



ALAMO HEIGHTS *City news*

Your Official Source from City Hall

April 2011

Alamo Heights May Election Information

The City of Alamo Heights contracted with the Bexar County Elections Division to conduct Early Voting and Election Day activities for the May 14, 2011 General and Special Election.

- **General Election** - For the Mayoral position and Councilmember Places One and Two
- **Special Election** - Amendments to the City Charter

Proposition One - voters to consider amending Article XIX of the City Charter "Recall of Officers" shall be amended and retitled "Initiative, Referendum and Recall" to include the petitions and procedures for initiative, referendum and recall of elective officers shall be consistent with the Texas Elections Code - that qualified electors of the City shall have the right to initiate an ordinance, rescind at the polls an ordinance approved by the City Council, or recall and remove the Mayor or any member of the City Council as provided in the Charter. *Ordinances appropriating money, levying taxes, fixing public utility rates, zoning or rezoning property, any action not subject to initiative or referendum as provided by State Law or any ordinance submitted by the council of its own initiative to a vote of the electors shall not be subject to initiative or referendum.*

Proposition Two - voters to consider amending Sections 5A and 6 in Article V of the City Charter to limit the City Manager's ability to appoint, remove and fix the compensation of the City Secretary and Finance Director without the approval City Council. The City Secretary and Finance Director shall continue to report to the City Manager.

Proposition Three (initiated by a petition) - voters to consider adding Section 3 of Article XVII, titled "Building Regulations" - that no council, mayor, board or commission of the City shall cause or allow a change in the zoning laws of the municipality to permit the construction of any structure within the municipal boundaries of the City in excess of forty (40) feet to the midpoint of the roof without approval of the voters.

The last day to register to vote in the May 14th election is Thursday, April 14th. Early Voting will take place from Monday, May 2nd through Tuesday, May 10th at any of the Bexar County voting locations. Lion's Field Community Center, Olmos Park City Hall, and Tobin Library are the most convenient early voting locations for Alamo Heights residents. Early voting activities will not be conducted on Sunday, May 8th, in observance of Mother's Day.

Additional information may be found on the City's website www.alamoheightstx.gov. If you have questions about the election process, call the City Secretary at 832-2209.

Para obtener más información o si tiene preguntas sobre el proceso electoral, llame a la Secretaria de la Ciudad al 832 - 2209.

BRIEFS

Rabies Vaccination

People generally have very little contact with wildlife, so rabies exposure through contact with wildlife is unlikely. However, wildlife can expose domestic pets to rabies, which can expose people to rabies. Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 826 requires that every animal involved in a human bite or scratch be examined by a licensed veterinarian and quarantined for a period of ten (10) days from the date of the bite or scratch even if the animal has a current rabies vaccination.

Chapter 4-4 of the Alamo Heights City Ordinances states that any person owning or in charge of the animal that may have bitten or scratched a person will assume all costs of the quarantine and any veterinary care.

Besides being a State Law, keeping your pets' rabies vaccination current is the best defense against the rabies virus for you and your pet. For more

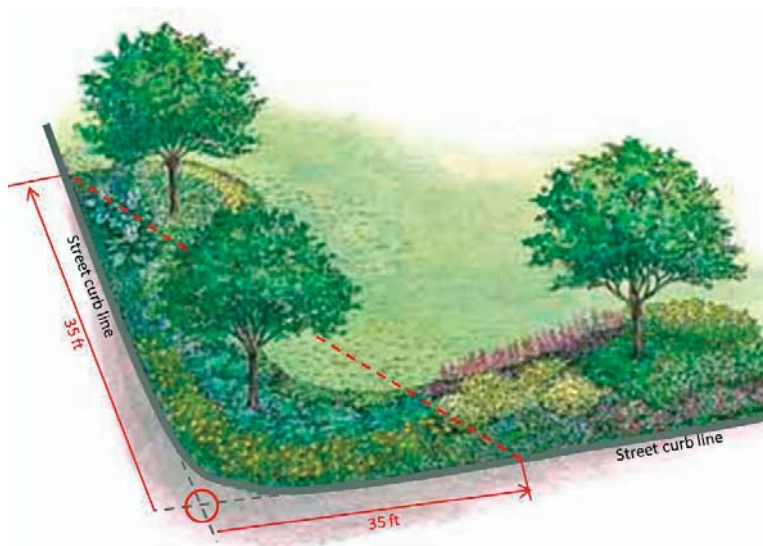


information on rabies you can contact Cathe Eldredge-Graczyk, Animal Care Representative at

cegraczyk@alamoheightstx.gov or go to the Texas Department of Health Zoonosis Control Division website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis.

Obstruction of Signs - Vision Clearance Area

As you well know, Alamo Heights is an energetic community where the streets are used by vehicles as well as bikes, and pedestrians alike. Visibility across corners at street intersections can pose a considerable hazard to all users of our streets. Adopted in 1965, current regulations (Chapter 16 Streets and Sidewalks) limit potential visual obstructions within the Vision Clearance Area (see diagram) on corners to provide adequate visibility at intersections. With the growth of the spring season, visibility at intersections will be worse than during the dormant months of the year. If you live on a corner lot, take some time this weekend to evaluate the landscaping on your property and determine if your landscaping complies with adopted safety standards and whether it may pose a hazard to passing traffic. If you have any questions or would like help in determining the required visibility triangle on your property, please contact Nathan Lester, Planning and Development Services Department, at 832-2245.



It is Grilling Time be Safe

Fire in the grill, hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Safety tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area and never leave it unattended.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid.

Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire and keep out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.
- For propane grills remember to check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.
- If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop or you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

Storage Unit Regulations

With the arrival of spring comes spring cleaning and moving. It has been noticed that more portable storage units are being placed in driveways. As a result, we want remind the public about the regulations that were adopted on April 12, 2010 (Sec. 5-113) related to these temporary portable storage units. The City of Alamo Heights regulations include the requirement to obtain a permit that limits the unit's on-site use to 30 days, unless it is associated with a building permit and that the placement of the storage unit as far from the street as possible. Please call Planning & Development Services at 826-0516 if you have any questions..

CITY CALENDAR

APRIL

Friday, April 15	City Holiday	Closed*
Tuesday, April 19	Architectural Review Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
Monday, April 25	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

MAY

Monday, May 2	Planning and Zoning Meeting	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 4	Board of Adjustment Meeting	5:30 p.m.

*REGULAR GARBAGE PICK-UP