



SEPTEMBER 2004

City of Balcones Heights

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

Inside this issue:

VOTE SEPTEMBER 11th	2
City Officials	2
Community News	3
Household Hazardous Waste Collection	4
Balcones Heights Business Alliance	7
Special Election	7
Fire House News	8
Early Voting Information	9

VOTE SEPTEMBER 11th!

The decision is up to you - the Citizens of Balcones Heights.

Question? Does Balcones Heights continue to be a member of VIA or do we get out and operate solo?

Election The City Council has called an election for September 11th to consider remaining in VIA. A petition signed by 188 registered voters in Balcones Heights was presented to the City Council at their Council Meeting on April 12, 2004 requesting the election.

History In 2000, the City budget fell by over \$400,000 with the loss of Montgomery Wards' sales tax and H.Q. Home Improvement Center. Over 17 jobs and other cuts were eliminated in the City Budget in order to reduce operating costs.

City Council asked the State Comptroller's Office to examine the City's books and make recommendations on spending cuts and new sources of revenue.

Among many other recommendations, the State Comptroller suggested that the City look at withdrawing from VIA, and create an Economic Development Corporation with the money (about the same amount as lost in 2000).

The City Council called the public hearings on January 26th and February 2nd, 2004 to solicit public comment regarding VIA. After many hours of testimony, the City Council concluded that they would not initiate an election to consider withdrawal from VIA. However, as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, a legal petition requesting the election was submitted and certified on April 12th, causing the Council to call the election.

(continued on next page)



September 11, 2004

Vote September 11th (continued)

VIA Facts VIA runs bus service on Fredericksburg Road and on Babcock Road, operates the Park and Ride at Crossroads Mall, and provides through VIAtrans Paratransit Service, transportation to disabled Balcones Heights citizens.

According to VIA:

- 846,000 people board a VIA bus in Balcones Heights – annually (2700/weekday)
- 789,000 people a light a VIA bus in 2003. (2500/weekday)
- 29 disabled citizens from Balcones Heights used VIAtrans Paratransit Service 3,529 times in 2004.
- VIA Trans ride (Handicap Access) costs 1.00/trip
- VIA receives funding from Balcones Heights by collecting a ½ cent sales tax
- VIA collected \$498,000 from Balcones Heights in Fiscal Year 2002/2003
- VIA tells us that if Balcones Heights “opts out” on September 11th, bus service (except Park & Ride,) and VIA Trans service will stop on September 12th.
- Hollywood Par, Windcrest, and Helotes have each voted to “opt out” of VIA.
- Selma has put the issue on its ballot.
- Several federal funding mechanisms are tied to VIA and will become unavailable to Balcones Heights if withdrawn for VIA.



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



Layout & Design by: **MAKE YOUR POINT Graphic Design Studio**
 3010 Hillcrest Drive, Ste. B, San Antonio, TX 78201 phone: 210-732-9800

www.mypdesigns.com

VOTE SEPTEMBER 11, 2004 (continued)

- Informal surveys returned by 41% of the Crossroads Mall merchants showed that at least 113 employees ride VIA to and from work.
- Crossroads Mall has 54 of the 235 Businesses in Balcones Heights
- VIA collected \$491,606 in sales tax in 2003 in Balcones Heights and spent \$755,861.00.
- VIA will provide \$433,517 to the City of Balcones Heights in 2004 for the renovation of streets and areas in the city where VIA buses or VIAtrans Paratransit Service vans drive.

What if the voters of Balcones Heights vote to withdraw from VIA? How would our transportation needs be met? Following is a list of options:

