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News, Issues & Events from City of San Antonio Downtown Operations
June 2010

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Mark Your Calendar

Now through August 14
Every Friday & Saturday

Out & About Downtown

by Paula X. Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations



As school lets out, downtown gears up to host family-friendly activities that are enjoyable for everyone. We are happy to announce that the winner of the 2010 Downtown's BEST Event, Movies by Moonlight, returned this June with the memorable favorite *The Karate Kid*. You can also visit La Villita for the annual Fiesta Rio del Noche dance extravaganza, which began in May. Don't forget the monthly *Primer Sabado* in Market Square, which will host a car show on June 5!

As you walk around downtown and enjoy these and other events, take comfort in knowing that the City is working to gear up for the busy downtown summer season. Public Works recently repaired over 300 trip hazards. Downtown Operations is making parking easier with the installation of new parking pay stations in targeted areas.

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 400 N. St. Mary's, #100. Contact us at (210) 207-3677 or via email at downtown@sanantonio.gov for questions or assistance related to downtown San Antonio.

Movies by Moonlight

by Tonya Drake, Special Projects Manager



The movies are back downtown for the summer! Get ready movie-maniacs for the Movies By Moonlight outdoor cinema series in HemisFair Park, sponsored by River Center Mall. Relax and enjoy the

Fiesta Noche del Rio
Arneson River Theatre
www.fiestanochedelrio.com

June 4
MIKEARITA FEST
La Villita
For info call 240-1745

June 4 - 25 (Fridays)
Party in the Tower Plaza
Tower of the Americas
HemisFair Park
For info call 223-3101

June 5
Primer Sabado
Market Square
www.marketsquaresa.com

June - September (Thursdays)
Movies by Moonlight
HemisFair Park
www.sanantonio.gov/dtops

June 11 - 13
Folklife Festival
UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures
For info call 458-2330

June 12
San Antonio Pridefest
HemisFair Park

June 19
Interpreting the History
of the Alamo
Alamo Plaza
For info cal 273-1730

Primer Sabado Car Show



Don't miss *Primer Sabado* on Saturday, June 5, 2010 featuring the first annual free car show! See custom cars in the historic plaza from noon to 6 pm including classic cars, street rods, hot rods and more!

Attendees will also enjoy live music, arts & crafts, food booths and the unique dining and shopping Market Square is known for! For more information, contact 710-8909.

outside scenery of downtown, while watching a superb movie. Movies By Moonlight received the 2010 Downtown's BEST award for "Best Event" and will feature films from June through September.

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 at 8:30 pm. June's feature schedule is:

June 10th	Spy Kids
June 17th	Kung Fu Panda
June 24th	Where the Wild Things Are

Concessions are available and movie-goers can park for free at the Alamo Lot near the Magik Theatre or the Durango Lots across from the Federal Courthouse 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 River Center Mall and is presented in part by Time Warner Cable. For more information, call 207-7819 or visit <http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/>.

You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter for current updates and information. See you soon under the moonlight!

Parking Pay Stations Arrive

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



Out with the old and in with the new Parking downtown is getting easier as the City of San Antonio installs 134 new parking pay stations that replace some traditional parking meters downtown. The pay stations service multiple parking spaces and reduce clutter on streets and sidewalks. In addition, they accept both coins and credit cards and provide customers with a receipt for every transaction.

Each meter is solar powered - an environmentally friendly choice for our city! Customers can also use any remaining parking time at another location.

Mayor Castro unveiled the first new pay station at a press conference on May 13, 2010. The Downtown Operations Department website features information on how to use the new parking pay stations, including an instructional video. Visit www.sanantonio.gov/dtops to view a map of where new pay stations will be installed, as well as an installation schedule (updated weekly) so customers know when to expect a new station nearby.

The new technology will provide a more convenient parking experience for downtown residents and visitors. We invite you to discover how with Park, Pay and Display paying is easy for you!

Una Noche de Belleza

by Veronica Garcia, Executive Assistant



Beautiful venue...beautiful scenery...beautiful fashions. The Spanish Governor's Palace hosted event planners, photographers and

Return of the Chili Queens

by Jaime Herrejon,
El Mercado Merchants Association



From Saturday, May 29 through Monday, May 31, 2010, Market Square celebrated a bygone era and remembered the Chili Queens who used to set up on Market Plaza in the early 1900's. The "royal" ladies would set up food booths and concoct a curious dish of beef, beans, chili powder, and spices that inspired many a visitor to write about this chili dish and the "Chili Queens" that filled the plaza.

The family-oriented "Return of the Chili Queens" also featured live music, children's activities and several food booths. The free event was sponsored by the El Mercado Merchants Association.

Trip Hazards Repaired

by Robert Potter,
Disability Access Office,
Public Works Department



As part of an ongoing effort to ensure safe and accessible paths of travel on San Antonio's downtown sidewalks, the Department of Public Works Street Maintenance Division has contracted with a trip hazard removal specialist, Precision Safe Sidewalks, LLC.

