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

Greetings to you all ~

To say this has been an interesting year would be an understatement! As you have seen in previous city newsletters, we have celebrated many birthdays and graduations with police cars and fire trucks, as well as your city council, city staff and residents driving through the neighborhood with horns honking, lights flashing, sirens blaring while sending many well wishes for the people celebrating a birthday or graduation.

To all the people in our city – young and old – who didn’t get to celebrate their birthday the way they and their families had planned – we want to wish you all a very Happy Birthday!

And to all the graduates – whether from elementary, middle, high school or college, congratulations to you for all your accomplishments. You may not have been able to walk across the stage to receive your diploma as you planned for and thought you would, but you are still being celebrated and congratulated by friends and family, and your City. Your futures are bright!

I want to thank our police and fire departments for visiting our residents and conducting welfare checks to see if they are ok or if they need anything during this pandemic. I have heard from many residents how much they appreciate this service and I also thank them. Even during the COVID-19 lock-down pandemic, your city staff and council have continued to do their jobs and take care of day-to-day business. The finance committee has had several meetings in preparation of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget that will take effect October 1 once approved by Council. As our City Administrator, David Harris, shared with you last month, we feel confident that if we remain fiscally conservative through the remainder of this fiscal year, and because we have sufficient reserve funds, we should avoid any fiscal emergencies. However, we have seen that with the lock-down, our city sales taxes, which is about a fourth of our annual budget, has decreased from projected numbers and we encourage you to help our businesses and our city and shop in Balcones Heights.

An Accurate Count is Important

Finally, if you have not completed the 2020 Census, I encourage you to please do so. It is important for our community to have every resident counted for in order for us to receive our share of the federal dollars that will come to our state, our city and local businesses. The funds will help improve area schools, transportation infrastructure, hospitals, and police and fire departments. From May 27 through August 14, Census takers will visit all other residents who have not yet responded to make sure that everyone is counted. If you need any assistance, please contact Councilman Lamar Gillian at lgillian@bhtx.gov.

These are turbulent times and I pray for your safety and your health.

Suzanne
Councilmember Miguel Valverde named Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Valverde has been a Balcones Heights resident and property owner since 1973. He retired in October 2005 from the U.S. Army, 10 years reserve and 26 years active duty. Valverde formerly served on Council and previously served in various committees including the chair of the first ever Veteran’s Day appreciation event in 2019. Miguel also served as a reserve police officer for Balcones Heights. “I am honored to serve Balcones Heights as Mayor Pro Tem.” said Mr. Valverde. He has been married to wife Delia for 48 years, has a son and a beautiful and talented granddaughter.

Gloria Cantu
City Councilmember, Place 2

This is the first-ever column I have written for the newsletter since my appointment and subsequent election to City Council. It is a privilege, and an honor, to have this opportunity to serve the residents and business operators of our small and wonderful city.

When Mayor Suzanne de Leon appointed me last month to serve on the new Economic Development Committee, it was an additional honor, and it is a task I take very seriously.

In my opinion, and mine is only one vote on City Council, economic development is the key to our city’s future sustainability. Having worked across many professional and volunteer platforms, and having served several terms on Planning and Zoning, I certainly understand how there are often many layers to any one issue. I believe economic development is one of those issues.

There are many factors that will contribute to attracting new businesses and residents, and providing the environment in which our current businesses will also thrive. We have to keep a laser focus on the fact that businesses provide the bulk of the City’s revenue through the sales tax they generate, and the commercial property taxes they pay. Theirs is the revenue that pays the bulk of the bill for our police, fire and other city services.

Providing first-rate public safety (fire and police services), maintaining and creating positive and attractive “curb appeal” throughout its residential and commercial districts, not overburdening small businesses with unnecessary or irrelevant regulation, a positive branding initiative to give our City a new and improved image, an engaged and pro-active business and residential population – all of this and more make up the fabric that will ultimately weave the tapestry of our City’s future. It is also what each and every one of us, particularly those of us who have chosen to serve our City, will leave behind for the next generation, and for generations to come.

I for one, look forward to working with everyone to make our City’s future as bright as possible.
MESSAGE FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

With all the issues and challenges that have emerged in 2020, many of us have been wondering if we can “reboot” and start the year over. But we all know this can never be the case and that we must confront the challenges and opportunities before us.

Recently, our nation has been rocked by peaceful protests followed by acts of civil unrest. Our Black and Brown communities, locally and nationally, are suffering and we must find a way to not only be non-racist but anti-racist; we must each work to abolish personal and institutional racism.

