

Light-Up Award Party

Thursday, January 10th, 2013

**7-9 PM at the
Takas Park Civic Center**

FREE

DJ, Hors D'oeuvres and more!

**Come cheer on the Light-Up
winners in this
family friendly event!**



**2nd Annual Firefighter's Gala on
March 2nd, 2013 6pm-11pm**

City of Windcrest
8601 Midcrown
Windcrest, TX 78239-2598

City Administration

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
210-655-0022

City Manager – Rafael Castillo
ext. 2120 *rcastillo@windcrest-tx.gov

City Council

Mayor – Alan E. Baxter
210-846-5507
abaxter@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 1 – Gerd Jacobi
210-657-9549 *gjacob@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 2 – Jim Shelton
210-650-5584 *jshelton@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 3 – Pamela Dodson, Mayor Pro-tem
210-590-8436 *pdodson@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 4 – Rita Davis
210-654-4436 *rdavis@windcrest-tx.gov

Place 5 – John Gretz
210-646-7956 *jgretz@windcrest-tx.gov

Departments * 210-655-0022

Finance – Sarah Mangham
ext. 2410 *smangham@windcrest-tx.gov
City Secretary/Ordinances/Permits
Heather Weidenbach
ext. 2150 *hweidenbach@windcrest-tx.gov

Municipal Court - Kelly Rodriguez
ext. 2250 krodri@windcrest-tx.gov

Public Works – Tom Garcia
ext. 2490 *tgarcia@windcrest-tx.gov

Police – Al Ballew
210-655-2666 *aballew@windcrest-tx.gov

Code Enforcement

Jose Rosales
210-655-2666

Animal Control – Andres Fuentes
210-655-2666

Fire – Dan Reese
ext. 2180 *dreese@windcrest-tx.gov

Boards and Commissions

EDC – Tim Maloney
tmaloney@windcrest-tx.gov

P & Z – Col. Henry Berman
210-655-5650

WCCPD - Dr. William Mueller
210-654-7377 (no email)

Parks and Rec – Jan Leaders
210-386-8764 *stevejanpipes@aol.com

Board of Adjustments – Bill Love
210-655-1794 *bigdogbill@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter – JoAnne Anderson
210-587-7052

Firemen's Pension - Dan Reese
ext. 2180 *dreese@windcrest-tx.gov

Website Address
www.ci.windcrest.tx.us

Post Office
M-F, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
210-655-0022 ext. 2420

Bexar County Water District #10

General Manager - Richard Frenzel
210-655-2888 *rfrenzel@windcrest-tx.gov
8:00 am to 5:00 pm
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210-422-4159

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Mayor's Message



abaxter@windcrest-tx.gov

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Citizens,

It is January and we are starting a New Year! I hope your Holiday Season went well. There were so many parties. All the food! I guess it is easy to predict what my New Year's resolution is? Do not forget, we have a couple of more parties/events in the very near future. One is the January 10th Light-Up Awards Ceremony at the Civic Center. This is the first time that the city has thrown a party such as this to honor the winners. It is free and will be a lot of fun. Please come to applaud the winners. The second is the 2nd Annual Firefighter's Gala. That will be Saturday, March 2nd also at the Civic Center. It will sell out, so call Lisa Scott at the Fire Department to secure your seat(s). We have a lot to be thankful for as we had a great year. We encourage you to remain active and involved, and we promise that we will continue to modify, change and refine how we do business. As we all know: **If we stay the same, we cannot improve.**

United States Congressman Henry Cuellar: With the recent re-districting, Windcrest is now represented by Congressman Cuellar. I have had the pleasure of meeting Congressman Cuellar on several occasions. He made it clear that he wants to be active in our city. I am pleased to announce that he or a member of his staff will keep office hours once a month at our City Hall. If you have anything you wish to discuss with Congressman Cuellar or a member of his staff, you will be afforded this opportunity. The neighborhood office hours will be every third Tuesday from 2:30 – 3:30 PM at Windcrest City Hall.

