

Saddlebrook Farms

September 2004

Wow, it is already fall! Halloween and Thanksgiving are just around the corner and with any luck, so are cooler temperatures.

In this issue of the newsletter get information on developments in San Antonio's transportation system, the impending crisis for families in Bexar county and how you can help as well as helpful information regarding watering your lawn that may help prevent a water waste ticket.

Annual Meeting Notes

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the annual meeting on September 23. The turnout was enough for a quorum but we would always like to see many more faces and to hear your input on the community.

Board member elections were held and we would like to thank Wanda Guntz for serving a third term. We would also like to welcome our newly elected board member, Pamela Guerra.

To those residents who submitted questions or comments for review by the board, the next meeting is October 18 and all concerns will be reviewed and discussed at that time. If you were unable to make the meeting and have something to submit to the board, please either email a board member or contact our management company, APM, to submit a comment or to be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

Much more participation from the community is needed to make things run smoothly. There are vacancies on every committee: newsletter, social, safety and architectural. The volunteer time needed per person decreases with the more people we have involved. Right now, all committees are relying on the work of only one or two owners and that person is often also a board member. If you have any interest in helping out the community, you can contact any board member or APM.



Yard of the Month

Congratulations to the 2004 Saddlebrook yard of the month winners! Each winner received a \$25 gift certificate to Lowes and the opportunity to display the yard of the month sign.

July Winner

- James Laform and Laura Boringhaus
9543 Preakness Pass

August Winner

- Luis and Patricia Bueno
9419 Victory Row

September Winner

- Jeffrey and Shelly Balay
9722 Girth Lane

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New Neighbors

• We would like to extend a hello •
• and to welcome those residents •
• who have joined our community •
• during the last quarter: •

• Columbia Carlos •
• 9607 Single Spur •

• Carol Evans •
• 9530 Preakness Pass •

• Misty Mitchell-Arizpe •
• 9715 Single Spur •

• Reginald & Ojetter Ashe •
• 9730 Girth Lane •

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Keeping San Antonio in Motion!

San Antonio is America's 8th largest city.* And it is estimated that by 2025, Bexar County's population will reach 1.8 million** — 20% higher than it is today. Meanwhile, funding for public transportation, street improvements and highway projects has not been able to keep up with the growing community needs. There is a plan to keep San Antonio moving as we keep growing.

To respond to transportation challenges, the citizens of San Antonio are being asked for an additional ¼ cent sales tax to create an Advanced Transportation District (ATD)—an entity allowing for a community-wide effort between the City of San Antonio, TxDOT and VIA. If approved, the ATD would use new tax money to help fund advanced transportation projects undertaken by all three agencies. *Based on input from the community and resolutions passed by the VIA Board of Trustees, these funds would not be used for light rail or for projects on toll roads.*



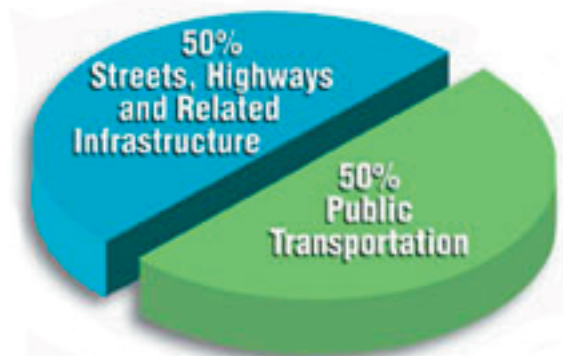
**ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION
D I S T R I C T**
Keeping San Antonio in motion.

Adding ¼ cent to the sales tax amounts to one penny for every \$4. And everyone who buys anything in San Antonio—including tourists—will be contributing. That fraction of a penny is expected to amount to an additional \$34 million per year—all slated to provide street, highway, and public transit solutions. Even with the increase, San Antonio's sales tax for transportation will still be ¼ cent less than that of Dallas, Houston or Austin.

One fourth of the money collected by ATD will be used by TxDOT to leverage federal matching funds. This will increase TxDOT's budget for local work and speed up projects that would otherwise take years to even get started.

How the ATD funds will be divided.

One fourth of ATD funds will be used to increase the city's resources for street improvements. The City plans to make specialized improvements along major arterial streets throughout the city to enhance connectivity between neighborhoods and major roadways.



One half of the ATD funds will improve the public transportation system with VIA to include better service on the busiest routes, expand service to new areas and provide better passenger facilities.

