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City of Balcones Heights

April, 2004

www.balconesheights.org

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Petition drive results in possible Fall special election VIA's fate in the hands of voters

The Council will most likely call a special election in the Fall, probably September 11th, to decide the fate of VIA in Balcones Heights. According to Frank Garza, City Attorney, the procedure is a four step procedure.

- City Secretary must examine the petition and file with the City Council a report stating whether the petition is valid.
- The Council will review the report and examine the petition to determine if it is valid. Council may hold public hearings or order investigations to assist in making the determination on validity.
- Council can determine the petition invalid and reject it or order an election. The election must be 90

days after the call of the election on the next election cycle which is September 11th.

- Council must notify VIA, TxDot and State Comptroller.

According to Delia Flores, City Secretary, who was tasked by law to validate the petition, "the number of signatures on the petition was more than the law required and the petition is valid."

The petition was turned in by resident Edna Moellering.

Moellering and others knocked on doors and gathered the necessary signatures. The required number by law was 10 percent of the total number of registered voters in Balcones Heights.

City Administrator

Lanny Lambert

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

Sample Ballot

May 15th

Council election

Mayor

- Steve Walker
- Jim Craven

Cass & De Leon face no opposition

Place 1 & 2 Council candidates, Bennie Cass and Suzanne de Leon are unopposed.

Cass, a two term incumbent says, "it is a good feeling to know that I am unopposed. I like to think it is because voters think I am doing a good job."

De Leon who narrowly lost a Council race last year says, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve the City"

The Art of Fitness

By Rosa Mall

The Art of Fitness newspaper has been in existence since April, 2002.

As the editor of the paper, I offer each one of the Balcones Heights Councilmen space in

our publication to address issues as they see fit to inform the public about happenings in the City.

Our staff will cover the event and publicize it in our

publication.

For more information, contact Rosa or Gary Mall at 735-2465.

The websites are:
www.pumpupthevolume.us, or
www.folklorico.net.

Council approves committee appointments

The City Council unanimously voted to approve Mayor Jim Craven's appointment to the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Longtime resident Beryl

agreed to serve the unexpired term on the P&Z.

The Council also approved the Mayor's appointment to the Street Maintenance Committee.

Also a longtime resident, Phoebe Hardy agreed to serve an unexpired term on the Street Maintenance Committee.

Temporary signs ordinance approved

A temporary signs ordinance was approved by the Council at the March 8th monthly meeting.

Provisions include requiring a permit to display a temporary sign. Construction signs and development signs are specifically addressed in the ordinance as to height and width.

Banners, flags, decorative fringe or tinsel, pennants and balloons shall now be allowed as

detached signs, provided that a permit is obtained from the City. Such permit shall allow a maximum single-use period of 30 days.

All signs must be safely and securely attached to the building walls or other permanent structures, such as columns or light posts, where permitted.

The City and/or nonprofit organizations may erect banners across collector roadways.

Council approves \$500 salary adjustment for all City employees

City Council unanimously approved a \$500 salary adjustment for all employees not under the collective bargaining contract with the Police Officer's Association.

Under two separate agenda items, Council voted to amend the City budget to authorize a one-time compensation for the regular full-time firefighters and a one-time compensation for administrative personnel not covered by contract.

According to Councilman Bennie Cass, "since we weren't able to offer more to the firefighters

during last year's budget process, it was only right that we provide a one-time compensation now, since our revenues are beginning to increase."

