Message from Mayor Suzanne de Leon - Balcones Heights – A City on the Move

Hello all!

I want to wish everyone a happy New Year and say thank you for all of the goodwill messages to the Council and me. The turn of a New Year is always a time for reflection on what has gone before but it also gives us a chance to renew and refresh, to look forward with optimism and hope and plan for the future.

The year ahead is exciting to think about. We are kicking off the year by starting a review of our comprehensive land use plan, moving forward with strategic planning, and rebranding the City and we want you to be a part of it. Please mark your calendars and join us. On Monday, January 13 City Council and staff will participate in a strategic planning workshop and a review of the City’s comprehensive land use plan at Balcones Heights’ City Hall from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Please try make every effort to attend. There are a number of decisions in front of us that may be controversial but we must discuss and communicate our differences so that we can move forward for the good of our community.

My hope for the New Year is that we maintain our sense of community and work in unison to achieve the very best for Balcones Heights. I have always said we are lucky to live here and firmly believe it today.

Public safety is our number one priority. That being said, our police and fire departments have been extremely busy, putting in countless hours not only responding to emergency situations, but also continually training and maintaining equipment to serve our residents and businesses 24/7. They are all to be commended and thanked for their selfless service to our community.

Mayor de Leon message on page 2

Pacheco Resigns Seat on City Council; Applications Now Being Accepted for Remainder of Term

Mr. Jesse Pacheco, Councilmember Place 2, has tendered his resignation in a letter to Mayor Suzanne de Leon and City Administrator David Harris dated January 2, 2020 creating a vacancy in the unexpired term which runs through mid-May 2020.

“We want to thank Jesse Pacheco for his years of service to the City of Balcones Heights,” said Mayor Suzanne de Leon.

The City of Balcones Heights will be accepting applications for the unexpired seat of Councilmember Place 2 which runs through mid-May 2020. Individuals interested in applying may pick up an application from City Secretary Delia Sanchez, 3300 Hillcrest, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. on Friday; the application may also be downloaded from the City’s website: www.bhtx.gov.

Completed applications are due to the City Secretary no later than 12 noon on Thursday, January 23, 2020. City Council will then convene at a date and time to be determined to consider the applicants, interview, and consider an appointment. If an appointment is made to fill the vacant Place 2, the appointment will be until the next municipal election in May 2020.

The May 2020 election will be held for the offices of Mayor and Councilmember Places 1 and 2. This will be for a full two-year term ending in May 2022. Individuals interested in applying for one of these positions must complete a different application. Information may be found on the City’s website, www.bhtx.gov.

As of press time, the tentative interviews of potential candidates will begin on Monday, January 27.

Please contact City Secretary Delia Sanchez if you have any questions: 210-957-3542 or dsanchez@bhtx.gov.
(Mayors message continued from page 1)

There are important boards and committees that deal with so many different facets of local government including Planning & Zoning & Board of Adjustments. These volunteers spend long hours performing their respective duties and are the backbone of our community. We are all extremely fortunate for their service. See page 5 for information about those boards; we would love for you to join!

Our business community is an essential part of our way of life. Almost all of our events and promotions in our community are made possible through generous business contributions. A thriving business community translates into a thriving local economy, so please remember to support our local businesses by shopping Balcones Heights. We thank our local businesses for their continued generous support. One of events the business community has contributed to is the Balcones Heights Blue Santa program. Please enjoy photos from the 2019 Blue Santa Parade and Gift Giving event on pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter. I hope you were able to enjoy the parade, it was the biggest and best parade in our history with so many wonderful participants.

It’s certainly going to be an exciting and challenging year and, as we move forward into 2020, may I conclude again wishing everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

With peace and blessings to you all,

Suzanne

Visit the City website bhtx.gov to sign up to receive this newsletter electronically and receive the most up-to-date information. Please also follow the City Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BalconesHeights/

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Election Information
May 2, 2020 General Election
Balcones Heights City Council
Election Information
Mayor, Council Place 1, and Council Place 2

Important Election Dates for Voters:

- First day to File for Place on General Election Ballot - **Wednesday, January 15, 2020**
- Last day to File for Place on Ballot - **Friday, February 14, 2020 at 5:00 PM.**
- File for Write-in Candidate - **Tuesday, February 18, 2020**
- Drawing to name on the ballot - **Wednesday, February 19, 2020 - 10:00 AM**
- Last day to Register to Vote - **Thursday, April 2, 2020**
- EARLY VOTING by Personal Appearance - **Monday, April 20, 2020**
- Last day to Apply for Ballot by Mail - **Tuesday, April 23, 2019**

You must be a registered voter in the City of Balcones Heights, Texas, in order to vote in the City of Balcones Heights's May 2nd General Election. If you need to register to vote or make sure you are eligible to vote, contact the Bexar County Elections Office at 210-335-VOTE. You may also stop by the City Secretary's office to obtain a Voter's Registration Card or you may visit the Texas Secretary of State's website to request a registration form to be mailed to you.