Problems	Solutions
1. Bus service for citizens and business employees within the city limits.	1. City initiates a bus service, circling the City every 15 minutes and connecting to VIA bus stops and Park & Ride. Estimated cost: 1 Van & 2 Drivers = \$150,000 – 200,000/year or hire a contract bus company to provide service
2. Bus service for Balcones Heights citizens and visitors with disabilities	2. Contract with Warm Springs Rehabilitation to provide service – paid for by users and federal grant money. Estimated cost-\$20,000-60,000/year or hire a contract bus company to provide service
3. VIA tax would <u>not</u> go into the General Fund if we withdrew from VIA	3. Create a 4/B Corporation (see propositions) Corporation could be used to build parks, streets, drainage, decorative street lights and banners, enhance landscaping along Fredericksburg Rd., create a Senior Center, fire station, City Hall, etc. <u>and</u> supply cash incentives for businesses to locate in Balcones Heights, etc.
4. Potential loss of Park & Ride	4. Park & Ride benefits the region, Balcones Heights cannot replace this service and facility. VIA list this property for sale in 2002 and tells us they will move it soon.
5. Negative image of VIA loss	5. City will market positive aspects of all it offers.

VOTE SEPTEMBER 11, 2004 (continued)
The choice is YOURS! Please vote 9-11-04

**Early Voting: Balcones Heights Justice Center
 3300 Hillcrest Drive**

August 25 – September 1, 2004

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

September 2 – September 7, 2004

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

VIA STUDY COMMITTEE

The Mayor and City Council appointed a 9 member Study Committee to look at the potential loss of VIA.

Committee members were: George Monsive, George Moellering, Lynn Calkin, Beryl Jones, Damon Masen, Sal Mendez, Fred Jones, Albert Solis, and Pamela Hodges, Chairman.

The Committee reports: "Based on the findings of the committee, without the benefit of federal funds it is not economically feasible for the City of Balcones Heights to provide alternative public transportation. Further, public transportation is essential to the economic viability of Balcones Heights and has a multiplier effect beneficial to residents and businesses."

The complete report is posted on the City's webpage at: www.balconesheights.org and available at City Hall. Call City Secretary, Delia Flores, to look at this report, at 735-9148.

RESIDENTS OF BEXAR COUNTY!
FREE HOME PICKUP PROGRAM FOR HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE CALL 800-449-7587 CALL AT LEAST
ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE FOR PICK UP

(The way this operates is that after they get a number of calls for a certain location they set a date for pick-up. they will only pick up the household hazardous waste of those persons who have called in.)

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 9



Community News



Quality, Affordable Family Dental Care

- General, cosmetic, and specialty care
- Most insurance plans accepted
- Financing available
- Children always welcome
- Saturday appointments available
- Hablamos Español
- Braces (orthodontics)
- Teeth whitening

\$39 Exam, X-Rays, and Cleaning
(Reg. \$150)
 Cash patients. New patients only. Limited offer - expires 7-31-04.

50% OFF Orthodontic Records
(Reg. \$250)
FREE Consultation
New orthodontic patients only. Limited offer - expires 7-31-04.

4400 Fredericksburg Rd. **(210) 734-9551**
 Suite 103



1-800-MONARCH
 (1-800-666-2724)

Monarch Dental is part of the Bright Now! Dental Inc. family.

www.monarchdental.com



© 2003 Bright Now! Dental, Inc. BND163 rev 081103

Modern Dental Professionals, P.C. / Roy Smith, D.D.S.

Classified Advertising Information:

\$20 per month	1 7/8" x 3 1/4"
\$35 per month	3 3/4" x 3 1/4"
	1 7/8" x 6 5/8"
\$50 per month	5 3/4" x 3 1/4"

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. Please call Lynn Calkin @ 732-5736.



MAKE YOUR POINT
 A FULL-SERVICE GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIO

Make Your Point offers affordable marketing solutions and creative design concepts to help facilitate better business communications.

We can develop products and packages to fit your needs and budget.

- Ⓢ Logo Development
- Ⓢ Brochures
- Ⓢ Newsletters
- Ⓢ Business Cards
- Ⓢ Direct Mail
- Ⓢ Special Event Invitations
- Ⓢ Business Presentations
- Ⓢ Display Ads
- Ⓢ On-Hold Messages

Give us a call today at 732-9800 and take advantage of these great specials.

