

In The CITY

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO EMPLOYEE NEWS

March 2009

13th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice



The 13th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. Festivities will begin with a community program at 11 a.m. at the Avenida Guadalupe, 1321 El Paso. March kicks off at 1 p.m. to the Alamo. Grand Marshal Arturo Rodriguez, the president of the United Farm Workers of America will lead this year's march.

Cesar Chavez founded and led the first successful farm workers' union in U.S. history. In 1968, Chavez gained attention as leader of a nationwide boycott of California table grapes in a drive to achieve labor contracts. March 2009 marks the 43rd Anniversary of Cesar Chavez's historic 350-mile pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento, which drew national attention to the plight of farm workers in America. Join thousands of Americans to celebrate this humble civil rights leader.

City Council Proclamation by Mayor Hardberger

Thursday, March 19 at 5:15 p.m.

City Council Chambers, Municipal Plaza Building

Community leaders and members of the Cesar E. Chavez organizing committee, will accept a special proclamation on behalf of the City of San Antonio.

For a complete calendar of events visit:
www.sanantonio.gov/chavezmarch

City Recognizes National Flood Awareness Week



This month, the City will join the rest of the country in recognizing National Flood Awareness Week, March 16 through March 20. Flooding is a coast to coast threat throughout the year and although it seems that San Antonio usually experiences dry conditions, it also has a long history of deadly flooding.

One of the reasons San Antonio is susceptible to severe flooding is because it sits in a part of Texas known as Flash

Flood Alley, the most flash-flood prone area in the entire country. This area is particularly vulnerable because storms stall out along the Balcones escarpment and produce large amounts of rainfall. Since the early 1800s, San Antonio has experienced several devastating floods. Most recently, a major flood in 1998 resulted in 20 inches of rain in some areas of the region in as little as two days and in 2002, 35 inches of rain fell in the San Antonio area resulting in 12 deaths.

Because flash floods are considered the number one weather related cause of death in Texas, it is imperative that San Antonio residents be aware of the effects of major floods and be prepared if one should occur. As part of National Flood Safety Awareness Week, the City's Office of Emergency Management will unveil a new flood notification program that will educate citizens on the hazards associated with floods and what you can do to save life and property. The Public Works Department will also participate in the week's events.

What should you do in case of a severe flood?

Here are a few tips:

- Monitor the weather through the media or a NOAA weather radio.
- If there is a possibility of a flash flood, move to higher ground.
- Know how to contact family members.
- Heed the warnings. Turn around. Don't Drown!





NEWS AND NOTES

Congratulations to **Claudia V. Hernandez** as she has been promoted to Economic Development Specialist in the Economic Development Department. She will be working with the Small Business Outreach Division as well as working on bond program projects. Hernandez has worked for the City for 10 years and was most recently with the Planning and Development Services Department.

Congratulations to **Lt. Gustavo Guzman** with the San Antonio Police Department as he recently graduated from the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) with his Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. The 16-year veteran earned his degree by attending school part time over eight years. He currently teaches a criminology course at St. Mary's University and a business course at UIW.

Congratulations to **Patricia Musquiz-Cantor**, fiscal manager in the Convention, Sports and Entertainment Facilities Department. She was selected to receive a \$2,100 scholarship by the International Association of Arena Managers to attend the 2009 Public Assembly Facility Management School, which is the best professional education program available for public assembly facility managers.

Dee Dee Poteete, Director of Communications for the San Antonio Convention & Visitor's Bureau (SACVB), has been appointed to the Communications Committee of the U. S. Travel Association. In addition, Poteete is serving this year as the Sponsorship Committee Chair for the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) national meeting in October in Guadalajara, and as Media Marketplace co-chair for the Central States SATW meeting in Atlanta in April.

John Anthony Sanchez joins the San Antonio Convention & Visitor's Bureau (SACVB) Sales Team as an account executive. Sanchez brings more than two years of experience from the service side where he was a Convention Services Manager for over two years. Prior to joining the SACVB, John was an Assistant General Manager for Drury Hotels and a Convention Services Manager for Holiday Inn.

The Facilities Management section of the Purchasing and General Services Department is currently developing an employee energy awareness program to identify ways to reduce energy consumption at City facilities. Stay tuned for more details.

The Intergovernmental Relations Department's Grants Management & Development division is hosting "FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY TRAINING: Post-Award Financial Grants Management" with grant advisor Leticia Jones on March 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. City staff working with grants management projects are encouraged to attend. The training will focus on the financial management of grants, cost principles, administrative requirements and grant audits. Call 207-8109 for more information.



The City celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for University Way, the main entrance to the future site of the Texas A&M-San Antonio campus and the primary thoroughfare for Verano, a unique mixed-use community built on the concept of an integrated urban village. The Tax Increment Finance Division, part of the newly-created Center City Development Office, was one of many City departments instrumental in bringing this long-awaited project to realization. Pictured from left to right are Abraham Diaz, Zenon "Zeke" Solis, David D. Garza, Jonathan Lane, Jacqueline Garcia, and Adrian Lopez

This year's Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is Saturday, April 4. Departments are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact your Employee Wellness Team leader.

BE WELL. EARN A CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT.

