



# City of Balcones Heights

*Serving the residents and business community of the City of Balcones Heights*

## Message from the Police Department



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Recent reports indicate that area property crimes are on an increase. This trend, according to San Antonio Police Department and surrounding police departments, appears to be consistent and wide spread. Through information sharing with the San Antonio Police Department's Northside Crimes Analysis Network, we receive daily reports of crimes in and around our area. These reports mirror the activities in Balcones Heights and warrant our concern.

Of a major concern is that many of these crimes are committed around residences while the victim is at home. It is believed that the actor looks for the easiest target, rather than a specific type of property. In a recent incidence, an open garage has been the target. In several of the reports, the actor has actually come in contact with the victim. Fortunately, in one such incident involving a resident of Balcones Heights, the actor, after confronting the resident, fled and no one was injured.

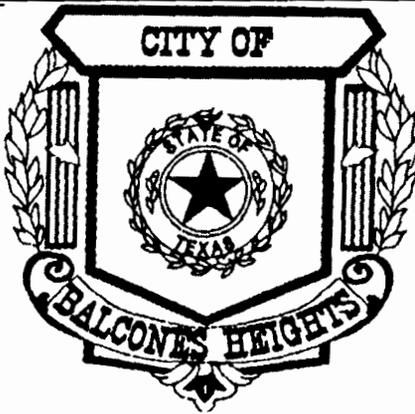
In light of the current trend, we strongly encourage you not to leave your garage door open or any lawn equipment or tools unattended or visible to passersby. This appears to be the attraction and invitation thieves are looking for. The best thing you can do as a resident is to be a good neighbor, look out for each other, and report suspicious persons and things to the police immediately.

During the month of May 2004 the police department reports the following activities:



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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1481.5 hours worked                 | 265 traffic summons issued    | 4896 miles driven            | 37 traffic accidents          |
| 17 alarm call reports               | 46 assist the public reports  | 83 disturbance call reports  | 02 fire call reports          |
| 15 injured/sick call reports        | 11 public order crime reports | 55 suspicious person reports | 36 suspicious vehicle reports |
| 01 D.W.I. report                    | 03 burglaries                 | 17 vehicle burglaries        | 20 theft reports              |
| 01 vehicle theft                    | 03 robberies                  | 02 sex offenses              |                               |
| There were 73 arrest charges filed. |                               |                              |                               |



**City Officials**

Jim Craven, Mayor

Bill Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman, Place 5

Lucille Wohlfarth, Councilwoman, Place 4

Melissa Castro, Councilwoman, Place 3

Suzanne de Leon, Councilman, Place 2

Bennie Cass, Councilman, Place 1

Lanny S. Lambert, City Administrator

**City Roster**

|                                 |                    |          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| City Administrator              | Lanny S. Lambert   | x227     |
| City Secretary                  | Delia Flores       | x236     |
| Municipal Court Clerk           | Yvonne Baez        | x223     |
| Asst. Court Clerk               | Michelle Garcia    | x224     |
| Police Chief                    | Kenneth Menn       | x237     |
| Asst. Police Chief              | Robert de la Garza | x238     |
| Police Secretary                | Gracie Lerma       | x222     |
| Detective Sgt.                  | Joyce Pena         | x232     |
| Special Investigator            | Lee Powers         | x240     |
| Dispatcher                      |                    | x225     |
| Financial Officer               | JoAnn Vidal        | x244     |
| Mayor                           | Jim Craven         | x235     |
| Balcones Heights Justice Center |                    | 735-9148 |

**VIA Election**

Election Day, Saturday, September 11, 2004

After receipt of a petition signed by 188 registered voters, the City Council has called an election for Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> to consider continuation in VIA. (Early Voting at the Municipal Justice Center goes from August 25 - September 7, 2004, 8:00 - 4:30 August 25<sup>th</sup>-September 1<sup>st</sup> and 9:00 - 6:00 p.m. September 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> .)

*The Ballot reads:*

Proposition:  
Propuesta:

Shall the VIA Metropolitan Transit be continued in the City of Balcones Heights

Debe continuar el Transito Metropolitano de VIA en la ciudad de Balcones Heights

- FOR (EN FAVOR)
- AGAINST (EN CONTRA)

In addition to the VIA election, the City Council added the creation of a 4B corporation to the ballot. If the citizens of Balcones Heights vote to withdraw the \$540,000 a year sales tax from VIA, the money could be used to fund a 4B Community Development Corporation. Many cities in Texas (over 240) have voted to create a Community Development Corporation. T

he 4B Corporation is empowered to use the sales tax monies for many projects that could improve the quality of life in Balcones Heights, i.e. parks, roads, drainage, fire stations, senior center, etc.

