

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2009

City Selects Architects for City Hall Complex Projects



The city has hired nationally-recognized Lake|Flato Architects to provide facility design services for a new City Hall/police station and fire station. The new complex is proposed to replace the city's aging

facilities, which no longer meet the City's needs and minimum standards for accessibility.

Lake|Flato was selected in a competitive process from 18 submittals from qualified architectural firms. In their successful submittal and interview, the firm proposed that the new facilities should reflect the culture of the city, reinforce the main street qualities of Broadway, respect the residential character of the site's neighbors, conserve

energy for cost effective operation and return value for the community's investment.

The design work begins this month and will be directed by the Facilities Committee, consisting of Mayor Louis Cooper, Mayor Pro Tem Jill Souter, Councilman Bill Kiel and staff. The committee will receive guidance from a Citizen's Advisory Group. The design process will also include public meetings to solicit input from the community.

TV Broadcasting to Change on February 17, 2009

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005, a federal law, requires that all television stations switch from analog broadcast to digital broadcast on Feb. 17. Analog broadcast is the traditional method of transmitting TV signals and has been the standard broadcasting technology used since the invention of television. Digital television (DTV) is a new type of broadcasting technology that transmits signals as "data bits" as does a computer, allowing broadcasters to produce additional channels and improve picture and sound quality.

Every TV set made before 1998 is a traditional "analog" television; but between 1998 and 2004, most big-screen projection TVs were made with built-in digital tuners. If you bought a big-screen projection TV between 1998 and 2004, it probably has a built-in digital tuner inside. If you bought a new TV set after 2004, it most likely has a built-in digital tuner and you will not need additional equipment to view over-the-air digital broadcasting.

If you have an **older model TV set and are not connected to cable or satellite TV service**, a converter box will be required to view over-the-air digital broadcasting.

To assist in offsetting the cost of purchasing a converter box, Congress created a coupon program

for households that want to continue using their analog TV sets after Feb. 17. Even though this program has reached its funding ceiling, you are still able to apply for coupons but will be placed on a waiting list. Requests from eligible households will be filled on a first-come-first served basis as funds become available. You can apply by calling 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) or going online to www.DTV2009.gov.

Calendar

January

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 19 | Holiday - Martin Luther King Day* | City Offices Closed |
| 20 | Architectural Review Board Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |
| 26 | City Council Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |

February

- | | | |
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| 2 | Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |
| 4 | Board of Adjustment Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |
| 9 | City Council Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |

* Regular Solid Waste Schedule

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: 882-1518
 Community Development 826-0516

Mayor & Councilmembers:

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

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 882-1514
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 882-1512
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Bobby Rosenthal - PLACE 2
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Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
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Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
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City Officials:

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Shawn Eddy-ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/
 PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
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Ann McGlone - COMMUNITY
 DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
 832-2244
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Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF
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Bill Hagendorf- FIRE CHIEF
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Cynthia Barr-DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
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Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
 MANAGER/JIT MANAGER
 882-1508
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Jennifer Reyna - CITY SECRETARY
 832-2209
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Judie Surratt-HUMAN RESOURCE
 MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
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CITY BRIEFS

City Employees Thanks Sponsors

Generous donations from various businesses and individuals made possible the Third Annual Employee Recognition and Holiday Banquet where employees were treated to a traditional holiday dinner, entertainment and numerous door prizes. Service awards and certificates of appreciation for Care Share donations to the United Way Campaign were presented to employees.

The city acknowledges and thanks the sponsors for their generous donations which funded the entire cost of the event.

Gold Sponsors - AT&T and Freese & Nichols; **Silver Sponsor** - McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C.; **Bronze Sponsors** - First Southwest Company; Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, L.L.P.; **Door Prize Sponsors** Alamo Heights Office Products; Alamo Iron Works; American Signal Equipment Co.; Computer Solutions; Dental Select - Patricia Celis; Frazer, Inc.; Generations Federal Credit Union; Ja and Peggy Collins; Mary Wagner; Mobile Lube; Prime Source Printing; Ric Marmolejo Salon; Siddons Fire Apparatus, Inc.; Sunset Ridge Home & Hardware; Thompson, Williams, Biediger, Kastor & Young, L.C.; Tony Limon; Water Street Oyster Bar; and World Market.

2008 Property Taxes Due

Property taxes for 2008 are due by Jan. 30 to avoid penalties. If you have not received your statement or have any questions or concerns, please call Heather Costancio, city accountant, at 210-882-1510.

Wheel and Tire Theft Increases

Thefts of wheels and tires in the north San Antonio metropolitan area have increased dramatically. The thieves are targeting SUV type vehicles with chrome or magnesium wheels that are 20 inches or larger in size. The Alamo Heights Police Department has taken four reports in the past several months from residents whose wheels and tires were stolen.

Persons owning vehicles with expensive wheels should secure their wheels with one or two locking lug nuts on each wheel. While these may be defeated by a determined thief, they do provide a deterrent and may prevent a theft. The best prevention is to park vehicles with expensive wheels in a secure garage.

Alamo Heights Police are working closely with Terrell Hills and San Antonio police to catch these thieves. Police ask residents to report any suspicious activities and people in trucks or van-type vehicles that appear to be cruising the area or paying unusual attention to vehicles having large expensive wheels, especially in the early morning hours. The police dispatcher can be reached at 822-3321 or dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

Police Department Thanks Generous Citizens

The members of the Alamo Heights Police Department extend their gratitude and appreciation for all the goodies delivered to the department during the holidays. All were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

A special thanks to Margaret Houston and all the caring and generous citizens who contributed toward the meals for police personnel working holiday shifts. Thanks to everyone for thinking about us.

Trainees Earn Firefighter Status

Firefighters Brian Boykin and Daniel Rodriguez have completed their first year of service with the city and met requirements to gain firefighter status. They received their permanent badges and traditional firefighting helmets with name shield at a Nov. 14 ceremony with family, friends and co-workers attending.

All new probationary firefighters receive regular training based on a study guide. They must pass all training exams to gain firefighter status. Boykin and Rodriguez also completed paramedic training at the end of 2008 and will be testing for certification early 2009.

City Welcomes Newest Employees

The city welcomes two new employees. Kathy Rodriguez was hired as the Community Development Coordinator in October 2008. A graduate from the University of Texas at San Antonio's School of Architecture, Rodriguez has worked locally as a construction manager for a Dallas company and then went on to work for the Planning and Development Services Department for the city of San Antonio. She is a member of several associations, including the American Institute of Architects.

Jennifer Reyna joined the city as the City Secretary in November 2008. She is a Certified Texas Municipal Clerk and has broad experience in the City Clerk's office, City Manager's office and Economic Development Department in Lubbock, San Antonio and Citrus Heights, Calif.

Holiday Lights Contest Winners

The Alamo Heights Rotary Club sponsored its annual holiday lights decoration contest in Alamo Heights and this year's competition was as good as ever with traditional and creative lighting and settings throughout the city. The 2008 winners are:

1st Place - 501 Evans - \$250 HEB Gift Certificate donated by Janet Heydenreich, Phyllis Browning Realtors

2nd Place - 435 Normandy - \$150 Home Depot Gift Card provided by Alamo Heights Rotary

3rd Place - 210 Encino - \$100 Home Depot Gift Card provided by Alamo Heights Rotary