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News, Issues & Events from City of San Antonio Downtown Operations  
August 2009

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### Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



Last month, the *Today Show* brought downtown San Antonio to the rest of the nation with a live broadcast from the Arneson River Theatre in historic La Villita. Read about our time in the national spotlight!

Move over Branson...this month, country music comes to downtown San Antonio - with the debut of a live music show, San Antonio Rose LIVE! If you prefer the cinema, we are also continuing with our Movies by Moonlight series in HemisFair Park.

With all this attention, we are working hard to keep downtown looking great. Over 100 volunteers from Novo Nordisk completed a community service project in HemisFair Park while in town for their annual sales meeting. The City is also preparing to begin much needed repairs on the South Presa Bridge, which is over 100 years old. Long-term visioning is in the works, too, with the Planning & Development Services Department hosting the 2009 Community Development Summit in September.

There is always something happening downtown, and every month we are making sure you know about it. As always, we look forward to seeing you out and about downtown!

We're located at 202 E. Nueva. Contact us at (210) 207-3677 or via email at [downtown@sanantonio.gov](mailto:downtown@sanantonio.gov) for questions or assistance related to downtown San Antonio.

### Community Development Summit

by Richard L. Milk, Planning & Community Development

The vision for San Antonio's future will be the focus of the 2009 Community Development Summit. This year's theme, "Creating Great



## Mark Your Calendar

### August - October (Every Thursday)

Movies by Moonlight  
HemisFair Park  
For info call 207-3677  
[www.sanantonio.gov/dtops](http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops)

### June 6 - August 29 (Sat. only)

Pearl Farmers Market  
Museum Reach Extension  
[www.pearlfarmersmarket.com](http://www.pearlfarmersmarket.com)

### July - August (Saturdays only)

Twilight in the Village  
La Villita  
For info call 207-8610

### August 1 - 28

Live music every  
Friday & Saturday  
Main Plaza  
[www.mainplaza.org](http://www.mainplaza.org)

### August 19

Tejano Academy Summer Bash  
La Villita  
For info call 227-2826

### August 21

San Antonio Rose LIVE! premieres  
[www.saroselive.com](http://www.saroselive.com)

### August 29

Houston Street Fair & Market  
Houston St. from Broadway to 3rd  
[www.houstonstreetfair.com](http://www.houstonstreetfair.com)

### August 29

Cinema Paradiso  
Main Plaza  
[www.mainplaza.org](http://www.mainplaza.org)

### August 30

Mexicapan Dance Performances  
Arneson Theatre in La Villita  
For info call 887-8909

### September 4 - 7

Labor Day Arts & Crafts Show  
River Walk Extension  
For info call 227-4262

### September 5 - 7

El Mercado 33rd Anniversary Labor  
Day Celebration  
Market Square  
[www.marketsquaresa.com](http://www.marketsquaresa.com)

### September 11

Fiestas Patrias  
HemisFair Park  
For info call 227-0123

### September 11 - 13

Fiestas Patrias  
Market Square

Places: From House to Market," sets the stage for two days of conversations regarding the interconnected nature of infrastructure, jobs, and housing conditions.

The Summit takes place September 16 and 17, and will include workshops, tours, and special events. The event also features two keynote speakers. Regina Gray is a policy analyst in the Division of Affordable Housing Research and Technology for the Office of Policy Development and Research. Ms. Gray develops and manages research projects on various land use related issues, "green" practices and energy efficiency, and innovative strategies for achieving affordable housing.

Gerrit Knaap is the executive director of the Nation Center for Smart Growth as well as an economist and professor of Urban Studies and Planning at the University of Maryland. He has received "2006 Outstanding Planner Award" from the Maryland chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Strategic Plan for Community Development will also be updated with stakeholder feedback during the Summit. This process includes the selection of next year's Reinvestment Plan Areas, making the 2009 Summit a critical event that every community development stakeholder will want to attend.

To register, or for session information and FAQs, please visit the Summit webpage at [www.sanantonio.gov/summit](http://www.sanantonio.gov/summit).

## History Lives Along the River Walk Museum Reach

by Mary Yturri, Contract Coordinator

The preservation of two structures along the new Museum Reach segment provides a historic backdrop for telling the fascinating story of San Antonio and its river.



The Hugman dam, located just north of Lexington Street, was built in 1941 by River Walk architect Robert H.H. Hugman. The purpose of the dam was to provide much-needed flood control as well as accommodate barge traffic in the downtown reach of the river. Hugman's vision for the river - a winding collection of boutiques and eateries - was known as 'the Shops of Aragon and Romula' and was modeled after cities in Spain that prohibited vehicular traffic in the most exclusive city corridors by constructing only narrow, walkable streets.

