

District 9 Biweekly



Councilman Joe Krier

In This Issue:

- Solar Tax and CPSE Smart Grid
- Frost Bank vs. Streetcar
- Parks, Roads and Airport Improvements
- 2015 Budget Update
- 4th of July Celebrations

July 3rd, 2014

Vol. 1, Issue 21

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Dear Friends and Residents,

Happy Independence Day! The 4th of July is a great time to celebrate all that makes our Country Great! Click [HERE](#) for a list of scheduled City Services open or closed during the holiday and see below for some ideas on how you can celebrate the 4th this year.

I also wanted to use this week's newsletter to highlight CPS Energy's efforts in [Solar Energy](#) and the new [Smart Grid Initiative](#), because there has been some concern with the newly proposed "Solar Tax" and the process of how to opt-in or out of the Smart Grid. Please see below.

Additionally, the City Council continues to move forward in our 2015 Budget Process. I have received some great feedback from many of you on how to resolve our projected budget deficit. I believe that we should balance the budget without increasing property taxes and will keep you informed on our progress.

Speaking of progress...Last week, the City announced its receipt and consideration of an unsolicited proposal from Frost Bank and Weston Urban that would change the face of downtown in a very positive way. Please see the details below.

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On another topic, I continue to believe that the VIA San Antonio Streetcar project is the wrong choice for San Antonio. It is inconceivable to me that VIA wants to push such a costly and controversial project through without getting a public vote because they think they know what is best for us. Click [HERE](#) now and spend 10 minutes to watch a video that considers over 25 years of the actual lightrail experience in Portland, Oregon and clearly shows that the cost of lightrail/streetcar is not worth the small benefits of these initiatives. Buses can do what the Lightrail and Streetcars can do "better, cheaper, and faster".

Finally, the City Council is NOT in session for the entire month of July, I will update you with the August City Council Agenda when it becomes available. Please note that **we will also NOT conduct "Java with Joe" open office hours in the month of July**. As always, if there are topics you would like to see in my future newsletters, please let me know via email at district9@sanantonio.gov. You can also follow us on Twitter: [@joekrierD9](https://twitter.com/joekrierD9) or like us on the District 9 public page: <https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmanJoeKrierDistrict9>

Working together, we can make District 9 and our City a better place for everyone. Thanks again for the privilege of representing you.

Sincerely,

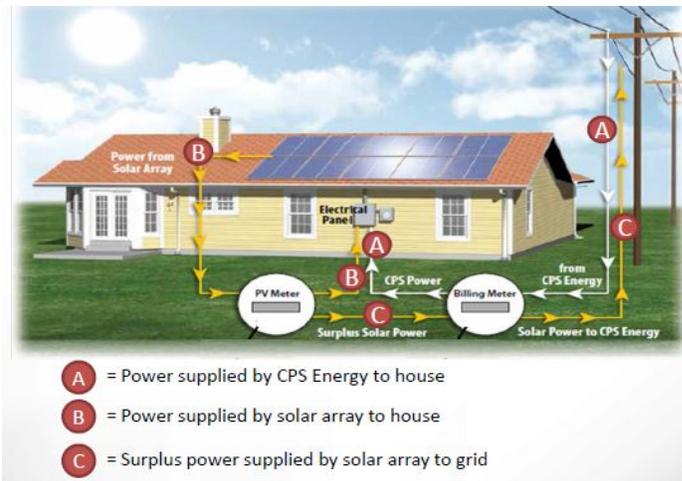


Joseph R. Krier
Councilman, District 9



City on the Rise: New Skyline Proposed

The Frost Bank and Weston Urban development proposal would change the face of downtown. This would occur due to the following: 1) the transfer of the existing Frost Bank Tower and garage to the City, 2) the relocation of a substantial number of City employees from a number of other buildings around the City to the Frost Bank Tower, which has the potential to save the city approximately \$3.4 Million in office space rentals that it is currently paying, 3) the transfer of five City owned properties to Weston Urban for redevelopment as downtown residential buildings, and 4) the construction by Weston Urban of a new Frost Bank Tower in a building described as "an iconic structure". PLEASE NOTE that under the requirements of state law and our local ordinance, the City will publically post this unsolicited offer. Other interested parties will then have 60 days to submit competing proposals. I have been advocating for new major downtown office projects like this for over 20 years. We need to add more professional office buildings to our downtown skyline to be a City on the Rise in every sense of the word. Click [HERE](#) for coverage of this issue.



