Message from the Mayor Suzanne de Leon

On Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 p.m., Senator Jose Menendez and I hosted a Virtual Town Hall meeting via Zoom where he gave updates about the upcoming 87th Legislative Session and I gave a few updates about what is happening in Balcones Heights. The Town Hall was well attended but for those who missed it, it was recorded so you can view on our city website www.bhtx.gov.

The Senator also took questions from the audience and spoke about how constituents can stay connected with their legislators and city leaders during this time of COVID-19. We may not all be stationed in the office due to COVID; however, he reminded everyone that we are just a phone call away and we are very interested in what your needs, concerns and issues are.

(Technology from Mayor de Leon on page 2)

TACOS MACHETES
Balcones Heights’ Newest Eatery
Something Special

The newest restaurant in Balcones Heights is one of a kind! TACOS MACHETES. Located at 90 Crossroads Blvd., a prime location of Crossroads Blvd and Fredericksburg Road, the new, full-service street taco emporium and bar encompasses more than 3,000 square feet and an investment of more than half-a-million dollars ($500,000).

(Continued on page 3)
The Senator said that the State Capitol was closed on March 18, 2020 and remains closed due to the pandemic. It is uncertain if and how it will be available to constituents during the Legislative Session. He will keep us updated and we can check the website tspb.texas.gov for updates. Senator Menendez and his staff are always available to answer your questions or help you with issues that may arise. Call their office - 210.733.6604.

Senator Menendez will be hosting other Virtual Town Hall meetings:

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Converse &amp; Kirby</td>
<td>Thurs, October 22</td>
<td>6:00 to 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Windcrest</td>
<td>Wed, October 28</td>
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<td>Leon Valley</td>
<td>Wed, November 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live Oak</td>
<td>Wed, November 11</td>
<td>6:00 to 7:30 p.m.</td>
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ZOOM ID: 813-801-7893  Password: townhall

Attending these Zoom meetings is a great opportunity for all of us to safely connect with our suburban sister cities and learn more about them, which also may help us identify other ways for our city to grow and prosper. Your City Council and Staff are here to answer your questions, listen to your concerns or issues, and try to find a solution to benefit all. You can send your questions or comments to info@bhtx.gov.

Last year we had an incredible Veteran’s Day event, and unfortunately this year we won’t be able to have an in-person event, but we are planning a wonderful parade to honor all of our Balcones Heights Veterans. The parade will be held on Saturday, November 7 beginning at 10 a.m.

During this pandemic we have missed some great events this year – Fiesta, Jazz Festival, National Night Out . . . and not sure about Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas events. But this is a small price to pay for our health and safety.

Praying that 2021 will be a much better year and we can once again safety get together, give each other a hug and return to a more normal life.

I am proud to announce that City Administrator, David Harris has been asked to be an Adjunct Professor at St. Mary’s University, teaching a class on budgeting and finance. He will begin the spring semester and was recommended by former San Antonio City Manger Alex Briseño.

Please join me in welcoming our new Finance Director Anthony Holland. We are pleased to have him as part of the Balcones Heights team. See his bio below.

Stay safe ~
Suzanne

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**BALCONES HEIGHTS WELCOMES NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR ANTHONY HOLLAND**

Anthony Holland comes to Balcones Heights with over 15 years of experience in the public sector. During this time, he has served the cities of Johnson City, South Padre Island, and the Point Isabel Independent School District. Most recently, Anthony served as the Chief Administrative Officer/City Secretary for Johnson City. He was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City, along with managing their budget.

Anthony is a graduate of the University of the Incarnate Word, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Development. He is a native of the Rio Grande Valley and has lived in the San Antonio area for the last seven years. Anthony enjoys visiting South Padre Island in his free time to visit family and friends.
Luis Alvarez, the restaurant’s General Manager, explains that the ownership group was more than ready to open in early October and delays of several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction and other details. Tacos Machetes is not the group’s first restaurant. It has a chain of three La Tequilla eateries, with locations in Fredericksburg, Kingsland, and Rockport.

One of the owner’s Dads was one of the most iconic street tacos vendors in their hometown, Jesus Maria, Jalisco, Mexico. The group was very interested in emulating that family history by creating this new concept: an upscale, street taco focused, full-service restaurant, and after searching the San Antonio area, decided on the Balcones Heights location. “It is an ideal location for our concept,” explained Alvarez.

