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January, 2004

City of Balcones Heights

City to host reception for residents to meet new City Administrator

The City Council voted unanimously at the December Council meeting to host a reception for residents to meet and greet Lanny Lambert, the new administrator.

The vote came moments after Council officially approved Lambert's contract. His contract took effect January 5th when he reported to work.

The reception, coordinated by Council members Steve Walker and Lucille Wohlfarth will be held in the Justice Center lobby at 5 p.m., Monday, January 12th, an hour before the regularly scheduled January City

Council meeting.

Luby's will donate food trays for the event and Grady's Barbeque will donate drinks.

According to Lambert, "I am honored that the Council had the confidence to hire me over 60 well-qualified candidates. It is a humbling experience."

In his initial interview, Lambert suggested that if hired, he would call a retreat for the Council to sit down and address the many issues facing Balcones Heights in the next few years. **(con't on page 3)**

Eric Alva serves as Dec. 6th Christmas parade grand marshal

The December 6th Christmas Parade led by grand marshal Marine Staff Sergeant Eric Alva brought cheers from on-lookers lining Fredericksburg Road.

Alva was wounded in Iraq after stepping on a land mine. He was also a featured speaker at the City's recent salute to the Veterans event at Crossroads Mall.

The parade stretched from Sante Fe Apartments to the underground entrance to the mall.

Led by Balcones Heights Police vehicles, the Jefferson High School ROTC color guard marched ahead of Grand Marshal Eric Alva, who

was driven in a convertible Porsche.

Three World Car Mazda vehicles followed, carrying Mayor Jim Craven in the first vehicle, Council woman Lucille Wohlfarth in the second vehicle, and Councilmen Bennie Cass, Bill Johnson and Steve Walker in the third vehicle.

The parade attracted 27 various entries to include groups from Our Lady of the Lake University to the children's safety patrol from St. Gregory's Catholic Church, located on Dewhurst in Balcones Heights.

According to Lynn Calkin, executive director of the Business Alliance and event coordinator, **(con't on page 2)**



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Mayor

Jim Craven

Mayor Pro Tem & Councilman, Place 5

Bill Johnson

Councilwoman, Place 4

Lucille Wohlfarth

Councilwoman, Place 3

Melissa Castro

Councilman, Place 2

Steve Walker

Councilman, Place 1

Bennie Cass

City Administrator

Lanny Lambert

(con't from page 1)

More on Christmas Parade

"I believe the parade was a huge success. It was successful because of all the groups who participated. I can't say enough about them."

Calkin also singled out Elizabeth Wells from Amerisuites and Sarah Teel from Crossroads Mall who "were both a great help and inspiration."

Other groups that participated include: girl scouts, the Chris Ivey Dance Troupe,

Trigg's Football team, US Navy recruiters from the Mall, Jefferson High School Pep Squad, the USA Dance Studio, and Amerisuites.

Creative Awareness Dance Troop, the Dellview Elementary choir, St. Gregory's Boy Scout troop and choir, the Baskin Elementary Spirit Team, US Coast Guard recruiters and the Guadalupe Community squad also participated.

BH Fire Department

The Balcones Heights Fire Department headed by Fire Chief Ben Hoeffner, San Antonio Police and representatives from the Bexar County Sheriff's Department, along with students from Career Point, members of the Air Force Recruiters, J Champion Dance Studio and the SA Christian School Band participated.

Councilman Bennie Cass said, "the parade was classy."

Sign ordinances to get hearing

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At issue is a debate whether or not to change the height requirement on business signs in the "F" retail district on Freder-

icksburg Road.

The current allowance is for a sign not to exceed 20 feet.

Those signs erected before the year 2000 fall under a grandfather clause that allows those signs to retain their height.

According to Lynn Calkin,

Planning & Zoning Chairman, "Over sixty per cent of current business signs fall in the 35-foot range."

Council is considering raising the height of the signs to 50 feet from the current 20 feet.

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and use the 1/2 cent VIA tax for economic development at the January 12th Council meeting.

If approved by Council to be placed on the ballot, a public hearing will be scheduled and residents will have ample opportunity to offer their input pro or con on the issue.

The newsletter will publish as much information on the subject as possible in the February, March and April editions.

Business Alliance to meet January 21st at Bonanza

The Business Alliance will meet at noon, January 21st at the Bonanza Family Steakhouse at 4515 Fredericksburg Road.

The Business Alliance Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. January 14th at Amerisuites. For more information call 735-3255.

Balcones Heights Newsletter

The Balcones Heights Newsletter is the official publication of the City of Balcones Heights. Articles must be submitted to Editor Steve Walker before the last day of the month. For more information, call Mayor Jim Craven, 735-9148, at Ext. 235.

At the heart of what's happening

- Burlington
- Steinmart
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- Bath and Body
- Joanne Fabrics
- Payless
- Super Target
- Factory 2 U
- Dave & Busters
- Famous Footwear
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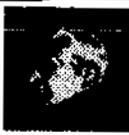
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Reflections on Thanksgiving Day

"Thanks so much to Councilman Steve Walker for inviting us to share the Thanksgiving holiday. Most of us would have spent the day in the barracks."