Light-Up Opening Ceremony & Decorations: The Light-Up Ceremony was the biggest in our history. Our city received major media attention. We estimated over 1000 people attended this event. It was great fun and entertainment for the whole family. The entire city staff, as well as the Volunteer Firefighter's all helped. A special thanks to Lisa Scott and Katye Brought. A big hug to our very own Santa and Mrs. Claus, who donated their time – Windcrest residents Mr. and Mrs. Flinn. There were over 90 applications to enter the contest. We were told this is the largest number of entries in the last five years. To everyone who decorated their houses thanks so much. The exposure and the revenue the city generates from this event is priceless. To those that could not decorate this year, please try to next year. To Rackspace, the Windcrest Little League and the Windcrest Volunteer Fire Department - thank you so much for decorating all those houses that signed up for the free service. They decorated over 40 houses this year! Let's keep the momentum going and set new records for next year. Also, a big thanks to the Windcrest Women's Club for sponsoring this event and organizing the judging. For 54 years, this city has had Light-up and we are called the City of Lights. Thank you Women's Club for helping to keep the tradition going!

January 10, 2013: This is the Awards Ceremony for the Light-Up winners. This year it will be open to all of Windcrest to come and recognize the winners. It is a free event and will be at Takas Park Civic Center. All the winners will be receiving professional photographs of their house, a beautiful plaque and a cash award. Believe me when I tell you, the awards have been taken to a whole new level. The Grand Prize winner will receive a special plaque that will be made in duplicate. This plaque will be displayed at City Hall in perpetuity. A new tradition this administration is starting. More information about this celebration is later in this Newsletter. Please mark your calendars for this special day. We hope to see you there.

➤ Continued on page 3

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← Continued from page 2

Firefighter Gala: This Second Annual Gala will be Saturday, March 2nd. It starts at 6 PM and goes to at least 11 PM. It will be held at the Civic Center, and again will be decorated by the incomparable Mrs. Ellis. The Firefighters are ready and looking forward to serving you and making this event as fun as last year's. At the time I am writing this article, we are over one half sold out. If you attended last year's Gala, we know you had a great time. Last year was the Lawrence Welk theme. This year it will be Country/Cowboy Chic, as we will be having live country music to dance to at the after party. The MC for this year's gala is the comedian Cleto Rodriguez. You can see him on Channel 4 (WOAI) on their morning show. He is truly one of the funniest human beings and he is going to entertain us during dinner. Also, after dinner, there will be DJ Tom "the Suit" and a live Country Band to dance the night away. Remember, with your ticket it is all inclusive - Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert, drinks and dancing. There will also be a special raffle, and live and silent auctions. This Gala has proven to be not only a huge fundraiser for our Volunteer Fire Department, but also a great community event. The Firefighters might just have a better time than the guests. They also make great dance partners. Call Lisa Scott at City Hall to reserve your seat(s) or table. There are also sponsorship packages that are available.

Property Taxes and Rainy Day Fund: At the end of this article, you will find a chart/graph. As was stated in prior articles, this administration lowered the city taxes. The taxes were lowered 2%. It is this administration's plan to lower taxes at least 4% next year, and the third year lower taxes by 19%. Thus, over a three year period, the city taxes will be lowered by 25%. It is our ultimate goal to have the Windcrest city taxes be ZERO. We will be able to operate our city using sales tax revenue and other fees. We will do this while not decreasing services, but increasing them. We will continue to add to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds and have developed one year and three year plans. We also are replenishing and now adding money into the city's rainy day fund. Yes, we are lowering taxes and adding money into the rainy day fund and making plans for the future. As we promised, we were able to do this by running the city like a business – more efficiently. By looking at the chart, you will see there was a time where the city was actually raising taxes and dipping into the rainy day fund. This is not a good recipe to follow. This administration promised to run the city like a business and fix the problems. We are honoring our promise to you. Please look at the chart,

and if you have any questions/comments/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Windcrest Car Winner Calendar: This calendar was made using the pictures of the winning Windcrest cars at the 1st Annual Windcrest Car Show. These calendars are available at the Post Office at City Hall for \$12. Come see the beautiful cars of your neighbors. The 2nd Annual Windcrest Car Show will be April 13, 2013 at the Windcrest Golf Course. More details in future Newsletters.

