

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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City Council Approves Single Family Residential Development Standards



On December 11, 2006, the City Council updated the city's residence development standards for single-family zoned property to address mass, lot width, set backs, lot coverage, parking and building & lot size.

The standards were developed cooperatively between nationally know consultant Nore Winter, Mayor Pro Tem Stan McCormick,

Council member Jill Souter, Mike McGlone (ARB Chair), Barbara Wenger (BOA Chair), Tom McGaughy (P&Z Chair), Andrew Herdeg (BOA Member), John Grable (P&Z Member), City Manager Rebecca Waldman and staff.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved an earlier version and the City Council approved the final version in December.

The standards focus on the 'development envelope' of a structure in terms of how tall and how close a residential structure can be to an adjacent property. Some of the key standards include;

1. The absolute height of house now ranges from 24 feet to 35 feet, depending on the width of the lot;
2. All accessory structures, which includes garages, are now limited to 20 feet in height;
3. A height looming standard, to prevent a tall structure from being too close to an adjacent property, now allows a structure to be 2 feet in height for every foot provided from the side property line;
4. Requiring detached garages to be located to the rear yard unless a lot is greater than 65 feet in SF-A, or 75 feet in SF-B;
5. Limiting impervious cover in the front yard set

back to 30 percent maximum; and

6. Establishing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of .53. A ratio of total above ground gross floor area of all structures on a site to the total square feet.

The new standards are available on the City's website or at the Public Works Department. Individuals considering any remodeling, small additions or building a completely new house are encouraged to meet with staff in advance of planning their projects to ensure their work meets the newly adopted development standards. You may contact Jack Guerra at 8 2 6 - 0 5 1 6 o r jguerra@alamoheightstx.gov for information or to schedule an appointment.

Police Chief Retires after 27 Years



Police Chief Giles Fortson and wife Debi

Chief of Police Giles Fortson will be retiring from the Alamo Heights Police Department on February 16, 2007 after a career spanning twenty-seven (27) years of loyal and dedicated service to the Alamo Heights community. Chief Fortson began his career as a patrol officer on February 1, 1980 and moved through the ranks and was appointed Chief of Police on January 4, 2002.

Chief Fortson has told us that he has no immediate plans after retirement, but we are certain his time will be filled with golf, fishing, and his grandchild.

Alamo Heights citizens, officials and employees will miss Chief Fortson, and we wish him happiness and well deserved relaxation during his retirement years.

PATROL SERGEANTS	2
CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY	2
YOUTH ACADEMY	2
BE AWARE OF MOTOR VEHICULAR BURGLARIES	3
NEW ORDINANCES PASSED	3
CITY LIFTS STAGE 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS	4
WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST FIREFIGHTERS	4

Alamo Heights News

Patrol Sergeant Promotions



The Alamo Heights Police Department is very proud to announce the promotions of Sr. Patrol Officer Cindy Pruitt and Officer Ernest Fitchett to the rank of Patrol Sergeant.

Sgt. Pruitt has a total of twelve years of law enforcement experience and holds a Master Peace Officer License and a Police Instructor Certificate. Sgt. Pruitt is a certified Field Training Officer and is the Field Training Coordinator for the department. She is a certified police canine handler and has experience working with a narcotics task

force. Sgt. Pruitt also has a Bachelor Degree from St. Mary's University and a Masters Degree through Webster University.

Sgt. Fitchett has a total of thirteen years of law enforcement experience including previous employment with the Corpus Christi Police Department and the Austin Police Department. Sgt. Fitchett has earned a Master Peace Officer License and a Police Instructor Certificate. He is a proven Field Training Officer, certified

bicycle patrol officer, and a Crime Prevention Inspector / Homeowner Insurance Inspector. Sgt. Fitchett is also an experienced Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) technician and will soon be assigned to the Randolph Area Metro Emergency Service Team.

We congratulate Sgt. Pruitt and Sgt. Fitchett for their promotions and look forward to the many contributions they will make toward providing a safe and secure community.

NEXT CITIZENS'

POLICE

ACADEMY

BEGINS ON

MARCH 8TH

CLASSES ARE ON

THURSDAYS

FROM 6:30 P.M.

