



The Neighborhood Insider

July 21, 2014
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City of El Paso's Community & Human Development Department – Neighborhood Services Program
Quarterly Newsletter for Recognized Neighborhood Associations

Neighborhood Services Mission Statement:

To build strong leadership at the neighborhood level and facilitate opportunities for citizens to be involved in local government.

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News and Updates from Neighborhood Services

We moved from the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center on June 19, 2014 and are now happily working in our new digs at 801 Texas Ave. on the 3rd Floor. (Our offices are located to the right of the elevator, through the door and we're on your left.) Feel free to come by and say "hello".



We and the rest of Community and Human Development have also transitioned to new telephone numbers.

Mark Weber: 212-1682

Olivia Montalvo: 212-1680

Jane Tomchik: 212-1681

The Times, They are A-Changin'

Farewell to City Manager

As the second City Manager of the City of El Paso was chosen, the first City Manager of El Paso, Joyce Wilson, has stepped aside to fill a consulting and advisory role until the completion of her contract in September. She leaves the staff and the citizens with a new energy and spirit as we move into our revitalized future. We thank Ms. Wilson for her leadership and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Welcome to New City Manager

On May 20, 2014, El Paso City Council unanimously voted to name Tommy González, as El Paso's second city manager. He began his tenure with the City on June 23, 2014.

Mr. González has extensive experience in management and a distinguished public and private sector career that spans more than 20 years. He accepted the role as City Manager in El Paso after serving as City Manager for the City of Irving, Texas, for seven years. Prior to working in Irving, he was an Assistant City Manager for the City of Dallas, Texas, the City Manager for the City of Harlingen, Texas and the Interim City Manager for the City of Lubbock, Texas. In Lubbock, he also served in a variety of roles to include Deputy and Assistant City Manager, Assistant City Manager/Ports-to-Plains President, Managing Director of Civic Services, Assistant to the City Manager, City Council Chief of Staff, Budget Analyst, Assistant Director of Communication Services, Management Assistant in City Manager's Office, and as a Graffiti Removal Coordinator.

Mr. González also has a notable military career. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after serving in the U.S. Army for 22 years. He holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, New Mexico. In addition, he is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from the University of Texas at Austin. Join us in welcoming Mr. González and his family to El Paso!

Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) First Round Results

The voter-approved 2012 Quality of Life Bond issuance secured funding for the NIP over the next 10 years and the first round generated over 40 neighborhood improvement proposals from recognized neighborhood associations. Twenty-six of the neighborhood association proposals were deemed feasible by the departments responsible for implementation and moved on to the cost estimate phase.

After fine-tuning the cost estimates, staff convened a Neighborhood Improvement Review Committee with representatives from various City departments – Community Development, City Development, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, General Services and Engineering. All associations with projects under review were invited to make presentations to the committee.

The recommendations from the committee were discussed with each of the District Representatives and were presented to the Bond Advisory Oversight Committee (BOAC). On June 24, the recommendations were presented to City Council and were approved unanimously. Neighborhood Services will coordinate the implementation of the approved projects with the associations and City departments.

The final results for the 1st Round NIP are below:

District 1

- Kern Place - Madeline Park Improvements (Canopy)
- Mission Hills NA - Mission Hills Park Improvements (Repairs & ADA curb cut)
- Montoya Gardens NA - Little River Park Improvements (Xeriscape)

District 2

- Central NA - Summit Fillmore Park Improvements (Picnic tables)
- Newman Park NA - Newman Park Improvements (Plant bed)
- Patriot Park NA - Patriot Place Improvements (Seating area)
- Sunrise NA - Sunrise Park Improvements (Restroom access)

District 3

- Stiles Garden NA - Stiles Park Improvements (Handball court)
- Valley View/Crest Hills NA - Residential LED Streetlights

District 4

- North Hills NPA - Chuck Heinrich Park Improvements (Benches)
- Shearman Park NA - Jorge Montalvo Park Improvements (Walking trail)

District 5

- Las Tierras NA - Carlos Bomback Park Improvements (Park amenities)

District 6

- Valle de Las Misiones NA - Residential LED Streetlights

District 7

- Lomaland NA - Lomaland Park Improvements (Picnic table & bench)
- Santa Lucia NA - Gallagher Sidewalk Improvements
- Travis White NA - Eastwood Dam Wrought Iron Gate Improvements

District 8

- Central Business Associations - Downtown Shopping District Bench Improvements
- Coronado Civic - Coronado Curb Cut Improvements

The second round of NIP is scheduled to open for project requests in August 2014. We will send notice to all neighborhood associations when the applications become officially available. (We are revising the NIP guide and application based on associations' feedback, so please don't use the old forms.) Also, please remember that each representative district has \$100,000 available for project requests, which are competitive among registered neighborhood associations within each District. Neighborhood associations whose feasible projects weren't selected during the first round are encouraged to resubmit their project in the second round. Please contact Neighborhood Services if you have any questions about the NIP.



