

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2008

Safety Pirates Sweep Through Alamo Heights Area Schools



During this year's Fire Prevention Month in October, the Alamo Heights Fire Department Clown Brigade interacted with more than 3,000 students. Following the

theme of Safety Pirates, department members promoted life and fire safety by performing nine Safety Pirate Shows at four schools and presenting five puppet shows at five schools.

The Safety Pirates presented seven safety messages during the 30-minute presentations. Safety messages included information about life jackets, rules for swimming, seatbelt safety, Internet safety, home escape plans, ABC's of fire safety and proper smoke detector checks.

The four member team included Division Chief Kevin Culak as "Kev-o," Lieutenant Jeff Keuper as "Crash," Firefighter Jeff Kirkpatrick as "Scally" and Captain Matt Fellows for sound effects and prop set-up.

The presentations required months of preparation, including program design, prop building and numerous practice sessions. Other area agencies now model their programs on the ones established by the Alamo Heights Fire Department.

Comprehensive Planning Underway for Alamo Heights

Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood Meetings to gather input for the future of Alamo Heights have begun. The meetings are 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. "Our job at this point is to listen to the hopes and dreams of our citizens," said Ann McGlone, Director of Community Development.

Comprehensive planning allows a community to manage changes in a way that is responsive to the needs and perceptions of its residents, business owners, employees, visitors and other stakeholders. Through a planning process that combines public involvement, data analysis and creative thinking, Alamo Heights will be able to plan for a future that maintains neighborhood character and quality of life while guiding positive change.

Neighborhood meetings continue through November 20. The ideas from these meetings will shape the vision used to develop the comprehensive plan. Future opportunities to participate in this process will be through the Winter 2008 Community Design Workshop, the Spring 2009 Neighborhood Sessions and the Spring 2009 Community Gathering. Contact the Community Development Department at 210-826-0616 for more information.

Calendar

November*

10	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
18	Architectural Review Board	5:30 p.m.
19	Board of Adjustment	5:30 p.m.
27	Holiday - Thanksgiving Day**	City Offices Closed
28	Holiday - Day After Thanksgiving**	City Offices Closed

December*

1	Planning and Zoning - Tentative	5:30 p.m.
3	Board of Adjustment	5:30 p.m.
8	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
16	Architectural Review Board	5:30 p.m.
25	Holiday - Christmas Day**	City Offices Closed

* Only One Council Meeting Scheduled

** No 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: 882-1518
 Community Development 826-0516

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CITY BRIEFS

Winter Water Usage Determines Sewer Bill

Water consumption during the winter months affects your residential sewer service fee for the next year. Residential sewer service fees are calculated based on the average water usage during three consecutive billing periods between November and March.

This year the city will use the consumption in December, January and February, which will be reflected on your January, February and March water bills.

For more information or questions, please call utility billing staff at 882-1507.

Stay Safe while Holiday Shopping

To stay safe while completing holiday shopping, always avoid dark areas in parking lots. Your most important defense – BE ALERT!!!

Criminals look for people who give the appearance that they are not paying attention and are not alert to their surroundings. Eliminate the opportunity for surprise. Always ask yourself “why is this person where they are?”.

Some additional safety tips:

- When walking through public parking areas and garages walk with a purpose and stay alert to your surroundings.
- Shop with a friend whenever possible. A person traveling alone is more vulnerable.
- Never sit in your vehicle reading or eating. Go inside, lock your vehicle, take your keys and keep valuables in your trunk or out of view.
- Don't be profiled by criminals. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and flashing large amounts of cash. Using debit cards or credit cards are safer than carrying cash. Checks can provide some form of personal information and account numbers.
- Do not leave your purse or wallet unattended. Be certain your purse is always closed and secured.
- If someone is around your vehicle who does not belong there, walk back into the nearest public place and call for an escort (store manager, security, etc.).
- Leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle ahead to provide an emergency escape route.

Resistance to robbery attempts may escalate the situation and increase the risk of personal harm to you or a family member. Don't argue.

32nd Annual AH Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade

The annual Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade on Broadway, sponsored by the Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce, will take place Nov. 22 at 5:30 p.m. on Broadway starting at Fair Oaks Avenue .

The parade will travel south on Broadway to the 5100 block where it will conclude at the Stewart Center. Following the parade, food and beverages will be available for all, and the holiday kick-off celebration will continue with the announcement of the parade winners.

For more information concerning the parade, please contact the Alamo Heights Chamber of Commerce at 822-7027 or visit the AH Chamber of Commerce website at www.alamoheightschamber.org

Rotary Club Announces AH Holiday Decorating Contest

To encourage and recognize the efforts of Alamo Heights residents who contribute to the attractive holiday atmosphere, the Alamo Heights Rotary Club will conduct its Annual Holiday Decoration Contest in December.

All single family residences in the city of Alamo Heights are eligible and no entry form is required. Decorations will be evaluated for their appearance, attractiveness and manner in which they complement their location.

Judging by a panel of Alamo Heights Rotary Club representatives will take place Dec. 15-17, with results announced during the fourth week of December. First, second and third place winners will be selected and will receive gift certificates to local establishments. Additionally, winners will be published in the North San Antonio Times.

Walkers and Runners Safety Tip

The Alamo Heights Police Department encourages walkers and runners to always walk or run on the left side of the road facing traffic. This practice will allow walkers and runners to observe the driving habits of vehicles on their side of the road as they are approaching so they can take evasive action should it appear a driver does not see them. This practice is especially important with the recent change back to Central Standard Time, as well as extended hours of darkness brought on by the fall and approaching winter season.

For additional safety, walkers and runners should wear bright clothing complimented by a reflective device or materials. Flashlights or other warnings lights should be used during early morning hours, late evening hours and during all hours of darkness.