TO 8:30 P.M.

PLEASE JOIN US

Citizens' Police Academy

The Alamo Heights Police Department is pleased to announce the 17th Session of the Citizens' Police Academy. This ten (10) week program is designed to provide citizens with an understanding of the operation of the Alamo Heights Police Department. Presentations by AHPD officers and guest speakers, facility tours, and police ride-a-long opportunities have provided great

learning experiences for past Citizens' Police Academy participants.

The Citizens' Police Academy is scheduled to begin on March 8, 2007 and will conclude on May 3, 2007.

The classes are scheduled for Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Citizens of Alamo Heights, retail merchants, and their staff are welcome to attend. Participants should

be eighteen (18) years old and out of high school.

For more information on the Citizens' Police Academy or to receive an application, please contact the Police administrative offices at (210) 822-6433 or go to City website at www.alamoheightstx.gov

Youth Academy to Begin Next Session in March

The Alamo Heights Police Department is pleased to announce the 7th Session of the Youth Police Academy.

This ten (10) week program is a police services awareness course developed for students currently enrolled in the 9th through 12th grades.

In addition to presentation by AHPD officers and guest speakers, students will get a chance to participate in a variety of hands-on activities, police scenario training, and a police vehicle ride-along program.

The Youth Police Academy is scheduled for Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to

8:00 p.m., beginning on March 8, 2007 concluding May 10, 2007. There will not be a class during spring break week.

Students currently enrolled in 9th through 12th grade within any public or private school in Alamo Heights are eligible to attend. The Youth Police Academy

honors the No Pass / No Play rule in effect at the student's school.

For more information on the Youth Police Academy or to receive an application, please contact the Police administrative offices at (210) 822-6433 or go to City website at www.alamoheightstx.gov

Burglary of Motor Vehicles - Be Aware

Burglary of motor vehicles continues to plague the Alamo Heights residential and retail communities. Although there was a slight reduction in incidents of vehicle burglaries in 2006 as compared to 2005, we must continue to work together to curb this criminal activity.

Motor vehicle burglaries are often a result of opportunity and occur during daylight hours as well as nighttime hours. Valuable property such as laptop computers, briefcases, purses, and electronics left in open view inside of vehicles usually incite the burglary. It takes only a few seconds to smash a window or pop open a door lock to gain entry into a vehicle and in a split second, the property and offender are gone. Vehicle burglars are very casual and usually give the appearance of someone simply walking down a street or through a parking lot.

The best prevention against burglary is to not leave anything that may be

perceived as having value or containing something valuable visible in your vehicle. Oftentimes, this is inconvenient and difficult to remember, but it may be the best prevention for vehicle burglaries. It is also important to remember that vehicle burglaries often lead to other crimes such as identity theft, access to bank accounts, access to homes and businesses, and prescription fraud to list a few. The potential long-term effects experienced by these crimes can be devastating.

The Alamo Heights Police Department takes vehicle burglaries very seriously. We gather data from the San Antonio Police Department and other surrounding police agencies to determine trends in their areas. We plot vehicle burglary events in Alamo Heights and conduct careful analysis of times and locations. From this information, we plan initiatives designed to capture these offenders. We are happy to report analysis and re-

sulting initiatives have resulted in the arrest of several vehicle burglars and the recovery of thousands of dollars in property stolen in Alamo Heights, Olmos Park, and San Antonio. However, we do not rest on these few incidents of success and continue to make vehicle burglar identification and apprehension a priority.

If you experience a burglary to your motor vehicle, please notify the police right away regardless of your loss. If you observe a suspicious person on your street, in your driveway or in a parking lot, please contact the police immediately. Police are operating with heightened awareness to this issue and will respond immediately to check a wide perimeter around the area for the offenders.