Precision Safe Sidewalks uses

marketing representatives for *Una Noche de Belleza* on May 12, 2010. As part of National Tourism Week, the event showcased the historic venue as a facility that is available for special event rentals. Recent capital improvements to Palace, such as a new roof, upgraded electrical, and lime washed walls, make hosting events at the venue easier than ever. The evening was sponsored by the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau, Marti's, and True Flavors.

Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks by True Flavors, and a fashion showcase featuring the Spring 2010 apparel line at Marti's. If you missed the event and are interested in finding out more about rental opportunities at the Spanish Governor's Palace, contact Charlotte at 224-0601.

Are you a Fan of the Spanish Governor's Palace? Visit us on Facebook for regular updates on the history - and future - of the facility!

Downtown STAR - Luis Rincon

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 **S**ervice, **T**eamwork, **A**ttitude and **R**esourcefulness. 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.

Awardees are selected once a quarter by a committee of Downtown Operations Department employees.

This month we highlight another Downtown

STAR:

Luis Rincon, Parking Meter Technician

Luis is always courteous, and frequently helps customers find their way around downtown. He often takes the initiative to help co-workers when needed, and takes pride in his work. Always striving for improvement, Luis seeks ways to be more efficient. He alters his route to achieve faster collection times, which allows him more time to complete his office duties and take on other assignments. Luis's positive attitude and motivation make him great to work with.

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

Fiesta Noche del Rio

by Jesse Moreno, Special Activities Coordinator



Every summer, the San Antonio River Walk reverberates with the sights and sounds of Fiesta Noche del Rio, a music

patented equipment and processes to smoothly saw-cut vertical rises caused by separation and cracking. This process not only completely eliminates the dangerous condition but also leaves an ADA compliant result.

To date, Precision Safe Sidewalks has covered approximately 6.35 miles, or 33,528 linear feet of sidewalk and eliminated 314 trip hazard spots from W. Martin Street to W. Durango Blvd. Additional work is planned for 2010 and 2011. The project is one more example of how we are working to keep downtown safe and accessible to everyone!

Keepin' Up with the Kampmann House

by Veronica Garcia,
Executive Assistant



Thanks to federal funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Downtown Operations Department, in partnership with Grants Monitoring & Administration and Capital Improvement Management Services, has just completed improvements to the Kampmann / Soloman Half House (Building 235) in HemisFair Park. Improvements included repairs to the porch roof, upper and lower porch soffit, upper porch deck and columns.

After working closely with staff from the Texas Historical Commission and the local Historic Preservation Office for approvals, work began on the \$30,000 construction project. General contractor Alpha Construction worked quickly to complete the repairs between special events in the park. The Magik Theatre will complete additional repairs to the building over the next several weeks, and plans to use the historic home as a site for their

extravaganza featuring the songs and dances of Mexico, Spain, Argentina and Texas. The oldest outdoor performance of its kind in the United States, this spectacle in the historic Arneson River Theatre in La Villita has entertained more than a million San Antonians and visitors.

Fiesta Noche del Rio is a professionally produced, fast-paced and colorful musical revue, featuring beautifully-costumed dancers and singers with lively music from Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Texas. 54 years ago, the Alamo Kiwanis Club established Fiesta Noche del Rio to provide funding for children's charities in the San Antonio community. Since its inception, the event has raised over \$3 million to benefit local children's charities.

Performances are every Friday and Saturday thru August 14. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. and prices are \$15 for adults. Children ages 6 or 14 are \$5 and seniors (60+) are \$12. Group discounts for 10 or more adults are available. This summer, La Villita is your place for an affordable, visual tour of the world through song and dance. For ticket reservations and information call (210) 226-4651 or visit www.fiestanochedelrio.com.

Downtown Special Event Venues



Looking for the perfect venue for your next special event? The Downtown Operations Department manages several downtown facilities that are available for rent...let us show you the possibilities!

The historic **Spanish Governor's Palace** features lush outdoor courtyards, with seating for up to 200 guests. Visit www.spanishgovernorspalace.com

for more information.

La Villita has multiple shaded plazas, the newly-renovated Cos House with a catering kitchen, and Bolivar Hall, an indoor facility that offers a charming view of the historic arts village. Visit www.lavillita.com for more information.

For performances - or even the perfect River Walk wedding - **Arneson River Theater** is your top choice! Visit www.lavillita.com for details. Planning a River Walk wedding or vow renewal? Marriage Island is a local favorite. According to the legend of this fair tale site, the newlyweds will live "happily every after". Call 207-7819 for rental information.

Market Square is always a fun site for events. Let us show you why our favorite phrase is *Bienvenidos a todos ustedes!* Call 207-8605 for more details.

We also manage several downtown parks with gazebos and plazas for rent, including **Milam Park**, **HemisFair Park**, **Alamo Plaza**, **Travis Park**, and more. Visit www.sanantonio.gov/dtops for a complete list and contact information for each venue.

annual summer camp for children.

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.

400 N. St. Mary's, #100 San Antonio, Texas 78205
Hours: Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

www.sanantonio.gov/dtops
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