“We are absolutely thrilled that this unique new restaurant is opening in our City,” said Mayor Suzanne de Leon. “It is the ONLY ONE within several miles,” added the Mayor.

“With all the traffic on Fredericksburg Road, the VIA Park and Ride, VIA Primo, I-10 and Loop 410, and no other eating establishment like it around, this location is at the heart of a lot of activity,” Alvarez added.

Alvarez explained that the location, a former, Church’s Chicken is in the middle of a dynamic hub including Methodist Texsan Hospital, Gold’s Gym, La Michoacana, Firestone, T-Mobile, Float, Boss Beauty Makeup Academy, Advance Auto Parts, Krav Maga, Brother’s Sound and Electronics, and many others.

The location is also across the street from Wonderland of the America’s with its three VA Clinics, numerous other medical and dental offices, Hobby Lobby, Ross, Cowtown Boots, and Burlington.

Alvarez spoke very highly of ease with which he was able to deal with City staff, particularly Janet Thelen, Balcones Heights’ Director of Community Development.

The renovation and additions to the site required a great deal of work, and Alvarez is quick to add, “she was so very helpful; she even gave me her cell number. I had heard Balcones Heights was a good place to do business, and I found out it really is.”

Tacos Machetes is open 7 days a week, 11 a.m. – Midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. – 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Dine-in and Curb-side - 210.444.9319. Initially the establishment will employ 19 employees, including 12 servers. General Manager Luis Alvarez pictured below on the left along with wonderful staff!
MESSAGE FROM CITYCOUNCILMEMBER MIGUEL C. VALVERDE

Greetings

It is amazing how COVID-19 has changed our way of living. It has taken away our liberty on many things. It seems like it is uncertain when or if this pandemic is going away. Due to this pandemic, Council is conducting meetings and business on Zoom which I am not a fan of because it and hinders the normal presentations and face to face meetings.

This year’s Jazz Festival and National Night Out events were canceled due to COVID-19. A Veterans Day Parade is being planned for Saturday, November 7 and hopefully we can make it happen. The Blue Santa event in December is the next event and we have to see what happens or what we can do due to this pandemic.

I appreciate our police officers and firefighters knocking on doors checking on the welfare and needs of our residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. The service they provide while putting their own lives in harm’s way to protect us. I also appreciate them sponsoring many events which are not part of their job description duties.

Most of us don’t realize everything they do for our community and the problems they deal with on the daily basis. This city has received numerous letters of appreciation from resident and business operators alike, people praising our police officers and firefighters for going above and beyond providing help on numerous situations on and off duty.

Our Police Officers deal with many daily issues and have to make last minute decisions which might affect lives including their own. Our police officers are dealing with numerous increasing problems in our community such as, homeless people, people with mental issues, drugs, and many other crimes that most of us are not aware.

Lately there has been many local and national news involving police shootings and/or forceful arrests. It is amazing how the media and most people turn all their attention to police officers as being guilty of police brutality or utilizing unnecessary force.

Many people want to defund police departments not realizing that by doing this the police might not be there when they need help and it opens doors for an increase of crime. Let us not forget that any suspect detained or confronted for questioning is because of a probable cause or another reason. Let us not forget the crime the suspect committed and the reaction towards the police officer.

People are quick to judge police officers not knowing or considering the history of a suspect. The majority suspects have an existing long list of crimes committed or warrant of arrest and not willing to be cooperative with police requests.

Most of them seem to think that they are above the law and untouchable. I have seen numerous videos and situations where most of the suspects do not cooperate with police commands and resist arrest causing a minor situation to turn into a major case.

With all this being said, I ask that all residents to please support our first responders and keep in mind that police officers must take whatever action is necessary for their safety and the protection of our community.