For more information, please contact City Hall at 210-735-9148.



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## ASK THE ADMINISTRATOR

Call City Administrator, Lanny S. Lambert, with your questions about City Government. 735-9148, ext. 227

**Question:** "I see where the City placed a speed hump on Concord Street. How can I get one on my street, the speeders go through here like crazy?"

**Answer:** The City Council adopted a speed hump policy at their May 10, 2004 meeting that says:

- Only installed after receipt of a petition signed by 80% or more of the residents along the block requesting the hump subject to council approval and money available in budget.
- Installed at least 50' from an intersection.
- Installed at least 6' from any driveway.
- Minimum of 300' between humps.
- Preferably the Hump will align with a property line.
- Hump must be marked with stripes and signs, marking its location.
- Only installed on Residential Streets, not collectors or arterials.
- Only installed when City has funds available for speed hump purchase. (Funds available)

Please call City Secretary, Delia Flores at 735-9148, ext. 236 for a copy of the petition requesting a speed hump. 80% or more of your neighbors on both side of the block must sign the petition and then be certified by the City Secretary. Lastly, the City Council must agree to budget the \$2,200.00 necessary to purchase and install the hump. (Concord has asked for speed humps for a long, long time.)

**Question:** How often can I have a garage sale?

**Answer:** The City Council adopted a new ordinance pertaining to Garage Sales at their May 10, 2004 City Council meeting. The Ordinance states:

"The City shall issue one permit for each garage/yard sale. Each resident is allowed six garage/yard sales per calendar year per location."

"The garage/yard sale permit fee is \$5.00 for up to two (2) consecutive days."

"Signs shall be limited to two on-premise signs that do not exceed four square feet each in surface area. Signs must be staked and cannot be attached to utility poles, streetlight standards or other public facilities."

Please call Code Enforcement Officer, David Cadena at 735-9148, ext. 246 to acquire your garage sale permit or to ask questions about garage sales.

**Question:** I saw a City Truck speed down Gentleman Drive, doing at least 40 mph, with license plate no. xxxxxxxx!

**Answer:** The Police Department ran a license plate check on the vehicle you reported speeding. The truck was registered to the City of San Antonio. I have turned that information over to the San Antonio, City Manager, Terry Brechtel.

**Question:** When is the next brush pick-up day?

**Answer:** The week beginning with Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for our brush pick-up. Have all the items to be picked up out by this date, since the collection vehicles will pass down each street only once. The next pick-up date is November 15<sup>th</sup>, however the City Council has negotiated for an extra pick-up date in 2005. (4 pick-ups in 2005). These dates to be announced later.

## New Street Signs

The Citizens Street Repair Advisory Committee has recommended that the City Council replace all existing street signs with new signs that are distinctive to Balcones Heights. Colors being considered are Blue, Green, Purple, Brown, Yellow, Red and Orange. (with different colored lettering) If you have an opinion to share about Street Sign Colors call City Administrator, Lanny S. Lambert at 735-9148, ext. 227.

## House Condemnation

The City Council voted to condemn the structure at 219 Bobbies Lane as unsafe and dangerously dilapidated at their 6-14-04 City Council Meeting.

The Council has ordered that this home be condemned and torn-down as soon as possible to protect the neighborhood and children from danger of falling roofs, floor, broken glass, etc. Please call Code Enforcement, David Cadena, if you have any complaints regarding structures and code enforcement at 735-9148, ext. 246.

## Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Balcones Heights has 4 Hotel/Motels. These four establishments generate over \$225,000/year in Hotel/Motel tax receipts. These monies can only be spent advertising the City and for specific purposes authorized by State Law.

The City Council has established the first Convention and Visitors Bureau composed of seven appointees who are given the responsibility to create a long range marketing plan for the City and advise the City Council on expenditures of the Hotel/Motel tax.

Appointees to the Bureau are: Sarah Teel, Elizabeth Wells, Pamela Hodges, Nancy Jeffreys, Robert Cantu, Vacant, Vacant. If you have any desire to serve on this Bureau or if you have any recommendations to make, please call City Secretary, Delia Flores at 735-9148, ext. 236.

## Brush Pick Up for July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004

The second of three annual clean-ups is scheduled for the residential area in Balcones Heights for July 26<sup>th</sup>.

- July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup> (actual pick-up, Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>)
- No household hazardous waste. No appliances with Freon

All discarded items such as old furniture, hot water heaters, appliances, brush, etc. must be placed at curbside in front of the residence to be serviced no later than 7 a.m. on Monday of the actual pick-up. No brush should be put to the curb earlier than ten days prior to the pick-up. 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 the above cut-off date and time.