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New Ordinances Passed by City Council

In the months since August 2006, the City Council has adopted the following ordinances that are of interest to residents of the city:

Ordinance No. 1672 – Implemented a contractor's registration program for those individuals and companies doing certain types of work in the city as a way

to promote quality construction and maintenance work

Ordinance No. 1674 – Amended the Demolition Delay Ordinance by adding a neighborhood compatibility requirement for the new structure replacing the old structure that is the subject of a request for a demoli-

tion permit

Ordinance No. 1679 – Amended and upgraded ordinance for year-round water conservation and critical period management of water resources

Ordinance No. 1683 – Recodified prior and new rates for water and sewer

rates for water and sewer services

Ordinances No. 1691 and No. 1692 – Adjusted period for calculation of winter averaging for sewer bills on a one-time basis, and established a water billing adjustment policy for certain circumstances.

Contact Information

Web Site: www.alamoheightstx.gov
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

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

Stan McCormick-MAYOR PRO TEM/PLACE 1
 882-1512
smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov

Bobby Rosenthal-PLACE 2
 882-1513
brosenthal@alamoheightstx.gov

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

Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
 882-1515
bkiel@alamoheightstx.gov

Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
 882-1516
sharwell@alamoheightstx.gov

City Officials

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

Jim Gray-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
 882-1505
jgray@alamoheightstx.gov

Darren Smith-FIRE CHIEF
 832-2205
dsmith@alamoheightstx.gov

Rick Pruitt-ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF
 832-2201
rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov

Cynthia Barr-CITY TREASURER/TAX - ASSESSOR COLLECTOR
 882-1502
cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov

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

Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
 882-1508

City Lifts Stage 1 Water Restrictions

On January 22, 2007, the City of Alamo Heights lifted the Stage 1 Water use restrictions. But please remember that the City passed Ordinance No. 1679 on October 23, 2006 amending Chapter 19, Article III - Conservation of Groundwater as an effort to promote water conservation. The new article establishes regulations for year-round conservation measures. This means watering for landscaping

purposes is allowed any day of the week but limited to the hours - no watering between 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Hand watering with a hand-held hose, soaker hose, drip irrigation system or bucket is allowed at any time during any day.

Additionally, any sprinkler systems installed or re-worked after October 23, 2006 must be equipped with rain sensors to prevent the systems from operating

during periods of rain. All sprinkler systems existing prior to October 23rd must have rain sensors installed on them no later than December 31, 2007.

For any other water related questions, please refer to the frequently asked questions section of the city's website, or contact Les McMahan, Assistant Public Works Director, at (210) 826-0516, or at lmcmahan@alamoheightstx.gov.

Welcome to Our Newest Firefighters

The Alamo Heights Fire/EMS Department would like to welcome the City's newest firefighters, Zachary Galloway and Aaron Baker.

Alamo Heights Fire/EMS is fortunate to be adding these two firefighters. Both of these men come to the City with experience from other fire departments.

Their experience and knowledge will no doubt be

beneficial to the City.

The two new firefighters will undergo a two-week orientation and training period. This allows our training staff to orient them to our policies and procedures.

Once the firefighters are placed on shift, they will have to complete another regimen of training that will last approximately one year. The new firefighters

will be enrolled in a Paramedic course to increase the total numbers of certified Paramedics in the Fire/EMS Department.

Currently, the Alamo Heights Fire/EMS Department has 15 Paramedics on staff. Four members are currently enrolled in a class and are expected to graduate in late August 2007.

Basura Bash Returns to Olmos Creek

On March 24, citizen volunteers sponsored by the Basura Bash Planning Organization, the City of San Antonio, and Keep San Antonio Beautiful will once again be hosting the 2007 Basura Bash and Olmos Creek Clean-Up. This event benefits the environment of not only the City of San Antonio, but Olmos Creek and Alamo Heights as well. For more information please go to www.basurabash.org.

Grant helps fund New Ambulance

The Alamo Heights Fire/EMS Department applied for and received a grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services in 2006. This grant is designed to help upgrade the EMS systems across the state. This grant will assist in offsetting the cost of a new ambulance that will replace the 1998 EMS unit currently in service. The total amount of the grant is \$17,500, and is the fourth grant received by the Fire/EMS Department.

The Alamo Heights Fire/EMS Department is in the process of applying for two additional grants: one through AACOG / Department of Homeland Security and the other through the US Fire Administration. These grants will enable the Fire/EMS Department to upgrade equipment in order to enhance our ability to respond to local and regional events involving Haz-Mat and/or Weapons of Mass Destruction.