Visit Bexar County Elections for more information. Bexar.org/Elections

- Please note: To vote in the **May 2, 2020** General Election you must be registered to vote by **Thursday, April 2, 2020**.

Information regarding the Balcones Heights May 2 General Election can be found on the City website under the City Secretary tab - https://bhtx.gov/departments/city-secretary/election-information

Please contact City Secretary Delia Sanchez if you have questions: dsanchez@bhtx.gov
Notes from David Harris, City Administrator:

As we start the New Year – hard to imagine it is actually 2020 – and look back at last year, its remarkable how many challenges were overcome and how much was accomplished in your City: a newly formulated strategic plan, hiring a new Finance Director, promoting a new Chief of Police, hiring a new Director of Community Development, conducting a search for a new City Engineer, dealing with the challenges of our street make-overs, a new contract with the police Officers’ Association...among other items. Sometimes, as City Administrator, I feel like an orchestra conductor. The musicians are all on stage, in the spotlight, actually MAKING the music and front and center is the conductor, wildly flapping his arms, trying to keep everyone on the same page and note, literally, and figuratively. Yes, I think that may be a fair comparison. The City’s musicians – department heads and their respective staff -- are the star performers – they make the music -- and there I am, doing what an administrator does, keeping the many moving parts of our city functions all moving in concert.

I am taking this opportunity to thank my department heads and all City staff, from our front line first responders, firefighters and police officers, to our court clerks, our City Secretary, Economic Development and Community Relations professionals, Accounting, and Public Works, and of course, our dedicated emergency communication (dispatch) workers.

And yes, while it may be a New Year, one thing will most certainly NOT be new: the level of quality services that residents, businesses, and visitors alike have come to expect from Team Balcones Heights!

Wishing everyone all the Best in 2020!

LET US HELP YOU COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

* SNAP (Food Stamps)   * CHIP/Children’s Medicaid
* Adult Medicaid       * TNAF
* Women Infants & Children (WIC)
* Women’s Health Program
* Long Term Care

Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD)

(Other—Services Offered):
Food Assistance
Partner Agencies assist with distributing food in the community
Seniors Programs
Project HOPE—Provides Free Groceries to qualified Seniors age 60 and over
Farmer’s Market - Provides fresh produce to seniors during the harvest season

Kids Café
Child Nutrition Program - Partners with After-School Programs to provide meals to children and a Summer Food Service Program which offers free lunches for children in the Community

Culinary Training Program:
A 18 week Culinary Arts Program providing job-skills training for individuals requiring training or who are unemployed
Nutrition Education Program
Provides classes on nutrition education, cooking demonstrations, and a variety of other health related topics
Employment Services
Provides services that prepare clients for today’s job market.

Help Center - 210-431-8326
Toll Free:  1-800-246-9121
Hours:  M-F 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

www.safoodbank.org
November 18, 2019 City Council Meeting Update

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Approval of minutes for Special meeting of October 3, 2019
b. Approval of minutes for Special meeting of October 14, 2019
c. Approval of minutes for Special Meeting of October 28, 2019
d. Finance Report for the month of October 2019
e. Approval of Resolution amending Authorized Representatives for City Funds
f. Approval of Resolution regarding the voting phase of selection process for election of Bexar Appraisal District Board of
Directors 2020-21

MOTION: Motion to approve a - f in one vote
Motion by: Councilmember Gillian  Second: Councilmember Pacheco  4/0/0  PASSED

Ayes: Pacheco, Halpin, Gillian, Valverde - Absent: Lara

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Consideration and ACTION to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 38: Finance and Taxation of the Code Book of Ordinances and creating Section 38.04 Transactions with Persons Indebted to the City. (Thelen)
  ♦ Mrs. Thelen came up and gave background on this item and stated it was to encourage those with outstanding debt to pay.

MOTION: Motion to approve.
Motion by: Councilmember Gillian  Second: Councilmember Pacheco  4/0/0  PASSED

Ayes: Pacheco, Halpin, Gillian, Valverde - Absent: Lara

* Councilmember Lara arrived at 6:20

Discussion and ACTION to approve the negotiated contract with 6S Engineering for city engineering services. (Thelen)
  ♦ Mrs. Thelen gave background on this item and recommended approval.