Further north on the river and visible just on the other side of the VFW Post 76, is a remnant of a historic dam structure built circa 1872. The dam was used to capture and channel water into a 750-foot long raceway that in turn powered millstones at the Alamo Flour Mill. San Antonio's heritage as a German milling town can still be seen today as one looks south of downtown at the C.H. Guenther & Sons' Pioneer flour mill.

As San Antonio ushers in the future along the new Museum Reach, it's wonderful to know that these unique, historic structures will be preserved for generations of San Antonio residents and visitors to enjoy!

## Movies by Moonlight

by Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager



HemisFair Park has been the "big screen" with Movies by Moonlight. The outdoor cinema series continues through

[www.marketsquaresa.com](http://www.marketsquaresa.com)

**September 12**  
 Dies y Seis Celebration  
 La Villita  
 For info call 207-8612

**September 16 - 17**  
 Community Development Summit  
[www.sanantonio.gov/summit](http://www.sanantonio.gov/summit)

## Downtown Parking Lots - Safety for Everyone

by Judy Babbit,  
 Disability Access Office



As of 2006, there were a total of 80 lots in the downtown area, operated by 10 different entities. In order to keep parking lots safe and visually appealing, San Antonio City Codes require that the lots should:

- be free of brush, weeds, broken glass, stumps, roots and debris
- not contain hazardous or unsanitary conditions, such as holes, excavations, breaks, projections and obstructions

In addition, to ensure proper right of way on sidewalks, wheel stops should be placed a minimum of 3 feet from the property line to avoid excessive car "over hang". A fenced in border is a great way to avoid over hang, over growth and property line issues.

Sidewalks damaged by cars going in and out of parking lots should be repaired quickly to prevent pedestrian injury. Following these simple guidelines helps to keep parking lots and the City of San Antonio clean and safe!

## Talkin' Trash - Changes are Coming

by Veronica Garcia,

October.

This summer we have had an average crowd of more than 650 moviegoers each Thursday. San Antonio residents and visitors have embraced Movies by Moonlight.

The event would not be possible without great sponsors. Time Warner Cable has provided tremendous publicity for the series. Rivercenter Mall has also stepped up to sponsor the programming for the four months. Thank you to our sponsors for your continued support of downtown activities.

Upcoming movies include:

- August 20: *Top Gun*
- August 27: *Urban Cowboy*
- September 3: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- September 10: *Fiddler on the Roof*
- September 17: *Barefoot in the Park*
- September 24: *The Way We Were*

The free movies are shown every Thursday in the grassy area under the HemisFair Park archway at S. Alamo and Nueva. Come early for the preshow at 7:30 pm, followed by cartoons. The feature film premieres just before 8:30 pm.

Concessions are available and movie-goers can park for free at the Alamo Lot across from the Federal Courthouse and at the Durango Street lots after 6:00 p.m. on a first-come basis.

Movies by Moonlight is presented by the City's Downtown Operations Department with sponsorship by Rivercenter Mall and is presented in part by Time Warner Cable. For more information, call 207-2111 or visit <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/>.

## South Presa Street Bridge to Receive a Face Lift

by Cynthia Martinez, Special Projects Manager



The Presa Street Bridge near La Villita was built in 1890 and it will be receiving a much needed facelift. On June 25, 2009, City Council approved a contract with NG Painting, Inc. for work to include abatement, preparation and repainting of the South Presa Street Bridge.

Work will be completed above and below street level and will address abatement of existing lead-containing base coatings, spot treatments of limited corrosion and other minor repairs. The repairs and repainting will create an updated appearance and ensure protection of the structure.

Work is scheduled to begin later this month and is estimated to be completed by November 2009. For more information, contact Cynthia Martinez at 207-3372.

## Downtown STAR - Melissa Perez

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



The Downtown STAR award recognizes Downtown Operations Department employees that go above and beyond the call of duty, demonstrating exceptional Service, Teamwork, Attitude and Resourcefulness. Fellow employees submitted over 50 nominations for

## Executive Assistant



The Downtown Operations Department and Solid Waste Management Department are working together to improve the sanitation condition of downtown sidewalks for our downtown visitors, workers and residents. Leaking trash receptacles contribute to sidewalk pollution and bags and receptacles often crowd pedestrian walkways and hinder accessibility.

