more - Movie will start 7 p.m. (dusk) - Bring your kids & grand-kids and enjoy time with your neighbors, friends and City Council and staff! You don't want to miss this wonderful night of fun!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4
FROM 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**





HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

BALCONES HEIGHTS JUSTICE CENTER - 3300 Hillcrest

On **Saturday, September 17**, C-6 will be collecting hazardous waste for **Balcones Heights residents only**. A mobile collection site will be set up behind the Balcones Heights Justice Center. You can drop off your materials between the hours of **9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** You must have proof of residency. For example: Texas Driver's License, current utility bill, voter registration card.

Below is a list of hazardous waste material items that can be collected at the mobile site:

Acceptable Items, include but are not limited to:

Drain cleaners, oven cleaners, metal polish, arts and crafts supplies, photo chemicals, floor cleaners, dry cleaning fluid, radiator cleaners, rust preventatives, wood preservatives, wood strippers, oil based paint, paint thinner, solvents, degreasers, sealants, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid, engine and radiator fluids, transmission fluid, old chemistry sets, pesticides, herbicides, insect sprays, rodent killers, pool chemicals, hydrochloric acid, cesspool cleaners, creosote, fertilizer, batteries, kerosene, moth balls, bleaches, ammonia.

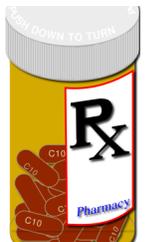


Items that are **NOT ACCEPTABLE for drop-off are included by not limited to:**

Biological/Infectious Waste (i.e., sharps/needles), radioactive materials/smoke detectors, unlabeled or unknown items, tires, appliances, non-propane cylinders, fire extinguishers, fireworks explosives/ammunition, reactive materials requiring stabilization, DEA regulated substances – pharmaceuticals and illegal drugs, commercial chemicals cleaners, containers containing chemicals over 5 gallons in size.



There will be a set time to drop off your old prescription drugs. - we will post this information on the city website and on the city Facebook page as well as the Balcones Heights Police Department Facebook page.



Questions - Contact C-6 Disposal Systems, Inc. - 210-375-0066

COME BY EARLY FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS!!

BALCONES HEIGHTS JAZZ FESTIVAL

23rd ANNUAL BALCONESS HEIGHTS JAZZ FEST - INCREDIBLE SERIES!

This year the Balcones Heights Jazz festival garnered the equivalent of \$200,000 worth of advertising in the course of 5 weeks....that's roughly, \$40,000 a week of free advertising for the City and the venue, which happens to be the biggest piece of commercial property in the City, Wonderland of the Americas, with a cluster of major value shopping: Stein Mart, Hobby Lobby, Ross, Burlington, and Super Target. Throughout the summer, Balcones Heights was featured in calendar listings, radio, and TV interviews, live TV performance opportunities on morning and afternoon TV shows, highlighting the artists, the City and the venue. Special "Thank you" to Methodist TexSan for sponsoring the opening night event. New to the Jazz Fest included Live Streaming, and a Fashion Show by Uptown Gypsy, the largest corset store in the region, located on the upper level of the Wonderland of the Americas.

23rd BALCONES HEIGHTS JAZZ FESTIVAL 2016

SUMMER JAZZ UNDER THE STARS
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING FROM JULY 8 - AUG. 5
7:30 - 10:30 PM

WONDERLAND OF THE AMERICAS AMPHITHEATRE
sanantoniocentral.org

JULY 8
TOM BRADYNE
BOB GARBER

JULY 15
JEFF LOMBER
BOBBI

JULY 22
JEANETTE HARRIS
NETT BOUTON & JOEL BILLEY

JULY 29
BOB FORD
WARREN

AUGUST 5
STANLEY JOHNSON
GONNE THORPE



UPTOWN GYPSY
SA'S #1 CORSET STORE

210.530.1859

4827 FERRACCHIONE DR. SAZE FEST! BEHIND WONDERLAND HALL
@UPTOWNGYPSY





Luis Zamarron

Code Compliance Officer

In this article I take a step back and address the reason and the usefulness of a city code of ordinance and a code enforcement apparatus. When a municipality duly adopts regulations such as land use and zoning ordinances, health and housing codes, sign standards and other ordinances, the city has taken proactive steps to ensure public safety, security, uniformity and retention of property values and desirability of the community. The city also necessarily takes on the function of enforcement once these codes are adopted. Some people may view code enforcement as an annoying intrusion into the free use of private property but it is the code itself that has set the standards that the community, through its elected officials, have chosen to adopt. Code enforcement, then, is an expression of the very same community to enforce those standards and also as an extension of the code of ordinances. Code enforcement is greater than any one person and encompasses every individual in a community.

