

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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May 2009

“Click It or Ticket” Campaign Announced



The Alamo Heights Police Department will participate with thousands of police agencies nationwide in the “Click It or Ticket” program, May 18 – 31. People violating the seat belt and child safety seat laws will risk receiving a citation not only in Alamo Heights but throughout San Antonio and the state.

Studies show that use of seat belts and child safety seats saves lives and prevents

injuries. While more than 92 percent of Texas drivers buckle up, passengers are lagging behind when it

comes to using safety belts. Also, 16 to 20-year-old drivers are still dying unbuckled in crashes at a rate higher than the rest of the driving public.

Hopefully, during this elevated awareness period, motorists will realize seat belts and child safety seats are not just for long road trips. They are lifesavers for the cross town shopping trip as well. Too many people, especially young male drivers and teenaged passengers, still harbor the attitude a deadly crash will not happen to them. But deadly crashes happen every day on city streets.

Using seat belts does not cost a dime but not using them could cost a person a citation during this intensified enforcement period. It's simple—“Click It or Ticket.”

Dispatcher Receives Telecommunicator Recognition

Heather Ward, police/fire dispatcher for Alamo Heights, Terrell Hills and Olmos Park, has been named “2009 Telecommunicator of the Year” by the Bexar Metro 9-1-1 District.

The award is presented to a telecommunicator to recognize his or her exemplary handling of a specific 9-1-1 telephone call for emergency assistance. Consideration is given to skills and knowledge exhibited in the areas of communication and leadership and the dispatcher's ability to respond to unusual or special circumstances.

Ward demonstrated her proficiency as an emergency call handler on July 2, 2008, when she received a call from a Terrell Hills resident who had received a text message from a distraught family member threatening suicide. Although the family member refused to give his location, Heather immediately began the process of gathering additional information and took the initiative to contact the cellular telephone provider to obtain latitude and longitude coordinates of the family member's approximate location.

She continued to provide information to the San Antonio Police Department and other family members until the distraught family member was found at a hotel. Although the family member had taken an

overdose of drugs, he was found in time to receive life saving treatment at a medical facility.

“We offer our congratulations to Heather for her acknowledgement as 2009 Telecommunicator of the Year,” said Police Chief Pruitt. “And we commend her for the many positive outcomes she has helped to provide in her capacity as a police/fire dispatcher.”

Calendar

May

18	Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting	5:30 p.m.
19	Architectural Review Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.
25	Holiday - Memorial Day**	City Offices Closed
26	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

** Regular Solid Waste Schedule

June

1	Planning and Zoning Meeting	5:30 p.m.
3	Board of Adjustment Meeting	5:30 p.m.
8	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

CITY BRIEFS

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

Mayor & Council members:

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

Jill Souter-MAYOR PRO TEM - PLACE 3
 882-1514
 jsouter@alamoheightstx.gov

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

Bobby Rosenthal - PLACE 2
 882-1513
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Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
 882-1515
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Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
 882-1516
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City Officials:

Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER
 882-1500
 rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov

Shawn Eddy-ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/
 PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
 882-1506
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Ann McGlone - COMMUNITY
 DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
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Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF
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Bill Hagendorf- FIRE CHIEF
 832-2205
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Cynthia Barr-DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
 882-1502
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Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
 MANAGER/IT MANAGER
 882-1508
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Jennifer Reyna - CITY SECRETARY
 832-2209
 jreyna@alamoheightstx.gov

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

Website: www.alamoheightstx.gov

Implementation of City Water Conservation Program

In 2007, the 80th Texas Legislature amended Section 13.146 of the Texas Water Code to require each retail public utility that provides potable water service to 3,300 or more connections to submit a water conservation plan to the Texas Water Development Board no later than May 1, 2009. At the April 27th Council Meeting the City Council adopted a City Water Conservation plan and approved that the plan be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board.

As part of the Water Conservation Plan the City is implementing a Water Conservation Program. The City is partnering with Morrison Supply, a local plumbing supply company and Caroma, Inc., an international toilet manufacturer specializing in water-efficient fixtures, to provide vouchers for the purchase of water-efficient replacement toilets for all water customers at a reduced cost in addition to qualifying for a \$50.00 water bill credit with original proof of purchase. The vouchers will be limited to Alamo Heights customers and two (2) vouchers and credits per occupied unit. This will be the first stage of the program and is scheduled to be launched mid-summer 2009. More information will be distributed to Citizens beginning July 2009.

Proposed Comprehensive Plan

In the Fall of 2008 Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood Meetings were conducted to gather input for the future of Alamo Heights. The meetings were the first part of a concerted effort by City Council and City staff to elicit feedback from citizens regarding their vision of what Alamo Heights should be 15 years from now. A Community Design Workshop was held on January 17th at the Alamo Heights High School Cafeteria. Over 129 citizens and design professionals attended the workshop in addition to the Mayor, all five council members, and staff. The workshop centered on ten common themes that were identified from the community neighborhood meetings as being of particular interest in terms of the physical design of the community. The ideas from these meetings helped shape the vision used to develop the proposed Comprehensive Plan. The City presented the draft plan to the community through a series of neighborhood meetings that were held during the week of April 27th at the City Council Chambers.

The Draft Comprehensive Plan is posted on the City website www.alamoheightstx.gov. The chapters are individual PDFs and can be viewed separately. A full CD version

is available for free at City Hall and hard copies of the proposed plan are also available at City Hall for \$37.50 (cost of color printing). The proposed plan will be considered for adoption by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, May 18th and then by City Council on Tuesday, May 26th. Both meetings are being held in the City Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m.

New Storm Drainage Ordinance

The City Council recently passed an ordinance that declares the drainage of the city to be a public utility, creates a storm-water fund, prohibits specific discharges into the municipal storm drainage system and establishes storm-water compliance for construction activity.

The Council also approved a one-time storm-water development fee that will be assessed for any construction that increases the total impervious surface area (excluding public sidewalks) of real property. The fee is calculated by multiplying the net additional square footage of total impervious surface area (excluding public sidewalks) of the property by \$0.40.

The proceeds of the storm-water development fee will be spent only for storm drainage improvements and maintenance. The fee takes effect on July 1.

The majority of the new storm drainage regulations were adopted to comply with Phase 2 of the storm-water permit program created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The program provides a mechanism for Texas cities with populations between 1,000 and 50,000 to comply with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. The city of Alamo Heights recently submitted an application and received a Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit as required by state law.

City Property Taxes Due

City property taxes for 2007 that are not qualified for quarterly payments became delinquent on Feb. 1. Reminder statements will be mailed out late May. Interest on unpaid taxes accrues at the rate of one-percent per month, along with the six-percent penalty until the account is paid in full.

Accounts not paid in full by June 30 may incur an additional penalty of 20 percent of the total outstanding taxes, penalties and interest due. To avoid any penalty or interest, fourth quarter payments are due by July 31. Please call Heather Costancio, Accountant, at (210) 882-1510 or hcostancio@alamoheightstx.gov with questions and concerns regarding your taxes.