

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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September 2009

Police Officer Retires After 23 Years of Service



Lt. Darwin "Buzz" Griffeth will retire from the Police Department Sept. 30 with more than 23 years of service. Griffeth began his career with the department as a part-time dispatcher in April 1984 and continued until October 1985, when he was moved to full-time status. During

this time, he also worked as an investigator for the Bexar County Fire Marshal's Office.

Griffeth realized his law enforcement dream in November 1985, when he was hired as a full-time officer. Since then Griffeth has served in the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigation Division and in Police

Administration as the community resource officer as he progressed through the ranks from patrol officer to detective, sergeant and lieutenant. During his tenure he earned the Master Peace Officer Proficiency Certification and Police Instructor Certification.

"Lt. Griffeth will be remembered for his many accomplishments as a police officer but moreover, he will be remembered as an officer who dedicated his career to the safety and well-being of the community, ever present at community events, schools and neighborhood activities," said Police Chief Rick Pruitt. "Although we will miss Lt. Griffeth and his many contributions, we wish him and his wife, Meredith, a happy, restful and well deserved retirement."

National Night Out

National Night Out, the event to highlight crime prevention, will be held Oct. 6 for Texas residents. Citizens are encouraged to spend the evening with their friends and neighbors to support awareness and participation in local efforts to prevent crime and resist drug abuse. Citizens can participate by simply meeting their neighbors between 7-10 p.m. for a block party or cookout. Turn on outside lights, organize a bicycle ride through the neighborhoods or take a neighborhood walk. Any activity that promotes camaraderie helps as a step in deterring crime.

If you are planning a National Night Out event in your neighborhood, please notify Sgt. Dennis Kelley, at (210) 822-6433 or dkelley@alamoheightstx.gov, of the location, times and type of event so firefighters and police officers have the opportunity to visit your event to meet members of the community and share information.

The Alamo Heights Fire and Police departments will celebrate National Night Out this year by inviting the community to an open house at the police and fire facilities from 5:30-8 p.m.

"We consider this a great opportunity to share information on fire prevention and crime prevention, answer questions and exhibit some of the tools of our profession," said Fire Chief Bill Hagendorf. "Please bring the kids and your appetite," said Police Chief Rick Pruitt. "We'll have hotdogs and drinks for all."

City to Focus on Communication

Communicating effectively with citizens is a priority for the City Council and city staff. Receiving input and feedback from citizens is essential to effective government, and making sure citizens have accurate and up-to-date information is equally important.

With the beginning of the new budget year, the City Council and staff will initiate several new methods to communicate more effectively. The monthly newsletter, included with water bills, will be redesigned to include communication from our elected officials and City staff about current events and will serve to keep our citizens informed. The staff also plans to hold neighborhood meetings on specific topics. Stay tuned for ways you can be involved.

Calendar

September

15	Architectural Review Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
28	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

October

5	Planning and Zoning Meeting	5:30 p.m.
7	Board of Adjustment Meeting	5:30 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

CITY BRIEFS

911 for EMERGENCY

Fire/EMS (Non Emergency): 824-1281
 Police (Non-Emergency): 822-3321
 Police Administration Office: 822-6433
 Police Investigations: 822-2164
 CITY HALL
 Administration: 822-3331
 Taxes: 882-1510
 Water: 882-1507
 Court Clerk: 882-1501
 Public Works: 882-1518
 Community Development 826-0516

Mayor & Council members:

Louis Cooper-MAYOR
 882-1511
lcooper@alamoheightstx.gov

Jill Souter-MAYOR PRO TEM - PLACE 3
 882-1514
jsouter@alamoheightstx.gov

Stan McCormick-PLACE 1
 882-1512
smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov

Bobby Rosenthal - PLACE 2
 882-1513
broenthal@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
 882-1515
bkiel@alamoheightstx.gov

Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
 882-1516
sharwell@alamoheightstx.gov

City Officials:

Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER
 882-1500
rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov

Shawn Eddy-ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/
 PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
 882-1506
seddy@alamoheightstx.gov

Ann McGlone - COMMUNITY
 DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
 832-2244
amcglone@alamoheightstx.gov

Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF
 832-2200
rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Hagendorf- FIRE CHIEF
 832-2205
bhagendorf@alamoheightstx.gov

Cynthia Barr-DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
 882-1502
cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov

Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
 MANAGER/IT MANAGER
 882-1508
mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov

Jennifer Reyna - CITY SECRETARY
 832-2209
jreyna@alamoheightstx.gov

Judie Surratt-HUMAN RESOURCE
 MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
 882-1503
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Fire Department Thanks Residents for Training Opportunity

The Fire Department thanks Tracy Druce and Don Novak who donated three homes in Alamo Heights that were slated for demolition. Personnel from Alamo Heights, Terrell Hills, and Olmos Park Fire departments attended three days of training at the homes.

Fortunately, structure fires and rescue situations do not happen frequently, so the donation provided a welcome opportunity for firefighters to work on many basic tasks, such as search and rescue of possible victims, ventilation techniques and how to extricate themselves if they are trapped in a burning building.

These life saving skills are essential for personnel to maintain and improve proficiency in their jobs. Because firefighter training is a unique task, members of the Alamo Heights Fire Department Training Division are constantly seeking new ways to train firefighters.

The department asks that property owners who may have a structure that is abandoned, empty and/or ready for demolition to allow firefighters to conduct training. If you have questions or have a possible training opportunity, please call Battalion Chief Kevin Culak at 210-832-2208 or e-mail kculak@alamoheightstx.gov

Fire Safety Activities Planned

The Alamo Heights Fire Department will visit local schools, and day care centers to teach children not to play with matches and how to "stop, drop and roll" as part of activities for the annual fire prevention campaign Oct. 4-10.

The theme "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" will be carried out through activities, such as interactive puppet shows, fire truck demonstrations and 911 phone simulators. The puppet show teaches children not to play with matches and how to stop, drop and roll. Firefighters will demonstrate equipment carried on the truck, including the emergency lights. Simulators teach children how to call 911 and what to say in the event of an emergency. Firefighters will change into protective clothing to show that even though they are dressed differently they are the same person. Sparky the fire dog will make special appearances throughout the events.

The Fire Department will also participate in the annual regional fire safety fair held by the San Antonio Fire Department where many local fire departments help promote fire safety to adults and children of all ages. Activities include antique fire truck rides, car seat

inspections and fire truck displays. The Alamo Heights Fire Department will conduct puppet shows, demonstrate fire extinguishers and hand out fire safety material.

Fire prevention month gives the department the opportunity to teach children and adults the importance of fire prevention and safety. For more information or to schedule a fire prevention demonstration, call Battalion Chief Kevin Culak at 210-832-2208 or e-mail kculak@alamoheightstx.gov.

Citizens' Emergency Services Academy To Begin Classes

The Emergency Services Citizens' Academy classes will meet each Thursday, Sept. 24-Nov. 19, from 6-8 p.m. The academy welcomes residents, business owners and their employees, as well as members of civic organizations.

For more information or to enroll in the academy, please call Sgt. Dennis Kelley in the Police Administrative Office at 210-822-6433 or send an e-mail to dkelley@alamoheightstx.gov. Please include the names of all persons interested in attending, a business name if applicable, your address and a telephone number.

Police Department Welcomes New Officer

Officer Samantha Avery has joined the Police Department as the newest member of the Patrol Division. Before entering law enforcement, she served in the United States Air Force in an intelligence unit.

After military service, she attended the San Antonio College Law Enforcement Academy where she earned her Peace Officer License and then worked with the Leon Valley Police Department as a reserve officer. She is participating in specialized training and orientation before she assumes independent patrol duties.

School Schedules Howdy Celebration

The 2009 Alamo Heights High School Howdy Parade begins at 4 p.m. on Sept. 30. The parade of students and supporters will stage on Townsend Avenue and continue north on Broadway to East Castano Avenue where it ends.

The public is invited to participate in the Howdy Night event on the Alamo Heights High School campus. Proceeds will benefit various student clubs and organizations.

This year marks the Alamo Heights Independent School District's centennial year of educational excellence.