Solar Tax?

At the June 11 City Council B Session, CPS Energy presented a [Solar Update](#) to the Council and outlined how they estimate the need for a fixed monthly (Solar Tax) to recoup their cost to service Solar Customers. I share the concern of many that this is not a wise approach to encourage more residential solar. In 2007, there were 5 solar installations in San Antonio, last year there were 604 installations and this year, CPSE projects 760 solar installations bringing the cumulative

total of San Antonio solar users to 2,234. We are currently the #1 City in Texas for Solar use. If we want to see that trend rise, it would be unfortunate to adopt a solar tax that would deter potential users. I and several other Council Members were not willing to vote on this issue without hearing from the pro-solar community. Subsequently, the City Council's June 19 vote on the Solar Tax (fixed rate) was postponed until a date in the future when we can get all sides of the story. Attached is the CPSE presented brief, I will continue to keep you informed on this issue.



Braesview Road Safety Improvements Update

We are continuing to move forward with some important safety improvements on Braesview Road in the Larkspur Elementary School Zone. The City's Transportation & Capital Improvements Department began construction on the mast arms for the overhead flashing beacon this week. This is a very visual reminder to be diligent and aware as you enter the School Zone. TCI expects to have all of the Braesview improvements completed by August in time for the start of the new School Year! We will continue to keep you informed on these and other important school zone safety updates. Click [HERE](#) for the complete list of improvements.



CPS Energy Smart Grid Initiative

The [CPS Energy's new Smart Grid Initiative](#) is scheduled to begin in August 2014 and be completed city wide in 2018. This modern update of our energy grid system will increase reliability and efficiency, give rate payers access to

more information and reduce costs and emissions. Please click [HERE](#) for the Smart Grid Initiative Frequently Asked Questions or visit the Smart Grid section of the CPSE Website at http://www.cpsenergy.com/Services/Smart_Grid/. These upgrades will automatically begin in August unless you opt-out of the program. Residents will receive notification via a door hangar as to when their new system will be installed. Residents do not need to be home for the installation. Some have asked if they will be able to opt-out of the Smart Grid and keep their old meter. To be placed on the list to opt-out, please call CPSE customer service at 210-353-4264 or email smartgrid@cpsenergy.com. CPSE says there may be a fee associated with keeping your old meter as they will have to send a worker to manually read your grid, however those details have not been finalized yet. Once a policy is in place, customers on this list will be mailed the appropriate forms as well as an explanation of any associated fees if applicable.



Ground Breaking Ceremony for the New Panther Springs Park

I am delighted to announce that another 2012 Bond Park Improvements project is moving forward. Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) is set to begin construction on the North End of the Panther Springs Park on 1 July. The estimated completion date for the entire parks improvements project is February of 2015. We invite you to a ground breaking ceremony on the South Side of the Park in the vicinity of the Parman Branch Library. Construction of the park includes installing

2.5 miles of concrete trail, a dog park and an approximately 50 car parking lot. The new Panther Springs Park will have trails connecting to the Wilderness Oaks Elementary School as well as the Parman Library. Long time civic donor **Dan Parman** generously donated 7.314 acres of land to the park at the North East corner of the park off of Wilderness Oaks. This donation of property will now allow for an entrance into the park off of Wilderness Oaks as well as the parking lot and dog park. The Parman Family will be in attendance for the ground breaking ceremony. Finally, I want to thank John Kent, Dave Walsworth and the entire Wilderness Oaks HOA for all of their input and hard work on this project. PLEASE JOIN US:

