

# Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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## Special Election on Sales Tax Increase for Street Maintenance



The Alamo Heights City Council has called a Special Election to be held in conjunction with the Nov. 4 election so citizens can vote on adopting a proposed increase to the city's sales and use tax.

The proposed one-quarter of 1 percent increase will generate approximately \$200,000 each year and will be dedicated to repairing and maintaining city streets.

The current sales and use tax rate is 7.75%, of which 6.25% goes to the state, 1% to the city and ½% to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority. If approved, the sales and use tax rate would increase to 8%, with the increase beginning April 1, 2009.

During the early voting period, Alamo Heights voters will be able to vote at any polling site throughout Bexar County, with the closest early polling site to Alamo Heights being Lion's Field Recreation Center at 2809 Broadway. Dates and times for early voting are as follow:

Oct. 20 - Oct. 24	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 25	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 26	Noon - 6 p.m.
Oct. 27- Oct. 31	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

On Election Day, Nov 4, Cambridge Elementary School, 1001 Townsend Avenue, will serve as the voting site for precincts 3020 and 3026 and Alamo Heights High School, 6900 Broadway, will be the voting site for precinct 3025. Polling places on Election Day will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

**To speed the process, voters must show their voter registration card or other valid form of identification.**

Additional information about polling locations for early voting and for Election Day will be available in the San Antonio Express-News, the Bexar County Web site at [www.bexar.org/elections](http://www.bexar.org/elections), the city's Web site at [www.alamoheightstx.gov](http://www.alamoheightstx.gov) or by calling 210-335-8683.

## City Decides not to add Fluoride to Water Supply

The City Council has voted unanimously to repeal an ordinance that previously authorized adding fluoride to the city's water supply. In 2004, the City Council approved the addition of fluoride, but the installation of the fluoridation equipment had not been accomplished because of logistical issues and the priority of other infrastructure concerns. Staff provided a report regarding the estimated cost estimates to implement the initiative at the Aug. 25 meeting. Following this presentation, Councilmember Bill Kiel asked the City Manager to place an item on the Sept. 8 agenda to discuss and possibly repeal the 2004 ordinance.

Several citizens spoke against adding fluoride. A representative of the Texas Fluoridation Project and several members of the dental and research communities appeared before the City Council at both meetings to comment on the importance of fluoride as part of a dental health regimen.

While stating that they do not oppose the use of fluoride as a topical deterrent for dental cavities, the Mayor and City Council members cited several

reasons to support their votes to repeal the ordinance: other infrastructure priorities, the rising cost and growing scarcity of fluoride, the requirement to install the chemical in close proximity to a school and residences, as well as the on-going debate concerning the effectiveness of ingested fluoride.

### Calendar

#### October

21	Architectural Review Board	5:30 p.m.
27	City Council Meeting	4:30 p.m.

#### November

3	Planning and Zoning Meeting	5:30 p.m.
5	Board of Adjustment Meeting	5:30 p.m.
10	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
24	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: 882-1518  
 Community Development 826-0516

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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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# CITY BRIEFS

## Long-Time Board Chair Honored by Council with Proclamation

On Sept. 22, the City Council honored Barbara Wenger for her 25 years of service on the Board of Adjustment. Appointed to the board in August 1983, Wenger served as chairman for much of her tenure. The City Council commended her leadership and dedication to the board and thanked her for her years of service.

## City Benefits from Windtricity

Just as many citizens may be taking steps to help reduce their carbon footprint, the City of Alamo Heights has been receiving electricity from CPS Energy's Windtricity® program since June 2008. The city expects this action to pay dividends for the community's environment as Alamo Heights attempts to become the first EPA Green Power Community in Texas.

If you would like to become part of the "green power" effort, sign up for Windtricity®, CPS Energy's® renewable energy option. Signing up is easy and can be done online. Get a personalized quote today at [www.cpsenergy.com/windtricity](http://www.cpsenergy.com/windtricity).

## Budget and Tax Rate Adopted

On Sept 22, the City Council unanimously adopted the FY09 Annual Operating Budget and set the 2008 Tax Rate.

The city will maintain the property tax rate at \$.355662 per \$100 of assessed value. The rate consists of a maintenance and operation (M&O) rate of \$.0315591, which is \$.00957 less than last year's rate of \$.0325161, and an interest and sinking (I&S) rate of \$.040071 per \$100, which will generate \$441,1964 for the scheduled debt payment.

The city of Alamo Heights continues to bill and collect city taxes. Statements for 2008 taxes should be out by the end of October and will be due on or before Jan. 31, 2009. A quarterly payment plan is available for qualified residents' homesteads of disabled American veterans or persons over 65 years of age.

The adopted budget document and tax rate notification are available to the public both at City Hall and on the City's website [www.alamoheightstx.gov](http://www.alamoheightstx.gov). For additional information or details you can contact the Administrative Offices at 822-3331.

## Overnight Parking Restrictions

***Parking on city streets is prohibited from 2-5 a.m. under the City Code.***

To increase awareness of the parking restriction, the city is adding signs on major streets leading into the city. Signs also will be placed in multi-family residential areas where violations occur more frequently. As an additional measure, the Police Department will leave information sheets on vehicles parked in violation of the ordinance. Violators will receive a warning letter and then will be cited.

Occasionally, the Police Department will extend a city-wide moratorium on overnight parking enforcement during the holiday season when out-of-town visitors are expected or during special situations, such as the recent coastal evacuations. Otherwise, residents having special needs may request up to a 30-day temporary overnight parking permit from the Police Department.

For more information about temporary parking permits, please call the Police Department administrative office at 210-822-6433.

## Remember to Pick Up Garbage Cans

Some residents have expressed concern that trash cans create an eyesore when they sit at the curb long after the collection day. City ordinance requires that trash cans and recycling containers be removed as early as possible on the collection day and returned to their storage places.

In areas where trash is collected in the alley, the cans may be left in the alley if they are organized in an orderly way that does not block traffic. Storing trash containers out of sight helps maintain the beauty of Alamo Heights.

## City says Farewell to Departing City Secretary

At the September 22<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting, City Secretary Denise Silva, was recognized with a plaque in appreciation for her service and dedication to the City of Alamo Heights. We will miss Denise and wish her well.