The Employee Wellness Program is launching a new initiative to help you with your health and wellness goals. With the Employee Wellness Rewards Program you can earn up to \$125 Rewards Dollars as a contribution to your 2009 flexible spending account! Civilian City employees and their spouses who are on the City's health plan are eligible to participate. Reward dollars are awarded by participating in wellness activities completed between October 1, 2008 and September 15, 2009.

To begin, log onto www.myuhc.com and take an online health assessment. You have three opportunities to request your rewards dollars during the year: March 15, June 15 and September 15.

Visit www.sanantonio.gov/hr or call 207-WELL for more information.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU! LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR DEPARTMENT OR MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF IS HONORED, RECEIVED AN AWARD OR HAS OTHER GREAT NEWS TO CELEBRATE! PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR NEWS AND NOTES TO SONIA.CANALES@SANANTONIO.GOV AND IT MAY APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF IN THE CITY.



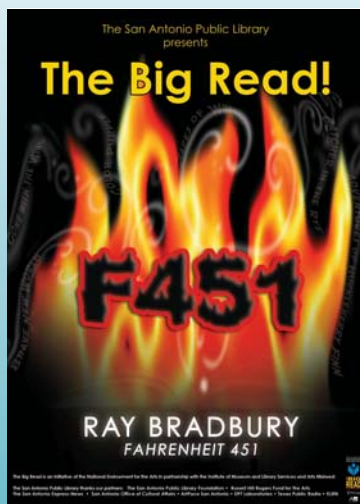
CITY CELEBRATES LUMINARIA

Join us for the second installment of Luminaria: Arts Night in San Antonio on Saturday, March 14. This citywide event celebrates San Antonio's creative spirit with exhibits and presentations from more than 1,000 artists and more than 40 non-profit organizations representing every major arts discipline from dance, theater, poetry and music to painting, sculpture, film and multi-arts projects.

The event runs all day and evening with the downtown celebration starting at 6 p.m. until midnight. Luminaria is free. For a complete list of events, visit www.luminariasasa.com.

The Big Read gets hot

Read a good book lately? Join the San Antonio Public Library and participate in the Big Read 2009. This year, all San Antonio and Bexar County residents are invited to read, think about and discuss the timeless novel, *Fahrenheit 451*. Written in 1953 by Ray Bradbury, it fired imaginations around the world. *Fahrenheit 451* depicts a frightening future anti-utopia in which books are forbidden and to own or read a book is considered criminal activity. Written during the period of McCarthyism, the heating up of the Cold War, and the rise of television in America, *Fahrenheit 451* expresses concern about the pressures of advertising and consumerism, non-participatory communication, and social and political conformity.



For a list of Big Read events, visit www.mysapl.org and click on "more events" keyword Big Read.

Free Income Tax Assistance Available to City Employees



Tax payers (individuals and families) earning up to \$45,000 are eligible for free tax services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Taxes are filed electronically and refunds can be electronically deposited in bank accounts in as little as 10 to 14 days. To find a VITA site near you, call 2-1-1 or visit www.vitasa.org.



Fresh Air Friday at Main Plaza

The City of San Antonio and the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) are hosting the 3rd annual Fresh Air Friday event on April 3. Take a break, get some fresh air and join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Main Plaza to promote walking to lunch in the downtown area rather than driving to another location.

Walking to lunch rather than driving is one of several ways in which you can take an active role in reducing ground-level ozone, which is not only harmful to your health, but also to the environment. Walking rather than driving promotes exercise and it saves money too!

Brown Bag it or purchase lunch at Main Plaza. Live music, informative talks and exhibits on ways you can go green will be available. You might even win a door prize, including a \$101 gift certificate for a "day of beauty" at Aveda Institute and a free pest control treatment from Earth Wise Organic Pest Control.

In case of rain, Fresh Air Friday will be postponed until April 17.



MAIN PLAZA
The Heart of the City

What's going on Downtown?

March 13 - Dyeing of the River Green, River Walk
March 13 - March 15: Alamo Irish Festival, La Villita 
March 14 - March 15: Carnaval de Mercado, Market Square
March 15 - St. Patrick's Day Parade, River Walk
March 28 - Houston Street Fair & Market
For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov/dtops

City Employee Health Expo

All City employees are encouraged to attend the next City Employee Health Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 21 at the Airport, Mezzanine level conference room, located at 9800 Airport Blvd. Free blood pressure, glucose, vision and chiropractic screenings are available. Cooking demonstrations and free health assessments will also be available. All employees are given two hours annually to attend one or more of the health expos. For additional dates, call 207-WELL or e-mail wellness@sanantonio.gov.



DO NOT THROW THEM IN THE TRASH!

Visit the City of San Antonio's Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Event

Is it time for your annual spring cleaning? Remember to dispose of household cleaners, paint, lawn and garden products, or automotive fluids properly. Do not pour them down the drain, empty them in the trash, or dispose of them on the ground. Instead, bring them to the City's Solid Waste Management Department's mobile household hazardous waste event (HHW) on Saturday, March 14 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Memorial Stadium, 4002 Roosevelt. For more information visit www.sanantonio.gov/swmd.

City of San Antonio employees support the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day



Pictured are staff from the Convention & Visitor's Bureau, CIMS, Finance, Library, City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office and the City Clerk's Office.

ITC

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