In response to these issues, the City of San Antonio is proposing amendments to the Solid Waste section of the City's Municipal Code for the Central Business District. These changes include limited trash placement and collection times, mandatory receptacle identification, and the elimination of the City's commercial bag program.

A meeting to present the proposed changes to the downtown community was held on August 7 at the Central Library. Downtown Operations will next take the proposed amendments to City Council for consideration. For additional information on the proposed amendments and how they may affect your business, please contact Veronica Garcia at (210) 207-8477 or [veronica.garcia@sanantonio.gov](mailto:veronica.garcia@sanantonio.gov).

## Make HemisFair Shine

by Sandy Milewski, Novo Nordisk



Where do trash cans, park benches, paint cans and a BioPharmaceutical division spell a great time? Only in HemisFair Park and downtown San Antonio! On July 28, a group of 100

the Downtown STAR awards for this quarter.

Each Downtown STAR receives an award, recognition in the department newsletter, lunch with the Director, and a special prize. A copy of the nomination also goes in their personnel file. This month we highlight another Downtown STAR:

### Melissa Perez, Senior Office Assistant - Parking Division

For Melissa, the customer comes first! She ensures they are always satisfied and has been seen running down the hall to offer faster service. She has made suggestions to help her division operate more efficiently, and they have used those suggestions to improve operations. Melissa has a positive attitude and is a true team player who often helps her colleagues learn and improve on the job. She is an example to those around her and co-workers see her as a role model.

Congratulations Melissa on a job well done!

If you know a Downtown Operations Department employee who demonstrates exceptional customer service and has left a positive impression on you, nominate him/her for the Downtown STAR award at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/DowntownStars.asp>

The next deadline for nominations is September 11. For more information, you may also contact Veronica at 207-8477.

## San Antonio Rose LIVE-A Boot Scootin' Good Time!

By Bonnie Schatz, SARL Productions, LLC



If you're looking for the newest attraction in Downtown San Antonio, look no further! Opening August 21st, San Antonio Rose LIVE is a two hour live country music show in the Historic Aztec Theatre on the World Famous River Walk.

Featuring musicians from Nashville, Branson, Austin and San Antonio, the 10-member San Antonio Rose Live Band brings to life some of the greatest classic country songs. Our signature show represents a journey through country music history from the early 1920's until the mid 1980's. The Historic Aztec Theatre has been newly renovated with comfortable spacious seating, a new stage and state of the art sound and lighting technology complementing the live show focused on the music of that era.

San Antonio Rose LIVE hopes to provide a valuable complement to businesses throughout downtown. So, come join the fun as we continue to protect and preserve classic country music and bring back to life some of the greatest country music songs ever!

Shows are Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays at 7 p.m. with a matinee on Saturdays at 2 p.m. The Holiday Show begins November 28th. Guest artists will also be hosted throughout the year, so check the website for updates.

For tickets or more information visit our website [www.saroselive.com](http://www.saroselive.com) or call 210-212-7638.



volunteers from the BioPharmaceutical division of Novo Nordisk Inc. (a Princeton, NJ based company) gathered together under the warm Texas sun to paint benches and trash cans in HemisFair Park as part of their Triple Bottom Line principle.

Novo Nordisk is a world leading healthcare company. The company strives to conduct business in a socially and environmentally responsible way and contribute to the enrichment of the communities in which they operate. Employees were in town for a sales meeting, and wanted to give back to the San Antonio community. The painting project in the park was part of the Downtown Operations Department's year-long Make Downtown Shine program.

Future Make Downtown Shine events are scheduled for Milam Park, Travis Park, and Alamo Plaza. For a list of dates and projects or to coordinate volunteers to help, contact [downtown@sanantonio.gov](mailto:downtown@sanantonio.gov).

## Escape to the Spanish Governor's Palace

by Charlotte Boord,  
Visitor Services Supervisor



The shady and tranquil courtyards at the Spanish Governor's Palace have lured City employees from their offices throughout the downtown area. The courtyards offer a cool escape from the hot city streets, and with the lush landscape it's a great place to bird watch.

Just show your City ID for free admission and have a great lunch!

## Eagle Scout Project

by Charles Leschber,  
Administrative Services Manager

## Today Show Broadcasts from La Villita

by Karina Alderete, San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau



San Antonio dazzled on the NBC Today Show's special series "Today Takes a Vacation." July 29, it was back-to-back San Antonio live from the River Walk with celebrity anchors Kathie Lee and Hoda, on the nation's most watched morning show. All told, our city received more than an hour of exposure in the U.S. and Canada, with segments sprinkled throughout the 4 hour show to an audience of 39 million.