Specialist
Delanie Rust,
Fort Sam soldier



The City sponsored eight Fort Sam soldiers who spent the holiday with employees, like: Delia Flores; City Secretary, and Chief Financial Officer; JoAnn Vidal. Luby's donated the meals and Dave & Busters donated entertainment cards to be used for various games.

Convention events update for 2004

Pow Wow.....	February 14-15	Robert E. Lee Class Reunion.....	July 24
Rings & Things Exp.....	March 13	San Antonio Model Train Show.....	August 7,8
FEAST Home school Conf.....	March 14,15	North San Antonio Chamber.....	August 23,24
Bad Boy Productions Car Show.....	March 26-27	Express-News Job Fair.....	August 31
Kids Summer Fun Fair.....	March 28	SA Apartment Association	
City Employees Credit Union Conf.....	April 7	Business Expo.....	September 16
Express-New New Home		Women's Expo.....	October 2
Buyers Conf	April 10	Reg. Fire Safety/Health Fair.....	October 16
ChimaetaCon.....	April 16,17	Fall Active Senior Expo.....	October 22,23
NCOA Job Fair.....	April 27	Antique Road Show/Light House School	
Medical Job Fair.....	May 18	of the Blind.....	November 5
Spring Active Senior Expo.....	June 11,12	SA Lighthouse Heirloom	
Express News Job Fair.....	June 29	Appraisal Day.....	November 11-13
Wedding Planners Expo.....	July 17		

Sav-A-Lot Grocery Store, located at 4400 Fredericksburg Road, will celebrate its grand opening, Wednesday, January 7th.

Convention Center celebrates grand opening, Friday, Dec. 16th

The Balcones Heights Convention Center at Crossroads Mall celebrated its grand opening, at noon, Friday, December 19th.

Sarah Teel, General Mall Manager, says "the 35-thousand square foot convention and Expo Center will allow the Mall to hold retail events and consumer shows that will compliment the retail components in the center while creating large foot traffic that will draw crowds to the

center."

Mayor Jim Craven, Council members Lucille Wohlfarth and Steve Walker, along with City employees were on hand to participate in the opening.

Numerous business owners and employees in the Mall also participated.

Wohlfarth says, "we are really looking forward to the various conventions that will come to Balcones Heights and bring revenue to the City."

TexSan Heart Hospital to celebrate opening

The newest business in Balcones Heights, TexSan Heart Hospital, will celebrate its grand opening, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. January 8th.

The hospital will officially accept its first patient, January 15th.

According to Bruce Hoffman, executive vice-president for public affairs, "we are excited about finally opening our doors to those patients that really need our assistance."

Hoffman says nearly 70 percent of the staff will be registered nurses. He also points out that the majority of all the cardiologists in the San Antonio area will be affiliated with the hospital.

The new hospital will also feature the newest technology in cardiology. Adding the 40-million dollar building to the tax rolls will increase the City's revenue from ad valorem taxes.

Cowboy breakfast coming Jan. 30th to mall

An estimated 40-thousand enthusiastic stock show fans will converge on Crossroads Mall, Friday, January 30th from 5 a.m.-9 a.m. to partake in the annual Cowboy Breakfast.

A long running tradition in the San Antonio area for well over 25 years, the breakfast has relocated permanently to Crossroads Mall.

Hosted by Central Park Mall for over 20 years until it was torn down, the Cowboy Breakfast has moved twice in the past two years before settling on Crossroads Mall.

General Manager Sarah Teel, says, "this will be the biggest event we have ever hosted."

St. Gregory's Catholic Church saves old tree

The oldest tree in Balcones Heights was replanted November 21st in an effort to save it from becoming fire wood. According to Henry Hannasch, longtime resident and parishioner who lives directly across from the church, "the 71-year-old tree was priceless and didn't need to be destroyed."

The tree which was located directly behind the main sanctuary was uprooted and placed closer to the street. Monsignor Thomas O'Gorman pointed out the tree specialists had to use an industrial crane to lift up the tree before moving it to its new destination. The process took over four hours to complete. Mayor Jim Craven and Councilman Steve Walker (1956-1960 alumnus) were also on hand for the move.

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Lobby Hours:
 Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ads must be to the Business Alliance no later than the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Prices and sizes:

A. \$20.00/MONTH

Horizontal: 1 7/8" x 3 1/4"

B. \$35.00/MONTH

Vertical: 3 3/4" x 3 1/4"

Horizontal: 1 7/8" x 6 5/8"

C. \$50.00/MONTH

Vertical: 5 3/4" x 3 1/4"

Guidelines:

- 1 Ad copy must pertain only to the business location in Balcones Heights.
- 2 Ads can contain specials, discounts or coupons available for the month(s) the ad is to run.
- 3 Lewd or lascivious material and artwork is prohibited.

The 1st meeting for 2004 will be held at noon at Bonanza Family Steakhouse on Fredericksburg Rd.

2004 Officers

President Elizabeth Wells, AmeriSuites; Vice President Sarah Teel, Crossroads Mall;
 Secretary Cathy Oliver, Target; Treasurer Rodney Carr, Career Point.

2004 Board of Directors

Nancy Jeffreys, Nancy J's Gift Services; Ana Rasmussen, Dave & Buster's
 Mike Alcoces, Bonanza Family Steakhouse
 Executive Director Lynn Calkin, A-AAKey Mini Storage

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