MOTION: So, moved. (To approve 6S Engineering Services Contract)
Motion by: Councilmember Valverde  Second: Councilmember Pacheco

Ayes: Lara, Pacheco, Halpin, Gillian, Valverde

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:03 p.m.

Discussion pursuant to §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) regarding status of Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations with the Balcones Heights Police Officer’s Association.

RE-CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION: 7:31 p.m.

Discussion and appropriate action regarding approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Balcones Heights Police Officer’s Association from November 2019 through September 30, 2022.

MOTION: I make a motion that we approve the Police Officers contract as voted by the association beginning November 25, 2019 the beginning of a pay period through September 30, 2022.

Motion by: Councilmember Gillian  Second: Councilmember Valverde  4/0/1  PASSED

Ayes: Lara, Halpin, Gillian, Valverde - Abstain: Pacheco

City Council Agendas and Minutes are available on the City’s website - https://bhtx.gov/government/public-records

For questions, please contact City Secretary Delia Sanchez, dsanchez@bhtx.gov
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Planning & Zoning Commission

Planning & Zoning monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

A. Purpose

- Identifying community needs and to advise the City Council of the short and long-range implications for the total development of the city.
- Recommend achievable community goals as a basis for long-range planning and development programs.
- Recommend plans, programs, and policies that will aid the entire community in achieving its defined goals.
- Interpret the adopted plans and programs to concerned citizens so that private activities and desires may be accomplished in harmony with public need and policies.
- Advise the City Council on implementation of the Comprehensive Master Plan and review and make recommendations on zoning amendments for compliance with the Comprehensive (Master) Plan.
- Review and make recommendations on the Platting or Re-platting of property.
- Review and make recommendations on Site Plan Applications consistent with the standards of the Comprehensive Master Plan and the existing zoning for the property.
- Review and make recommendations on requests for Special Use Permit Applications.
- Propose Zoning Amendments to the City Council.
- Undertake other duties as authorized by the City Council, the city code, and the laws of the State of Texas.
- Terms of office is for two (2) years

Board of Adjustment Appeals

Board of Adjustment monthly meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 5 p.m. on an as-needed basis.

B. Purpose

- To hear and decide appeals when error is alleged in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official in enforcement of the zoning and building code.
- To hear and decide Special Exceptions to the terms of the Code in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards. Special Exceptions must be consistent with the general purpose and intent of the Code and in accordance with any applicable rules contained in the Code.
- To authorize on appeal, variances from terms of the Code that will not be contrary to the public interest, when because of special conditions a literal enforcement of the Code will result in unnecessary hardship, so the spirit of the Code will be observed and substantial justice done.
- Additional duties may be assigned by the City Council as deemed necessary in pursuit of the spirit and intent of the Code.

For more information, visit Balcones Heights website, Community Development or contact Janet Thelen, Community Development Director – jthelen@bhtx.gov or 210.957.3545

KEEP YOUR PET SAFE

Animal Care and Control serves the citizens and animals within the city limits of Balcones Heights and is committed to providing animal control by enforcement of our City Animal Ordinances and State Law; as well as provide care for the animals which are brought into our facility. For Animal Control please call: 210.957.3185.

Please keep your pets safe. Check your entire property for any openings in the fence. Your pet could get hurt, lost, or may cause harm to others. Also don’t forget to have them vaccinated and registered with the City of Balcones Heights. Animal registration tags are available at the Justice Center M-TH 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m. for $5.00 per animal for a one-year license. Please bring proof of vaccination and a photo of the animal when you register so that we can reunite the animal with the owner should he/she become loose.

Section 90.30 Running at Large. It shall be unlawful for the owner or person in possession or control thereof to permit or allow any dog or cat to run at large within the city.
2020 Census

Balcones Heights, along with every other city in the Country, has been asked to help inform the public about the upcoming 2020 Census.

A Complete Count Committee has been formed to help educate our residents and we are here to assist if you need help. There will be three ways to fill out the Census: you can mail, phone, or send your information online. Also stations will be set up at libraries for the public to use. (The Westfall Library located at 6111 Rosedale Ct, San Antonio, TX 78201 is the closest library to our neighborhood), Federal funding is tied to the Census and it is important to get an accurate count. Funding provides health care, core services such as road paving and education, and also determines how many Congressional districts States will have.

As you can see, a complete and accurate count will benefit state and local governments. If the numbers are undercounted, the George Washington Institute of Public Policy estimates that a 1% undercount could cause Texas to leave around $300 million on the table!

If you want to volunteer to help with our local Complete Count Committee please contact Chair Lamar Gillian at 210-875-1281 or lgillian@bhtx.gov.

