

# Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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April 2007

## Flooded Roadways Bring Out Barricades



Jones-Maltsberger/Devine Rd after a heavy rainfall.

Before rainstorms that are predicted to be intense, the Public Works Department sets out barricades at prescribed locations in the city for use when needed by the Police Department and Public Works.

"At times, these barricades may be in the street right-of-way in front of your house for several days, but we ask you to bear with us on this matter," said Jim Gray, public works director. The barricades are placed across the intersecting streets by city

staff when a main street, such as North New Braunfels, becomes too dangerous to negotiate due to the volume of rainwater flowing in the street. The police also may close road gates in the Olmos Basin area in addition to placing barricades in front of the gates.

After a storm and the danger have passed, the barricades are removed on most streets. In the Olmos Basin area, the danger sometimes lasts for days, depending on how fast water is released

through the Olmos Dam.

The road gates on the lower portion of Alamo Heights Boulevard and Jones-Maltsberger/Devine Road are not opened until the water has receded, debris/mud are cleaned off the roadways and the police have declared the roads safe for travel. The road gates at Olmos Creek on the south end of Jones-Maltsberger in the city are the last gates to be opened. During periods of flooding, please find an alternate route around the streets that are closed.

## Tree Canopy Needs a Lift

While much of Alamo Heights' beauty comes from trees, they also can present a problem for emergency vehicles. Fire trucks and ambulances can no longer travel down several streets, because the tree canopy is too low.

The International Fire Code adopted by the City requires a 13 foot 6 inch clearance over all streets. However, some streets in the city currently will not accommodate ambulances that are 9 feet 6 inches in height and definitely do not allow travel by the 12-foot tall fire engine.

Restricted travel by emergency vehicles can affect response times to fires and calls for medical assistance, both situations when time can be critical. Fire Department and EMS personnel currently respond to emergencies in less than five minutes; however, that time increases as fewer streets remain accessible and personnel must look for alternate routes.

The Fire Department/EMS needs citizens' help in raising the height of the tree canopies. Many qualified tree trimming companies can lift the tree canopies without detracting from the beauty of the trees. Please call a company today if your trees do not allow the required clearance above the street.

## Alamo Heights Night

The Alamo Heights Rotary Club will sponsor its 21<sup>st</sup> annual Heights Night from 5:30-11:30 p.m. on April 20 at the Alamo Heights Swimming Pool area.

Local restaurants and non-profit organizations operate approximately 90-100 booths. Funds raised during the event are used for scholarships and special projects for the school district and other organizations, including some of the City's Community Service Programs. Free bus shuttle service will be provided at the Alamo Heights High School, Lincoln Heights HEB and Alamo Heights United Methodist Church. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

## Calendar

April		
30	City Council Meeting	5:00 p.m.
31	May	
2	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.
7	Planning and Zoning	6:00 p.m.
14	City Council Meeting	5:00 p.m.
15	Architectural Review Board	6:00 p.m.

\*Note: City Offices will be closed May 28 for Memorial Day

**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: 882-1502  
Water: 882-1507  
Court Clerk: 882-1501  
Public Works: 826-0516 (includes permits, garbage & trash, brush, recycling, inspections, etc.)

*Mayor & Aldermen*

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*City Officials*

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# CITY BRIEFS

## Street Repairs Completed

Following a winter that included freezing rain, the Public Works Department's Streets Division has completed a comprehensive sweep of the city to repair potholes and utility cuts that appeared during the winter. Many potholes that had to be tolerated during periods of constant wetting or low temperatures have been eliminated, and final level-up patching has been done on utility cuts.

If you are aware of any potholes or deteriorated utility cuts on Alamo Heights streets, please call the Public Works Department at 826-0516. Your report will help speed repairs.

## Unopposed Incumbents Lead to Election Cancellation

At its March 26 meeting, the City Council adopted an ordinance that canceled the May 12 election for City Council positions and declared the unopposed candidates elected. Only incumbents Louis Cooper, Mayor; Stan McCormick, Place 1; and Bobby Rosenthal, Place 2; had filed for election by the March 12 deadline and no write-in candidates had filed by March 19.

The May 12<sup>th</sup> election for the State of Texas, Bexar County and Alamo Heights Independent School District will be held as scheduled at Cambridge Elementary. Early voting begins on April 30<sup>th</sup> and ends May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions concerning elections please contact City Secretary Judith E. Surratt at 882-1503.

## Water Sewer Average Calculated

Sewer rates for March 2007-February 2008 have been calculated based on water usage during January and February this year and are shown on your current April bill.

Generally, sewer service charges are based on average water usage for 90 days during three consecutive billing periods from November-January. This year, however, due to the replacement of water meters, some billing periods extended to more than 30 days. To ensure that no long billing cycles were used to calculate sewer charges, the City Council approved use of two 30-day cycles.

For questions concerning sewer rates and/or winter averaging, please call Utilities Billing Coordinator Lety Hernandez at 822-3331.

## Pay Utility Bills the Convenient Way

Alamo Heights offers several convenient ways to pay utility bills, including automatic drafting of your bank account and online credit card payments.

To sign up to have your bill paid automatically from the bank account you designate, request a form by calling Lety Hernandez at 822-3331. You will receive a bill each month so you can record the date and amount in your checkbook. The amount is deducted from your account on the due date, so you don't have to worry about paying late fees.

You also can pay online with your credit card at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) or by calling 1-800-429-6355. A \$4.95 convenience fee is added for this service.

Water bills must be paid by the due date each month to avoid a 10 percent penalty.

## Help Prevent Burglary with Landscaping Attention

The City of Alamo Heights is known for its beautifully landscaped yards and gardens. But ask yourself: "Does my landscaping provide a place for burglars to hide?"

Home and business owners should walk around their homes and buildings and assess their landscaping, particularly shrubs and bushes around doors and windows. These can provide excellent places for criminals to hide while breaking in.

Home and business owners should prune bushes and shrubs from around windows and doors to allow visibility to these areas. Landscape lighting, when it doesn't intrude on neighbors' privacy, can also help deter criminals from attempting to hide in landscaped areas.

Criminals will seek opportunities that provide the least chance of detection. Lack of lighting and places to hide are the opportunities they seek. Make your home or business difficult to enter without being detected.

## Donation of Redbud Trees

Dr. Mark Greene made a generous donation of four Redbud trees to enhance the beauty of the median at the intersection of La Jara and Castano.