

OCTOBER 2004

City of Balcones Heights

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

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Jim Craven



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Dear Friends,

The hot months of summer are nearly over, and I'd like to take some time to update everyone on a few issues of the past few months. Fiscal year 2004 will finish on September 30th, and fiscal year 2005 will begin the next day, October 1.

With the budget adopted on September 20, we will end the year in better financial shape than last year: the 2nd year in a row. We will be able to give our employees a modest raise, sign a multi-year contract with the police union, and put a few more days' expenses into the city's savings. We cannot truly predict the impact that highway construction in our area will have, so we are planning conservatively.

The Diamond Shamrock store at the corner of Fredericksburg Rd and Spencer Lane will soon be demolished to make way for a new, more efficient Diamond Shamrock. The intersection on the Spencer Lane side will be rebuilt at the same time. Soon, contracts will be let to provide ADA access ramps at our street corners. As time passes, projects like this will make our streets safer for all our pedestrians.

The new purple street signs were received recently. David Castro is busily installing them. The Highway Department has agreed to provide new poles for those signs installed along Fredericksburg Road. We have been frustrated by the lack of interest on the part of contractors to bid on work to be done at Rogiers Park, but we are hopeful that, by the time this article goes to press, bids to replace our ancient playground equipment with colorful, safe, new equipment will have been submitted.

As you know, Crossroads Mall has been actively signing more events to be held at the mall. Recently, the Elf Louise Christmas project came on board, bringing additional foot traffic and volunteers to the mall during the holiday season.

(continued on next page)



Message from the Mayor (continued)



Our abiding, long-term vision for the city is to make our streets safer. I personally believe that safer streets will help spawn better quality development, which, in turn, will pay for improved streets, parks, etc. The police department has redoubled efforts to enforce traffic laws. A heavy court schedule the past two months indicates they are being very successful. The new radar trailer has also helped reduce the number of speeding vehicles, and provides computerized documentation that will help the police target the worst streets.

I want to personally thank each of you who serve on the various boards and commissions. It takes time and dedication to do so; and the results are just now beginning to be seen. None of the above-listed projects could take place without many, often boring meetings. But the results will far outweigh the inconveniences we endure. One final note: This month saw the anniversary of the attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. When you meet our police and fire personnel on the street, take a moment to thank them. They are truly working hard on our behalf. They are patrolling more often. During the night, they are using spotlights much more. Our equipment is better than it has been in years. Our fire department is responding to more calls than ever before; the department is very busy. They attend classes to continually improve their skills. They pitch in to mow and paint. They conduct business premises safety inspections. I could go on and on...

We have great people working for our fine little city, and I'm proud to know and work with them all. I believe we have the most peaceful, productive city council and staff one could wish for. God bless each of you, Jim Craven.



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**

Balcones Heights Justice Center

735-9148

City Roster

Mayor Jim Craven	x235	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
Director of Tourism	Lorenzo Nastasi	x230			



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ELECTION RESULTS

BALCONES HEIGHTS VOTERS HAVE SPOKEN!



VIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT will continue to operate in the City of Balcones Heights.

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

FOR: 227 AGAINST: 49

Proposition Two The Adoption of a Section 4B Sales and Use Tax at the rate of one-half of one percent to undertake any and all eligible projects as described in Section 4B of Article 5190.6 and the maintenance and operations expenses for any of the above described projects.

FOR: 164 AGAINST: 80

Since the majority of citizens of Balcones Heights voted "FOR" continuation in VIA Metropolitan District and the majority of citizens of Balcones Heights voted "FOR" the adoption of a Section 4B Sales and Use Tax, the adoption of the 4B Sales and Use Tax shall **NOT** take effect because it would result in a combined local sales tax rate greater than the 2 percent allowed by Article 5190.6, Section 4B(a)(1).

PERFORMANCE ARTS CONTEST

Crossroads Mall Community Arts Network Offers \$25,000 In Cash & Prizes

If you have family members or friends with talent, mark your calendar for The Community Arts Network (CAN) Talent Showcases at 8:00 p.m., October 30 at the Crossroads Mall Amphitheatre.



Sponsored by LULAC, the program offers \$25,000 in cash and prizes to the top finalists in the contest's six categories, including dance, video, vocals, musical group, and original song and modeling. The contest is open to elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as colleges, community organizations and church artists in the area.

