

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

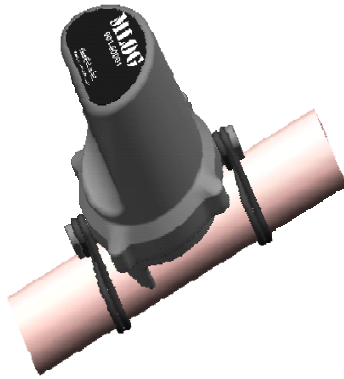
6116 BROADWAY

78209

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City Expands Water Leak Detection



MLOG sensors are installed on a service pipe, usually near a water meter. The pilot program successfully detected 12 suspected leaks.

The City Council has approved spending \$27,150 to purchase 150 additional sensors and to expand the successful Flow Metrix Water Leak Detection System to the entire Alamo Heights water distribution system. The city first used the technology, based on detecting water leaks through sound, in a pilot project last summer to identify 12 suspected leaks.

On August 27, the City Council authorized spending \$41,049 to purchase a permanent Flow Metrix Water Leak Detection System. The system included 60 sensors, which were placed 8-10 houses apart to detect leaks in the middle of the night by monitoring the sound water running in water mains during times when water usage would normally not be expected.

The city periodically downloads data from the sensors with a wireless radio controller

and the information is analyzed. The city staff then receives a report of potential leaks that are prioritized by the amount of suspected loss. With this information, staff can utilize the special equipment to isolate the leak between the identified sensors and a lightweight amplifier detection unit to specifically locate the area in which staff will dig to find the suspected leak.

Staff estimates that 10-40 percent of Alamo Heights water that is pumped but cannot be accounted for is lost through undetected leaks. The Flow Metrix Water Leak Detection System has been successful in identifying water system leaks. Purchasing 150 additional sensors will enable staff to monitor the city's entire water distribution system in order to continue decreasing water loss due to leaks. The goal is to reduce the unaccounted for water loss to less than 10 percent.

City Elections to be held on May 10th

The City of Alamo Heights is contracting with the Bexar County Elections Division to conduct Early Voting and Election Day activities for the May 10, 2008 General Election. The election is for Council Places Three, Four and Five, currently held by Jill Souter, Bill Kiel and Susan Harwell respectively.

Candidate Packets may be obtained at City Hall, 6116 Broadway, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm starting Friday, February 8th. The filing period is Monday, February 11th through Monday, March 10th.

The last day to register to vote in the May 10th election is Thursday, April 10th. Early Voting will take place from Monday, April 28th through Tuesday, May 6th at any of the Bexar County voting locations. Lion's Field Community Center, Olmos Golf Course Club House and Oakwell Library are the most convenient early voting locations for Alamo Heights residents. Election Day voting will be conducted at Cambridge Elementary School. A complete list of the polling places and their days and hours of operation may be picked up at City Hall or viewed on the City's web site or the Bexar County Elections Division web site.

For more information or if you have questions about the election process, call the City Secretary's office at (210) 882-1503.

Calendar

February

18 City Holiday - President's Day

19 Architectural Review Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.

25 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

March

3 Planning and Zoning Meeting 5:30 p.m.

5 Board of Adjustment Meeting 5:30 p.m.

10 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

*Reminder: City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2008 in observance of President's Day. There will be regular solid-waste pickup.

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

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

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

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

Jill Souter-PLACE 3
882-1514
jsouter@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-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
882-1506
seddy@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Woodward-INTERIM FIRE CHIEF
832-2205
bwoodward@alamoheightstx.gov

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

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

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

Denise Silva - CITY SECRETARY
832-2209
dsilva@alamoheightstx.gov

Judie Surratt-HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
882-1503
jsurratt@alamoheightstx.gov

Website: www.alamoheightstx.gov

CITY BRIEFS

City Changes Fiscal Year

A charter change approved in November the special election allows City Council to establish the city's fiscal year. On Jan. 28, the City Council passed an ordinance to change the fiscal year end from March 31 to Sept. 30. The change will benefit city operations by allowing the City to have a more common operating year. An additional benefit is that projected property tax values from the Bexar Appraisal District, which provide input for accurate tax revenue projections, are not available until July. Tax revenues provide 52 percent of the general fund revenues.

To establish the change to a fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, the current fiscal year will be extended to Sept. 30. Staff will provide the City Council with projections for the additional six months in the form of an amendment to the current budget.

Prevent Vehicle Burglaries

Burglary of motor vehicles continues to plague the San Antonio metro area. Vehicle burglars cruise parking lots of restaurants, shopping centers, fitness centers, day care facilities or anywhere vehicles are parked. Increasingly, briefcases, laptops, purses and wallets are left in open view on seats, floorboards and consoles, inviting theft. Whether the thief punches a door lock or shatters a window, it takes only seconds for a vehicle to be opened and property stolen.

The Alamo Heights Police Department recently arrested a group of people committing identity theft and fraud using stolen identifications, credits cards and drivers' licenses. Their multi-state crime spree was fueled by their ability to easily obtain these items by burglarizing vehicles.

To avoid becoming a victim, be sure to lock your valuable items in your trunk or, if driving an SUV, make sure your valuables are out of sight. Although inconvenient, it is strongly recommended you take purses, briefcases and laptops with you. Failure to do so only invites theft of your property and, more importantly, your identity.

Save Time and Money with Automatic Payments

Avoid late fees, save time and avoid the cost of checks and stamps by having your utility bill drafted from your checking account monthly. You will receive a water bill showing the amount and due date so you can review the information and ask questions before the amount due is drafted from the account you specify.

Forms to sign up for the automatic bank draft program can be obtained at City Hall or can be downloaded from the city's Web site. For more information, please call 822-3331.

New Public Notification for Boards and Commission

The City Council has adopted new public notification requirements for the city's boards and commissions. The notification methods include yard signs, Web site postings and mail notification to property owners within 200 feet at least ten days before the item is considered.

Staff members plan to utilize color-coded yard signs so that citizens will be able to recognize the type of request by the color of the yard sign: green for the Planning and Zoning Committee, burnt orange for the Board of Adjustment, yellow for the Architectural Review Board and blue for demolition requests.

Fees related to EMS Services

The Alamo Heights Fire/EMS Department wants all citizens to remember that there are fees associated with the Emergency Medical Service provided to the citizens of the cities of Alamo Heights, Olmos Park and Terrell Hills and to anyone else who happens to be visiting or passing through the three cities.

To help offset these costs, the EMS system charges for services provided, ranging from \$40 to \$1,400, depending on services and the distance the patient is transported. Most of the cost is covered by either private medical insurance or Medicare.

For questions about EMS charges, please call the fire station at (210) 824-1281.

Emergency Service Youth Academy to Begin

The Alamo Heights Fire and Police departments are offering a ten-week emergency services awareness course developed for students currently enrolled in the 9th-12th grades. Students can experience the fun and excitement of training with dedicated police and fire professionals while participating in a variety of hands-on activities and emergency scenario training.

The Emergency Services Youth Academy will meet on Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m. beginning on Feb. 21. For more information or to register, please call Alamo Heights Police Administration at (210) 822-6433 or jpetrash@alamoheightstx.gov