In Texas, a Code Enforcement Officer is usually a non-sworn city employee who is empowered by the City Administrator to enforce the civil code of ordinances. The officer generally possesses specialized training and/or experience. The code officers primary duties are the prevention, detection, investigation, and enforcement of violations of local ordinances regulating public nuisances, public safety, security, and welfare and business activities. Each municipality is free to create its own enforcement procedure generally consisting of an education of the code component followed by the actual enforcement component when education and/or warnings have failed to secure voluntary compliance. When you consider why a certain code has not been enforced, the best place to start any analysis is to consult the code, first, and determine if a prohibitive code exists. The obverse is also true; the code is the best starting point when pondering why a code was enforced. Remember that code enforcement is here for your protection, as was determined by your elected officials, throughout the city's history.



CITIZENS BEWARE IRS PHONE SCAM ALERT!

There is a group of scammers calling people at random that receive phone numbers through legitimate marketing sources. They use those numbers to place calls to people in an attempt to scam money. There are many residents, who are receiving calls from individuals who are claiming to be with the Internal Revenue

Service (IRS) and telling you they have a lawsuit or will file a lawsuit if you don't take care of a financial matter. Please **DO NOT** participate in this scam. They will try to get you to purchase gift cards and send them the numbers for the cards so they can extract the funds. **DO NOT** purchase or send gift card OR debit/credit card numbers to anyone calling you. **It is always a scam.**

The police department cannot assist in investigating these matters as they entail companies from other countries usually. The IRS has set up a phone number along with a web site to report these issues directly to them. The IRS along with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) is handling this, along with other government agencies utilizing means we do not have access to. Please do not be offended when an officer directs you to the web page or the IRS phone number for these matters. It is the only avenue we currently have for these matters. Be assured these calls are not legit and no action will be taken against you.

Here is the link and phone number to report these calls and receive more information should you receive one.

https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml

[1-800-366-4484](tel:1-800-366-4484)



**NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK
September 5 - 9, 2016**

Mayor de Leon signs a proclamation recognizing September 5-9 National Payroll Week in Balcones Heights. A special thanks to Floyd Messick, Director of Finance and Lisa Merlo, Finance and Administrative Assistant for processing payroll, reporting worker earnings, withholding federal employment taxes, processing child support payments, tax withholding and direct deposit, effectively and efficiently.



On Monday, August 29 City Council held it's last public hearing and approved the City's FY-2016-2017 Annual Budget. Detailed information will be included in the October newsletter.

BRUSH/BULK COLLECTION OCTOBER 24-28



Bulky item/brush collections are provided two times per year. For this cycle - bulk and brush material may be put out as early as **October 14th** –but material must be out no later than 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 24th as that is when services commence.

Bulky item collection is provided to all city residential solid waste ratepayers. To find out if you are current on your account contact C6 Disposal at 210-375-0066. If you are a resident and current on your account you are eligible to receive this service.

BULKY PILE/BRUSH GUIDELINES

Bulky/brush items must be set out no later than 7:00 a.m. of the first day of the scheduled collection
Place bulky item piles within two (2) feet of the curb. **Do not place on curb! Please do not block sidewalks! Do not place bulky item piles in front of parked cars, near fences, trees, mailboxes, beneath overhead wires or power lines, low-hanging tree limbs, or on top of water meters.**
Do not place material at the curb after crews have passed by your house. They will only pass by once.

BULKY ITEMS INCLUDE

Bulky items include stoves, refrigerators, water tanks, washing machines, discarded bathroom fixtures, household furniture, mattresses, television sets, and other bulky waste materials commonly found at a residence. Items such as swing sets, plays capes, basketball goals, trampolines etc. must be disassembled before being placed curbside.