Upcoming City Events

Talk to your City Rep

Most of the 8 City Council Representatives have regular meetings scheduled to listen to their constituents about city and neighborhood issues. Below are the dates for July and the telephone numbers of the council offices so you can check for future meetings.



| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| District 1 - Ann Lilly | Wednesday, July 16, @ 7:30 a.m. (@ Village Inn 2929 N. Mesa | 212-1002 |
| District 2 - Larry Romero | July Meetings replaced with Music in the Parks | 212-1006 |
| District 3 - Emma Acosta | Wednesday, July 31, @ 6:00 p.m. (@ Lunchbox Restaurant – 3623 Buckner Street Guest Speaker: City Manager Tommy Gonzalez | 212-1011 |
| District 4 - Carl Robinson | Every Friday @ 7:30 a.m. @ Denny's Diner – 4690 Transmountain | 212-1016 |
| District 5 - Dr. Michiel Noe | No Meetings Scheduled for July | 212-1021 |
| District 6 - TBD | | |
| District 7 - Lily Limon | Wednesday, July 23, @ 7:30 a.m. (English) @ Denny's Restaurant, 11045 Gateway West | 212-0007 |
| District 8 - Courtney Niland | No Meetings Scheduled for July due to Budget Hearings | 212-1036 |

SAVE THE DATE!!!



**Saturday, September 6, 2014
9600 Sims, YISD Central Office
8am-2pm**

**Invite your association members, new neighbors, friends, family and co-workers
to celebrate El Paso's Neighborhood Associations**

The Neighborhood Summit is a FREE public event done in partnership with Neighborhood Services and the El Paso Neighborhood Coalition to bring you current material that affects your neighborhoods and the El Paso community through guest speakers, educational workshops and information fair with vendors from various City departments and local organizations.

We'll send notice to all neighborhood associations once the agenda is finalized, and as always, lunch will be provided.

Neighborhood Association Highlights

Sunsets Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association (SHNIA)

The Sunset Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association has been fundraising and helping out folks in their neighborhood with air conditioners, painting and home repair for a number of years. This year when a heat emergency was called, Leah Osborne, SHNIA President, called Neighborhood Services to see if we could help get the word out about their air conditioner installation and repair program. The result: seventeen elderly neighbors have been helped and are living cooler thanks to SHNIA. Way to go!



Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) Graduates



2010-11



2011-12



2012-13



2013-14



NLA 2015...Needs You!!!

NOTICE: The 9th annual Neighborhood Leadership Academy will begin in early 2015. Applications should be available just after the first of the year. Call or Email Olivia Montalvo at 212-1680 or montalvoot@elpasotexas.gov



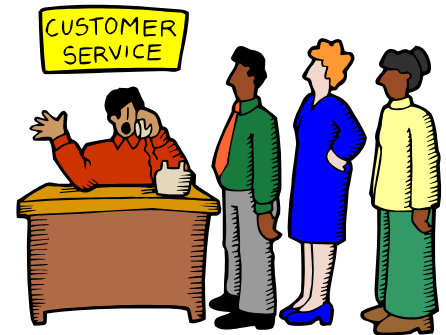
Meet Your City Department

There are over 20 different City Departments that provide an array of services and programs to the local community. We use this section to highlight a City department and to let the neighborhood associations know about programs are available to them.

CITY DEVELOPMENT

801-811 Texas Street (a.k.a CITY 3 and City 4)

- Do you need a building permit to install a water heater?
- Who do you talk to when you want to build a garage?
- How can you know when zoning changes are going on in your neighborhood?
- Did the former owner of your house get the proper permits when he built on the addition?
- What if your neighborhood association wants to stage a 4th of July parade?
- Where can you buy toll road passes?
- What is required to set up a business in El Paso?
- Is there any help available to businesses wanting to re-locate to El Paso?
- What will the El Paso of the future look like?



For these and many other questions, the answers are available through the City Development Department. For long-term to short-range planning, zoning, permitting, historical preservation, and land development, City Development is your point-of-contact.

Led by Mathew McElroy, City Development is one of the largest departments in the city and arguably, the most diverse. With a strong commitment to customer service, the department set up the One Stop Shop at 811 Texas, to provide a number of services for developers, contractors and citizens including:

- All licensing
- Business licenses
- City loan payments
- Code compliance information
- Expedited Plan Review
- Fire
- Parades / Special events
- Purchase of toll road passes
- Permit applications
- Zoning information . . . and many more!

The Department has also implemented a number of online services with more to come. Visit the City Development website <http://home.elpasotexas.gov/city-development/> for more information.