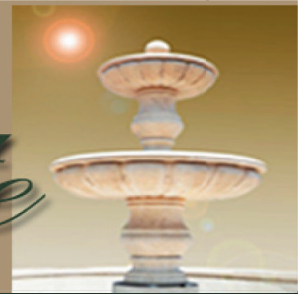




PARK Gazette



PARK GAZETTE

WINTER 2012

LIVE IN OLMOS PARK? NEED SMOKE ALARMS? CALL US!

by **Linc Surber, Fire Chief**

Olmos Park Fire Department is always looking for ways to serve, assist, and protect our residents. Smoke alarms save lives. We will provide and install a free smoke alarm for every bedroom and common living area that currently does not have one for anyone living in Olmos Park. The first 9-volt battery is included and should be replaced each year when you change your clocks for daylight savings time.

Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years. If you have smoke alarms and would like them tested and evaluated for replacement we would like to help you with this as well.

If you need additional information or would like to set up an installation appointment, please call 210-832-0506 and let us know you're interested. Please remember you must be an Olmos Park resident to be eligible. A special thanks to Wayne Wright Law Offices for providing the smoke alarms.

FROM THE MAYOR

I want to thank all of the residents in our community who are involved in various aspects of our City. We have many residents serving the City on the Board of Adjustments, Planning & Zoning Commission, and Economic Development Corporation in addition to our committees including Investment, Communications, Streetlight, Landscaping and Welcome. If you are interested in serving the City in any volunteer capacity please let me know. Becoming a volunteer gives you the opportunity to shape Olmos Park while getting to know your neighbors!



The City Council was pleased with the attendance at our Town Hall meeting regarding the roundabout/fountain – we do appreciate your input. The next step is for the Council to work with the Roundabout Committee to incorporate the safety recommendations of the traffic engineer as well as to ensure that the final solutions will be aesthetically pleasing for this focal point of our City.

Please remember to thank our city manager, Mike Simpson, as well as our administrative staff, Celia DeLeon and Mayra Torres, for the excellent job they do for our city. We are fortunate to live in such a fine community and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your mayor. -Susan Gragg

FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Since I came to City Hall in mid-February, much has happened in Olmos Park. Barbara Joseph, interim City Manager, did a great job following Amy Buckert's departure.

I have had the honor of selecting two department heads, the Fire Chief – Linc Surber – and the new Director of Public Works – Gilbert DeLeon. Linc took over the fire station after Jimmy Ladewig's successful period as interim Chief following Chief Medbury's retirement. Linc immediately began evaluating and training his force. He concurrently has been invaluable to me as City Manager with good advice and counsel (he had been acting City Manager at Shavano Park for almost a year). Gilbert took the reigns after Javier's tragic stroke in June. He brings enthusiasm and a long knowledge of Olmos Park to the job. He hired his own replacement and is working hard to evaluate the department
continued on p. 3



This tip is based on information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, adapted by Givler Engineering, Inc

REDUCE STORM WATER POLLUTION

What can I do to prevent storm water pollution?

Everyone can help keep the City of Olmos Park clean. Here are a few tips that can help protect our environment:

- Don't put anything in storm drains but rainwater. Storm drains and flood control channels carry surface runoff directly to streams and rivers without treatment. Make sure that runoff carries only rainwater.
- Avoid throwing litter into the street. Trash-laden gutters increase neighbor-hood pollution and clog storm drains causing street flooding and traffic congestion.
- Pick up after your pet. Animal waste, when left on the ground, washes down storm drains and contaminates beaches. Picking up dog waste is a City ordinance (Section 3.25) and dog owners disregarding this law may be fined.
- Recycle your motor oil. There are many gas stations, auto parts stores and repair shops that will collect and recycle used motor oil.
- Bag, compost or recycle grass, tree limbs, leaves and other yard waste. Soggy yard waste is a major contributor to clogged storm drains and street and neighborhood flooding.
- Don't use harsh, abrasive or toxic chemicals around the house. Select water-based products over solvent-based products when avail-

able (e.g. paint, glue, shoe polish). Also, avoid aerosol sprays; choose a pump spray or other alternatives.

- Report illegal dumping. To report illegal dumping anytime, day or night, call the City Engineer's Storm Water Compliance Specialist (210) 342-3991 x203 or the Olmos Park Police Dispatcher (210) 822-2000.
- Keep sanitation workers safe. When thrown in with the regular trash, household hazardous waste can injure sanitation workers. In addition, landfills are not intended or permitted for those types of wastes, which could impact groundwater. Call the City Engineer's Compliance Specialist to find out how to properly dispose of these materials.
- Be smart when you apply pesticides or fertilizers. Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before it rains. Not only will you lose most of the chemicals through runoff, but you will also be harming the environment. Do not over-water after application. Read the label and do not apply more than recommended.
- Don't get fined! The illegal dumping of hazardous waste carries a minimum fine of \$500 per day per violation up to \$5,000 per day per violation.

For more information on reducing storm water pollution in The City of Olmos Park

Please contact:
David Johnson
Office of the City Engineer
City of Olmos Park
210-342-3991

REFURBISHED STREETLIGHTS

The city has begun refurbishing the fifty-four gaslights, about five per month. Don't be surprised if you notice some of them are missing. They will return to their spot within six weeks, just like new, ready to supply light for passers-by for twenty to thirty more years.