BULKY ITEMS DO NOT INCLUDE

Household Hazardous Waste, medical waste, infectious waste, motor oil, tires, batteries, paint, construction debris, remodeling debris, demolition debris, roofing material, dead animals, animal waste, rocks, dirt, stable matter.

VIOLATIONS

- Residents will be in violation if any of the conditions below are demonstrated:
- Pile contains construction materials (waste resulting construction, remodeling, repair or demolition operations)
- Pile contains household hazardous materials, dead animals or stable matter with weights or volumes greater than those described above
- Pile is obstructed by obstacles, set out directly under powerlines or on top of water mains, placed on sidewalk
- Pile is set out after crews have passed by your house

BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVE PICKUP

Residents do not have to wait to receive their bulky item collection to get rid of bulky items; C6 disposal offers other services to dispose of these materials (billed separate of quarterly residential trash bill)

MISSED COLLECTION DUE TO LATE SET OUT

If you missed your scheduled collection, call C6 Disposal at 210-375-0066 as soon as possible to learn about other disposal options.

Questions: - Contact C-6 Disposal Systems, Inc. - 210-375-0066

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE -

Regular City Council Meeting August 22, 2016



- Council presented with a recap and slideshow presentation from Lorenzo Nastasi & Chrissie Kolb
- Council update regarding website
- Council held a Public Hearing regarding the adoption of the FY 2016-17 Budget
- Council held a Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate.
- Council approved the bid proposal for Leisure Drive Phase 1.
- Council approved an Interlocal Agreement with San Antonio Water System for utility improvements as part of the Leisure Drive Phase 1 project.
- Council approved an ordinance expanding the authority of the City Administrator or his/her designee to issue citations for violations.
- Council held a third workshop on the FY 2016-17 proposed budget and tax rate.

CITY OF BALCONES HEIGHTS
3300 Hillcrest Balcones Heights, Texas 78201
balconesheights.org 210-735-9148 Emergency: 911
Municipal Court: every Wednesday at 1:00 PM
Dispatch: 210-735-9212 Fire Department: 210-735-9206
Visitor Center: 210-732-0055 Justice Center: 210-735-9148
Dispatch: (Non-Emergency - Animal Control 210-735-9148 X 232
CITY COUNCIL:

Suzanne de Leon, Mayor
 sdeleon@bhtx.org
 735-9148, Ext. 235

Place 1 Vacant

Jack Burton
 jburton@bhtx.gov

Miguel Valverde
Mayor Pro Tem
 mvalverde@bhtx.gov

Lamar Gillian
 lgillian@bhtx.gov

Charles White
 cwhite@bhtx.gov
 210-324-2797

CONTACT DIRECTORY: 210-735-9148

City Administrator: **David Harris ext. 227** dharris@balconesheights.org

City Secretary: **Delia Flores ext. 236** delia@balconesheights.org

Director of Community Development: **Rita Hoyl ext. 246**
 rhoyl@balconesheights.org

Director of Finance: **Floyd Messick ext. 244** fmessick@balconesheights.org

Finance Clerk/Admin. Assistant : **Lisa Merlo ext. 243**
 lmerlo@balconesheights.org

Director of Economic Development & Public Affairs: **Lorenzo Nastasi**
210-732-0055 lorenzo@reachfortheheights.org

Community Relations Manager: **Chrissie Kolb 210-732-0055**
 chrissie@reachfortheheights.org

Fire Chief: **Brock Ward 210-735-9206** bward@balconesheights.org

Police Chief: **Darrell Volz ext. 242** dvolz@balconesheights.org

Senior Deputy Court Clerk: **Yvonne Baez ext. 223**
 Yvonne@balconesheights.org

Deputy Court Clerk: **Peggy Ortiz ext. 224** portiz@balconesheights.org

Deputy Court Clerk: **Micaela Cenicerros ext. 221**
 mceniceros@balconesheights.org

Code Compliance Officer: **Luis Zamarron 210-347-4912**

Public Works Maint. Supervisor: **Ray Mackey 210-527-7617**

Maintenance: **Henry Aguilar 210-322-3299**

Red Light Camera Administrative Assistant: **Gloria Puente ext. 222**

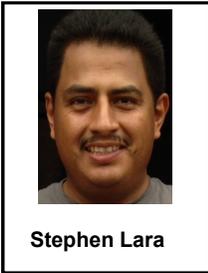
Red Light Camera Review Officer: **Smitty Smith ext. 245**

Communication Supervisor: **Daphne Morales - 210-735-9212**

*Planning
&
Zoning*



Balcones Heights Planning and Zoning names Mr. Stephen Lara Chair and Ms. Madeline Slay Vice Chair.



