

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

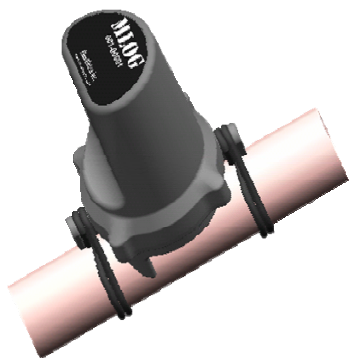
6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 1, Issue 8

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Putting Technology to Work Each Night



MLOG sensors are installed on a service pipe, usually near a water meter.

New technology can detect water leaks at night by measuring the sound of water passing through the city's mains. The city recently tested the ability of the technology to accurately locate leaks and is now exploring the reliability of a network of sensors to continuously find leaks. Initially, the city proposes to install sensors on water lines at every eighth to tenth house in areas where experience indicates leaks might exist.

The recording is done at night when little water use normally occurs to avoid "noise" in the system. The detection system not only identifies the presence and size of water leaks but also provides crews with a good estimate of their location. If the initial test shows the system operates reliably, the city will then consider installing the technology throughout Alamo Heights.

The City Council approved \$41,000 for a pilot program.

The test system is scheduled to be installed this fall and results should be available early next year.

The automatic leak detection program represents the second step in the city's effort to reduce water loss from the Alamo Heights system. In the first step earlier this year, the city replaced all water meters.

Next month: The Importance of Conservation

City Approves Funding for Improvements

The City Council has authorized the issuance, sale and delivery of \$7.5 million in "City of Alamo Heights, Texas, Combination Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2007" to be funded by tax and utility revenues over 20 years.

The City's financial advisors, First Southwest Company, sent term sheets to eighteen selected banks and financial institutions requesting competitive bids.

J.P. Morgan Chase Bank submitted the winning bid with a fixed rate of 3.99 percent, callable after 10 years. The bonds are scheduled to be delivered and proceeds received by Sept. 27.

Proceeds from the certificates will be used to:

- Acquire new fire fighting and rescue equipment.
- Make repairs, extensions and improvements to the water and sewer systems.
- Construct street and sidewalk improvements.
- Fund a storm water drainage master plan.
- Repair, modify and renovate city facilities.
- Pay for professional services and issuance costs related to these projects.

Update of 2006 - 2007 Action Plan

At the August 27th City Council Meeting, City Manager Rebecca Waldman gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the City's 2006-2007 Action Plan achievements.

The presentation is available on the City's website www.alamoheightstx.gov/news.

Calendar

September

24 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

October

1 Planning and Zoning 6:00 p.m.

3 Board of Adjustment 7:00 p.m.

8 City Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.

16 Architectural Review Board 6:00 p.m.

22 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.)

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CITY BRIEFS

New School Flashers Purchased for Broadway

The City Council recently approved purchasing four solar-powered speed awareness units that include both flashing lights and a sign that displays vehicle speed by radar for installation along Broadway near the elementary and high schools.

The \$23,340 expenditure is from the Community Benefit Fund designated for child safety, which is funded by a \$25 surcharge added to fines for offenses committed within school crossing zones. The Community Benefit Fund is to be expended for programs designed to enhance child safety, health or nutrition, including child abuse prevention and intervention and drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

EMS Reports HeartLink Benefits

One year ago when the Alamo Heights Fire/EMS Department added the new LifePack12 heart monitor/defibrillators with Bluetooth data transmission capabilities, paramedics gained the capability to communicate with HeartLink emergency rooms.

Paramedics can perform hospital quality assessments and can transmit electrocardiograms to hospitals where physicians determine if the patient is having a heart attack. This technology reduces the amount of time from the onset of symptoms to treatment, since the procedure reduces the amount of time in the emergency room.

“Since putting the equipment in service, the Alamo Heights Fire/EMS system has transported several patients to area hospitals with HeartLink receiving stations,” said Fire Chief Darren Smith.

Police Receives Incentive Award from TXDOT

The Alamo Heights Police Department was a participant in the 2007 Memorial Day “Click It or Ticket” enforcement campaign, May 21 – June 03, 2007.

Our participation resulted in a monetary incentive award in the amount of \$4,000.00 from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). This award will be used to purchase safety equipment for Alamo Heights Police Officers.

At the August 27th City Council Meeting, Police Chief Rick Pruitt gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing Police Department activities and an update regarding on-going projects. The presentation is available on the City’s website www.alamoheightstx.gov/news.

Stop Signs Installed to Improve Safety

Stop signs have been installed at the three-way intersection of W. Castano Avenue and Ciruela Street in response to citizen concerns. Citizens informed staff of a high volume of traffic traveling on West Castano Avenue and Ciruela Street and that vehicles are often traveling at speeds greater than the allowed 30 miles per hour, creating a dangerous environment for pedestrians.

Vehicular traffic is reported to be heavier when school is in session at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and on Sundays when church services are scheduled. With all traffic coming to a stop, this intersection will be safer, despite visibility issues caused by foliage and rolling terrain.

City Purchases New Pothole Patch Truck

City Council approved spending \$112,783 from the unrestricted general fund reserves to purchase a flameless pothole patch truck. The new truck can use either a hot or cold mix of asphalt, but more importantly includes all the necessary tools to create a patch that performs better and for a longer period of time than the methods used in the past.

The truck should arrive this winter and will enable staff to substantially increase the volume and quality of pothole repairs in city streets.

Bundle Yard Waste for Removal

The Department of Public Works continues to remove yard and tree cuttings as part of the city’s standard solid waste services. However, such materials must be bundled in packages no longer than three feet that weigh no more than 40 pounds and must be deposited at the customer’s trash pick-up location.

Proper bundling and placement will allow city employees to remove the cuttings safely. Also, please remember that contractors who provide landscape services, such as tree trimming, are required by ordinance to remove the cuttings after they complete the work. So be sure that removing the cuttings is included in the price quoted by the contractor.

Please call the Department of Public Works at 826-0516 if you have any questions.