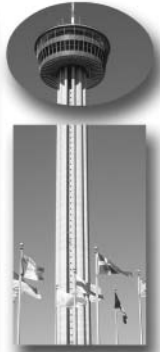




community



newsletter of the city of san antonio

A home away from home

New initiatives, website offer increased adoption opportunities. City breaks ground on new animal care facility

New initiatives, a new paint job and ground breaking on a brand new facility – these are just some of the many changes taking place recently as part of a renewed effort to save as many of San Antonio’s stray, lost and surrendered pets as possible.

Through a wide variety of adoption events, including the popular Pets in the Park and Howl at the Moon, more than 2,300 ACS residents found “forever” homes last year.

Recent policy changes at the current ACS facility include a new post-adoption veterinary care program and improvements to current infection control and sanitation procedures. Under the new post-adoption initiative, adopters are encouraged to bring their new pet back to ACS for a health evaluation if it shows signs of illness within the first two weeks of ownership. The goal is to treat minor illnesses at no cost to the new owner. This change is part of the adoption contract which also requires new owners to take their pet to a vet for a total physical. Initiatives such as increased daily medical health checks and additional oversight of sanitizing efforts inside the facility and with the trucks and equipment also have been implemented with the goal of decreasing the impact of infections. All of the ACS modifications are taking place in a facility that recently received a new air condition-



Ground has been broken on a new animal care facility to open in Fall 2007.

ing system and a newly-painted adoption center.

Ground also has been broken on a new 38,000-square foot ACS facility located at Highway 151 and Old Highway 90. The campus’ ten buildings will include increased kennel capacity and adoption space for dogs; a cattery adop-

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New Police Chief brings experience, credentials to San Antonio



William McManus is introduced as San Antonio’s new police chief by City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

San Antonio has a new Police Chief. William Paul McManus now leads the City’s more than 2,700-member police department.

As Police Chief, McManus’ position is crucial to the provision of public safety services to the citizens of San Antonio. His responsibilities include developing strategic law enforcement policies and maintaining the highest level of public safety to San Antonio’s 1.2 million citizens.

McManus comes to San Antonio with a proven record of leading large, diverse organizations and has more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement. Most recently, he served as the Chief of Police for the Minneapolis Police Department where he rebuilt the departmental infrastructure and provided new direction and leadership to a 1,200-member department.

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Ozone Season: Air on the side of caution

Air Quality Health Alert Season (AQHA) Season runs from April through the end of October. During this time, citizens are reminded to observe AQHA Days by making clean air choices such as carpooling and using alternative means of transportation such as buses, bicycles and walking, when high ozone levels are forecasted.

"This is a critical time for the San Antonio region in regards to air quality. We are going into the second of a three-year record for our ozone numbers. It is important that we all work together to reduce the amount of ozone-causing pollution we add to the air by making small, simple adjustments in our daily activities," said Mayor Hardberger.

Poor air quality affects everyone, but some people are particularly sensitive to ozone, including children, adults who are active outdoors, and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma.

The San Antonio region's biggest threat is ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is created when high temperatures and sunlight combine with air pollution, making the summer months particularly unhealthy for our region.

As part of this year's campaign, citizens can register to receive air quality health alerts via their computer, mobile phone, fax machine, pager and palm pilot device through the SCAN (Safe Community Alert Network) public warning system. SCAN is part of a national alert initiative sponsored by AT&T, Inc. that allows public safety entities to broadcast localized emergency information. SCAN alerts can be delivered in both English and Spanish.

This year, yellow AQHA flags will be flown at fire stations, police stations, libraries and other facilities on AQHA days to help remind citizens to reduce air pollution during their daily routine.