For more information: 210.366.4226 or www.communityartsnetwork.com

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE RATE INCREASE



THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND THE SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM (SAWS) HAVE ANNOUNCED A PROPOSED INCREASE OF UP TO 21% TO WHOLESALE WATER AND WHOLESALE SEWER RATES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 1, 2004. BECAUSE BALCONES HEIGHTS IS A PART OF THE SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM (SAWS) REGIONAL SEWER SYSTEM, THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALCONES HEIGHTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO INCREASE SEWER SERVICE FEES TO BALCONES HEIGHTS CUSTOMERS ACCORDINGLY. THE PROPOSED RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>CURRENT RATE</u>	<u>PROPOSED RATE</u>
<u>Residential</u>		
0 to 2992 Gallons	\$ 9.37/Minimum	\$ 11.34/Minimum
over 2992 Gallons	0.2092/100 Gallons	0.2531/100 Gallons
<u>Un-averaged Residential</u>		
Flat Rate	\$ 19.84/Month	\$ 24.00/Month
<u>Un-metered Residential</u>		
Flat Rate	\$ 19.84/Month	\$ 24.00/Month
<u>Commercial Service</u>		
0 to 2992 Gallons	\$ 9.37/Minimum	\$ 11.34/Minimum
2993–22,443 Gallons	0.2187/100 Gallons	0.2646/100 Gallons
over 22,443 Gallons	0.2090/100 Gallons	0.2529/100 Gallons

Balcones Heights Fire Department

The "B" Shift visited the TexSan Heart Hospital this month and had their hearts checked. Fire Chief Ben Hoeffner also had his heart checked. A report was then sent to each of those having the exam. What wonderful people to work with at the Heart Hospital. The "C" Shift will be having their test on September 28th. A very big thank you to the Heart Hospital and to Mr. Danny Garcia.



Captains Rick Wall, Don Stephens and Firefighter Josh Downes attended a High Rise National Fire Academy class at the Castle Hills Fire Department. Very good information was passed on.



2004 Officers

President- Elizabeth Wells

Vice President- Sarah Teel

Secretary- Cathy Oliver

Treasurer- Rodney Carr

Board of Directors

Ana Rasmussen

Mike Alcoces

Lynn Calkin

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance is proud to announce the addition of new ad sizes to better serve the needs of the business community. Please see the following pages for ad sizes and prices, as well as the invoice/ad form needed for each ad. We are happy welcome Sal Mendez as one of the designers for the new ads.

The New Resident Welcome Packets were well received by our test properties of the apartment complexes, so we will include the rest of the complexes in the October edition. We are looking forward to working with the managers and leasing agents in the future. Businesses that wish to include flyers, brochures, coupons, business cards, gifts for the new residents, etc are invited to contact Lynn Calkin from A-AAKey Mini Storage at 857-9571, Tiffany Gailan from Career Point at 669-5721, or Elizabeth Wells from SpringHill Suites by Marriott at 737-6086. Join the participating businesses each month in a hearty "Hello" to the estimated 100 new residents who make our community their new home.

The October 2004 meeting will be held at SpringHill Suites on October 13. The meeting will start at noon. All businesses are invited to bring your ideas for helping our city grow to be the crossroads of the San Antonio business environment. Please RSVP to Mel Villarreal from San Antonio City Employee Federal Credit Union at 229-1800 or Ana Rasmussen from Dave & Buster's at 515-1515. Among other agenda items, we will concentrate on nominations for officers to guide us through the 2005 calendar year. Managers and business associates wanting to work with the business community, the city, our city's residents and the Alliance should attend this meeting. Elections will be in November and installations in December.

Many businesses have contributed to the success of the Business Alliance including Career Point Institute, Crossroads Mall, Bonanza Family Steak House, A-AAKey Mini Storage, Dave & Buster's, SpringHill Suites, Mazda, San Antonio City Employee Federal Credit Union, the City of Balcones Heights, the Balcones Police Department, the Balcones Heights Fire Department, Monarch Dental, Anne's Old-Fashioned Ice Cream, Christian Caring, Curves of Balcones Heights, Target, TexSan Heart Hospital, LensCrafters, Veronica's, Audrey's Jewelry, Mom's House Cleaning, Make Your Point, Siesta Inn & Suites, Wonder Plaza Management, Pam Hodges, the newly formed Convention/Visitor's Bureau--JUST TO NAME A FEW!!!! We are excited to welcome new members who continue to join us as we work toward a stable economic foundation for our city.

