

# PARK GAZETTE



April 2007

## From the Mayor's Desk...

There are two items about which I am questioned nearly every time that I visit with an Olmos Park resident, merchant, or friend who frequents our city. One is the status of our Infrastructure Project, and one is the proposed new City Hall. I want to bring you up-to-date on both.

### Infrastructure

I am pleased to report the project should be completed in May. The major work to be completed includes reconstruction of the 100-300 blocks of Park Hill, the 200 block of Thelma,

and the 100 and 200 blocks of Annie, and drainage improvements on Olmos Drive at Trevitt. Some streets are awaiting mill and overlay or paving and will be completed within the next few weeks. With a few exceptions, San Antonio Water System (water mains) and City Public Service (gas mains) have completed their work.

The project has taken longer than expected primarily because SAWS and CPS work were major parts of the project. The good news is that because of the joint agreement, there should be no major infrastructure improvements needed for many years.

### City Hall

Discussion about new city facili-

ties is one of the most interesting issues with which I have been involved during my 21 years as mayor. So much has been written about this matter, and I want to take this opportunity to share information from my perspective and that of the City Council.

Those of you who visit City Hall know that our facilities have not been updated in many years. There is no reception area, staff does not have adequate work space, storage is very limited, and the fire and police departments have the bare minimum in amenities. In fact, depending on the number of firemen on duty, one frequently has to sleep on the sofa because of the size of their "bunk

*Mayor, p. 2*

## FY 06 Audit Report

Our fiscal year 2006 audit was completed in January, and we are happy to report that revenues exceeded budget, while expenditures were less than budgeted, resulting in a surplus for the year. Our unencumbered general fund balance as of September 30, 2006, was \$2,830,250, which is more than one year's operating expenses.

In addition, we have \$381,000 in the Special Revenue Fund, \$420,000 encumbered for City Hall improvements, \$350,000 in our Sewer Fund to maintain our sewer mains, and funds designated for debt payments and to complete the infrastructure project.

Council remains committed to

keeping expenditures as low as possible, while maintaining the quality of services that you deserve as residents and merchants of Olmos Park.

### Amy Buckert Appointed City Manager

Most of you know that Barbara Joseph retired as city manager effective February 28. While we were sorry to see her go, we are pleased to introduce you to our new city manager, **Amy Buckert**. Amy began work on March 1 and already has shown her leadership ability working with staff and residents.

Amy grew up in San Antonio and graduated from Clark High School. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from UTSA and her Master of Public Administration



*Amy Buckert, new city manager* from UT-Arlington. She formerly worked for the City of Hurst and the City of Lewisville, but was anxious to come back home. We are most fortunate that she applied for our position. Many of you already have met her, but if you haven't, please stop by City Hall to say hello.

# PARK GAZETTE

## Olmos Park Fiesta Frolic

Please mark your calendar and join us at Alameda Circle on Sunday, April 22, from 1:00–3:00 P.M., for the Olmos Park Fiesta Frolic and King's Party. This annual event is a great way to meet your neighbors. Thanks to **Steven and Cyndee Dubinski, Jay and Katherine Buzzini, John and Susan Neely, and Richard and Marti Taylor** for chairing this event.

Watch for more information in the mail. If you would like to help, contact Steven or Cyndee, 826-7723, Jay or Katherine, 828-5384, John or Susan, 829-4312, or Richard or Marti, 826-6505. We look forward to seeing you there.

## City Election, May 12, 2007

Our annual city election will be held at City Hall on Saturday, May 12, with polls open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. This year, you will elect three members to serve on the City Council for the next two years. The candidates, as their names will appear on the ballot, are Harriet Oppenheimer, Sean McNelis, Joe Izbrand, and Robert B. Price. Olmos Park is an "at large" city, not divided into districts, so you may vote for three of the four candidates, and the three receiving the most votes will be declared elected.

Early voting will be held from Monday, April 30, through Friday, May 4, from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and Monday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 8, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

We will use the Direct Electronic Reporting (DRE) machines for early and Election Day voting. This will make the process go quickly and will expedite the counting of the votes.