For more information, logon to www.advancedtransportationdistrict.org for a complete description of the plan including specifics on listed improvement areas or call 362.2222.

Citizens will have a chance to vote on this issue on election day, November 2.

* 2003 U.S. Censu Bureau Estimate

** The Texas State Data Center

This information was adopted from the ATD Web site and does not act as a binding reference.

Families in Crisis in Bexar County

In a report released August 26, 2004, it was concluded that Texas does not take serious enough the problems associated with child welfare, sitting at 48th in the nation when it comes to spending associated with the problem. Today, because of the lack of priority Texans place on the issue and because of a sudden and dramatic 80% increase in child abuse/neglect referrals this year alone, 30% of children in Bexar County have been turned away from local shelters and judges are having to separate siblings and send children outside of Bexar County to find appropriate foster care.

But the issue doesn't stop with child abuse/neglect. Bexar County courts are seeing dramatic increases in every issue related to families, including family violence, juvenile delinquency, divorce, child support enforcement and child custody battles. More and more families are turning to the courts for answers and, because the courts are not accustomed to caring for the emotional aspects of such matters, children are falling through the cracks.



In family matters, courts cannot just focus on the legal aspects of the matter. They are becoming the caretaker of children in the child abuse/neglect docket and the third parent in the child custody docket. In order for the courts to do their job effectively, they must have community resources to turn to—to send a child to a shelter pending investigation of documented abuse or neglect, to send a parent for vocational training or parenting education, to send an abuser for anger management and behavioral counseling, to send divorcing parents to learn how their battles affect their children and how to coparent to avoid harming them.

Today, however, the courts' hands are being tied. The need seen by the courts far outweighs the resources currently available in the community. Judges who hear horrific stories of child abuse, neglect, and divorce abuse are left to “do what they can” because they can't do what they need to do. In response Judge Lori Massey, 288th district court, has chosen to get out of the courthouse and into the community, seeking to bring the community and the courts together to effectively meet the needs of the families and children of Bexar County.

She is coordinating Family Fairs which will take place at several local churches. The Fairs will consist of booths sponsored by the various community organizations that need additional resources to address the needs of the families and children and, as a result, the courts. Churchgoers will be encouraged to walk through the fair – either in the church hall or gymnasium – either before or after the church service. When they do, they will learn not only of the problem, but of how they can help – whether it be by training to be a CASA advocate, applying to be a foster care parent, or something less but just as important – such as donating time, money or items to a community service organization.

Through this program, Judge Massey hopes to educate the public about the changing role of the district courts and motivate the public to change the place that children hold in their priorities.

Judge Massey will host a Town Hall meeting on October 4 at the Carver Cultural Center where the presentation will be focused on the problem, the changing role of the district courts and the need for community support so that judges can fulfill their new role and the needs of our families.

For more information, contact Judge Lori Massey at 210.825.7153 or judgetmassey@aol.com.

Watering Restrictions are Permanent

Did you know that San Antonio has watering restrictions for residential properties year-round, not just during Stage 1 and Stage 2 crisis? SAWS deputies have been touring the neighborhood in recent weeks looking for water violators. The first offense usually results in a warning but subsequent offenses may result in a water waste ticket. Keep the following restrictions in mind before turning on the sprinkler or leaving the hose running:



- Watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is permitted only **between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.**
- Watering with a hand-held hose or drip irrigation (soaker hose) is permitted anytime.
- Water may never be allowed to run into a gutter, street or ditch.

For more information or to report water waste, call 704-SAWS.

Chapter 34 of the San Antonio City Code contains restrictions on water use that are in place year-round. There are also further restrictions that are triggered at various aquifer levels. Thank you for helping to conserve water, our most precious natural resource.

Fall is Here

Fall officially began on September 22 at 11:30 a.m. CDT. Known scientifically as the autumnal equinox, this is the point at which the sun appears to cross from the Northern to the Southern hemisphere and only one of two days a year when the hours of day and night are equal.



Halloween is only five short weeks away! Daylight savings time also ends on Sunday, October 31, giving us more daylight in the morning but evenings will now be darker. Please be aware of people out and about on all halloween eve, from kids and parents collecting treats to tricksters who may be out to cause trouble.

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You can also contact the board at:

contact@sbfhoa.com
http://www.sbfhoa.com/

Managed by APM, Inc.:
210.342.1181

Next Meeting:
18 October 2004

