CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS BUSINESS RETENTION POLICY; COVID-19 RELIEF PLAN IS FIRST PHASE

Lorenzo Nastasi
Director of Economic Development & Public Affairs

The Balcones Heights City Council adopted a new Business Retention Policy during its June 22, 2020 City Council meeting. The new policy is designed to provide assistance to businesses that have operated a bricks and mortar business in Balcones Heights for at least six months. The policy includes a provision that allows the City to award grants that provide assistance in emergency situations. The policy reads, in part:

"Business retention grants may be awarded to offset emergency circumstances suffered by an individual business operator and/or property. Emergencies may include natural disaster, or other circumstances that may significantly interfere with the business operator to maintain normal business operations. Emergency Relief Grants will be awarded/approved by City Council and administered by staff."

Following the adoption of the Business Retention Policy, City Council approved a COVID-19 Business Relief Grant program. The City’s current fiscal year budget has allotted $20,000 for business grants. That funding will be used to fund the business relief grants. Individual grants to businesses will not exceed $2,500.

Guidelines and a grant application are included on pages 2, 3 and 4 of this newsletter and on the Economic Development page https://bhtx.gov/economic-development.

For more information, please email: Lorenzo@bhtx.gov

“Wear a Mask - Protect Yourself - Protect our Community”

Message from Mayor Suzanne de Leon

The City of Balcones Heights is adhering to the June 17, 2020 Executive Order issued by Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff. The order requires ALL employees and customers to wear masks while in any business. An establishment found in violation of the order could face a fine of up to $1,000. Face coverings are a secondary strategy to other mitigation efforts. They are also not a replacement for social distancing, frequent handwashing, and self-isolation when sick. The Executive Order will be applied in Balcones Heights until it is rescinded or expires. We have provided a required mask flyer as well as a flyer with COVID-19 symptoms for your business entry if you do not have them. These are both required. Simply tear from newsletter and place in your window.

All people should follow CDC recommendations including the following:

- Wash hands for 20 seconds before you leave home and when you return
- Stay at least six feet away from others
- Avoid touching nose or face
- Do not use disposable masks more than three times
- Wash reusable cloth masks regularly to prevent the spread of the virus

Face coverings do not need to be worn:

- When exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside
- While driving alone or with passengers who are part of the same household as the driver
- When doing so poses a greater mental or physical health, safety, or security risk
- While pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment
- While in a building or activity that requires security surveillance or screening, for example, banks
- When consuming food or drink

For more information, please email: Lorenzo@bhtx.gov
In an effort to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our local businesses and economy, the City of Balcones Heights City Council has budgeted $20,000 for the COVID-19 Relief Program. This program will provide up to $2,500 per qualifying business, until the budgeted $20,000 is allocated.

Applications will be reviewed based on day/time received basis. These grants will help local businesses retain employees and resources needed to survive during these trying times.

The grants will be made available pending final approval of the Balcones Heights City Council. Grants will be provided only to businesses operating brick and mortar operations within the city limits of the City of Balcones Heights.

Applications and supporting information are due to the City’s Director of Economic Development Director, Lorenzo Nastasi, Lorenzo@bhtx.gov on or before Friday, July 31, 2020, 12 noon, local time. No exceptions.

Applications and supporting documents must be emailed. No exceptions.

NON-QUALIFYING BUSINESS:

Businesses that do not qualify for this RCDC relief are considered essential businesses and are the following:

1. Grocery stores, big box stores, farmer's and food markets
2. Liquor, wine and beer stores
3. Construction and real estate development and sales
4. New or used automotive sales
5. Banks, lending and financial institutions
6. Non-profit entities, organizations or associations
7. Medical and health providers and related service companies and vendors
8. Plumbers, HVAC technicians and electricians

Basic Eligibility Requirements for Qualifying Businesses:

- The applying business must be a bricks and mortar business operating within Balcones Heights for at least six months.
- Grants will only be awarded to businesses that are current on all necessary permits, inspections, city sales tax submissions, ad valorem property tax payments, and must be in compliance with all applicable code requirements.
- Site inspections may occur as part of the grant application review process.
- Provide evidence of closure dates, revenue losses and expenses during closure if applicable.

The following business expenses may be eligible for grant funding:

- Lease/rent payments
- Personnel costs
- COVID-19 mitigation equipment and cleaning supplies
- Safe-distancing modifications to physical space.
- Other expenses may be considered on a case-by-case basis
- Eligible expenses must have been incurred between March 1, 2020, and June 30,2020
- Relief grant recipients must provide receipts, invoices, wages paid reports, and/or any other supporting documents when applying or before grant funds are paid.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Mayor of Balcones Heights. Committee recommendations for grant disbursements will be presented for approval to the entire Balcones Heights City Council by August 31, 2020.