Sam Dibrell has volunteered to serve as our election judge, but he will need help. If you would like to serve, please call the city secretary, Celia DeLeon, at 824-3281.

## Animal Control Ordinance Update

In January, Council adopted a new Animal Control Ordinance. Included in the ordinance are requirements that animals be under the owner's control at all times and provisions for removal and disposal of defecation.

The entire ordinance can be viewed on the City's Web site at [www.ci.olmos-park.tx.us](http://www.ci.olmos-park.tx.us).

## Meet the Candidates...

The Olmos Park Business Association will host a political forum for the candidates for City Council on Wednesday, April 11, from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. at Alameda Circle. Please join your fellow citizens and meet the four candidates.

**In case of inclement weather, the forum will be held at Olmos Park coffee bar, 5223 McCullough, in the Yard Shopping Center.**

*Mayor (from p. 1)*

room." The building itself is not in compliance with current requirements, including American with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates.

After review of proposals from several qualified firms, the architectural firm of Sprinkle Robey was selected to design new facilities, and after meeting with each department, they determined 11,000–12,000 square feet were needed to meet our needs now and in the future. Our current facility is only 4,200 square feet.

Council then appointed a six-person Site Selection Committee, which included Council members Harriet Oppenheimer and Ron Herermann and four Olmos Park residents. The committee considered many sites and, after much thought and several meetings, presented

## City Web Site

Soon when you visit the city's Web site at [www.ci.olmos-park.tx.us](http://www.ci.olmos-park.tx.us), you will find it has a new updated look. Special thanks to Assistant Police Chief Daniel Causey for taking on this task.

The site will include the entire City Code, various forms, agendas and minutes of meetings, and other helpful information. We hope to have the new site ready within the next few weeks. In the meantime, you may continue to access our current site at the same Web site address.



## Vote in the City Election!

their recommendations to the City Council. Council then authorized appraisals of two sites. Once these two sites were identified, the owners made it clear that their properties were not for sale.

Much has been written about "eminent domain" and a municipality's right to take property, even from unwilling sellers, for the public good. While this always is an option, it is not the preference of the City of Olmos Park or the Site Selection Committee. Our first priority is now and always has been to find a suitable location with a willing seller for new facilities.

Once a site is selected, we will hold a Town Hall Meeting to share information with our property owners, residents, and merchants. We know that only with your support can we see this project through.

# PARK GAZETTE

## News from the Street and Sanitation Department

Remember to have your household garbage and your curbside items ready by 7:00 A.M. on your designated collection days. Brush and recycling continue to be collected from the curb on Wednesday.

We ask for everyone's assistance in safeguarding the sanitation workers during their day-to-day pickups. City code states that containers be no larger than 30 gallons and weigh no more than 50 pounds when filled. If the workers find a violation, they

## News from the Police Department

We are pleased to welcome Officer Ruben Cardenas to our department. Officer Cardenas formerly was with the States Criminal Justice Division for 14 years and is doing an outstanding job for Olmos Park.

## Crime

Crime continues to decrease in Olmos Park. We attribute this to the vigilance of our officers, residents, and merchants. **Do not hesitate** to call dispatch at 822-2000 if you see any suspicious activity. Many times residents tell us that they "don't want to bother the police," but it is no bother. We much prefer to be alerted to any suspicious or unusual activity, even if it turns out to be a false alarm.

## Gun Locks Are Available

Guns locks are available free of charge at City Hall. These locks were funded through Project Child Safe, and it is highly recommended that you keep these safety locks on any weapons that you keep in your home, especially if you have small children. Stop by City Hall during

will leave a yellow tag on your receptacle or at your door explaining the violation. Please see that corrective measures are taken to prevent any delays in refuse collection.

We know that many times you do not prepare your own garbage or have workers who throw things away without your knowledge. Please tell your family, housekeepers, construction workers, and others to be very careful when discarding glass and other potentially dangerous items in your garbage. If in doubt, put the item into a separate bag and label it or talk to a sanitation worker before discarding.

normal business hours if you need locks.