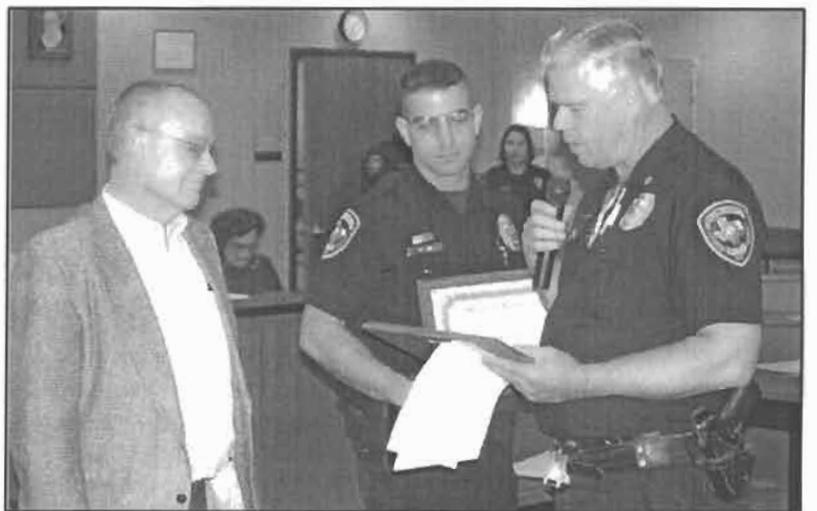
Councilman Steve Walker echoed Cass's sentiment by requesting the adjustment for the other personnel as well.

Councilwoman Lucille Wohlfarth said, "our employees work very hard and deserve any increase we can give them."

Councilwoman Melissa Castro added, "we need to take care of our employees."



L to R: New Police Officers Sal Ononfre and Leticia Chacon were introduced to the citizens at the March 8th Council meeting. Councilman Bennie Cass helps plant new trees at the Justice Center.



L to R: Holly DeNeergard accepts a certificate for her and husband, Pete, for helping plan and landscape 20 trees around the Justice Center. Mayor Jim Craven shows off a poster presented to the Council from El Marco Apartments students who thanked the Council for helping them secure a school bus to Arnold Elementary for the remainder of the school year. SAISD re-instituted the bus after Council offered to fund the bus out of VIA escrow monies.

Police Chief Ken Menn presents certificates of appreciation to Police Officers Bob North and Richard Bryan for their bravery in rescuing two young children from a burning apartment fire. Photos by Special Investigator Lee Powers.



L to R: Gloria Cantu, Firefighters Brock Ward, Bret Mainz, Chief Ben Hoeffner, Mike Saldivar and Oscar Reyna.

Racial Profiling Report for Balcones Heights

by Police Chief Ken Menn

Not one single complaint or report of racial profiling was filed with the Balcones Heights Police Department during 2003. This is evidence that our officers do no engage in racial profiling.

Racial profiling is defined as "initiating acts using racial or ethnic stereotypes as factors in selecting persons to be stopped, searched, or investigated, are prohibited."

On any tickets issued to violators in the City, police officers hand out a public notice form.

The form states that, "the Balcones Heights Police Department encourages any person who

feels that he/she has been the victim of 'racial profiling,' by a Balcones Heights Police Officer, to bring the matter to the attention of the Balcones Heights Police Department and register the proper complaint."

As of January 1, 2002, all Texas Law Enforcement agencies are required to collect and maintain data concerning Officer-initiated contacts with the public, both vehicular and pedestrian in origin. The new law is entitled "Art 2.132 Law Enforcement Policy.



Business Profile: Wheel & Tire Outlet

Wheel and Tire Outlet, located at 4515 Fredericksburg Road is open for business, says owner Jack Lastor.

Lastor, a native of Houston, opened the Balcones Heights location, March 1st. According to the business man this is the second store he has opened. His first store opened in Austin in 1994.

James Hemby, store manager, says, "once we put up our sign that is on back order, we will have

an official grand opening."

Lastor's business offers performance wheel and tires. His prices range from \$1,500 for a 26" wheel to \$6,000 for a fully loaded hummer.

Lastor points out that his specialty items are made in a plant in Hong Kong, China.

According to Hemby, the Wheel and Tire Outlet is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday.