What You Can Do To Clean the Air

- Decrease driving trips (carpool, walk or take transit whenever possible)
- Keep your car tuned up and tires properly inflated
- Postpone lawn mowing until evening hours
- Don't use charcoal grills. Use wood or propane
- Turn off unnecessary lights and appliances
- Clean air conditioner filters
- Close blinds during the day
- Adjust thermostats to reduce air conditioning
- Fill gas tanks during late afternoon or evening hours

If you don't like graffiti, pick up a brush and wipe it out

If you're tired of seeing graffiti, the time has come to pick up a paintbrush and do something about it. On Saturday, June 3, neighborhood groups, corporate organizations, governmental entities and individual citizens will hit the streets to paint over graffiti on dozens of public and private sites across the city. Free paint and supplies will be provided for all Graffiti Wipeout! volunteers.

During the last Graffiti Wipeout Day, more than 1,100 volunteers picked up brushes and rollers and painted over 100,000 square feet of graffiti eyesores on drainage channels, bridges and fences.



Volunteers at the last Graffiti Wipeout event.

Citizens and organizations interested in volunteering for Graffiti Wipeout! Day should call the office of their City Councilperson or call 311 to reach their Council office. Or they can sign up via the City's Graffiti Wipe-

out website at www.sanantonio.gov/graffiti. Volunteers can participate in projects in their district or in projects city-wide.

Residents are encouraged to play an active role in reducing graffiti. They can access the graffiti website to learn what they can do to help reduce this form of vandalism.

City budget season underway

The City's annual budget process is underway. Again this year, budget planners are soliciting input from citizens to help formulate a proposed budget for the 2007 fiscal year that will be presented August 10.

Budget hearings will be held in each Council district between August 14 and August 28. Residents are encouraged to participate in these sessions to learn more about the City budget process and offer ideas for improving the budget proposal before it is adopted by Council on September 7. During these sessions, a short video and an in-depth budget brochure will be presented to help citizens better understand the complex budget.

Citizens also are encouraged to offer their suggestions on how the City can increase efficiencies and generate new revenues by submitting ideas to the Community Input Budget Dropbox (c-BID). A c-BID can be submitted online at www.sanantonio.gov or by filling out a c-BID suggestion form at your local library or Community Link Center.

The City also will hold a public hearing on August 30 to receive additional public input on the proposed budget. Two other public hearings are scheduled for August 24 and August 31 to consider the proposed property tax rate.



Summer Recreation

Program satisfies Quest for summer fun

Kid Quest features games, arts and crafts, nature activities, science, fine arts, and sports for children ages six to 14 years old. A science and art component will challenge young minds through their participation in projects and experiments. Once again, the on-site reading program sponsored by the San Antonio Library will provide fun opportunities for children to remain active readers throughout the summer. At just \$5 per child for the summer, children can remain engaged in activities that will develop their social skills, a healthier body, and a happier person.

Kid Quest will be offered this summer from June 5 to July 28 at approximately 40 sites. Pre-registration is scheduled for May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at SAISD Convocation Center, 110 Tuleta. Once a site is full, a waiting list will be started. Sites that still have openings after the mass registration will continue registering on the first day of the program, on site. Call 207-3000 for more information.

Summer fun with nutrition

The Parks and Recreation Department operates a summer nutrition program at more than 75 sites each summer. Food is served at Kid Quest sites, Play Zone and other agencies throughout the summer.

High-quality meals similar to those served during the school year by the National School Lunch

and Breakfast Programs are offered free for youngsters ages 18 and under at the pre-approved sites. Meals are usually served around 11:30 a.m. and snacks at 3:00 p.m. Children do not have to be registered at the site in order to participate in the food program.

Call 207-3000 for the site in your neighborhood.

Animal Care *continued*

tion area with space for 210 felines and a cat condo in the administration building lobby; a medical clinic for on-site spay/neuter procedures; a 'get acquainted' yard for adoptable pets; and other modern features. The facility will be located in one of the fastest growing areas of San Antonio, in an area with a high stray population, will be easily accessible by highway, and will be able to provide spay/neuter and other animal care services to a part of the city

