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

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**Mark Your Calendar**

### Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



What's hotter than the weather this summer? Summer entertainment downtown! This month's [Movies by Moonlight](#) features a new action hero each week. Next month, it's '80s fever - read more about our remaining summer lineup. For live entertainment, [Market Square](#) hosted the San Antonio Conjunto Shootout featuring Conjunto and Tejano groups going "mano-a-mano". [La Villita](#) also features live entertainment this summer with Twilight in the Village.

We work while you play, and we wouldn't have it any other way. Good work comes from good planning, and you can help. Next month, the Historic Preservation Office will unveil the City's first Strategic Historic Preservation Plan. The City is also working on a Graffiti Strategic Plan and [Centro SA](#) is working on an action plan for the Downtown PID for next year. Mark your calendar for the upcoming public meetings to review the draft plans and offer suggestions for improvements.

Speaking of improvements, we are currently enhancing accessibility along the River Walk. We have also streamlined the permitting process for sidewalk cafés. Don't forget about our ongoing effort to clean up trash on our downtown sidewalks. Finally, read about another [Downtown STAR](#) who is a shining example of our efforts to provide excellent customer service to you.

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.

**June 4 - August 27  
(Thurs. only)**

Movies by Moonlight  
HemisFair Park  
For info call 207-3677

**June 5 - July 31 (Fridays only)**

Party on the Plaza  
HemisFair Park  
Near base of Tower of the Americas  
For info call 378-2738

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

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

**July 3 - 25 (Fri/Sat only)**

Fiesta Noche del Rio Dance  
Performances  
La Villita Arneson River Theater  
[www.alamo-kiwanis.org/FiestaNoche](http://www.alamo-kiwanis.org/FiestaNoche)

**July - August (Saturdays only)**

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

**July 25**

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

**July 25**

Conjunto Heritage Taller Annual  
Conjunto Tardeada  
La Villita  
For info call 212-8560

**August 9**

Salsa Fest  
HemisFair Park  
For info call 698-2856

**August 19**

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

**Downtown Sidewalk  
Cafe Permits**

by Bruce Martin,  
Contracts Manager

**Strategic Historic Preservation Plan**

by Shanon Wasielewski, Historic Preservation Officer

The City of San Antonio has 24 historic districts and over 2,000 individual buildings, sites and structures. In December 2008, the City Council approved a contract with the Lakota Group to complete a Strategic Historic Preservation Plan. The purpose of this initiative is to create broad-based community consensus so we are better equipped to make sound decisions about the preservation of our historic buildings, sites, and districts. The draft plan provides concrete strategies to enhance the preservation program and capitalize on our unique historic resources that have a proven positive impact on economic development, heritage tourism and quality of life.



The draft plan analyzes and makes recommendations regarding the preservation planning program including resource survey, identification and designation; available incentives for historic preservation; economic development strategies; and public education and advocacy. In addition, the draft plan includes recommendations regarding collaboration among departments on issues impacting preservation, economic development and sustainability.

The Preservation Plan Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from 30 organizations, is providing valuable input into the process. The Steering Committee hosted three community workshops and several focused stakeholder discussions. The process has underscored the importance of input from a broad range of partners.

Preservation and new development go hand in hand. We can encourage good development that supports preservation through consistent application of new tools such as design guidelines and creative incentives for reinvestment in our urban core. The draft plan will be available for public review and comment in July. A briefing is schedule for City Council on August 5th with formal adoption to follow soon thereafter.

For more information about the Strategic Preservation Plan or about other programs and events offered by the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation, please visit [www.sanantonio.gov/historic](http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic) or email [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov).

**Conjunto Shootout at Market Square**

by Sonia Gaeta, Management Analyst

The San Antonio Conjunto Shootout continues to be one of the most popular events in San Antonio since its inception, 24 years ago. The Conjunto Shootout is a celebration that revitalizes an old custom "mano-a-mano", which was a form of competition between two competing factions to determine who is best. This event uses a similar concept, and the competitors are Conjunto and Tejano groups that are on opposite stages facing each other.



At least 16 of the best Conjunto/Tejano groups in the city were paired up during this two-day event. Downtown Market Square was filled with excited fans on July 18-19. Audiences enjoyed plenty of music, food, refreshments, working artists and a unique shopping experience.

This year's entertainment line-up included Los Aguilares vs. Flaco Jimenez.



Sidewalk café dining is one of the many characteristics that make our downtown welcoming to visitors and locals. In May, the Downtown Operations Department initiated a new program to encourage the establishment of sidewalk cafés on the street level. In an effort to duplicate the success and vitality of outdoor dining on the River Walk and in Market Square, downtown area restaurants are now able to acquire an annual permit to create a sidewalk café adjacent to their existing facilities.

Priced from \$250.00 to \$750.00 and based on square footage, the permits simplify and streamline the previous process. Downtown restaurant owners can focus their efforts on their core business of providing excellent dining experiences as their customers enjoy the beauty of downtown San Antonio. Who knows? One day, visitors to Paris may remark that the sidewalk cafés remind them of downtown San Antonio!