## Construction Signs

Traffic construction frequently requires us to close streets and reroute traffic for your safety and the safety of workers. While most drivers obey traffic signs, many do not. Remember that "No Thru Traffic" means you can drive around barricades ONLY to access your home or a business. "Road Closed" means you must not drive around the barricade for any reason. It is a misdemeanor to ignore any traffic sign, and officers are enforcing the traffic laws.

## Pets

The City requires a pet owner to register all pets and to provide proof of current vaccination. This helps us ensure the health and safety of the citizens of Olmos Park and also protects you as a pet owner. Please place a collar with some form of identification on all pets. This also allows us to return your pet to you if found or captured.

## Vision Clearance

Vision clearance, particularly

One last reminder...brush trimmed by your yardman or tree trimmer **must be hauled away by that person.** We cannot collect brush left at curbside that was trimmed by anyone other than the property owner or family member.

## Oscar Garcia Retires



L-R: Oscar Garcia is thanked by Mayor Gerald Dubinski for his service to Olmos Park

It is very hard to say "good-bye" to an employee, especially one who has been with the City for 37 years, but that's what we had to do in January when OSCAR GARCIA retired from the Street and Sanitation Department. Most of you knew Oscar by his friendly smile and willingness to help when needed.

In January, Council recognized Oscar, thanking him for his dedicated service and presenting him with a much deserved retirement gift—a beautiful rocking chair engraved with the City logo and his name and dates of service.

We miss Oscar and wish him and his family the very best.

at intersections, continues to be a problem for motorists. With our recent rains, shrubbery grows very quickly, and we ask everyone to be certain their landscaping does not obstruct the vision of traffic or traffic signs.

# PARK GAZETTE

## Allison Hays Lane Honored as Time Warner Hometown Hero

Olmos Park resident Allison Lane was selected as our Time Warner Hometown Hero for 2006. She was honored with Heroes from other communities at an awards ceremony and reception hosted by Time Warner on February 21. Honorees were judged on their devotion to programs and services that contribute to the well-being of children.

Among her many activities, Mrs. Lane is an active volunteer for the Good Samaritan Center where she teaches a group of at-risk three- and four-year-olds. The focus of her efforts is to introduce these children to reading and art, things to which they might not have the chance to be exposed except through the Center and volunteers like Allison.

Thank you, Allison, for agreeing to be our Hometown Hero and representing Olmos Park so well.

## Alarm Registration

Although there is no charge for registration of your home or business burglar/fire alarm, we do have an ordinance requiring annual registration. With this information on file, we know immediately who to contact if there is a true emergency at your home while you're away. By requiring annual registration, you also have a chance to update the information.

Most other cities do charge for alarm registration and issue citations for a City Code violation if they receive an alarm call for an address for which there is no permit on file. We do not impose any fees, but we do want to be able to respond properly if we receive a call from your alarm company.

Please call or come by City Hall for an alarm registration form.

## City Council Meetings

We often are asked about the conduct of City Council meetings. Perhaps the following information will answer some of your questions.

### Q. Who determines the time and day for regular meetings?

A. Each May after the General Election, the Council determines the time and day for regular meetings for the next year.

### Q. Who determines the time and day for special meetings?

A. Special meetings are set by the mayor, with input from the City Council, and are called as needed.

### Q. How are the agendas for meetings established?

A. The mayor is responsible for setting the agenda for all meetings.

## Soliciting Ordinance

Many of you would prefer that we not allow any solicitors in Olmos Park, but the law does not allow us to do so. We have strict rules for solicitors, including charging for solicitation permits, limiting the number of solicitors from each organization, and limiting the hours to 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M., Monday through Saturday.

Although these rules *do not apply* to religious organizations and political parties unless they are requesting donations, if you ask a solicitor to leave your property, he/she must do so. If the solicitor does not, call non-emergency dispatch at 822-2000 and ask for an officer, who will escort the solicitor off your property.