To apply for the funding, please complete the attached City of Balcones Heights COVID-19 Application.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

If you have any questions about the grant guidelines or application and review process, please contact:

Balcones Heights Economic Development Office: 210.957.2991

**DISCLAIMER:** Relief grants are not guaranteed. All relief grant distributions and programs must be approved by the Balcones Heights City Council before being issued. The City of Balcones Heights, its City Council, or staff do not provide any advice as to whether applying for and receiving relief funds affects any other grants or federal and state grants or federal and state COVID-19 relief funds.
City of Balcones Heights
COVID-19 Business Relief Grant
Application

Applicant Name: ________________________________________________________________

Title: _______________________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _______________________________________________________________________

Email Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Business Information

Business Name: _______________________________________________________________________

How long has this business been operating at this location: _______________________________________________________________________

Business Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Business Phone: _______________________________________________________________________

Best Contact Phone #: _______________________________________________________________________

Business Email: _______________________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature: _______________________________________________________________________

Property Owner / Landlord’s Information

Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _______________________________________________________________________

Email Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Landlord Signature: _______________________________________________________________________

Yes _____ No_____ Pending _____

If so, when does the current Lease Agreement expire? _______________________________________________________________________

Page 2 of application on page 3
City of Balcones Heights
COVID-19 Business Relief Grant
Application - Page 2

Have you applied for a Federal or State grant or loan, including but not limited to, a SBA Paycheck Protection Program loan and/or a SBA Economic Injury Disaster loan within the past 60 days?

Yes _____  No _____

If you did apply for a Federal or State grant or loan, did you receive assistance?

Yes _____  No_____  Pending _____

** You may use additional paper if necessary.

If you did receive assistance, how much did you receive? Please explain how the funds are being used.
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
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What amount of monetary assistance are you requesting from the City?
$____________________________________

How do you intend to use the funding? (**Please refer to the attached policy)
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Please include the following documents with your Application:

Bexar County Tax Office 2019 Ad Valorem Tax receipt for payment of 2019 City of Balcones Heights personal and/or business property taxes.


This Application and documentation should be sent to Lorenzo Nastasi, lorenzo@bhtx.gov
Director of Economic Development by Friday, July 31, 2020, by 12:00 p.m. No exceptions.

Applications and supporting documents must be emailed. No exceptions

Applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Mayor of Balcones Heights. Committee recommendations for grant disbursements will be presented for approval to the entire Balcones Heights City council by August 31, 2020. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
ANIMAL REGISTRATION & LICENSING

Animal Registration: The City of Balcones Heights is committed to providing a safe and clean environment for all of our citizens and their pets, service, and assistance animals (dogs and cats).

A license ensures that dogs and cats are vaccinated against rabies, a fatal disease. Owners of licensed dogs and cats can use annual registration as a reminder to re-vaccinate their animals. The owner of any dog or cat must apply for a license and pay the license fee required by the city for each dog or cat before the animal attains four months of age. The application shall include the name and address of the applicant, description and photograph of the animal, and have attached thereto a copy of the proof of rabies vaccination if applicable. The licensing period begins January 1 and expire December 31 of each year.

City Code §90.020 states all residents in Balcones Heights are required to register all dogs cats within 30 days after obtaining a dog or cat over three months of age.

If You Don't License Your Dog: What happens if you don't buy a license for your dog? Well, it's sort of like driving a car without bothering to get a driver's license. If you're never stopped by the police or hit by another car, no one will be the wiser. And if your dog never bothers the neighbors, is never lost, stolen, or nabbed by animal control, and never bites anyone, you may get away with not having a dog license. But if any of these things happens, the penalty for not having a dog license is bigger than the price of buying one in the first place. It can be as much as $100.00.

When a licensed dog is picked up and impounded by animal control personnel, they can check the city's license records to identify - and notify - the owner. Unlicensed dogs are often euthanized (put to sleep) sooner than dogs with license tags. If you go away for the weekend, and your dog escapes from the back yard, the two or three extra days a licensed dog is given at the shelter could mean the difference between getting it back and losing it for good.

It is also a good practice to have your pet microchipped. If your pet slips their collar, the microchip is the last line of defense in finding the owner of the pet. At a routine visit to your vet, your pet can be microchipped. Microchipping only needs to happen once and it is a low-cost insurance that can aid in returning lost, stolen, or injured pets.

The staff at the City of Balcones Heights wants to partner with you through the animal registration program to keep your furry family member safe and healthy. The license may be purchased at the animal shelter or city business offices. Contact Code Officer Perez for more details and questions 210-347-4912 or lperez@bhtx.gov.

Licenses Fee:
Spayed or Neutered animal $5.00
Un-Spayed or Un-Neutered $10.00
Replacement tag, if lost $3.00

Spread the Word - YOU COUNT!!!