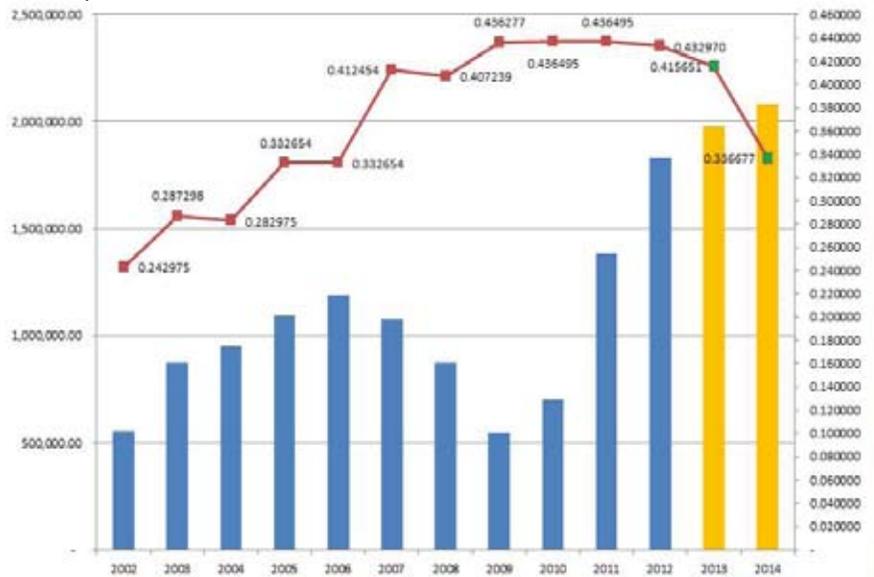
Volunteering and Participating: We need more people on Newsletter Committee and Windcrest Citizens' Patrol. Please call Katy Brought at City Hall if you can help with the Newsletter Committee and/or Citizens Patrol or you want to serve the city in some other capacity. Remember that there are still places of service within the City. If you want to participate or volunteer in an area of the City, you won't be turned away. Give me a call or email me to get involved.

We hope to see you, Thursday, January 10th from 7 – 9 PM for the Light-Up Awards Party at the Civic Center. It is free, and everyone in Windcrest is invited to attend.

Remember that I welcome and answer every phone call and email.

Your Mayor and humble servant,

Alan E. Baxter





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Windcrest Resident

FROM YOUR Mayor Pro-Tem, Pam Dodson



pdodson@windcrest-tx.gov

Wow...here we go with another new year! Time really seems to go by faster and faster these days.

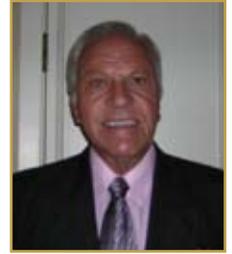
So many good things are happening in our City. I hope the excitement felt during our Light Up continues through these next monthslet's keep the positive momentum moving forward. Good people can and should do good things, so look forward to the improvements being made and tell other people about this great place to live. Not only is it a great place to see Christmas lights but a great place to raise a family or just to wind down after a long and busy career. That is the good thing about Windcrest....we seem to support both types of families.

Now is the time a lot of people look to being more involved in their community....I encourage you to do so. As you consider, look at the back page of your Newsletter and select an organization you think you would enjoy...then go to a meeting. The really good thing about involvement here in the city is that you will get to meet one of your neighbors.

I also encourage you to attend any of your council meetings or a meeting of one our committees or boards. It is much more likely that the decisions that are made are to your liking if you provide your input. You should be the oil that addresses the squeaky wheel. If we have a problem or an issue, it is your suggestions that help find a solution. So come....be part of the process! I think I can say that the meetings are usually better than anything you can find on television!!