*Justice will not be serviced until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are* - Benjamin Franklin

At Balcones Heights, your City staff and elected officials are dedicated to providing quality service to each and every person regardless of race. Our staff is dedicated to working with our community to ensure we create a more just, equitable, and humane society. Should you or someone you know have an issue with any employee regarding the provision of service, please contact me directly at dharris@bhtx.gov or 210-957-3541. Together, we can make a difference to make sure that each one of us can live in a community where people of all walks of life can flourish and live up to their God-given potential.

As we move into the next phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, we, as a community, can take great pride that our businesses reopened responsibly, our residents, business patrons and visitors followed recommended guidelines, and as a result, our community has not suffered as so many others have.

As of June 3, 2020, the City is adhering to Governor Greg Abbot’s Phase III plans to reopen Texas. This is in-step with the City of San Antonio and Bexar County.

For more information about this go to the City’s web site, www.bhtx.gov, or https://gov.texas.gov/news/post

One only has to read the headlines, listen to radio or watch television to know that in addition to business losses due to the March, April, and May closures, state, city and county governments are also suffering losses, primarily due to loss of sales tax revenue. While we did see a 43% decrease in April sales tax receipts, it is too early to tell how large an impact the May closures will have on our local sales tax revenue. I can assure that the City Council’s Finance Committee (Councilmembers Gillian and Lara), and staff are striving to balance the upcoming FY/2020-21 budget with a close eye to anticipated shortfalls.

City Council and staff will be fine-tuning the City’s complete budget through a series of workshops and public hearings beginning in July through the budget’s final approval in August. The projected schedule of budget workshops and public hearings can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. The schedule is subject to change, but changes will be posted on the City’s Web site as soon as they determined. I encourage everyone to attend at least one workshop, and as many of the hearings as possible.

Modifications are underway at City Hall/Justice Center with an eye to court reconvening as soon as the state Office of Court Administration approves our reopening plan. City Council is hoping to hold its June 22 meeting in person, most likely in the courtroom on the first floor. This will promote social distancing and minimize the numerous fingers touching buttons, door handles, elevator crowding, etc. City Council has been holding meetings via video teleconferencing though we “experimented” holding a Board of Adjustment meeting last month in person which led us to conclude that other public meetings need to take place on the first floor.

As we head into a summer unlike any we have ever experienced before, I hope that as a community and as individuals, we stay on an upward path to recovery and rebuilding what has been lost to this pandemic. Keep cool and stay safe!

*David J. Harris*
Methodist Hospital | Texsan wins national award for environmental sustainability

Sustainability is at the heart of our healing mission – and we’re proud to share that our sustainability strategies have won us a national award. Methodist Hospital | Texsan received this year’s Making Medicine Mercury Free Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care.

This one-time award is given to health care facilities that have virtually eliminated mercury and have policies in place to prevent it from re-entering the facility. Award criteria include strong mercury-free purchasing policies and management practices, staff education, and a commitment to continuing to be mercury-free.

In health care, sustainability means looking at how our operations affect the health and safety of our environment as well as the health of our patients, staff, visitors, and local community. Strategies to address sustainability at our organization include minimizing and recycling waste, addressing chemicals of concern, lowering energy and water consumption, sourcing food and products sustainably, and establishing environmentally preferable purchasing criteria.

“At Texsan, we know sustainability is essential to better care for our patients, communities, and planet,” said Teddy Badurak, Director of Facilities Management. “In recent years, we have made great strides toward reducing our impact on the environment, and we are committed to doing even more.

Texsan has replaced boiler switches containing mercury, replaced bleach wipes containing mercury to a mercury-free brand, changed to LED lighting, and partnered with another organization to recycle lamps and batteries.
Methodist Hospital | Texsan completed the renovation and expansion of its emergency department. This improvement allows the hospital to keep up with the growing community.

“We are excited that this expansion will enable us to continue to provide exceptional care to those needing emergency services,” said Megan Amalakuhan, Chief Operating Officer at Texsan. “Keeping our patients safe while in our care is our top priority. Our enhanced processes around cleaning and infection prevention, as well as added private rooms, will allow our team members to take even greater care of our patients.”

The expansion added 7,700 square feet of treatment space, 11 private rooms, including an isolation room, a trauma room, and multiple triage rooms for treatment of minor issues. Texsan added new electronic communication boards to share real-time information about patient care.

One of the first patients to need care in the new emergency department was Rudy Flores, manager at the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center, who broke his wrist after a bike accident near his home in Balcones Heights. His mother-in-law drove him straight to Texsan for care.