Small Business Essentials Package \$399+ tax (reg. \$599) <small>(Logo Development, Business Cards Stationary & (1) Direct Mail Card)</small>	Custom-Designed Business Card \$59+tax (reg. \$85)	Custom-Designed Brochure \$249+tax (reg. \$289)
---	---	--

3010 Hillcrest Drive, Ste. B. Phone: 210-859-4615

www.mypdesigns.com

Expires: 9/25/04

At the heart of what's happening

- Burlington
- Super Target
- Steinmart
- Factory 2 U
- Hobby Lobby
- Dave & Busters
- Bath and Body
- Famous Footwear
- Joanne Fabrics
- Santikos Bijou
- Payless



(210) 735-9137

Permanent, Temporary, Event Space Available

Convention Center • Amphitheater • Retail Shops

Balcones Heights Business Alliance

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Elizabeth Wells
 Sarah Teel
 Cathy Oliver
 Rodney Carr

Board of Directors
 Ana Rasmussen
 Mike Alcoces
 Lynn Calkin

Special Event Coordinator
 Mel Villarreal

(210) 732-5736

(210) 857-9571



San Antonio City Employees Federal Credit Union

Big on Service & Experience... **BIGGER** on Family.

4005 Fredericksburg Rd.

at the corner of Balcones Heights Blvd.

Member Service Center -- (210) 229-1128

We are a full-service financial institution, and:

- Are Member-owned
- Feature low rates and fees
- Offer higher dividends
- Give you more personalized service
- Are a not-for-profit
- Are a Financial Cooperative

Compare our services to other financial institutions, and you'll see the Credit Union advantages!

Lobby Hours:

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



Getcha' Dollar You'll Like Our

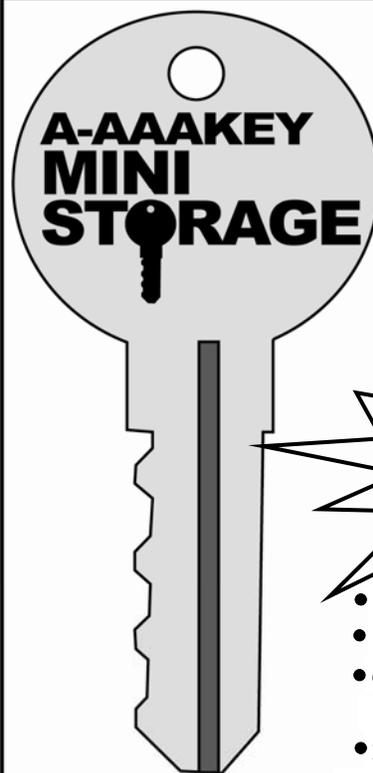
Bonanza!

Present this coupon to cashier and receive \$1.00 off Regular Menu 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 Rd (across from Crossroads Mall)
732-3039



210-735-3255

6604 IH 10 W

8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Monday - Saturday

www.a-aaakey.com

We are the **KEY**
to your storage needs!

Climate Control
Units
Now Available

- Computerized Gate System
- 24 Hour Video Surveillance
- Convenient Gate Hours
6am-9pm, 365 days a year
- Boxes, Packaging Supplies, Locks

Curves

"The power to amaze yourself."

Our unique exercise program makes it easy. You warm-up, perform cardiovascular and strength training, cool down and stretch. That's a complete workout in just 30 minutes and it's FUN!

- Exercise made fun
- Strength training protects muscle while you lose body fat
- Aerobic exercise conditions the cardiovascular system
- Strength training is the secret to permanent results
- Music makes it fun
- A 30 minute workout
- Comfortable and friendly environment

For Women Only. Call 210-731-8788 for an appointment.
3534 Fredericksburg Road, #18, San Antonio, TX 78201

\$10.00 off

The following services:

- * AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SERVICE
- * FUEL INJECTION SYSTEM CLEANING
- * POWER RADIATOR FLUSH
- * SERPENTINE BELT REPLACEMENT

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIALS

\$5.00 off

14 POINT OIL AND
FILTER CHANGE
(Up to 5 quarts)

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER SPECIALS

XpressLube

2800 Hillcrest at Babcock **733-8366**

Other services included:

- *PVC Valves *Wiper Blades *Breathers *Fuel Filters
- *Light Bulbs *Air Filters *State Inspections *Batteries

SPECIAL ELECTION

**SPECIAL ELECTION/ELECCION ESPECIAL)
SEPTEMBER 11, 2004/11 de septiembre de 2004**

FOR (YES)
EN FAVOR (SI)

AGAINST (NO)
EN CONTRA (NO)

PROPOSITION NO. 1
(PROPOSICION NUM. 1)

SHALL THE VIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT BE CONTINUED IN THE
CITY OF BALCONES HEIGHTS?
(DEBE CONTINUAR EL TRANSITO METROPOLITANO D VIA EN LA CIUDAD DE BALCONES HEIGHTS?)