Ask the Administrator By Lanny Lambert

Q: Can I let my dog out at night to run around? **A:** No, Title 9, Chapter 90. says, "It shall be unlawful for the owner or person in possession or control thereof to permit or allow any dog or cat to run at large within the City." Title 9, Chapter 90.31D says, "dogs not under constant control of their owners by means of a leash strong and sufficient enough to control their actions when outside of their normal primary enclosure may be impounded by the City Animal Warden or City police officer." Title 9, Chapter 90.99 states, "acts of omission denounced herein above as unlawful and or denounced as or violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine or not less than \$25 nor more than \$2,000, plus costs, upon conviction in the municipal court." (Direct complaints to Lanny Lambert at 735-9148, Ext. 227.)

Convention & Mall Calendar for April

(cc) Convention Center (M) Mall (A) Amphitheatre

(M) AARP tax assistance.....	7, 14
(A) Passion Play.....	10, 11
(CC) Express News New Home Buyers Conf.....	10
(M) Primary runoff.....	13
(CC) ChimaeraCon.....	16, 17, 18
(CC) UTSA Art Students Display.....	18
(CC) Senior Fiesta.....with El Rey Feo.....	21
(CC) Spring Fashion Show/Larry Nelson modeling.....	24

Second brush pickup for 2004-July 26th

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

- July 19th through July 23rd (actual pick-up, Monday, July 26th)
- 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 pickup.**

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

The third pickup is scheduled for November 15th.

City gets new website: www.balconesheights.org

The City of Balcones Heights has a new website. @Networks is the computer business contracted to host the site. The website features a home page with background on the City, pages for Crime Control, Planning & Zoning, a Convention page with a calendar of events, a Council page with information on current Council members, an employment page, business page and links to St. Gregory's school, the Balcones Heights Police website, AACOG and TexSan Hospital.

Early Voting to begin April 28th

Early voting for the May 2004 City Council election, begins April 28th and runs through Monday, May 11th.

Voting hours are from 8-4:30 p.m. until May 4th and May 5th –May 11th, hours are from 9-6.m. Saturday, May 15th voters will go to the polls

to elect a Mayor. Voting hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Balcones Heights Justice Center, located at 3300 Hillcrest.

For more information on early voting and mail in ballots, contact City Secretary Delia Flores at 735-9148, Ext. 236.

Business Alliance news

By Lynn Calkin

The Business Alliance will host its monthly business meeting and luncheon at noon, April 7th at Grady's Barbecue, located at 4109 Fredericksburg Road.

For more information contact me at 732-5736.

The Balcones Heights Newsletter is the official publication of the City of Balcones Heights. Articles must be submitted to Editor Steve Walker before the 25th day of the month. For more information, call City Administrator Lanny Lambert at 735-9148, at Ext. 227.

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City Roster

City Administrator.....	Lanny Lambert.....	Ext. 227
City Secretary.....	Delia Flores.....	Ext. 236
Municipal Court Clerk.....	Yvonne Baez.....	Ext. 223
Asst. Court Clerk.....	Michelle Garcia.....	Ext. 224
Police Chief.....	Kenneth Menn.....	Ext. 237
Ast. Police Chief.....	Robert de laGarza.....	Ext. 238
Police Secretary.....	Gracie Lerma.....	Ext. 222
Detective Sgt.....	Joyce Pena.....	Ext. 232
Special Investigator.....	Lee Powers.....	Ext. 240
Dispatcher.....		Ext. 225
Financial Officer.....	JoAnn Vidal.....	Ext. 244
Mayor.....	Jim Craven.....	Ext. 235
Fire Chief.....	Ben Hoeffner.....	Ext. 241
Balcones Heights Justice Center.....		735-9148

Upcoming events in Balcones Heights

- Regularly scheduled Council meetings held the 2nd Monday each month at 6 p. m. at the Justice Center located at the corner of Hillcrest (3300 block) and Gentlemen Road. All citizens are invited to attend the meetings on the first floor in the courtroom.
- Senior Citizen's Dinner will be held the 4th Thursday of the month at the Community Center, located at 107 Glenarm Ave. at 6 p.m. For more information, call Edna Moel-lering at 733-8718.
- Early voting/Justice Center, April 28th-May 4th, hours from 8 a.m.-4:30 pm. and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. from May 5th -May 11th.