“There was no wait at all. Within minutes, I was in the back being treated. I didn’t even have a chance to sit down,” said Rudy Flores. “It was so convenient that the staff was able to do everything they needed in my room.”

Researchers have analyzed hospital admissions and found that many people with acute and emergency medical conditions are not going to the hospital. We’ve seen indications of these national trends in our local hospitals. At Methodist Hospital | Texsan, for example, we’re seeing fewer patients coming to us for emergencies. Texsan has implemented several new protective measures to ensure our hospital continues to be the safest place possible to receive care.

“I had a mask. They had a mask. I was never concerned about getting COVID-19,” said Rudy. “I felt safe there.”
Some of the concerns that people have about filling out the Census are explained here and we are happy to speak to anyone that is leery about filling out the Census. We want to make sure you have answers to all of your questions about the 2020 Census. Get Counted! It only takes a few minutes to help your community! If you need any assistance, please contact Councilman Lamar Gillian at lgilllian@bhtx.gov, or Chrissie Kolb, Community Relations Manager at chrissie@bhtx.gov.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!!

- Be sure to count everyone who lives in your home on your 2020 Census form. This includes babies and young children, who are often missed in the census. Not counting newborn babies and children impacts support for programs such as children’s health insurance, hospitals, child care, food assistance, schools, and early childhood development.

- Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics, which help determine federal funding for things like food assistance, health care services, and Pell Grants. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, DHS, or ICE. The U.S. Census Bureau asks about race and ethnicity in the decennial census, but it does not collect information about religious affiliation. U.S. law prohibits the Census Bureau from requiring anyone to disclose their religious affiliation. Learn more at 2020CENSUS.GOV.

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[Diagram and text related to Census facts and statistics]

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[Images with messages encouraging participation in the 2020 Census]
How to Save Water (and Money) This Summer

JUNE 2020

Thanks to a warm winter and a cool spring, green lawns are quite the sight this season. But trying to keep them that way as dry summer weather settles in can quickly lead to uncommonly high water use.

An unexpected high water bill is the last thing your household needs, especially during these uncertain times. So it’s worth a reminder that SAWS water rates are set up to encourage conservation. So the more water you use, the more you pay per gallon.

That means you can save money quickly with even small reductions in water use. But it also means those who use large amounts of water will see a spike in their SAWS bill.

An in-ground sprinkler system can make it especially easy to rack up an enormous bill, since it can use 3,000 gallons or more each time it runs. And a system that’s not properly programmed or maintained can use even more.

If you are using an irrigation system or sprinkler, year-round guidelines encourage watering your landscape before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m. As an alternative, you can save a lot of water by hand watering, which you can do any day, at any time — regardless of any drought stage.

For the latest drought stage information, visit saws.org/drought and follow @mySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. And remember to visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and land-
MANY BALCONES HEIGHTS RESTAURANTS ARE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS - SOME WITH DINE-IN - DRIVE THRU - CARRY-OUT AND DELIVERY:

These include, Luby’s, Jim’s, Simi’s India Cuisine, Babe’s Old Fashioned Food, Denny’s, Chick-fil-A, Whataburger, Pizza Hut, Grady’s, Peter Piper Pizza, Golden Kirin and Wendy’s. These local places each have specials and need your patronage.

Don’t forget TARGET is open from 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. It is constantly stocking fresh food and supplies daily.

And La Michoacana Meat Market is open and offering fresh produce, eggs, milk, bread, and homemade meals. Open 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Many stores, are open for shopping with incredible specials and deals that you do not want to pass up!

Abba Father’s Christian Store, Adriana’s Casa de Novias, Burkes Outlet, Burlington, Cowtown Boots, Hobby Lobby, Image Ave Clothiers, Ross, and the Food Court: Ebi’s Kabob, Goomba’s Pizza, Rico’s Dining, and Side Wok Café. Each of these stores listed here has live link - click on the store name and reach their webpage. If you have questions, please contact Wonderland office 210-785-3500 or visit - https://wonderlandamericas.com/
A message from Float owners Courtney and Jeremy Jacob:

We are so excited to see our guests again, but this excitement is tempered with caution and respect for the new realities impacting our lives. The decision to resume services has been a carefully made one. We seek to balance continued support of the mental and physical health of our community, and the safety of our staff and guests. While there is still no perfect solution, at this time, there seems to be a better general understanding of how we can mitigate risk as a community. We each have to make decisions on how to best protect ourselves and our loved ones. We fully respect these personal choices.