Stephen Lara



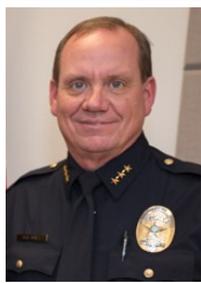
Madeline Slay

Important Notice

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEAT

Applications are being accepted to fill an unexpired term for City Council Place 1 due to the passing of Councilmember Linda Pohl. Applications are available online www.balconesheights.org, or you make pick one up from City Secretary Delia Flores at the Balcones Heights Justice Center. For questions regarding the application process please contact Ms. Delia Flores at 210-735-9148 x236 or dflores@bhtx.gov. Fax - 210-735-4954

Applications are due Friday, September 9, 2016 by 12 noon. Please mail, email, fax or bring completed forms to City Secretary Delia Flores at the Balcones Heights Justice Center. Applications received after that deadline will not be accepted.



Darrell Volz
Chief of Police

City of Balcones Heights Police Department



Darrell E. Volz Chief of Police

The Mission of the Balcones Heights Police Department is to provide the community with a safe and fear free environment in which to live, work and play and to do so with an emphasis on **PRIDE** – Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence.

By the time you get this newsletter school would have already started. Please be aware of school zones. Also remember the beginning of school is always hectic as children and parents are getting back into the swing of things. Traffic may be a little crazy around schools where parents are dropping off or picking up their students. You may need a little extra patience as we get this new school year started.

Your BHPD had a great time helping with the first day of school at Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School (only school located entirely within our jurisdiction). This year we are planning on being more involved with the school and children in hopes of creating a relationship with the kids during this impressionable time of their life.

I worked with Father Rudy at the crosswalk. Mr. Martinez, the school principal, photo-bombed them as they posed for the picture.



Several children from the 1 2 Me Child Care located in the 2900 Blk of Hillcrest Dr. saw several of our officers eating lunch at Café Rosa. The children came in with their teacher and gave the officers hand drawn cards with Life Savers Candy attached expressing their love for all police officers. This, my friends, is what it is all about. That will sure make a police officer's day.

Texas Miss Heart of Freedom Queen of Hearts after a prayer over the officers of Balcones Heights Police Department.



We are very grateful that citizens take the time to send letters expressing their appreciation for our service to the community. These notes are very much appreciated.



REMEMBER - YOU MUST STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES WHEN LIGHTS ARE FLASHING

SCHOOL ZONES - 20 M.P.R.



POLICE BLOTTER

The Balcones Heights police blotter is on the BHPD Facebook page. The Balcones Heights Facebook Page is a great place to get information on what is going on in your town.

Make sure to like us on Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/Balcones-Heights-Police-Department-155805194453045/>



Remember, I am available if you have questions or concerns. 210-735 9148 x 242 or email me dvolz@balconesheights.org

BALCONES HEIGHTS PD MAKES SURE THE STUDENTS AT ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAVE A SAFE START ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



CITY OF BALCONES HEIGHTS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

OCTOBER 1, 2016 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

FRIDAY
 THURSDAY
 FRIDAY
 FRIDAY
 MONDAY
 MONDAY
 MONDAY
 MONDAY
 FRIDAY
 MONDAY
 MONDAY
 TUESDAY
 MONDAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2016
 NOVEMBER 24, 2016
 NOVEMBER 25, 2016
 DECEMBER 23, 2016
 DECEMBER 26, 2016
 JANUARY 2, 2017
 JANUARY 16, 2017
 FEBRUARY 20, 2017
 APRIL 28, 2017
 MAY 29, 2017
 JULY 3, 2017
 JULY 4, 2017
 SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