*(continued on next page)*

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## Balcones Heights

Business Alliance  
(210) 732-5736

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Elizabeth Wells  
Sarah Teel  
Cathy Oliver  
Rodney Carr

Board of Directors

Ana Rasmussen  
Mike Alcoses  
Nancy Jeffreys

Special Event Coordinator

Mel Villarreal

Membership Dues: \$10 per month or \$100 per year.

As always, we will run the same ads as follows:

|          |                 |                      |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| \$20.00: | 1 7/8" x 3 1/4" | 1 business card size |
| \$35.00: | 3 3/4" x 3 1/4" | 2 business card size |
|          | 1 7/8" x 6 5/8" |                      |
| \$50.00  | 5 3/4" x 3 1/4" | 3 business card size |

These ads must be submitted to the Alliance no later than the 20th of the month prior to publication. We are looking for a few volunteers to sell, design and draft new ads for the newsletter. Promote your business and your neighbors.

**\$1.00 off**  
Betca Dollar You'll Like Our

# BONANZA

Present this coupon to cashier and receive \$1.00 off Regular Price, your choice steak dinner. One coupon per customer. Not valid with other coupon, discount or lunch special. Valid only at BONANZA Family Steakhouse, 4515 Fredericksburg Road 210-732-3039

## Brush Pick Up for July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (continued)

The third pick-up is scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>. The City's refuse collection service, Waste Management, has agreed to provide four (4) pick-up days in 2005. Those dates will be announced soon. The second of three annual clean-ups is scheduled for the residential area in Balcones Heights for July 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Jazz Fest at the Mall

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Jazz Fest is scheduled for the Amphitheater at Crossroads Mall for Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup>, and August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

This annual event just gets better and bigger, according to Robert Townsend with the Crossroads Mall. The Mall reports that the 2003 Jazz Fest increased Food Court sales by 46% and that all Mall sales were up by 11%. The City of Balcones Heights is a Co-Sponsor for Jazz Fest by contributing \$15,000.00 from the Convention & Visitors Bureau fund. The exposure from advertising the Annual Jazz Fest benefits the entire City. The Jazz Fest participants this year are:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Band</u>       |
|-------------|-------------------|
| July 9      | Jon Barry Project |
| July 16     | Michael Ward      |
| July 23     | Joseph Vincelli   |
| July 30     | Fingerprints      |
| August 6    | Sergio Lara       |
| August 13   | The Brew          |

## Texsan Heart Hospital Offers HeartSaver CT

The HeartSaver CT is now available for appointments at Texsan Heart Hospital. Designed to produce vivid images of the heart and arteries, the HeartSaver CT detects calcium build-up in the arteries, often long before symptoms of blockage occur. It is a completely non-invasive health screening so a doctor's referral is not required. There are no needles, dyes or injections. Three EKG electrodes are attached to the patient who lies on a table that moves slowly through an open scanner. The test takes less than seven minutes. Any calcium present is measured and scored with special cardiac scoring software. Patients can review the results with their doctor and take preventative steps to reduce the risk of further heart disease.

Patients can schedule their appointment by calling 210/736-8494 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The HeartSaver CT is offered to the community for a self-pay cost of \$49.95.

## Interview with Suzanne de Leon

When you first heard that Suzanne de Leon was new on the City Council, you probably asked, "who's she and where did she come from?" I've lived in Balcones Heights with my husband, Robert, for the past 17 years. Last year when I campaigned for City Council I had the opportunity to meet a lot of you and you shared the good things you like about Balcones Heights as well as your ideas for making it a better place to live.

My goal is to help create a close sense of community between the residents, businesses, police and fire departments, mayor, council and the employees of Balcones Heights. Our community has so much potential, but we also have work to do to decrease criminal activity, improve our streets and parks, and assure that we remain solvent for years to come. I ask that you too get involved. Volunteer for the Planning and Zoning Committee or the Street Committee. Run for City Council or come to the meetings and let your voices be heard or simply tell me your concerns and I will express them for you. We want your input to help Balcones Heights grow and prosper and be a safe, clean, comfortable and affordable place to live and raise our children and grandchildren. During my term I will be calling on you for your ideas, assistance and involvement.

If you would like to meet with me I welcome the opportunity. Please call me at 735-9148, ext. 274 or email me at [sdeleon@balconesheights.org](mailto:sdeleon@balconesheights.org). I would also like your input about forming a Neighborhood Association. It's a big job but by identifying our priorities and setting realistic goals, it would be a good way to stay involved and improve our City.