Councilmember Gerd E. Jacobi

gjacobi@sbcglobal.net



HAPPY NEW YEAR WINDCREST

I hope everyone had a wonderful, healthy and hopefully prosperous New Year. 2013 looks great for our City. Many new business enterprises are interested in our city. They like the way it is being managed.

Our city budget is in great shape thanks to everyone's hard work and especially our hard working Finance Officer, Sarah Mangham. The Mayor and your City Council, as well as all of our great employees and volunteers have worked hard the previous year and last year to make sure that we will have even a better year in 2013. Your support and trust in us, i.e. Mayor and council, will continue to make Windcrest the envy of cities around us.

We as citizens can be proud of our city. We have recovered from a near disaster in our city to our current prosperity. Your tax money is wisely being re-invested in our city in such areas as street repairs, Park upgrading to include the ponds as well as many, many year around city activities are all geared to bringing in many new businesses and residents.

Yes there is still a lot of work to be done but with your support we can make it happen. Don't forget what I had mentioned to everyone before, if you have an idea or suggestion that could help improve our city please e-mail it to us or bring it up at one of our City Council meetings, be part of Windcrest. Stay healthy so that we can all enjoy our future together.

Councilmember Jim Shelton

alamojim@sbcglobal.net



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL, it is our hope that each of you will have a happy and healthy 2013.

The process for much needed work on our city's streets is moving forward in a timely, and organized manner. We had great response to our request for qualifications (RQF). Numerous statements of qualifications for Engineering Design Services for Roadway Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) were received. The quality of these submissions were excellent. I feel certain that we will select an outstanding firm, and we look forward to seeing major street work in our city this spring.

On December 3, 2012, we, the city council passed Resolution No. 2012-413^o which moves the city of Windcrest's annual general elections from May to the November election date as established by law. To move to November from May had to be finalized by December 31, 2012. In my conversations, e-mails and phone calls, 75% of the citizen voters preferred November over May. Only 19% were opposed to a change, and 6% had no preference. Some will disagree, but I feel sure that we made the right decision.

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Councilmember

Rita Davis



rdavis@windcrest-tx.gov



I am writing this Newsletter article to report on the progress of our Ethics Policies.

On Nov. 28 the Council decided to prepare 4 levels of Ethics Policies targeting four groups.

1. Volunteers, who are not involved with City government finances or contractors.
2. Employees, who are not involved with City government finances or contractors.
3. Boards, Commissions and Committees who are involved with City government finances, contractors, or zoning decisions, or those who advise officials who do make decisions on City government finances, contractors or zoning decisions.
4. City Officials and employees who make decisions on, or administer, City government finances or who are involved in the procurement of goods or services on behalf of the City.

This decision was made to streamline the policies to address issues germane to the various positions in City government.

At the Dec. 3 Special City Council Meeting, the Council will have had an opportunity to vote on the first level – Volunteers.

A suggestion was made to produce a training video that new employees, Council Members, new Board, Commission and Committees would be required to watch as part of the training process. It was also suggested that the signing of an affidavit stating that the training was taken and understood would be required. In addition, all present Volunteers, Employees and City Officials would also be required to sign an affidavit.

Public service is a public trust. As one of your Council Members I will work to assure public confidence thru the application of principles of ethical conduct set forth in our Ethics Codes.

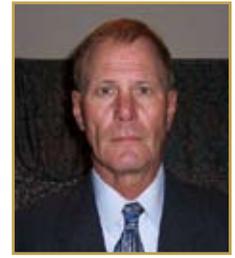
You can watch the progress of our efforts by bringing up past and present videos on the Windcrest official website. On menu boxes, choose E-Services; go to bottom of the list Streaming Video.

Councilmember

John Gretz



jgretz@windcrest-tx.gov



After our December 3, 2012 council meeting, two citizens took offense to my motion to move our elections to November vice May. They thought my comments were demeaning to the “small group” of citizens I alluded to. When I stated to them some comments from our past “citizens to be heard” segments were not only demeaning, but downright rude to our elected city officials, they had no comment. With that, I'd like to share my comments with fellow citizens. After all, I am a “citizen to be heard” also. Since I have no clue on how many of our Windcrest citizens actually witness our council meetings, I feel it's important to share my thoughts via our newsletter for widest dissemination. If you read my comments below, and wish to opine, please send me your thoughts at jgretz@windcrest-tx.gov . Thanks for your support as I truly believe Windcrest is moving in a very positive direction.