The San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau (SACVB) Communications team worked intensely with producers for months, and the result was a win/win for all of San Antonio. Culture, cuisine, performing and visual arts, heritage, history, shopping, and other assets were woven into the production. "We really wanted the visual take-away to convey the deep history of San Antonio, along with our year-round fun, festive spirit and warmth of our people," said Dee Dee Poteete, Director of SACVB's Communications. Some 20 producers and technical staff from NBC New York spent 3 days in San Antonio ramping up for the live broadcast.

More than 500 audience members lined the Arneson River Theater, some as early at 4 a.m. Rio San Antonio barge cruisers floated by with members of the Armed Forces and fans. Country and western star Lee Ann Womack entertained, but San Antonio was the real star. The media value of the exposure for our City was \$1.8 million.

The SACVB deeply appreciates the passion of the local audience, and the partnership and teamwork of all who made this a success!

## PDA's Enhance Amigo Services

by Bernie Cantu, Downtown Alliance



The Centro San Antonio Amigos just started using a new hand-held PDA that is full of downtown information. Every business, attraction, hotel and church will ultimately be included in the PDA. The PDA's will help with providing directions, have transit routes and fares and can report areas needing maintenance or other attention. These mobile "computers" provide detailed information such as hours of operation and admission costs for downtown attractions. A small printer will also print personalized walking directions for downtown guests.

The PDA's can be used to conduct surveys and produce reports that show the number of contacts in a given time by any particular employee or area of downtown. In the past, the Amigos have had to memorize much of this information or rely on the "dispatcher" at the Operation Center. This new resource puts more information at Amigos' fingertips to instantly convey to downtown visitors.

We are sure that the Amigos will find even new and better ways to use their PDA's. We look forward to continuing to provide the best service possible for everyone in downtown San Antonio.

## Latino Music Festival Poster Design Contest



Samuel L. Marich, an Eagle Scout candidate with Boy Scout Troop 398 from Madison Hills Baptist Church, selected as his Eagle Project the renovation of the area in front of the Magik Children's Theater in HemisFair Park.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, and scouts must complete 21 merit badges and fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills in order to earn this honor. Eagle Scouts must also plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a community service project.

Fellow scouts, family and friends assisted Samuel with the project. The crew built 2 new benches and refurbished 3 of the benches in front of the Magik Theater to create a comfortable visitor waiting area. In addition, the scouts added decorative mulch around trees and planted ground covering plants. Finally, the group stripped and repainted the fencing around the sunken garden and filled the area with a variety of plants.

We commend Samuel's leadership and hard work, and thank him for his service to the community. If you know of an Eagle Scout candidate that needs assistance with coordinating a community service project, please contact the Downtown Operations Department at 207-3677.

by Marisela Barrera, Main Plaza Conservancy



Main Plaza Conservancy is holding the first Poster Design Contest celebrating the 2nd Annual San Antonio Latino Music Festival. The selected design will be made into the "official poster" for the event.

The Selected Artist will receive:

- A \$500 honorarium
- 2 VIP passes for the Festival
- Exposure as the official poster artist
- Opportunity to autograph posters onsite
- Official recognition/introduction to the community at the Festival press conference
- Visibility on both the website and official Festival Program
- Artwork displayed in an exhibition of selected entries in downtown San Antonio

The inspiration for the design should focus on:

**SAN ANTONIO SOUND** - music celebrating our very own: living legends and punk rockers, Mexicana *cantantes* and musicians carrying on the family tradition.

**FRONTERAS** - music created by regional American artists *con todo respecto al otro lado*.

All entries must be original artwork, and the deadline is August 28. For a registration form or questions, email [marisela@mainplaza.org](mailto:marisela@mainplaza.org). Be sure to see the winning design at Main Plaza on Saturday, November 7 at the 2nd Annual Latino Music Festival from noon to midnight.

## City of San Antonio - Downtown Operations

The mission of the Downtown Operations Department is to provide centralized services for activities related to maintaining the core of San Antonio in an exemplary condition and support downtown facilities, programs and events that highlight the city's unique qualities as a business center and tourist destination.

Need assistance? Have a suggestion for the newsletter? Contact us with comments or questions at [downtown@sanantonio.gov](mailto:downtown@sanantonio.gov).

202 E. Nueva San Antonio, Texas 78205  
Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

[www.sanantonio.gov/dtops](http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops)  
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