• • • • •  
• **Use the Olmos** See [www.ci.olmos-park.tx.us](http://www.ci.olmos-park.tx.us) for forms, •  
• **Park Web Site** information, the City Code, and other details •  
• • • • •

### Q. When are citizens allowed to speak at a meeting?

A. A city is not required to hear comments from those in attendance; however, most include a "Citizens to Be Heard" item on their agenda.

### Q. What can I say during Citizens to Be Heard?

A. You may speak on any topic during this portion of the agenda. Council may offer information in answer to your questions, but may not discuss, debate, or take action.

### Q. What if I wish to comment and there is no "Citizens to Be Heard" item on the agenda?

A. The mayor may allow you to speak, but only concerning a topic that is on the agenda.

If you have other questions, please let us know.

## Parking Hazards

Parking on residential streets is an ongoing problem. Narrow streets and so many construction vehicles add to the problem, making it dangerous for pedestrians and difficult for emergency equipment to get through.

If you have workers at your home, please be sure they

- do not park directly across the street from each other.
- park facing the correct direction.
- park so that neighbors can get in and out of their driveways.

Please contact the Police Department for more information.

# PARK GAZETTE

## Don't Forget...

City Code requires temporary signs, such as realtor and contractor signs, be located **behind the front building setback line**, which is 40 ft. from the front property line in the residential district. In cases where the home is not 40 ft. from the property line, we require that you place your temporary signs as close to the house as possible.

Please share this information with your realtor or contractor. Be sure that any signs on your property are back from the curb to comply with this ordinance.

**Plan**



**Olmos Park  
Fiesta Frolic &  
King's Party**

**Sunday,  
April 22,  
1:00-3:00  
P.M.**



**Alameda  
Circle**

## Just a Reminder

You may leave the following items in your blue recycling bin for collection each Wednesday:

- Dry newspapers
- Glass food containers
- Metal, tin, and aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles and jugs (#1-#6)
- Wire clothes hangers with all paper removed

The following may be placed in a securely tied bag and left with your bin:

- Junk mail
- Copy paper
- Computer paper
- Paper file folders
- Catalogs (*no magazines*)

Some items that *are not* recyclable are as follows

- Light bulbs
- Magazines
- Packing "peanuts"
- Styrofoam

## Sales Tax for Street Maintenance

In May 2006, Olmos Park voters almost unanimously approved a proposition reauthorizing an additional 1/4 of 1% sales tax for street maintenance. The tax originally went into effect January 1, 2003.

Since that time, we have collected more than \$300,000 in additional sales tax revenue. These funds can be used *only* for maintenance of existing city streets and will help us maintain our newly rehabilitated streets.

## Brush Collection

When placing brush at the curb for collection, keep in mind the following regulations:

- Trees or limbs cannot exceed three (3) inches in diameter or six (6) feet in length, with all lateral branches trimmed; quantity cannot exceed 250 cu. ft.
- If you hire someone to trim your trees, whether an individual or a company, that person is responsible for removing all branches, cuttings, and debris.

## OP CALENDAR

### April

April 6, Friday  
GOOD FRIDAY  
CITY HALL CLOSED  
\*\*NO GARBAGE PICK UP\*\*

April 18, Wednesday  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
8:00 A.M.—City Hall

April 30, Monday  
FIRST DAY FOR EARLY VOTING  
FOR MAY GENERAL ELECTION  
8:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.—City Hall

### May

May 7, Monday  
EXTENDED HOURS FOR EARLY  
VOTING  
7:00 A.M.—7:00 P.M.—City Hall

May 8, Tuesday  
LAST DAY FOR EARLY VOTING  
Extended hours  
7:00 A.M.—7:00 P.M.—City Hall

May 12, Saturday  
ELECTION DAY  
7:00 A.M.—7:00 P.M.—City Hall

May 16, Wednesday  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
8:00 A.M.—City Hall

May 28, Monday  
MEMORIAL DAY  
CITY HALL CLOSED  
\*\*NO GARBAGE PICK UP\*\*

### June

June 20, Wednesday  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
8:00 A.M.—City Hall  
NOTE: Times and dates subject to change.)

# CITY OF OLMOS PARK

119 W. EL PRADO DR. • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78212-2095

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 2026