## Help! There's An Opossum In My Yard! By Dan Antrobius

Count yourself lucky! You have a living "fossil" in your yard. Opossums, North America's only marsupial, have been around for over 70 million years. Many people think of opossums as pests and dangerous to have around, but nothing could be farther from the truth. *Didelphis marsupialis*, the opossum or possum, is one of nature's most beneficial creatures known to exist. Opossums are known to eat rats, mice, cockroaches, insects, and poisonous snakes. They are resistant to rabies and immune to rattlesnake venom. These nocturnal animals enjoy minding their own business while cleaning up our yards, quietly foraging while we sleep. Contrary to popular belief, the opossum is not related to the rat. It is a marsupial raising its young in a pouch like the kangaroo. Granted, opossums won't win any beauty contests, but who cares? They provide a free cleaning service, saving us from hiring an exterminator, and eliminating the need for harmful chemicals, pesticides, and traps. Many blame the opossum for overturned trash cans and for digging holes in their yards. Not so! The opossum has soft fleshy paws somewhat like human hands and finds digging painful if not difficult to do. As to overturned trash cans, it's more likely the work of stray dogs or raccoons rather than the opossum. Just a final word, if you have a opossum in your yard do not try to befriend it as you would a cat or dog. Remember, it is a wild animal and it's easily frightened and could bite you in self defense thinking you are a predator. For further information on opossums: Go to the San Antonio Public Library or log onto [www.opossum.org](http://www.opossum.org)



**August 3, 2004**

## National Night Out

This year is the 21st National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3, 2004. We need to give Neighborhood Crime and Drugs a going away party. We want to have more block parties this year than ever. Anyone interested in sponsoring a party or combining your blocks, please call Betty Bryant @ 732-6857.

This year the National Association of Town Watch is working closely with NASA and it's International Space Station Cruise, as they plan to deliver a message to neighborhoods across the USA who are participating. We will learn later if we will be able to see the ISS during our event on August 3, 2004.

## **Balcones Heights Business Alliance Membership Meeting**

The July 2004 Membership Meeting for the Balcones Heights Business Alliance will be held at Crossroad Mall meeting room on July 14, 2004 at noon. Featured discussions will include the City Council meeting from July 12th, as well as focus on the Jazz Fest, new businesses and upcoming business events in our city. For further information, please contact Lynn Calkin at 857-9571, Elizabeth Well at 737-6086 or Mel Villarreal at 229-1800.

## **Community Arts Network to Host Business Breakfast**

Balcones Heights businesses are invited to a free breakfast on July 13th at 9:30 am in the food court by Bijou Theater at Crossroads Mall to discuss how to bring more business to your company. For further information, please contact Victor Galvan at 366-ICAN (366-4226).

## **Bright Now! Dental Inc. Announces Completion of the Acquisition of Castle Dental Centers Inc.**

*On June 14, 2004,* Bright Now! Dental Inc. and Castle Dental Centers Inc. (OTCBB:CASL) today announced that Bright Now! Dental Inc. has completed the acquisition of Houston, Texas-based Castle Dental. Castle Dental was a portfolio company majority owned by an affiliate of Sentinel Capital Partners LLC and was advised on the transaction by Sheffield Merchant Banking Group. Bright Now's majority shareholder is Gryphon Investors Inc., a leading middle-market private equity firm. Castle Dental is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Bright Now! Dental Inc.

"We've united two strong organizations, each with significant capabilities, into one outstanding company," said Steven C. Bilt, president and chief executive officer of Bright Now. "Castle is an important addition to the Bright Now family – our already extensive national presence is expanded to nearly 300 offices in 19 states. By joining our sector's two strongest business process support companies, I anticipate that our new entity will be even more effective in providing these critical services." Bilt looks forward to leveraging these capabilities to further enhance the effectiveness of the combined company's talented field operating teams. "Together, we'll advance our mission of helping dentists to operate their practices with a heightened focus on excellent patient care," he said.



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## July 2004 Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thur | Fri                                  | Sat |
|-----|---|--|---|------|--------------------------------------|-----|
|     |   |  |   | 1    | 2                                    | 3   |
| 4   | 5<br>Holiday<br> | 6<br>Joint Workshop:<br>City Council,<br>Planning & Zoning<br>& Fact Finding<br>Committee<br>6:00 p.m. Justice<br>Center | 7   | 8    | 9<br>Jazz Fest @<br>Crossroads Mall  | 10  |
| 11  | 12<br>City Council<br>Meeting<br>6:00 p.m.<br>Justice Center  | 13<br>9:00 a.m.<br>Business<br>Breakfast<br>Community Arts<br>Network @<br>Crossroads Mall                               | 14<br>Business Alliance<br>Meeting @<br>Crossroads Mall<br>12:00 noon | 15   | 16<br>Jazz Fest @<br>Crossroads Mall | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20   | 21  | 22   | 23<br>Jazz Fest @<br>Crossroads Mall | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27   | 28  | 29   | 30<br>Jazz Fest @<br>Crossroads Mall | 31  |