Tremendous effort has been invested in research and planning to launch a safe re-opening. FLOAT will look and feel a little different but our hope is that these changes will be temporary and maintain the integrity of the experience you have come to love. While making the decision to change key aspects that create the perfect experience for you was difficult, your safety is our number one priority.

When re-joining or visiting for this first time, please note the following temporary changes:

1.) MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER FLOAT AND IN ALL PUBLIC AREAS AT FLOAT.

2.) Community areas such as the locker room, massage chair room, lounge, and meditation nooks will not be available for use until further notice. We are asking that guests change in their tank room at this time.

3.) Please pay for services online before coming in to expedite the checkout process. If you have member credits these can be used for services.

4.) We kindly ask guests to practice social distancing along with limiting their time in the building after services.

5.) Please excuse us for not hugging and shaking hands. Finger guns are totally cool (finally)

6.) Please be patient with us if we are running behind or not immediately available. The extra cleaning and sanitizing we have put in place takes time and we will not rush it.

7.) There will be a new waiver relating to Covid-19; if you have completed one in the past, we appreciate your patience and willingness to complete this new one.

8.) While these new guidelines and temporary changes are not ideal, we are grateful for your understanding and cooperation to make this a successful re-opening. As always your safety and health are our primary concern - we cannot wait to see you!
Planning a special occasion?

Adriana’s Casa de Novias is OPEN! You will find a full selection of formal wear & accessories! Adriana's Casa de Novia's is your one-stop shop for all your wedding, quinceañera, and formal wear events. No need to feel overwhelmed or stressed, they will be there for you every step of the way with creative and extensive wedding planning & coordination. Event Consultation Service is free, and they pride themselves on providing personal attention to detail that brings every bride’s dream wedding to life.

Located - Wonderland of the Americas 4522 Fredericksburg Rd., Suite B-36A
For more information call them at: 210.396.1533

Many Beautiful Wedding & Quinceañera Gowns to choose from.

Baptism & First Communion dresses, boys suits and all of the accessories for that special day!

**Bexar County Rental Assistance**

**CPS Energy Utility Assistance**

The Bexar County Temporary Rental Assistance Measure (TRAM) provides up to 1-3 months of rental assistance to residents whose income has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Utility Assistance is available to eligible applicants to help pay CPS Energy accounts as well.

Applicants must meet income guidelines and live in unincorporated Bexar County or a suburban city outside of San Antonio. Enrollment is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm on a first-come, first-served basis.

Apply for rental assistance at: www.habtcx.org/TRAM. If you don’t have access to internet, call 210-940-1180. Request an application for utility assistance by emailing clientservices@bexar.org, or call 210-335-3666.

**Program Eligibility includes:**

- Tenant must be 18 years of age or older
- Meet income guidelines earning 100% or below Area Median Income
- Tenant must provide proof of unemployment (furlough, layoff or termination) or show a reduction of income due to COVID-19
- Tenant must provide a copy of Residential Lease Agreement
- Tenant must have a pay or vacate notice from the landlord
- Tenant must complete an online or phone application

If you live in the City of San Antonio and need rental assistance, visit www.sanantonio.gov/NHSD/Programs/FairHousing or call 210-207-5980. For utility assistance, call 210-207-7830.

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**Asistencia de Renta de Condado Bexar**

**Asistencia de la Utilidad CPS Energy**

La Medida de Asistencia de Renta Temporal (TRAM) del Condado Bexar proporciona hasta 1 a 3 meses de asistencia de renta temporal a los residentes cuyas ingresos se han visto afectados negativamente por la pandemia COVID-19. Asistencia de Utilidades ayuda pagar su cuenta de CPS Energy.

Los solicitantes deben cumplir con las pautas de ingresos y vivir en el Condado Bexar no incorporado o en una ciudad suburbana fuera de San Antonio. La inscripción está abierta lunes a viernes, 8am - 5pm.

Solicite asistencia de renta en línea al www.habtcx.org/TRAM. Si no tiene acceso a internet, llame al 210-940-1180. Solicite una aplicación de asistencia de servicios públicos por internet a clientservices@bexar.org, o llame al 210-335-3666.