VETERAN'S DAY
 THANKSGIVING
 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING
 CHRISTMAS EVE
 DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
 NEW YEAR'S
 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 PRESIDENT'S DAY
 1/2 DAY BATTLE OF FLOWERS
 MEMORIAL DAY
 INDEPENDENCE DAY
 INDEPENDENCE DAY
 LABOR DAY



COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY

**MIGUEL C. VALVERDE
COUNCILMAN PLACE 2**

Council transparency has been an important issue of mine since I was first sworn in as Councilman, four years ago. It is important for residents to know what council is doing and I am all for city official transparency. Council is trying its best to let all Balcones Heights residents know what is going on in their community via newsletters, the City's official website, and Facebook page regular and special council meetings as well as public hearings. City Council meetings are held the 4th Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Most residents are not attending council meetings, possibly not reading newsletters and might be going by hear say provided by misinformed individuals. Transparency is effective only when participation and input involves council and residents. If it wasn't for staff, sometimes a few fire fighters, police officers and the same three or four residents, council meeting room would be occupied by city council members only.

Council members volunteer their personal time to serve on the council and other committees which are required for this community to survive. Council is concerned about survivability of our community, employees, residents, businesses and will make decisions on items that will benefit this community. Sometimes difficult decisions might not satisfy every resident, but they are made in the best interest of this community. Any and all decisions made by any committee or staff are not final until approved by council.

We are very fortunate to have Councilman Gillian with his expertise in the budget arena. Our finance director and Mr. Gillian are doing an outstanding job in maintaining maintenance and operational expenses and property taxes to a minimal.

Council is working to find ways to increase revenues to keep up with inflation. We need to maintain salaries for our employees comparable to our surrounding areas. We also need to upgrade our deteriorating streets, sidewalks, office and building equipment (computers, phones, website, air condition system, security cameras etc...) upgrade our Police and Fire departments' equipment, maintain our public works' equipment and parks. This is a hard task because most of our surrounding areas have higher populations and more property and sales tax revenues to help them maintain their communities.

We are at the end of 2015/2016 fiscal year and a lot of police contract negotiation meetings, budget workshops, public hearings on tax rate and budget were held during the past three months. 2016/2017 fiscal year begins in October. This is your city, please get involved by attending Council meetings.

For more information or any questions, contact any of your council members.

Respectfully Yours,
Miguel C. Valverde
Councilman Place 2



National Night Out - Tuesday, October 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. We will be showing the movie "The Book of Life" on a large outdoor screen. Join us under the stars for this fantastic movie!! - Bring your blankets and/or lawn chairs.

Hot dogs, nachos, soft drinks and more! - Movie will start 7 p.m. (dusk) .

Bring your kids & grand-kids and enjoy time with your neighbors, friends and City Council and staff! You don't want to miss this wonderful night of fun!



City of Balcones Heights
4522 Fredericksburg Rd.
Suite A-37
Balcones Heights, Texas 78201

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1001

SEPTEMBER 2016 CALENDAR

September 5 Labor Day Holiday - All City Offices Closed
September 17 - Hazardous Waste Material drop-off 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
September 20 Planning & Zoning Meeting - 6 p.m.
September 26 Regular City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.

For more information please visit balconesheights.org and find and like us on [facebook.com/BalconesHeights](https://www.facebook.com/BalconesHeights)



OCTOBER 2016 CALENDAR

October 4 - National Night Out - Justice Center - 6-9 p.m.
Information on page 1 and 9
October 18 - Planning & Zoning Meeting - Justice Ctr. 6 p.m.
October 24-28 Brush/Bulk pick-up - For this cycle - bulk and brush material may be put out as early as October 14th –but material must be out no later than 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 24th as that is when services commence.
October 24 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.

BALCONES HEIGHTS MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL & CITY ADMINISTRATOR



Suzanne de Leon
Mayor



Miguel Valverde
Councilmember
Place 2
Mayor Pro Tem



Jack Burton
Councilmember
Place 3



Lamar Gillian
Councilmember
Place 4



Charles White
Councilmember
Place 5



David Harris
City Administrator