Respectfully Yours
Miguel C. Valverde
Councilmember Place 5

LET’S SUPPORT OUR PROTECTORS!!
METHODIST HOSPITAL | TEXSAN ACHIEVES GUARDIAN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD®
Emergency Room team recognized by Press Ganey during COVID-19 pandemic

Methodist Hospital | Texsan was recognized with the Guardian of Excellence® Award for Patient Experience in the Emergency Department for reaching the 95th percentile for each reporting period for the award year. Scott Rausch, the CEO of Methodist Hospital | Texsan credits the staff for remaining committed to providing excellent patient care, despite the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Providing an exceptional patient experience is what we strive for with each and every interaction. These experiences carried additional meaning with the implementation of our No Visitor policy throughout portions of the pandemic,” Scott Rausch, CEO of Methodist Hospital | Texsan “This is what we do at Texsan. We care like family.”

This is the second year in a row that Texsan has earned the Guardian of Excellence® award. At Texsan, our care team has developed processes to deliver safe and efficient medical care that our patients need during an emergency while still connecting with each patient.

“This is a pretty rare achievement for an emergency room because patients are in and out of the emergency room so quickly, it can be a challenge to make a connection in that short amount of time,” said Michael Brewbaker, Director of Emergency Services at Texsan. “But our staff really tries to provide compassionate and personal care to every person who walks through our doors.”

Texsan is a Level IV Trauma Emergency Center. Earlier this year, Texsan completed an emergency department expansion project that 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.

Residential Rental Property Registration and Inspection Program

At the September 28, 2020 City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved the adoption of the Residential Rental Property Registration and Inspection Program. This proactive program is a tool to promote compliance with the minimum standards contained in the various building and fire codes in residential rental properties. Many of the rental properties in Balcones Heights are, or are approaching fifty-years old. Aging housing stock whether single family, multi-family, or hotel/motel needs maintenance to maintain safe and healthy conditions. This program builds communication between city inspectors and property owners, managers, and residents.

Communication of deficiencies identified by inspections helps property owners and managers to plan and schedule needed maintenance. 80 percent of the residents in Balcones Heights reside in rental properties and this program helps to maintain residential rental properties in a safe and habitable condition. City staff will send notice of the adoption of the program with registration applications and a checklist for common areas of concern to area owners and managers.

Phase One of the program starts on January 1, 2021, with the registration of multi-family properties and hotels/motels. Single –family and duplex properties will join the program in the summer of 2021.

Property owners and property managers who have questions or would like a preliminary inspection before the end of 2020, are asked to email requests and questions to Janet Thelen, Director of Community Development at jthelen@bhtx.gov or call 210.957.3545.
COVID RELIEF TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN BALCONES HEIGHTS

The City of Balcones Heights has issued COVID small business relief grants to ten (10) local businesses. The City, through its Economic Development Fund, and in partnership with Bexar County CARES ACT grant awarded individual grants of up to $2,500 based on applications each business submitted.

“We are so happy that we could help these businesses,” said Mayor Suzanne de Leon. It is important to note, Mayor de Leon added, that the list of businesses includes several who have been established in Balcones Heights for a long time, Float, Catering by Celebrations, Goomba’s Pizza, and several that are relative newcomers, including Boss Beauty Academy and Team Shark Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Dragonheart by K and Shebree’s Crafts.
National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month and David’s Legacy Foundation is honoring David on the 10th by celebrating what would have been his 21st birthday. During National Bullying Prevention Month, they are asking everyone to join in honoring David’s life and continue work to help eliminate cyber and other forms of bullying by engaging in 21 acts of kindness.

1. Write and send notes of support to your neighbors.
2. On your daily walk with your kids, wave and smile to people passing by.
3. Share memes of positive affirmation on social media.
4. Check in with friends to see if they need support or just someone to listen to them.
5. Schedule online chats to celebrate each other and to boost each others’ spirits.
6. Share a favorite song with a friend to remind them you are thinking of them.
7. Bake some treats with your kids to share with friends.
8. Offer to mow the yard or help with chores for an elderly neighbor.
9. Tell someone that makes you smile how much you appreciate them.
10. Tell someone that doesn’t make you smile how much you appreciate them.
11. Reach out to someone you haven’t spoken to in a long time to say hi.
12. When you buy your coffee at the drive-thru, pay for the person behind you as a treat.
13. Up your quotient of smiley face and heart emojis in your texts.
14. Celebrate others who don’t typically receive a lot of attention.
15. Send a gift card to someone struggling financially.
16. Find ways to share more time with others who don’t normally get to spend time with you.
17. Offer words of affirmation in every conversation.
18. Instead of just liking someone’s picture on social media, reply in the comments why.
19. Inquire about donations to shelters and offer to help with what you can.
20. Send personalized thank you notes to your children’s teachers that you can make with them.
21. Write a simple sticky note telling your kids how much you love them and randomly stick it on their tablet for them to find.

