

the CAPITAL Letter

March 2013

Trees On The Move

With the planned Market Street Realignment and Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Expansion project, several trees in the construction zone need to be rescued. Over 120 trees will find new homes, many of them in City parks. Once construction is complete, native trees will be replanted in the area.



Beacon Hill Area Opens Linear Park



Councilman Diego Bernal and former Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros are joined by community members and City staff to cut the ribbon on Beacon Hill Linear Park Phase I.

Councilman Diego Bernal, former Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros, Beacon Hill Neighborhood Association members and City staff held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Beacon Hill Linear Park Phase I Project.

This long-awaited park encompasses just over five-and-a-half acres and is spread out over several parcels of land. New playground and shade structures are in place at Gramercy and Capital. A basketball court sits at Elsmere and Michigan. Picnic units dot each green space, which are connected by walking trails. Phase II of the Beacon Hill Linear Park will begin later this year and will extend the project to just under eight acres.

The project developed unused tracts of land dedicated to an underground drainage system. The drainage system was installed in the 70s after which illegal dumping became an issue. The Beacon Hill Neighborhood Association proposed turning the land into a unique park and former Councilwoman Cisneros agreed to set aside funding. Councilman Bernal continued the funding push for Phase II.

The project was managed by **Alma Nunez** with help from other Vertical staff members.

Students Celebrate Re-Opening Velasquez Learning Center for Adult GED, ESL Classes

Councilman Diego Bernal and Councilman David Medina were joined by the widow of Willie C. Velasquez for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the recently renovated Willie C. Velasquez Learning and Leadership Center.

The Center underwent interior and exterior renovations over a four-month period. During that time, the adult students who take classes at the Center were moved to another center in the City.

Dora Valdez, a student at the Velasquez Center, addressed the crowd and stated that, while the other location was nice, the Velasquez Center was “home.”

Jane Velasquez, the widow of Willie Velasquez, was joined by her

children, grandchildren and family friends. She said that her grandchildren would be able to see the legacy her late husband built in the success of the students who attended the ceremony that day.

As part of the renovation, the Center received new roofing and exterior metal siding as well as new interior wall, flooring and ceiling finishes. New lighting, restroom plumbing fixtures and furniture and computers rounded out the interior improvements. The building site also received new metal fencing and modifications to the landscaping, a parking lot seal coating and striping, a new service yard and new sidewalks.

Dale Lange oversaw this project.



Councilmen Bernal and Medina flank Mrs. Velasquez and they re-open the center named for her husband.



Young Engineers & CIMS

CIMS staff, led by **Richard Grochowski**, highlighted engineering careers with ten students from Central Catholic High School. The students

visited offices in the Municipal Plaza building and were treated to a pizza lunch. To cap off their day, they joined **Ruben Guerrero** on a tour of several projects.

Congratulations, New Graduate!



Robert Bazan graduated from the University of Phoenix in February after earning a Bachelors degree in Business Management. He took part in a graduation ceremony at the Alamodome.

Robert works on the CoSA PRIMELink team. He joined CIMS in March 2012. Robert is an Air Force retiree and also worked with the U.S. Postal Service before joining the City four years ago.

Robert Bazan in his graduation robes and after his graduation ceremony with his mother and aunt.

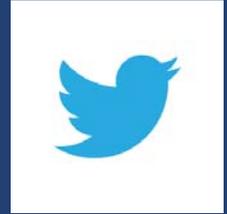


We're on the Web!

www.facebook.com/SanAntonioCIMS

www.youtube.com/SanAntonioCIMS

www.twitter.com/ProjectBroadway



Broadway-Hildebrand Off to Smooth Start; Project Information Available Online

The Broadway Corridor Phase IIIA Project, commonly called Broadway-Hildebrand, started in early January. With two months of work complete, the project is running smoothly and traffic is still flowing.

People who live, work or play in the Broadway-Hildebrand area can follow @ProjectBroadway on Twitter for instant updates. Project updates, detour maps and a project overview are available online at www.sanantonio.gov/cims. Visitors

to the website can also sign up for a weekly eBlast to keep up-to-date.