“MAKE 2020 CENSUS COUNT”

2020 Census jobs provide:
Great pay ☆ Buen salario
Flexible hours ☆ Horarios
Weekly pay ☆ Paga semanal
Paid training ☆ Capacitación pagda

Senator José Menéndez

invites you to the

5th Annual District 26
Senior Sweetheart Dance

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Lucky Ballroom
1340 Callaghan Rd. 78228

FREE
Food, raffle, music, dancing, & fun!

To RSVP, call (210) 733-6604

Upcoming Events

January 13  Strategic Planning Workshop: 5:30-7:00 p.m. - BH Justice Center
January 20  Martin Luther King Holiday: All City Offices Closed
February 17  President’s Day Holiday: All City Offices Closed

Dates for the 27th Annual Balcones Heights Jazz Festival:
July 10, 2020
July 17, 2020
July 24, 2020
July 31, 2020

Look for more Jazz in 2020
IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION FROM C-6

Bulky items/brush collections are provided two times a year.

First Bulk/Brush Collection for 2020 is Monday, April 6th thru Friday, April 10th
Second Bulk/Brush Collection for 2020 Monday, September 21st thru Friday, September 25th

Bulky item collection is provided to all City residential solid waste ratepayers. To find out if you are current on your account contact C-6 Disposal at 210.375.0066.

If you are a resident and current on your account, you are eligible to receive this service. Material must be out no later than 7 a.m. on the Monday of the designated week. Once the truck has passed, it will not return.

BULKY PILE/BRUSH GUIDELINES:

Bulky/brush items must be set out no later than 7:00 a.m. of the first day of the scheduled collection.

Place bulky/brush item piles within two (2) feet of the curb. Bulky/Brush piles are limited to 8 cubic yards (6' height x 6' width x 6' length). See photo below for a visual of these size limits.

Residents electing to use landscaping or lawn maintenance service to trim trees should have that contractor take the trimmings with them.

• Do not place on curb! Please do not block sidewalks!
• Do not place bulky item piles in front of parked cars, near fences, trees, mailboxes, beneath overhead wires or power lines, low-hanging tree limbs, or on top of water meters.
• Do not place material at the curb after crews have passed by your house. The truck will only pass by once.
• Brush left by commercial tree trimmers or landscapers will not be collected as part of this pick up.

BULKY ITEMS INCLUDE:

Bulky items include stoves, refrigerators, water tanks, washing machines, discarded bathroom fixtures, household furniture, mattresses, television sets, and other bulky waste materials commonly found at a residence. Items such as swing sets, plays capes, basketball goals, trampolines etc. must be disassembled before being placed curbside.

BULKY ITEMS DO NOT INCLUDE:

Household Hazardous Waste, medical waste, infectious waste, motor oil, tires, batteries, paint, construction debris, remodeling debris, demolition debris, roofing material, dead animals, animal waste, rocks, dirt, stable matter.

VIOLATIONS:

Residents will be in violation if any of the conditions below are found:

• Pile contains construction materials (waste resulting construction, remodeling, repair or demolition operations
• Pile contains household hazardous materials, dead animals or stable matter with weights or volumes greater than those described above.
• Pile is obstructed by obstacles, set out directly under powerlines or on top of water mains, placed on sidewalk.
• Pile is set out after crews have passed by your house.

BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVE PICKUP:

Residents do not have to wait to receive their bulky item collection to get rid of bulky items; C6 disposal offers other services to dispose of these materials (billed separate of quarterly residential trash bill).

MISSED COLLECTION DUE TO LATE SET OUT:

If you missed your scheduled collection, call C6 Disposal at 210.375.0066 as soon as possible to learn about other disposal options.

Questions: Contact C-6 Disposal Systems, Inc., at 210.375.0066

Bulky/Brush piles are limited to 8 cubic yards (6' height x 6' width x 6' length)
A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR BALCONES HEIGHTS PARTNERS!!