For information on how to obtain a sidewalk café permit, contact 210-207-3677.

## Sizzlin' Summer Fun

by Tonya Drake,  
Special Projects Manager



The [Houston Street Fair & Market](#) became an Ultimate Bull Blowout on June 27th! There were 32 professional bull riders, 44 live bulls, pony rides, roping lessons, mechanical bulls and two genuine "Texas Longhorns". The Legend Fun Fighters also performed

The San Antonio Conjunto Shootout was sponsored by Positive Beginnings, Inc.

For more information on future events at Market Square, please visit our website at [www.marketsquaresa.com](http://www.marketsquaresa.com).

## Movies by Moonlight

by Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager



[Movies by Moonlight](#) in HemisFair Park has been a great event for locals of all ages. The outdoor cinema series is a relaxing way to bring your family and friends for an evening of movies and entertainment! Come early for the preshow at 7:30 pm, followed by cartoons. The feature film premieres on Thursdays at 8:30 pm.

The July and August feature schedule and

times are listed below:

July 23rd	RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK
July 30th	BATMAN
August 6th	PRETTY IN PINK
August 13th	FOOTLOOSE
August 20th	TOP GUN
August 27th	URBAN COWBOY



**Movies By Moonlight** is a family-friendly event that is FREE to the public. Do not forget to bring your blankets and lawn chairs! Concessions are available for those must-have food items like soda, popcorn and cotton candy.

FREE parking is available at Alamo Lot near HemisFair and across the street from the Federal Courthouse at the Durango Lots after 6pm on a first-come first-serve basis.

For more information, please contact (210) 207-3667.

## New River Walk Accessibility Improvements

by Robert Potter, Disability Access Office, Public Works



As part of an ongoing effort to improve pedestrian access, construction is underway to install a path around the flood-gate near the Drury Inn. When complete, this improvement will connect the Riverbend section to the North-Path and, for the first time ever, give pedestrians an uninterrupted path from the Rivercenter Mall, past the Pearl Brewery to Josephine Street.

Another project underway is a new access ramp and path improvement behind the new Briscoe Museum (former Hertzberg Circus Museum). Both projects are expected to be completed in September 2009.

Since the early 1980's, the City of San Antonio has been active in eliminating architectural barriers along the River Walk by installing new ramps, pathways and elevators with help from private businesses. These new projects will continue the City's goal to provide more access for all while maintaining the unique character of the River Walk.

throughout the day. The event hosted three buck-outs, live entertainment and special rodeo-themed art/craft booths. More than 15,000 people came downtown to experience and witness this historic event.

This month we have a Summer in SA theme with Hawaiian dancers, chalk demonstrations, a Bungee Blast, Super Bounces, dance lessons throughout the day, and great entertainment and local art/craft vendors on display. Come downtown on July 25th from noon - 6 pm to enjoy true San Antonio flavor!

For more information visit [www.houstonstreetfair.com](http://www.houstonstreetfair.com) or call 207-7258.

## Talkin' Trash - Community Meeting August 7

by Veronica Garcia,  
Executive Assistant



The Downtown Operations Department and Solid Waste Management Department are working together to address several downtown trash issues. Trash left in the public right-of-way is an unsightly view for downtown visitors, workers and residents. Leaking trash receptacles contribute to sidewalk pollution and bags and receptacles often crowd pedestrian walk ways 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. These changes include limited trash place out and collection times, mandatory receptacle identification, and the elimination of the City's commercial bag program.

The next meeting to present the proposed changes to the downtown community will be held on August 7 at the Central Library, 9:30 - 11:00 am. All businesses that place trash in the public right of way are highly encouraged to attend. For additional information on the proposed amendments and how they may affect your business, please contact Veronica Garcia at (210) 207-8477 or

The Disability Access Office coordinates with other City Departments to ensure City facilities are modified to accommodate all users. This duty is especially important to ensure the entire community can enjoy our historic local treasures. A copy of the ADA accessibility map for the River Walk and the new Museum Reach extension is available online at: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/ada/RiverwalkMap.asp>

## Downtown STAR - Ernestine Sosa

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. We received over 50 nominations for 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:

**Ernestine Sosa, Administrative Associate- La**

### Villita

Ernestine was nominated by over 20 co-workers and La Villita tenants for her excellent customer service. Known as "Tina" by her colleagues, she motivates others with pep talks on teamwork and creates a positive work environment. She has held appreciation breakfasts and lunches for her co-workers, and works to create a family atmosphere at La Villita and HemisFair Park. Tina puts people at ease and works hard to help customers with their requests. Described as a caring and model employee, she doesn't hesitate to help customers get the service they need in a timely manner.

Congratulations Tina and thanks for all you do!

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>  
For more information, you may also contact Veronica at 207-8477.