WHO: Open to the Public

WHAT: Panther Springs Park Construction Ground Breaking Ceremony

WHEN: Tuesday, 22 July at 10am

WHERE: In the vicinity of the Parman Library, 20735 Wilderness Oak, San Antonio, TX78258



San Antonio International Airport (SAT) Parking Improvements

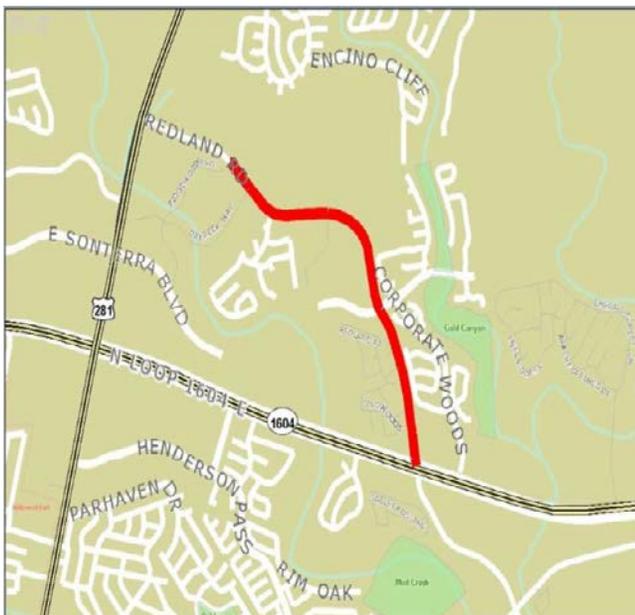
Air travel can be a big hassle, but the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) has launched a live data feed for parking availability on the airport's website and mobile site just as the busy summer travel months kick into gear to cut down on your hassle. By visiting www.sanantonio-airport.com, users can immediately see the number of parking spaces available for all the parking options and plan

accordingly prior to arriving at airport. According to SAT, the service also has environmental benefits as emissions given off by vehicles circling the garage will be lowered and the service will help eliminate some of the traffic created by drivers looking for parking. Some other new upgrades in airport parking include:

- **Credit Card Only Lanes**

Visitors paying by credit card can exit through any unattended lane. Look for the lanes with Credit/Debit Exit only signs above the lanes. Transactions processed through this method only take a few seconds and do not require patron signature.

- **Ticketless Options:** Your Credit card can become your ticket. Insert the same credit card upon entering and exiting and your transaction is fast and simple. This ticketless method eliminates having to keep track of a parking ticket while away on travel and assists in reducing wait time at exit. A benefit of the ticketless option is that waste disposal of the paper parking tickets are eliminated.



REMINDER: Redland Road North Improvements Public Meeting
Tuesday, 22 July, 2014, from 6pm-7pm
at the [House of Living Bread Church, 18940 Redland Rd, SATX 78259](#)

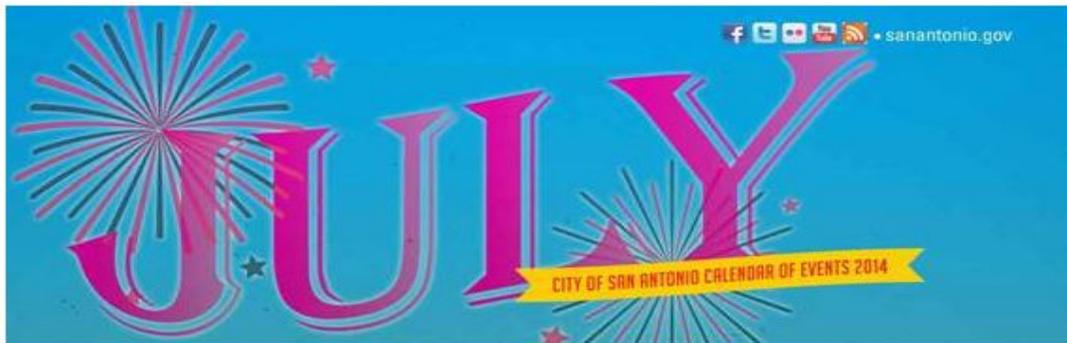
Details of the project:

1. Projected cost of \$10,700,00
2. Widening from 2 lanes to 5 Lanes
3. Bike Lanes
4. Curbs, Sidewalks, and drive-way approaches where necessary
5. Traffic Signal
7. Drainage Improvements as needed

I hope to see you there!