The Balcones Heights Business Alliance is proud to recognize the printer of the Balcones Heights Newsletter:

The logo for Printing Services features a large, stylized letter 'P' inside a circle, with a horizontal line passing through the center of the circle. To the right of the 'P', the word "PRINTING" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "services" is written below it in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

210.386.7131
dpoor2@satx.rr.com
San Antonio, TX 78201

1730 W. Kings Hwy



Sizes & Prices		
#1	\$20.00	2" x 3 3/4"
#2	\$35.00	4" x 3 3/4"
#3	\$50.00	6" x 3 3/4"
#4	\$35.00	2" x 8"
#5	\$75.00	6" x 8"
#6	\$65.00	4" x 8"
#7	\$85.00	8" x 8"
#8	\$100.00	10 1/4" x 8"

Sizes are approximate

PAY 12 months in advance, get 1 month free

Businesses interested in advertising in the Balcones Heights Newsletter, please fill out the information below. Forward this information, a drawing or camera ready art work, along with payment to:

Lynn Calkin, BHBA, 6604 I H 10 W, Balcones Heights, TX 78201.

Or, call Lynn at 857-9571.

Business Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Website _____ e-mail _____

Logo available on internet? YES NO Website _____

Graphics program used _____

Camera Ready Art attached? YES NO *Return to customer? YES NO

Artwork on back of this page? YES NO **Proof Required? YES NO

of Coupons in ad? _____

Amount of discount in coupon 1 _____ Expiration date _____

Amount of discount in coupon 2 _____ Expiration date _____

Amount of discount in coupon 3 _____ Expiration date _____

Additional Comments _____

I agree to the accuracy of the above information.

Customer Signature _____

Date Signed _____

*Please include a SASE with ad order.

**Ads requiring a proof must be submitted to the Alliance no later than the 10th of the month prior to publication. No proof will be available after the 15th.

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

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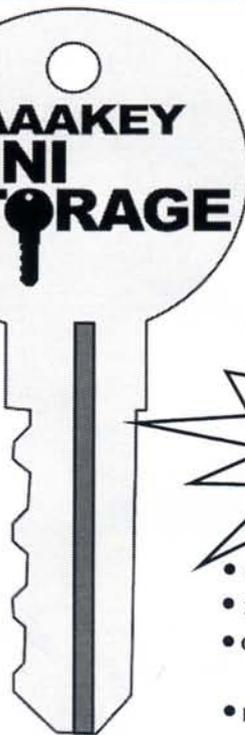
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TOURISM DIRECTOR APPOINTED

The City of Balcones Heights has hired Lorenzo Nastasi as Director of Tourism to boost the incorporated city's profile as a destination offering convenient and competitive lodging and shopping options. City Administrator Lanny Lambert, who worked in tandem with the city's newly created Convention and Visitors Bureau, says the creation of this position and the hiring of Nastasi is indicative of the pro-active stance city leaders are taking to showcase the city as a gateway to San Antonio and capitalize on Balcones Heights' strategic location at the crossroads of San Antonio.

"This is a big step forward for our city," explained Lambert. "The creation of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and dedicating a full-time city employee to increasing tourism and economic development is a logical and sound investment of the city's hotel occupancy tax." Nastasi, whose career in marketing, media, and public relations spans more than 20 years, sees his role as more than a good-will ambassador for the city. "Balcones Heights has a rich history and an exciting future as a major portal into San Antonio. There is a direct connection between increased tourism and commercial success, increased job opportunities, and maintaining the unique civic pride that is deeply rooted in this community," Nastasi said.

Nastasi, who began working for the city August 16, says that planning has begun to develop a multi-media marketing, public relations, and advertising campaign to promote Balcones Heights and what it offers to visitors to San Antonio as well as the metropolitan area's residents. Particularly exciting, according to Nastasi, is the new conference center at Crossroads of San Antonio. The conference center, located on the lower level of the former Montgomery Ward Department Store, will be constructed and operated through a contract with Norris Conference Centers. Norris operates conference centers in Houston, Austin and Corpus Christi.

"The new conference center and ballroom , coupled with the existing hotel, retail, dining and entertainment options that are literally within walking distance of it, uniquely positions it. Close-at-hand convenience, coupled with ready access to the airport, the medical center, downtown, and other major tourist attractions, makes this unlike any other facility of its kind."

Balcones Heights Fire Department Summary



<u>Incident</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
Sick Person Calls	29
Injured Person Calls	15
Automobile Accidents w/injuries	4
MVA/Ped	0
Fuel Spills	2
False Calls	5
Mutual Aid	4
Public Assistance	3
Fire Calls	5

TOTAL
CALLS FOR
AUGUST

64



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October 2004 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Planning and Zoning 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Regular City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Justice Center	12	13 Business Alliance 12:00 noon Springhill Suites/ Marriot	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Crime Watch 7:00 p.m. Civic Center	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Senior Citizens Dinner 6:00 p.m. Civic Center	29	30
31						