The City of Balcones Heights in conjunction with the Balcones Heights Police Officer’s Association (BHPOA) worked together to organize the 16th Annual Blue Santa Parade & Gift giving event. We truly appreciate all of the businesses and groups that supported the event through monetary, food donations, and volunteer help. Without your assistance none of this would have been possible. Special thanks to: Wonderland of the Americas, Ms. Eula- Super Target, Mr. Romo-Walmart Jackson Keller, Mr. Livingston-World Car Mazda, Dr. Adam-Associated Foot & Ankle Specialist, Banis Towing, St. Gregory the Great Catholic School National Honor Society, Department of Public Safety, Texas State Troopers, Bedoy's Bakery, Medico M.D., Dave & Busters, American Legion-Alamo Post 2 Concert Band, Mrs. Livesay, Mr. Cantu-Classic Fire Truck, Generations FCU, St. Gregory the Great School Band, Mr. Ramirez & River City Classics, C-6 Disposal, BHFD, and special thanks to Blue Santa & Committee - Sergeant Joey Sepulveda, Dispatch Supervisor Chris Aguirre, Telecommunicator Selena Sanchez, Telecommunicator Serena Sanchez, Community Relations Manager, Chrissie Kolb, Sergeant Rudy Acuna, & Volunteers Lisa Brieno and Laura Mendoza!
Lots of great things to do and lots of great things to buy...
Methodist Hospital | Texsan awarded Disease-Specific Care Certification of Spine Surgery from The Joint Commission

BALCONES HEIGHTS, TX – Methodist Hospital | Texsan has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® for Disease-Specific Care Certification of Spine Surgery by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization’s commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

The certification recognizes health care organizations that provide clinical programs across the continuum of care for spine patients. The certification evaluates how organizations use clinical outcomes and performance measures to identify opportunities to improve care, as well as to educate and prepare patients and their caregivers for discharge.

“Our entire team at Texsan has proven once again they are deeply committed to providing excellent patient care every day,” said Scott Rausch, CEO of Methodist Hospital | Texsan. “This certification validates how we strive to achieve The Joint Commission’s nationally developed standards to deliver safe, high-quality care.”

Methodist Hospital | Texsan underwent a rigorous, onsite review in October. During the visit, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards, including program management and surgical outcomes. Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

“Disease-Specific Care Certification program of Spine Surgery Certification recognizes health care organizations committed to fostering continuous quality improvement in patient safety and quality of care,” says Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, Chief Operating Officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and Chief Nursing Executive, The Joint Commission. “We commend Methodist Hospital | Texsan for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for spine patients.”

Methodist Hospital | Texsan has deep roots as one of South Texas’s premier heart and orthopedic hospitals. The facility excels in advanced cardiovascular services and is home to the Joint Replacement Academy and The Center for Spine, offering advanced technology and leading clinical results in the industry. Methodist Hospital | Texsan offers: cardiovascular services, orthopedics and spine care and inpatient rehabilitation. Methodist Hospital | Texsan offers a convenient location and boutique atmosphere for patients. Our entire care team puts quality outcomes and patient-centered care front and center. We are proud to be accredited by The Joint Commission and the American College of Cardiology. Texas Spine Certification Team picture below.
WE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 20

ESTAREMOS CERRADO EL LUNES 20 DE ENERO DÍA DE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

January 1
New Year’s Day Holiday - City offices closed

January 13
Strategic Planning Workshop & Comprehensive Land Use Planning - Justice Center from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

January 20
MLK Holiday - All City offices closed

January 21
Planning & Zoning Meeting 6 p.m.

January 27
Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.

January 27
City Leader for a Day Event - 6 p.m.

Follow and “Like” the City FB page: facebook.com/BalconesHeights/

February 7
Nat’l Wear Red Day - Heart Disease Awareness

February 14
Valentine’s Day - Don’t forget your sweetie!

February 17
President’s Day Holiday - All City offices Closed

February 18
Planning & Zoning Meeting

February 24
Regular City Council Meeting

To receive the newsletter via email, contact Chrissie Kolb, chrissie@bhtx.gov, Community Relations Manager

Click for Info: Nat’l Wear Red Day - American Heart Association

We will be closed Monday, February 17

Estaremos cerrado el lunes 17 de febrero Día de los Presidentes

January 2020 Calendar

February 2020 Calendar

Balcones Heights Mayor, City Councilmembers

Left to right: Jesse Pacheco, Councilmember Place 2; Stephen Lara, Councilmember Place 1; Miguel C. Valverde, Councilmember Place 5; Lamar Gillian, Councilmember Place 4 & Mayor Pro-Tem; Mayor Suzanne de Leon; and John Halpin, Councilmember Place 3.

Newsletter Editor: Chrissie Kolb, Community Relations Manager
For questions or comments contact chrissie@bhtx.gov
January 2020

Jan. 1st    New Year's Day
Jan. 8th    Wonderland Loteria
Jan. 15th   Wonderland Loteria
Jan. 18th   Collectible, Antique & Coin Show
Jan. 21st   Cowtown Boot Giveaway Begins
Jan. 22nd   Wonderland Loteria
Jan. 25th   Wizards & Wands Art & Craft Show
Jan. 26th   Wizards & Wands Art & Craft Show
Jan. 29th   Wonderland Loteria

Find us on Facebook
www.wonderlandamericas.com