Click ICON Above for the complete list of Open or Closed City Services on the 4th of July



Find out what's happening in the City of San Antonio by checking out July's calendar at <http://sanantonio.gov/Commpa/CityCalendar.aspx!>



Click on Icon Above for More Information



Looking for SUMMER CAMP FUN? MySanAntonio.com has compiled a great list!
Click [HERE](#) or the image above for details.

**PLEASE NOTE: City Council does not meet in the month of July.
As a result, we will not hold *Java with Joe* in the Month of July.**



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District 9 Biweekly



Councilman Joe Krier

In This Issue:

- Interim Mayor Selection
- Streetcars
- Neighborhood Updates

July 18th, 2014
Vol. 1, Issue 22

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Dear Friends and Residents,

This week I formally announced that I will not seek the interim Mayor appointment that City Council is set to vote on in a special City Council session scheduled for July 22nd. Having just been elected on May 10, I made a commitment to you, the residents of District 9, to serve out the remainder of former Councilwoman Elisa Chan's term. I am fully committed and intend to work hard to meet the needs of District 9. Specifically, from now until mid-September when the budget process ends, I am working to achieve a basic services budget that provides for the best police and fire we can afford, and also supports improved streets and drainage, parks and libraries. There are several members of Council who want to be considered for interim Mayor and I'm confident we will choose one who will do a good job of leading our City until the election next May. City Council convenes a Special Council Session scheduled for July 22nd to choose our new Mayor.

I also expect a vote to come to City Council in the near future on the San Antonio Streetcar project. See the updates below.

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Additionally, the REDLAND ROAD NORTH IMPROVEMENTS Public Update Meeting has been POSTPONED due to the special council session scheduled for July 22nd! **The NEW DATE for the Redland Road Public Meeting is August 5th, 2014 from 6pm-7pm. We will still, however, conduct the Panther Springs Park Ground Breaking Ceremony on July 22nd at 10:00am. See details for both events below.**

Finally, the City Council is NOT in session for the entire month of July, I will update you with the August City Council Agenda when it becomes available. Please note that **we will also NOT conduct "Java with Joe" open office hours in the month of July.** August, however, is a busy month in the 2015 Budget Process, click the flyer below for the current budget calendar. As always, if there are topics you would like to see in future newsletters, please let me know via email at district9@sanantonio.gov . You can also follow us on Twitter: [@joekrierD9](https://twitter.com/joekrierD9) or like us on the District 9 public page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmanJoeKrierDistrict9>

Working together, we can make District 9 and our City a better place for everyone. Thanks again for the privilege of representing you.