PROPOSITION NO. 2
(PROPOSICION NUM. 2)

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.

(LA ADOPCION DE SECCION 4B DE UN IMPUESTO SOBRE LA VENTA Y UTILIZACION DE BIENES A UN TIPO DE UN MEDIO (1/2) DE UN PORCIENTO (1%), CON LOS PROPOSITOS DEL DESARROLLO ECONOMICO SEGUN PERMITAN LAS DISPOSICIONES DE LA SECCION 4B, COME ENMENDADA, DEL ANOTADO ARTICULO 5190.6 JUNTO CON PAGAR LOS GASTOS DE MANTENIMIENTO Y OPERACION QUE PERTENEZCAN A ESTOS PROYECTOS.)



Balcones Heights Business Alliance

The Balcones Heights September 2004 Meeting will be a mixer. Businesses are invited to Dave & Busters' from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on September 16 for hors d'oeuvres and socializing.

Sponsorships are available from \$25.00 per table. Please contact Lynn Calkin at (210) 732-5736, Mel Villarreal at (210) 229-1800 or Elizabeth Wells at (210) 737-6086 before September 5, 2004, if your business wishes to sponsor, or before September 13, if you will be able to attend.

We have limited space left in the New Resident Welcome packets and will be delivering them beginning September 1, 2004. Please contact Lynn Calkin with your coupons, flyers, brochures, etc.



TEXAS A&M FIRE SCHOOL

Firefighters Josh Downes, and FF Oscar Reyna along with Chief Ben Hoeffner spent the week at Texas A&M Fire School. Each person took a different class. FF Reyna was in Firefighting II, FF Josh Downes was in Aircraft Rescue, and Chief Ben Hoeffner was in Fire Prevention IV. The dates of the school were July 25th thru the 30th. These classes were courtesy of Bexar Metro 911 and the Bexar County Fire Marshal's Office.

On July 31, Rick Wall and Firefighters Josh Downes, Kevin Risner, and Carl Hudson spent 7 hours visiting with Children and passing out Fire Prevention materials. This was in conjunction with the Crossroads Mall back to school immunization program. Thanks to those personnel from Chief Ben Hoeffner for spending their day visiting with the Children. It was a very busy month.

Fire Department Responses for the month of July

Sick Person Responses	22
Injured Person Responses	11
Automobile Incidents with Injuries	14
Motor Vehicle/Pedestrian	01
Fuel Spills	0
False Calls	01
Mutual Aid	05
Assist the Public	04
Fire Responses	06
<hr/>	
Total Responses	64

RESIDENTS OF BEXAR COUNTY!

**FREE HOME PICKUP PROGRAM FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
CALL 800-449-7587 CALL AT LEAST ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE FOR PICK UP**

(The way this operates is that after they get a number of calls for a certain location they set a date for pick-up. They will only pick up the household hazardous waste of those persons who have called in.)

=====

**Clean-Up Week for Brush Pick-Up! November 8 – 12, 2004
November 15, 2004 Actual Pick-up**

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 7:00 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.



3300 Hillcrest Drive
Balcones Heights, Texas 78201

Presorted Std.
US Postage Paid
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 130

Visit us on the web at www.balconesheights.org

September 2004 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	7 Last day for Early Voting <i>Justice Center</i> 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	8	9 Convention and Visitors Bureau Meeting <i>Justice Center</i> 6:00 p.m.	10	11 SPECIAL ELECTION
12	13 City Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.	14	15	16 Business Alliance Mixer Dave and Busters 5:30 p.m. ***** Crime Watch Meeting 7:00 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Senior Citizens Civic Center 107 Glenarm 6:00 p.m.	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		