

# Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2009

## Comprehensive Plan Design Workshop a Great Success

The Comprehensive Plan Design Workshop on Jan. 17 brought 93 citizens, 30 design professionals, all of City Council, and eight city staff who volunteered their time to help plan the future of Alamo Heights. In the collaborative effort filled with energy and enthusiasm, participants explored possibilities from a variety of ideas brought forth at the fall Community



Neighborhood meetings and identified various options to achieve the common vision.

The process centered on ten common themes that were identified from the neighborhood meetings as being of particular interest in the physical design of the community. The ten themes were represented at ten design tables that also included a range of interrelated topics. The participants identified issues and defined what they are trying to accomplish, then began to explore the possibilities and look for potential solutions.

The goal was to explore multiple options and create more than one alternative for any given topic. Participants chose the best and brightest ideas and illustrated them on large drawings and maps so they could be viewed by all attendees and discussed to determine themes, areas of concern and insights.



The next steps, after consulting with experts in a variety of disciplines, will be combining the various options and possibilities developed at the workshop into the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan. The draft plan will then be presented to the community in a series of neighborhood meetings this spring.

To view all the ideas and presentations from the meetings, check out the city's Web site at [www.alamoheightstx.gov/news](http://www.alamoheightstx.gov/news).

## Tree Canopy Preservation Program to Begin

Feedback from Comprehensive Plan neighborhood meetings have shown a strong consensus for the importance of trees in the community. While a more comprehensive effort will be established in the city's Comprehensive Plan, the Community Development Department has initiated a Tree Canopy Preservation Program to begin protecting trees from the threat of oak wilt and other devastating diseases. This program involves raising the street tree canopy to minimize damage caused to trees when vehicles collide with low-hanging branches.

The first phase of the program will be a pilot project in the Sylvan Hills neighborhood. Bartlett Tree Experts will raise the canopy to 13 feet-6 inches, as required by code. Ron Smudy has been hired by the city, as a part-time forester to work with citizens and contractors to ensure that all pruning is done to professional standards, that the health of the trees is protected and that the beauty of our neighborhoods is not compromised. Mr. Smudy will be available to address questions or concerns about trees through the Community Development Department at 826-0516.

## Calendar

### February

16	Holiday - President's Day*	City Offices Closed
17	Architectural Review Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
23	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

\* Regular Solid Waste Schedule

### March

2	Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting	5:30 p.m.
4	Board of Adjustment Meeting	5:30 p.m.
9	City Council Meeting	Cancelled
23	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
24	Architectural Review Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.

**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

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**CITY BRIEFS****AH Fire/EMS hires new Assistant Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Bill Hagendorf has appointed H.C. "Buddy" Kuhn as the new assistant fire chief. Kuhn has been employed by the City of Terrell Hills Fire Department for 17 years where he became assistant fire chief in 1999.

"He has outstanding experience and an excellent reputation in the firefighting community," said Hagendorf. His certifications include: advanced firefighter, fire investigator intermediate, fire inspector advanced, fire instructor intermediate, EMT-Paramedic and Paramedic instructor/examiner. Kuhn has been married for 19 years to his wife Katya and they have they have two daughters, Hailey and Aston.

**Trainee Earns Firefighter Status**

The Alamo Heights Fire Department congratulates Firefighter Jeff Kirkpatrick for successful completion of one year of service. Kirkpatrick began his career with the Fire Department on Jan. 7, 2008, as a probationary firefighter.

Department policy requires that all new firefighters complete one year of service and pass all training exams before consideration for firefighter status. After completing the first year of service, a probationary firefighter is issued a permanent badge and traditional firefighting helmet with name shield.

City and Fire Department staff recognized Kirkpatrick during a badge pinning ceremony.

**New Regulations Affect Advertisement Distribution**

The City Council has amended Section 10-7 of the City Code to include a prohibition against the distribution of advertisements and other materials by throwing, dropping or hurling those materials in a yard or driveway on private property without permission of the property owner, agent or occupant of the premises. The City Code currently prohibits a person from placing, attaching, painting, writing, stamping, pasting or otherwise putting any sign or advertisement on private property without consent.

**Water Winter Averaging**

Please remember that this year's residential sewer service fees are being calculated based on the average water usage during December, January and February. The new sewer rate will become effective in April and will be on your May water bill. Please contact the utility billing staff at 882-1507 with questions or concerns.

**Street Construction on Broadway and Viesca Scheduled to Begin**

The city plans to begin resurfacing work on Broadway and Viesca streets in early February. Completion is expected within 60 days.

The city selected Clark Construction through a competitive bid process to perform the mill and overlay of the asphalt on Broadway from Austin Highway to Albany Avenue and the improvement of base and pavement on Viesca near the swimming pool. The project will include installing six concrete pads at VIA bus stops along Broadway and a minor drainage system along a portion of Viesca to address a problem with natural springs that degrade the roadway.

Please call the Department of Public Works at 882-1518 if you should have any questions or concerns regarding this project.

**New 4-way Stop Created**

Residents in the 100 and 200 blocks of Alta Avenue petitioned City Council for a stop sign on Alta Avenue at the intersection with Columbine Street. Citizens expressed concern for an increasing volume of traffic and vehicles traveling at high speeds.

Traffic surveys were conducted and the results suggested a stop sign was warranted for east and west bound traffic on Alta Avenue at the intersection with Columbine Street. An ordinance was passed at the City Council meeting on January 26, 2009 and stop signs have been installed. This new 4-way stop intersection should help maintain a safe area for children attending a near-by Day School as well as joggers and walkers who frequent the area.

**Protect Your Identity**

The Alamo Heights Police Department has investigated check forgeries, debit/credit card abuses and identity thefts where a person's check book, debit/credit card receipts and various forms of identity were left in their vehicles. In some cases, this information was taken during vehicle burglaries, but there have been occasions where this information was obtained while vehicles were being serviced.

Citizens are cautioned against leaving any form of identification, debit/credit card receipts, check books and mail containing sensitive information in their vehicles, especially when their vehicle is in the care of a service provider. This precaution applies at garages, oil change facilities, car washes or any place where you are separated from your vehicle.