Sincerely,



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Councilman, District 9



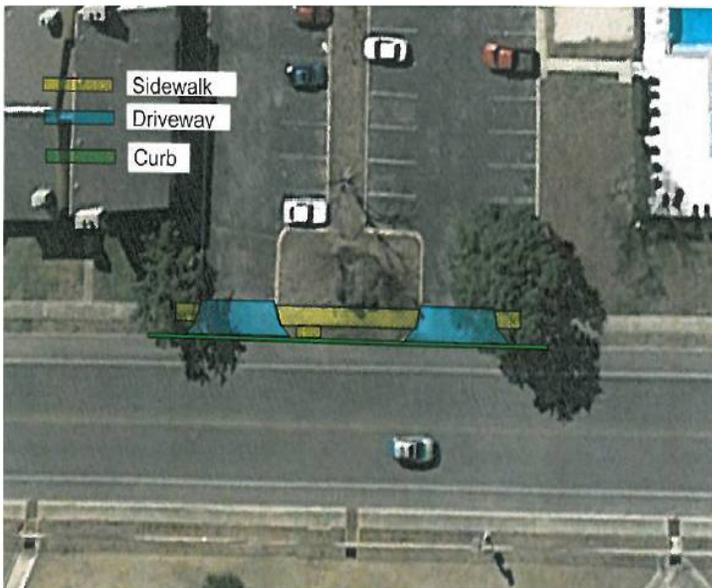
Click Flyer Above for Current Dates



San Antonio Residents: We Want a Vote!

I'm proud to stand up for what is right: WE WANT A VOTE on the VIA Streetcar Project. Thanks to the folks at StreetcarVote.com, the San Antonio Tea Party, the San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association, and involved Citizens like you, the City Clerk is now in ...possession of a streetcar vote petition that has nearly 27,000 signatures! Once the votes are verified, the decision to call an election will be up to City Council. I have said from day one of my arrival at City Hall that we need a public vote on this VIA

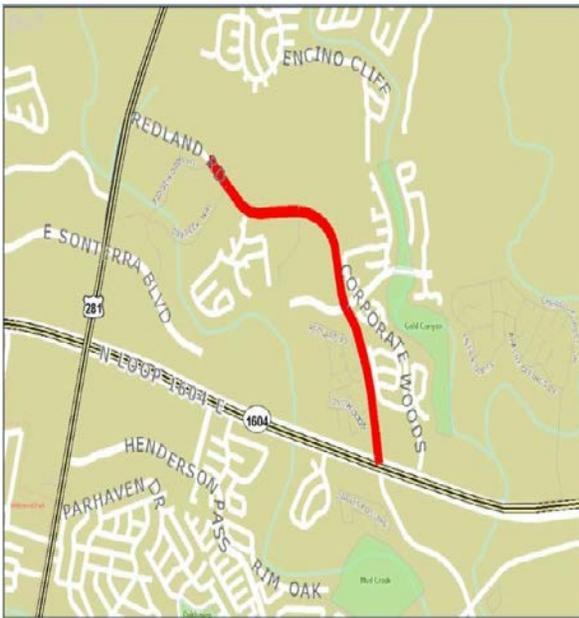
streetcar project. I am pleased to say that at least three of my fellow council members have also come forward in support of a vote on the streetcar project. WE WANT VOTE #SASstreetcar.



City Assistance on Coker Elementary Crosswalk Upgrades

I am pleased to announce that sidewalks, curbs and driveways along the south side of Perennial Drive, within the Coker Elementary School Zone, will be reconstructed. This project is in conjunction with the crosswalk improvements scheduled by the Northeast Independent School District (NEISD) around the Coker Elementary campus. Kudos go to the City's Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) department who worked closely with NEISD and Coker Elementary staff to identify the best location for the crosswalk and

the associated sidewalk and driveway upgrades. TCI estimates that construction will begin in November and should take approximately two weeks for completion, weather permitting. I formally approved funding for this project earlier this month through the allocation of Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMP) funds.



REDLAND ROAD NORTH IMPROVEMENTS

Public Update Meeting

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED
DUE TO THE SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION
SCHEDULED FOR 22 JULY!

NEW DATE: August 5th, 2014
from 6pm-7pm

at the House of Living Bread Church, 18940
Redland Rd, SATX 78259

Details of the project:

1. Projected cost of \$10,700,00
2. Widening from 2 lanes to 5 Lanes
3. Bike Lanes
4. Curbs, Sidewalks, and drive-way approaches where necessary



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Panther Springs Park Ground Breaking Ceremony

Celebrate the donation of land from the Parman Family and the start of construction to build a new park with public art, trails and a dog park.

July 22, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Behind the Parman Branch Library
20735 Wilderness Oak



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