PENDANT LIGHTS ON CONTOUR

CPS is installing nine new pendant lights on Contour between Olmos and Wildwood. They will begin digging trenches soon for electric lines. See the map and further explanation on the Olmos Park website. See Happenings.

For more information, contact Gayle Girdley or Ernie Locker, Streetlight Committee Co-chairs.
-Gayle Girdley, City Council

RAILROAD QUIET ZONE

The Quiet Zone is now in effect. A reception was held at City Hall recently to thank Joe Straus, Jeff Wentworth, representatives of Union Pacific Railroad and others who made the quiet zone possible.

Trains should not sound their horns unless a dangerous situation is observed on the tracks. If you hear a train horn, please note the time, the date, and, if possible, the direction the train is moving and the train intersection where the sound is coming from. Email the information to Councilman Jeff Judson who will forward it to the City of San Antonio and to Union Pacific Railroad.
Jeff Judson, City Council
citycouncil@jeffjudson.com

city manager continued...

and plan for even better service to the City. Police Chief Fred Solis continues to professionalize the police force and ensure safety for the residents. His department has been instrumental in solving several local crimes resulting in felony indictments for the miscreants.

Council approved an operations budget of \$2,852,000, the same amount as last year. The City purchased a new police car replacing the most expensive one to maintain, at a bargain price, and sold the old one for about 1/3 of the replacement cost.

Also, Council replaced our 19+-year old fire engine two years ahead of schedule in order to take advantage of another great price on a demonstrator model that greatly increases our fire suppression capability. The purchase may also lower your home insurance rates!

After a year of no cost of living increases, Council was able to grant a 1% increase to the municipal employees. I believe the City has a very responsible budget that funds essential services without placing an unfair burden on Olmos Park taxpayers.

In 2011, we finished the Park Hill/Trevitt storm water control project, under budget and on time. Homes down-stream from Sunshine Cottage will now be protected from extreme storm water runoff.

Safety issues at the roundabout and fountain continue to be a sore point. The fountain has been

OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMIT FOR MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Parking on city streets is prohibited between 2 am and 5 am. The Police Chief can now grant a 30-day exception for mitigating circumstances, such as construction, and the City Manager can grant a 30-day extension. Anyone needing to park on the street overnight for more than 60 days will be required to obtain permission from City Council. To request a permit e-mail the Chief of Poliec at policechief@olmospark.org.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR RV'S, BOATS, AND TRAILERS

Small RVs may be parked in the residential area as long as they meet strict time, size, set-back and concealment requirements. Basically, to store RVs, you must meet all building setback requirements and obscure them from the street by plantings or fencing. As an exception, you may park your RV in your drive for 24 hours to prepare it for a trip or to unload it after a trip. No one may stay in a parked RV (even just overnight).

inoperable since two motorists struck the façade, knocking it loose and destroying a concrete bollard. Also, the upper two pools are separating and require repair. One piece needs to be replaced. Other needed repairs, for example, upgrading and possibly replacing the pumping equipment, aren't related to accidents. In the meantime, stage I water restrictions restrict the use of water for our fountain.

City Council decided to resolve the safety issues before repairing or rebuilding the fountain.

A traffic study was conducted. Recommended safety upgrades include new lighting for the fountain, new high-visibility markers for the roundabout and the splitter islands, new traffic control signs and repainting the traffic control lines on the pavement. A minor redesign of the traffic circle would be helpful and could be a longer term goal.

Ongoing safety and some cosmetic work is in progress as we go to press. In the meantime we are studying options for the fountain.

The goal is to have a repaired fountain with working pumping equipment, more permanent lighting, and protective bollards.

We are in the process of receiving estimates for the various options before moving ahead. In the long run, routine maintenance and repair for the roundabout and fountain will be vital in sustaining an appearance worthy of our city.

Thank you for your patience during this difficult time. If you would like to be involved in formulating the fountain plan, please contact me.

From all the municipal employees:
Best Wishes to You for a Happy and Safe New Year!

-Mike Simpson, City Manager



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WINTER 2012

City of Olmos Park
120 West El Prado Drive
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 824-3281

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 1001

CITY OF OLMOSPARK
WEBSITE
olmospark.org

City Hall
Office: (210) 824-3281
Dispatch: (210) 822-2000

Emergency: 911

Administration
City Manager
citymanager@olmospark.org
ext 303

City Secretary
citysecretary@olmospark.org
ext 301

Court Administrator
court@olmospark.org
ext 302

Police Department
policechief@olmospark.org
ext 304

Fire Department
firechief@olmospark.org
ext 324

Building Official
jraby@olmospark.org
ext 309

Public Works
publicworks@olmospark.org

CPS Energy
210-353-2222

SAWS
210-704-SAWS

Webmaster
webmaster@olmospark.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
3rd Thursday 6:00 pm

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
2nd Wednesday 4:30 pm

PLANNING & ZONING
4th Thursday 5:00 pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.
2nd Monday 5:00 pm

HOLIDAYS -no garbage pickup
President's Day: Feb. 20
Good Friday: April 6

FIESTA FROLIC:
April 22

CITY ELECTION
1st Day to File for City Election
February 4

Last Day to File for City Election
March 5

SPRING HAUL OFF
7:00 a.m. – 8 a.m.
April 21, Saturday