

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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City Changes Animal Ordinance



The City Council has changed the city code on animals to include a trap-neuter-return program to effectively and humanely control feral cats. The change will manage and reduce

the feral cat population at about one-third the cost of euthanizing the animals.

The city will work with individuals and organizations that manage feral cat colonies. Feral cats will be trapped, neutered, vaccinated, identified with ear-tipping and returned to their habitat. Kittens under eight weeks old will be removed for domestication and placement. The city will maintain records of sterilization, vaccination, ear-tipping and medical care.

Other important regulations for animal owners:

- All dogs, cats and ferrets more than four months old must be licensed and registered with the city. Fees for licensing are reduced for spayed or neutered animals.

- Licensed dogs, cats and ferrets must wear a collar with the registration tag unless the animal has a microchip implant for identification.

- Domestic cats can roam freely only if they are sterilized.

- Animal nuisances, such as barking, chasing pedestrians or vehicles, defecating on private property other than the property of the animal's owner and attacking other animals, are prohibited.

- Residents are prohibited from feeding wild animals and predatory birds.

More information about the city code on animals is available on the City's website at www.alamoheightstx.gov/news.

Book Signings for Local Authors in Alamo Heights

Alamo Heights history buffs will have an opportunity to meet the authors of two books that have local ties when The Twig Book Shop, 5009 Broadway, hosts them for book signings. On March 26 at 5 p.m., Susanna Nawrocki and Gerald Lair, authors of "Our San Antonio," will sign copies of their book which includes highlights of San Antonio's history with more than 130 images from local photographer, Mark Langford.

On April 1 at 5 p.m., Alamo Heights resident Patsy Pittman Light will sign copies of "Capturing Nature: The Cement Sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez." She has spent a decade documenting the rustic work of Rodriguez, who created unique folk art paying homage to the natural world. His work includes the bus stop at Broadway and Patterson Avenue.



Calendar

March

24 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

April

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

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

14 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

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

25 Holiday City Offices Closed

28 City Council 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: 882-1502
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 BRIEFS

City Offers Residents Composting Bins for Sale

In a cooperative effort with the Alamo Heights Neighborhood Association, the city has received its first shipment of 100 residential composting bins that are available to the public at the Public Works Office for \$20 including sales tax.

Alamo Heights citizens may take the 80-gallon compost bins with them upon purchase or may schedule to have the bins delivered and assembled at their homes on a Saturday at no charge by a member of the Alamo Heights Neighborhood Association and volunteers from the Alamo Heights High School Environmental Club.

In addition to creating rich compost for landscaping and gardens, the bins reduce the amount of solid waste picked up and deposited at the landfill. Additional information about the residential composting bins is available at www.earthmachine.com.

Reconstruction of Castano Ave.

The City Council has reviewed a proposed design for reconstructing East Castano Avenue between Vanderhoven Drive and North New Braunfels Avenue. The project, originally designed in 2004, is the first of several capital projects that will be accomplished with proceeds from the \$7.5 million in certificates of obligation sold by the city of Alamo Heights in 2007.

The project currently includes reconstructing the right of way to accommodate four lanes of traffic, along with drainage improvements, a sidewalk and new water and sewer lines. Most of the project will be constructed during the summer to mitigate traffic disruptions at the high school.

Public Works Area to Be Fenced

The City Council has approved construction of an eight-foot tall pre-cast concrete fence to surround three sides of the public works yard at the City Hall complex.

The fence will include four wrought-iron gates. The largest sliding gate, facing Henderson Street, will be equipped with a mechanism that will open and close the gate for use by public works personnel.

The design of the fence and landscaping were approved by the Architectural Review Board and a variance to permit the eight-foot height was granted by the Board of Adjustment. The fence meets security the requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Managing Urban Coyotes

Occasional sightings of raccoons, opossums and skunks remind us of the increasing number of urban wildlife species in Alamo Heights. The urban coyote is another of those species that has learned to adapt to an urban lifestyle.

The patchwork of parks, open areas and the Olmos Basin wilderness offers habitats the urbanized coyote is adept at exploring. Unfortunately, coyotes have encroached into the neighborhoods surrounding the Olmos Basin causing concern for some residents.

Part of the reason for coyote encroachment is that city environments support them. While the majority of urban coyotes continue to feed on rats and mice, they have plenty of opportunities to eat from open trash containers, unattended pet food and other food sources unintentionally made available by humans.

Solutions to successful coexistence and methods for discouraging coyote encounters can be found on the Alamo Heights Web site at www.alamoheightstx.gov/news in a newsletter titled "Coyote Management." The newsletter also is available at City Hall.

Please report coyote sightings to the Alamo Heights Police/Fire Dispatcher at 210-822-3321. The police department is using non-lethal methods of discouraging coyotes from residential and public gathering areas. Reported sightings also will assist the city in maintaining accurate records of the coyote population and their activities.

Quarterly Tax Payments Due April 1

Taxes are due on or before April 1 for property owners who pay quarterly. If you have questions concerning your city taxes, please contact Heather Costancio, Accountant at 882-1510 or hcostancio@alamoheightstx.gov.

Basura Bash returns to Olmos Creek

The City of Alamo Heights will once again be participating in the 2008 Basura Bash and Olmos Creek Clean-up on Saturday, March 29th, by providing garbage trucks and staff to assist with trash pick-up. This citizen volunteer effort is sponsored by the Basura Bash Planning Organization, the City of San Antonio, and Keep San Antonio Beautiful.

For more information on this event or to signup to volunteer please go to www.basurabash.org.