

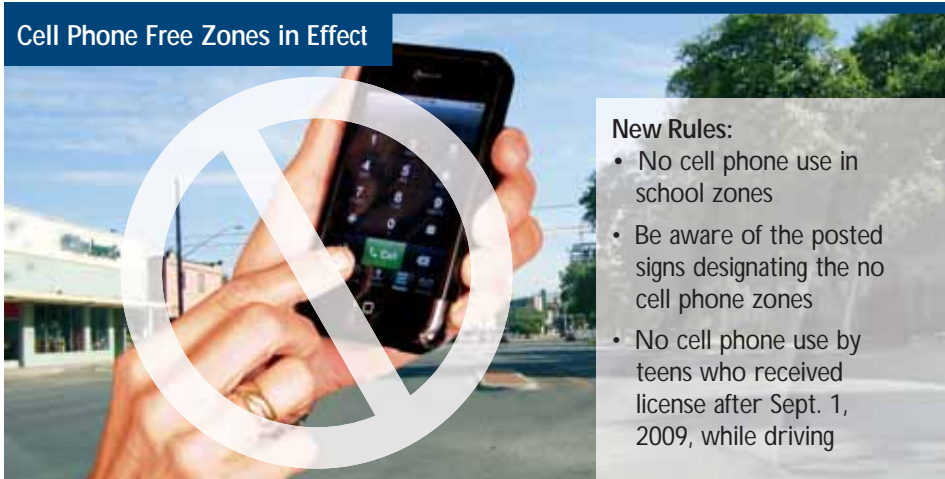


ALAMO HEIGHTS *City news*

Your Official Source from City Hall

October 2009

Cell Phone Free Zones in Effect



New Rules:

- No cell phone use in school zones
- Be aware of the posted signs designating the no cell phone zones
- No cell phone use by teens who received license after Sept. 1, 2009, while driving

Council Approves Cell Phone Free Zones

The City Council has approved a ban on using hand-held communication devices in school crossing zones on Broadway. Police Chief Rick Pruitt reported that commuter traffic on Broadway creates a need to prohibit use of the devices in the 5600-5900 blocks of Broadway adjacent to Cambridge Elementary School and the 6800-7100 blocks of Broadway adjacent to Alamo Heights High School. Pruitt will work with school administrators to determine if additional prohibitions are needed on neighborhood streets around Alamo Heights schools.

Effective Sept. 1 the Texas Transportation Code prohibits the use of

communication devices in a school crossing zone unless the motor vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.

Signage that meets standards prescribed by the Texas Department of Transportation will be placed at school crossing zones to warn motorists of the prohibition. Violators could receive a fine up to \$200.

The legislature also amended the Texas Transportation Code to prohibit motor vehicle operators under age 18, who receive their driver's license after September 1, 2009, from using a hand-held communication device while driving, except in the case of an emergency.

CITY COUNCIL CORNER

Louis Cooper is your Mayor. Mayor Cooper has served over eight years on the Alamo Heights City Council. He was born and raised here in Alamo Heights and graduated from SMU in Dallas. He is married to Susanne and they have two children, Zach and Charlotte. He presently owns and operates a telecommunications company. You can reach Mayor Cooper at (210) 882-1511 or by emailing him at mcooper@alamoheightstx.gov



BRIEFS

Tom McGuaghy honored

On Sept. 14, the City Council honored Tom McGuaghy for his 22 years of service on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Appointed to the board in 1987, McGuaghy served as chairman for much of his tenure.

Budget and Tax Rate approved

On Sept. 28, the City Council unanimously adopted the FY10 Annual Operating Budget and 2009 Tax Rate of \$.355662 per \$100 of assessed value, the same as 2008. The adopted budget document and tax rate notification are available at City Hall and on the city's Web site.

Water restrictions lifted

Because recent rains have raised the aquifer level above 650 feet for 10 consecutive days, the city has lifted Stage 2 water restrictions and reinstated Stage 1 restrictions. Watering with irrigation systems is permitted only once a week from 8 p.m.-10 a.m. according to the last number of your address.

2010 Census upcoming

The City Council passed a resolution supporting the 2010 Census and encouraging residents to participate.

ONLINE FOR YOU

Log on for more city news!

www.alamoheightstx.gov

Brian Chandler New Development Director

The city has hired Brian Chandler as the community development director to replace Ann McGlone, who was named city manager to replace Rebecca Waldman.



Brian Chandler

He brings experience in design review, neighborhood outreach and real estate development approval. His experience includes: Five years in the city of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office

and three years with the real estate law firm Drenner & Golden Stuart Wolff.

Most recently, he worked as a planning consultant on the Alamo Heights Comprehensive Plan. Chandler earned a B.A. degree in history from Furman University and a master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. He holds certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners and is currently the Director of the local section of the American Planning Association.

Hazard Waste Disposal Call Curbside Inc.



Bexar County contracts with Curbside Inc. to provide hazardous waste pickup, because the city does not collect items such as paint, paint thinner, antifreeze, computers and "sharp" pharmaceutical waste. Call 1-800-449-7587, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. to arrange for a disposal kit and curbside pickup. And it is FREE!

From the Police Chief

Police Chief to Detail Crime Information

In an effort to keep citizens better informed about recent criminal activities in your neighborhood, future newsletters will include a message from the Police Chief regarding suspicious activities, complaints and arrests. For more up to the minute detailed information, look for the Police Blotter on the city's Web site at www.alamoheightstx.gov; click on Police Blotter under Recent News.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call Debbie McPheeters at 210-832-2210 to request a printed copy.



Police Chief Rick Pruitt

Be A.Heights Shopper: Spend Locally

The City is asking citizens to do business with "your" local, independent, one-of-a-kind businesses located throughout Alamo Heights. These businesses add to the character of Alamo Heights by contributing more than just goods and services. They offer personalized attention, add diversity to shopping options, and occupy renovated historic buildings. In future newsletters the City will use this section to feature different businesses and services that are provided within our City.

When you spend locally, you are strengthening and supporting the vitality of the community.

CITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Monday, Oct. 12 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 20 Architectural Review Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Monday, Nov. 2 Planning and Zoning Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 3 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 9 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 11 Holiday – City Offices Closed*

*Regular Solid Waste Pickup Schedule