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape our community's future. Census results impact planning and funding for health clinics, and highways, fire departments and disaster response, education programs, and so much more! It only takes a few minutes to help our community! If you need any assistance, please contact Councilman Lamar Gillian lgillian@bhtx.gov or Community Relations Manager chrissie@bhtx.gov

** Do you have ideas to help our Community fill out their Census forms? Send in your response via email and you may be a winner! If we use your idea, you will win a Balcones Heights goodie bag!! Email your ideas to Chrissie Kolb - Community Relations Manager chrissie@bhtx.gov

Find and like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/BalconesHeights
BALCONES HEIGHTS
BUDGET FY/2020-21
CALENDAR

Friday, July 31 - 11:00 a.m. Budget Workshop - Balcones Heights Justice Center

Friday, August 7 - 11:00 a.m. Budget Workshop - Balcones Heights Justice Center

Friday, August 14 - 11:00 a.m. Budget Workshop - Balcones Heights Justice Center

Monday, August 24 - 6 p.m. Public Hearing - Proposed Budget & Tax Rate & Possible Action to Approve Balcones Heights Budget FY/2020-21 Balcones Heights Justice Center

- Balcones Heights Justice Center located at 3300 Hillcrest, Balcones Heights, TX
- Dates and location subject to change - some or all of these meetings may be online ZOOM meetings. Please check Finance website: www.bhtx.gov/finance for updates.
- If you have questions email City Administrator David Harris - dharris@bhtx.gov

Our Water Portfolio: 15 Projects From 9 Sources
Groundwater, Surface Water and Recycled Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Source</th>
<th>Water Supply Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lula Dam</td>
<td>West green, Edwards Aquifer Water Recovery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, visit www.sawm.org/watersupply
Residential Water Conservation and Leak Detection
Lamar Gillian, Council Member Place 4, City of Balcones Heights, Texas

It’s been awhile since I wrote an article, but something that happened in March awakened the pen in my hand. I’m sure you are thinking about COVID-19. That’s not it. However, I am hoping you all are taking the necessary precautions to minimize the risk of coming down with it.

I read the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) news bulletin in our monthly paper bill for February. It had an article about a water use-monitoring system that alerts you through your cell phone when you have a water leak. It costs $150 plus shipping and sales tax of about $22 for a total of $172. They offer a rebate of $150 which makes your net cost $22. Notorious for leaving water running outside, I decided to order the Flume model, and it came about a week later. It was a very simple installation. Simply attaching the sensor to the water meter with a heavy rubberized band and downloading the application to my cellphone.

Within five minutes I began getting text notifications that water was running constantly. I went out and checked the meter and the little red triangle was slowly spinning. I started looking for the leak and found a significant one under the front of our pier-and-beam foundation house.

I called a plumber out and my supply line had to be replaced. Went I got my next SAWS’ bill, I found out that the leak had deposited 12,000 gallons of water under the house. Fortunately, SAWS allows a once-a-year adjustment for leaks if you apply and send in a repair invoice. In my May bill, I got a credit for that and the $150 for the Flume detector.

Bottom line – You may want to consider participating in this program. I get usage reports every day, and have received several text messages that have alerted me to a faucet being left on or a toilet that is leaking from the flush valve.

Below are two internet links: One about leak detection and the other to the promotion offered by SAWS. Please call or text me at (210) 875-1281 if you have any questions or stop by and I’ll demonstrate the sensor for you.

Thanks,
Lamar


Easy home collection service for potentially hazardous materials.

How do you recycle their unwanted paint, motor oil, electronics, thermostats, anti-freeze or batteries?

The home collection service is the easiest way to encourage proper disposal of home generated special materials in your community. These items, known as home generated special materials consist of household hazardous waste, electronics, universal waste, and more. Once collected, Waste Management sends most of the materials to approved recycling facilities including electronics, paints, batteries, lamps, motor oil and more! Therefore diverting these items. This is a convenient service offered to you by Waste Management. Simply call 1-800-449-7587 or email: atyourdoor@wm.com. For more information - www.wmatyourdoor.com

The following are listed items that are considered hazardous waste. If you are unsure, please contact WM.
Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:

- Cough
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

*Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.*

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Thank you for helping slow the spread!

Face masks required

Please also stay 6 feet apart after entering
JULY 2020 CALENDAR

July  3  City offices closed for 4th of July holiday
July 21  Planning & Zoning - 6 p.m., if needed
July 27  Regular City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.
July 31  COVID Relief Business Grant Application due by email to Eco. Development Dir. Lorenzo Nastasi, Lorenzo@bhtx.gov by NOON, July 31, 2020.
July 31  Budget Workshop - 11 a.m.

AUGUST 2020 CALENDAR

Aug.  7  Budget Workshop - 11 a.m.
Aug. 14  Budget Workshop - 11 a.m.
Aug. 18  Planning & Zoning - 6 p.m., if needed
Aug.  24  Public Hearing - Proposed Budget & Tax Rate 6 p.m.
Aug. 24  Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.
* All dates subject to change - see www.bhtx.gov for updates.

BALCONES HEIGHTS MAYOR & CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

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

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