David’s Legacy Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating cyber and other bullying, of children and teens, through education, legislation, and legal action

For more information about David’s Law visit the website: https://www.davidslegacy.org/davids-story/

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

OCTOBER 24 IS DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

DEA IS TEAMING UP WITH THE BALCONES HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
DRIVE UP - DROP OFF - DRIVE AWAY

For Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Best Protection is Early Detection
On Tuesday, September 22nd the City held a groundbreaking for the Vivian Lane Reconstruction project. Mayor Suzanne de Leon, City Councilmembers Miguel Valverde, Gloria Cantu & Lamar Gillian along with City Administrator David Harris and staff welcomed Precinct 2 County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, Community Liaison Kelly Rasti from the office of Senator Jose Menendez broke ground on a long awaited street project. This project is a partnership with Bexar County, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, SAWS and CPS Energy. “Projects such as this are important for the beautification of our City, and the preservation of our property values,” said Mayor Suzanne de Leon. “We especially want to thank former Councilmember Jack Burton for the use of his front lawn, electricity and of course his beautiful US and Texas Flags.

The contractors and subcontractors have begun the replacement of the sewer mains. The sewer main run primarily down the center of the roadway (the manholes in the street indicate the location of the main). In addition to replacement of the main, each sewer lateral servicing the homes along Vivian will be replaced. A clean-out will be included with each lateral replaced. It is anticipated that the sewer infrastructure replacement will finish up around Mid-October. The contractors anticipate replacement of the water mains and services begins soon thereafter. These dates of course are contingent on the weather and if any issues arise during the process.

The contractors will use door hangers to keep residents aware of any pending interruptions to utilities and to allow residents to plan for outages.

If you have any questions regarding this project or any street related concerns, please feel free to contact Janet Thelen, Director of Community Development at (210) 957-3545 or email – jthelen@bhtx.gov.
Open enrollment has begun!
Let us help you with any questions.

**Medicare**
We know Medicare can be confusing. That is why when you meet with one of our agents we will be able to bring clarity to the table and make sure you are getting all of your benefits.

**Affordable Care Act**
It is that time again to get enrolled in ACA/Obamacare. We can quote you rates for 2021 and see where we can save you money!

**Group Insurance**
Now quoting to make sure you have the best rate available for your company. We also offer digital technology to make your employees happy!

Call Us at 210-361-7096
YES!!! ALL Children can jump & play every Tuesday & Thursday at Wonderland Jump & Play!!!! *May not be combined with any other specials, coupons or offers! For more information you can call: 210.734. JUMP (5867)
Wonderland Jump and Play located in Wonderland of the Americas - 4522 Fredericksburg Rd., Suite B100

CDC GUIDELINES FOR HALLOWEEN 2020 - LOW TO HIGH RISK - REMEMBER SAFETY FIRST
Make plans to vote early—October 13 - October 30, 2020
Early voting dates and locations below:

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Vote anywhere in Bexar County
EARLY VOTE & ELECTION DAY!

For more information, visit www.bexar.org/Elections-Department

Bexar County Early Voting Sites
Joint General, Special, Charter and Bond Election
(Elección General, Especial, Carta y Bonos)
November 3, 2020
(3 de noviembre de 2020)

subject to change
(sujeto a cambio)

For more information contact the office of the Bexar County Elections Administrator, Jacquelyn F. Callanan, at (210) 335-VOTE (8683)
**OCTOBER 2020 CALENDAR**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 13-30</td>
<td>Early Voting</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Zoning - 6 p.m. if needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 26</td>
<td>Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Halloween</td>
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To receive the newsletter via email, contact Chrissie Kolb, chrissie@bhtx.gov, Community Relations Manager

**NOVEMBER 2020 CALENDAR**

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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Election Day - VOTE</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Veterans Day Parade - Begins at 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day Holiday - City offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16</td>
<td>Regular City Council Meeting - 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Zoning Meeting - 6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday - City offices closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Friday after Thanksgiving Holiday - City offices closed</td>
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**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.