The project started with the immediate closure of two lanes on Hildebrand between the San Antonio River and Broadway. That area was also converted into a one-way street heading east. Detour routes to take drivers back to Highway 281 are north to Basse or south to Josephine.

The first road closure occurred over a weekend in mid-February. Although the posted detour route

changed for safety concerns, work proceeded quickly and the closure was opened almost a full day ahead of schedule.



From the Director's Chair

Mike Frisbie, P.E., City Engineer

Hello, CIMS family and friends. March brings us into a new month with exciting opportunities.

In February, we had several members of CIMS participate in the City Manager's Step-Up-To-Wellness 5K Run/Walk. Thank you



to those employees and congratulations to **Sam Hutchins** who placed third in his age group. This is the first year the event was open to the public and it had a record turn-out.

As the weather gets warmer after our short winter, we will have

many more opportunities to enjoy wellness activities that bring us outdoors.

I would like to encourage all CIMS employees to take advantage of the many wellness initiatives the City is offering. Attending a Health Screening, participating in Virgin Health Miles or signing up for ta-

bacco cessation classes are just a few of the easy things we can all do to help ourselves live healthier, happier lives.

One of our Core Values is to enjoy every day. We can accomplish that and be better employees by making our health a priority.

Holiday Party Fundraisers

CIMS will host two plate sales in April to raise money for the holiday party.

BBQ Plate Sale

\$6.00, \$.50 sodas

Saturday, April 6

VFW, 3518 Fredericksburg Rd.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

tickets on sale starting March 6

Sausage Wrap Sale

Includes chips and soda

Friday, April 12

9th Fl Conference Room

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

bake sale items also available

Bridges on the Rise

David McBeth's team supervised the installation of two bridges on Valentine's Day for the Safe Routes to School and the Salado Creek Hike and Bike Phase I projects.



City Lease Allows Food Bank to Explore Urban Farming

The San Antonio City Council recently agreed to lease a 23-acre tract of land to the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB). The City owns the unused acres near the SAFB's warehouse, which will now be leased for \$1 a year for 20 years.

The agreement allows the SAFB to create an urban farm to supplement their food donations with fresh produce. They will also educate people on where food comes from and emphasize cooking.

The idea for the urban farm came from CIMS's **Marcia Shelf-Orlandi**, who saw a PBS program that highlighted similar efforts in other parts of the country. The program highlighted the expense of fresh produce

in urban areas and how that affected the rates of obesity and Type II Diabetes in children.

Mario Obledo from the SAFB, David Segovia from Building and Equipment Services, and **Martha Almeria** from Real Estate ensured the project moved forward.

The SAFB plans to farm the land using employees and volunteers. The food it produces will be distributed to Haven for Hope, other partner agencies and the hundreds of families the SAFB works with yearly.

Potential Crops

Green Beans, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrot, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Onion, Squash, Tomato

Happy Birthday! March

Sonia Cantu, Project Mgt (8th); **Marta Luitin-Atkin**, Construction Mgt (8th); **Kevin Sadler**, Real Estate (14th); **Roger Carrillo**, Vertical (18th); **Dale Lange**, Vertical (19th); **David Zuniga**, Construction Mgt (20th); **Peter Herrera**, Construction Mgt (20th); **Robert Blanco**, Construction Mgt (21st); **Thomas Gonzalez**, Portal (24th); **Hugh Guillen**, Project Mgt (27th); **Carisa Gamez**, Contracts (28th); **Cynthia Story**, Construction Mgt (28th); **Marcia Shelf-Orlandi**, Real Estate (29th).

Have news to share?
We want to hear it!

Send information for
the newsletter to
CIM40Contact@sanantonio.gov



**Capital Improvements
Management Services (CIMS)**
City of San Antonio

CIMS Mission Statement

Together,
Dedicated to Our Community ...
Building a Great San Antonio

CIMS Core Values

- Accountability & Integrity
- Enjoying every day
- Respecting our customers
- Valuing our diversity & history
- Forward thinking

Melissa S. Sparks
Public Relations Manager
Municipal Plaza Building - 5th Floor
114 W. Commerce St.
San Antonio, Texas 78205

e-mail: CIM40Contact@sanantonio.gov