Police Chief *continued*

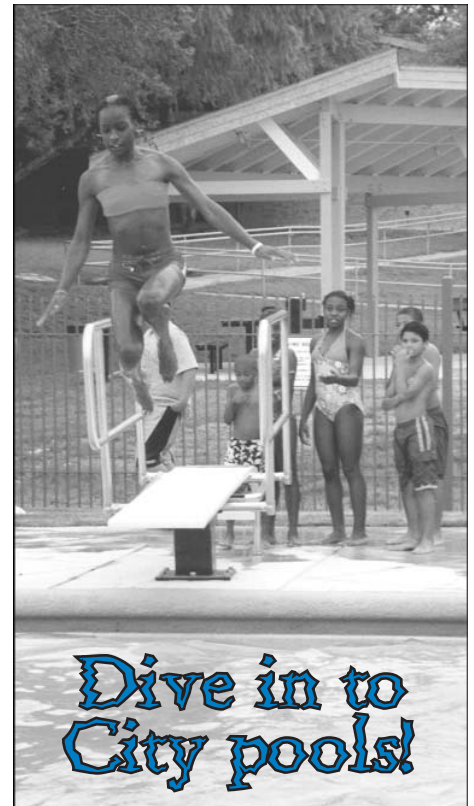
McManus also has served as the Chief of Police in Dayton, Ohio, from 2001 to 2003. He started his career in law enforcement in 1975 with the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C. where he served in a full range of patrol and investigative assignments that included internal and criminal investigations, narcot-

currently lacking in veterinary clinics, adoption centers or other animal care facilities.

If you're looking to bring a new companion into your life and committed to providing the pet a home, check out the current ACS adoption facility at 101 Tuleta. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Also, check out the new Animal Care website at www.sanantonio.gov/animalcare for adoptable pets, tips, and other resources for pet owners.

ics, and tactical positions. McManus also served as Assistant Chief of Police for the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department from 1998 to 2001.

McManus was selected by City Manager Sheryl Sculley after a formal interview process that consisted of community panels comprised of a variety of individuals from across the city.



Fill lazy summer days with a splash of water fun at one of 22 outdoor swimming pools open from June 3 through August 6. Swimming at City pools is free.

Swimming lessons are offered at Dellview, Garza, Joe Ward, Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, New Territories, San Pedro, South Side Lions, Westwood, Woodlawn and Lincoln pools. See the list below for addresses. At least six students are needed to hold class. The schedule is: Tuesday – Friday for two weeks, June 6 – 16, June 20 – 30, July 11 – 21, July 25 – August 4.

Four levels are taught for ages 4 – 12 years old:

- **Level I – Water Exploration (Beginner I, ages 4 -6), meets from 10:30 to 11 a.m.;**
- **Level II – Primary Skills (Beginner II (ages 7-10 years old), meets from 11:30 to 12 noon**
- **Level III – Stroke Readiness (Intermediate), meets 12:30 to 1 p.m.**
- **Level IV – Stroke Development, meets 12:30 to 1 p.m.**

The cost is \$25 per session. Register at Kid Quest Registration on May 13, SAISD Convocation Center, 110 Tuleta. Or register at the pool of your choice after June 3.

Council implements meeting changes

City will no longer hold meetings on fourth Thursday of the month



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City Council recently approved several changes to procedures for future Council meetings in an effort to improve the efficiency and productivity of meetings and increase the quality of service provided to the citizens of San Antonio.

Beginning April 27, the City will no longer hold a council meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month. This change is in an effort to provide councilmembers the opportunity to have scheduling flexibility for district and constituent obligations or other commitments requiring their attendance. This change also will provide staff an opportunity to spend more time focusing on issues within their departments and increase efficiency. Council's informal

worksessions, or "B" sessions, that fall on the fourth Wednesday of the month will also be rescheduled.

Beginning in May, zoning cases will be considered on the first and third Thursday of each month, rather than the second and fourth Thursday. Zoning hearings will begin at 4:00 p.m. instead of 2:00 p.m.

Ceremonial items, which normally begin at 5:00 p.m., will now have a flexible schedule in order to better co-

ordinate the 6:00 p.m. start time of Citizens to Be Heard. Additionally, all Council meetings this July will be rescheduled to allow Council and staff to work on issues associated with the FY 2007 Proposed Budget. Council meetings will resume the first week of August.



City Council recently made several procedural changes to increase the efficiency of its weekly meetings.

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