**Elegibilidad para el programa incluye:**

- El inquilino debe tener 18 años de edad o más
- El hogar de casa debe cumplir con las pautas de ingresos para las familias que ganan 100% o menos del ingreso medio del área
- El inquilino debe presentar prueba de desempleo (suspendida, despido o terminación) o una reducción de ingresos debido a COVID-19
- Proporcionar una copia del contrato de arrendamiento residencial
- El inquilino debe recibir un aviso de pago o desalojo del arrendador
- El inquilino debe completar una aplicación en línea o telefónicamente

Si vive en la ciudad de San Antonio y necesita asistencia con la renta, visite www.sanantonio.gov/NHSD/Programs/ FairHousing o llame al 210-207-5980. Por asistencia de utilidades, llame al 210-207-7830.

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**Bexar County Strong**

**Small & Micro Business Relief Grant Program**

Bexar County Small Business Grant Program is a new fund to provide emergency relief to small businesses struggling under the financial impact of COVID-19. The Emergency Fund is designed to help small and micro businesses within Bexar County, Texas. Apply online at www.liftfund.com.

Sole Proprietorships and microbusinesses with 1-5 full-time employees can apply for grants up to $10,000, and small businesses with 6-10 full-time employees can apply for grants up to $25,000. Applications will be open June 8 - June 19, 2020. Grant awards will be notified June 29 - December 30, 2020.

This Program is a collaboration between Bexar County and LiftFund along with Southside First, 210-718-8347; Westside Development Corporation, 210-598-8482; North Chamber, 210-344-4848; and SAGE, 210-248-9178.

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**Condado Bexar Fuerte**

**Programa de Subvención Para Empresas Pequeñas y Microempresas**


Los propietarios unicos y microempresas con 1-5 empleados de tiempo completo pueden aplicar para subvenciones de hasta $10,000, y empresas pequeñas con 6-10 empleados de tiempo completo pueden aplicar para subvenciones de hasta $25,000. Aplicaciones estarán abiertas del 8 al 19 de junio de 2020. Las adjudicaciones de subvenciones se notificarán del 29 de junio al 30 de diciembre de 2020.

Este Programa es una colaboración entre el Condado Bexar y LiftFund junto con Southside First, 210-718-8347; Westside Development Corporation, 210-598-8482; North Chamber, 210-344-4848; y SAGE, 210-248-9178.
TEAM SHARK BJJ 3230 Hillcrest Dr #3 - Balcones Heights Texas, 78201
210-913-8763 or 210-314-5122
Occupational Therapy

2020

Summer Camp

Session I:
June 22 - June 25
Session II:
June 29 - July 2

Camp activities to include:
Exploration of sensory systems; activities of daily living, strengthening, peer interaction (with social distancing), visual motor integration, fun age appropriate fine motor and gross motor activities

3 Groups per Day: (price is for Session I or II)
- Sensorimotor Play - $150
  3 - 7 years; 9am - 12pm
- Self Care Activities and Sensory Play including
  Water Play - $150
  8 - 12 years; 1pm - 4pm
- Fine Motor Group with Strengthening -$100
  5 - 15 years; 4:30pm - 6 pm

The health and safety of the children and staff are our first priority; therefore, we will have a strict limit of enrolled participants for each camp session, in order to provide adequate adhering to CDC's recommended guidelines. Sessions will occur in an outdoor setting (weather permitting) with an occupational therapist with 2:1 ratio.

Call now to register
(210) 793-0877
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

newcreationtherapysa.com
WONDERLAND
JUMP AND PLAY

JUMP & PLAY THE DAY AWAY!

10% OFF ALL BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGES

10% OFF ALL BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGES IF BOOKED BY JUNE 30TH, 2020 FOR A JUNE OR JULY 2020 PARTY. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS, SPECIALS, OR COUPONS.

CALL US AT: 210.734.JUMP (5867)
EMAIL MELISSA AT
MSPROFERA@WONDERLANDAMERICAS.COM
FOR MORE DETAILS AND AVAILABILITY
Section 90.33, requires the following:

**Removal of Pet Excrement.** No person shall appear with a pet upon the public ways or within public places or upon the property of another, absent that person’s consent, without some means for the removal of excrement; nor shall any person fail to remove any excrement deposited by such pet. This section shall not apply to a blind person while walking his or her guide dog.
JUNE 2020 CALENDAR

May 27 – August 14: Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

June 21 - Father’s Day

June 21-27 National Mosquito Control Awareness Week

June 22 - Regular City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.

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

JULY 2020 CALENDAR

July 3 City offices closed for 4th of July holiday

July 13 Budget Workshop - 6 p.m.

July 21 Planning & Zoning - 6:00 p.m., if needed

July 27 Budget Workshop

July 27 Regular City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.

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