## Share Your Ideas to Wipe Out Graffiti

by Lisa McKenzie, Housing & Neighborhood Services



Graffiti is a problem all over the city, and downtown is no exception. It damages property and creates unattractive views. The City of San Antonio's Housing and Neighborhood Services Department seeks to strengthen anti-graffiti efforts

in our community through a coordinated plan of action. A proposed Graffiti Strategic Plan would include:

- "3-E" approach to combat graffiti through Education, Enforcement and Eradication
- responsibilities of government and citizens in fighting graffiti
- strengthening the current Graffiti Ordinance

Know a good anti-graffiti measure? Have a good idea for discouraging offenders? Let us know about! Please contribute your ideas on this important community issue by attending one of the two Graffiti Strategic Plan Work Sessions:

**Tuesday, July 28, 2009**  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[veronica.garcia@sanantonio.gov](mailto:veronica.garcia@sanantonio.gov)

## Twilight in the Village



The Shops of La Villita regularly feature local, hand made arts & crafts. This summer, come enjoy Twilight in the Village at the historic arts district. Two Saturdays each month, shoppers will enjoy live entertainment from noon until 8 p.m.

Featured artists include Lauramarie and Media Noche. In addition, select businesses are extending their hours of operation in the evening until 8 p.m., including Mustang Greys, Guadalajara Grill, Monte Wade Fine Arts, Village Gallery, Bolivar Café, Village Weavers, Bonsai Arbor, and Originals.

La Villita was San Antonio's first neighborhood. Visitors today will find a thriving arts community that stands as a monument to San Antonio's past. We encourage you to come enjoy the delicious food and unique shops - plus live entertainment on Saturdays this summer. For more information, including a complete directory of shops and calendar of events, visit [www.lavillita.com](http://www.lavillita.com) or call 207-8610.

## Downtown Street Re-Striping Project



The Public Works Department recently completed a Pavement Markings Project downtown. The project involved re-striping portions of several

Guerra Library  
7978 Military Drive West  
[located south of Highway 151 and north of Marbach Road]

**Wednesday, July 29, 2009**

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Northeast Service Center  
10303 Tool Yard

[located south of Wurzbach Parkway between Perrin Beitel Road and Thousand Oaks Drive].

To RSVP or for additional information about the Work Sessions, please contact Lisa McKenzie at 207-5430 or [lisa.mckenzie@sanantonio.gov](mailto:lisa.mckenzie@sanantonio.gov).

## Spanish Governor's Palace Receives Grant

by Stephanie Torres, Museum Assistant



Treasured objects and artifacts held by the Spanish Governor's Palace (SGP) will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of conservation books and online resources. The SGP successfully submitted a grant application to receive the Bookshelf from the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](http://www.imls.gov). IMLS has now awarded almost 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

The Spanish Governor's Palace is the last remaining visual vestige of the original Presidio San Antonio de Bejar and is an important part of San Antonio's early Spanish history. As a historic structure dating back to the early 1700s, the building itself is one of the primary components of our collection and its preservation and care is an important focus. The artifact collection includes both antiques from the early-18th century to the mid-19th century and reproductions that date to the early 1930s. The SGP has been owned by the City since 1929 and operated as a museum for nearly 80 years. This IMLS Bookshelf award comes at a critical time for focusing on the care and preservation of the building and its object collection.

The museum is open Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm and on Sundays 10 am - 5 pm. For more information about the Spanish Governor's Palace, please call 210-224-0601 or visit [www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/spanGovPal.asp](http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/spanGovPal.asp)

## Downtown PID Public Meeting

by Cynthia Martinez, Special Projects Manager



The Central Business District is the only area in San Antonio that constitutes a Public Improvement District (PID). In a PID, property owners voluntarily elect additional taxation to fund public improvements aimed at revitalizing the area. The Downtown Alliance (DTA) is the non-profit organization that manages the PID known as [Centro San Antonio](http://www.centrosanantonio.com). Centro San Antonio provides services for downtown with Amigos who keep streets clean, distribute information to visitors and beautify downtown with their landscaping and maintenance efforts.

The Annual Centro SA Property Owners meeting was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at the Menger Hotel. The meeting included a recap of the services performed over the past year and a preview of the 2009-2010 budget and work program planned for the

downtown streets, including Bowie, Camaron, N. Colorado, E. Commerce, E. Durango, Dolorosa, E. Houston, E. Market, Navarro, E. Nueva, West and East Travis, and Durango. The work represented over 10 miles of street re-striping and was just completed last month.

Many thanks to our Public Works Department for helping us create a better downtown!

PID. Centro San Antonio listened to suggestions on how funds should be allocated for next year.

You can still provide input on the Downtown PID by contacting Centro San Antonio at 225-1831 or [info@downtownsa.org](mailto:info@downtownsa.org). The approval of the Service & Assessment Plan will go before City Council on September 3.

## 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

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

Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Phone: 210-207-3677

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Assistant Director: Colleen Swain

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