“I make a motion that we support Resolution 2012-413R to move our city elections to November vice May. It makes good sense for the following reasons: it will save Windcrest money by consolidating elections; it will negate the need for citizens to be involved in multiple elections during a given year and will enhance voter participation; election campaign signs will not clutter our city for two or so extra months per year; and, the state of Texas supports the consolidation effort.

Several citizens have voiced their concerns regarding keeping our city elections in May based on the presumption consolidation in November would make the process “too confusing.” During our recent election in November, I did not vote straight party and I was done in less than 5 minutes. It was not at all confusing. With a Windcrest section added, maybe another 15 seconds would have been needed.

On a personal note, I'd like to address the small group of citizens who oppose moving our elections to November. Some members of this group were directly involved in city politics who approved Resolution #275 on January 2, 2007. That resolution delegated authority to the mayor and city manager to act on their behalf on “all matters” regarding annexation issues and the Racker Road project. The result was a loss of approximately \$3M in our city coffer as a result of mismanagement of city funds. Although the city council and the EDC “delegated” that authority, they were still accountable and responsible for oversight of that delegation. They failed, to say the least. I have yet to hear one public apology to Windcrest citizens for “dropping the ball.”

As a guy with a background in psychology, I can fully understand why they may take what happened personally and may use various psychological defense mechanisms or strategies to “project” the lack of due diligence on their behalf in some other direction. In essence, subtly place the blame on something or someone else. That is human nature. In my humble opinion, the citizens I mention have chosen Mayor Alan Baxter as their “projection” target.

Why would they target and besmirch Alan Baxter? That is a question only those who “project” can answer. Alan only got involved in city politics “after” the misappropriation of funds occurred. He only wanted to do his best to right the Windcrest “sinking ship.” He only dove into the fray by running for council in 2010 and has given it 150% from day one. As our Mayor, he has upped the effort to 200% and has done his very best to get Windcrest out of the mess that happened under previous city leadership... with positive results that can't be denied by anyone. He enlisted the support of his law school friends to help Windcrest right the ship. If you keep up with the Windcrest news, our relationship with Rackspace is topnotch, our city's financial position has never been better, Windcrest has a superb capital improvement plan (CIP), and (most importantly) pride in our great city is at a very high level. Our city staff members are working harder than ever, and are thankful the city has the financial stability to make it a great place to work.

On a personal note, I've heard from people from this group (both publically and privately) accuse city council members of simply being Alan Baxter's “yes people.” That is the furthest from the truth. Trust me, our council members don't see eye-to-eye on all issues, nor do they have a problem disagreeing with the mayor. Although we may agree or disagree at times, we end up doing what is in the best interest of Windcrest and its citizens...period!

With that, I stand firm on my motion to move our elections from May to November. It makes good sense. To the group of citizens I've alluded to, first and foremost, I consider many of you good friends. Please let us put the past behind us and let us join hands to move Windcrest forward. Hopefully, the conclusion of the Cain brother trial in the near future will help us all close a sad chapter in the Windcrest history book.”

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City Secretary News, Kelly Rodriguez

krodriguez@windcrest-tx.gov

During the month of November the Mayor and Council passed some ordinances and a few resolutions that you may be interested in. On 11.05.12 Resolutions that were passed were 2012-410 (R), adopting an amendment to the City of Windcrest Cafeteria Plan by increasing the maximum amount which may be allocated by each participant to \$4000 per plan year. Also passed was Resolution 2012-411 (R), designating the San Antonio Express News and the Northeast Herald as the newspapers for publication of official notices of the City of Windcrest. On 11.19.12 no resolutions were passed. Ordinance No. 2012-679 amending the zoning code by prohibiting carports passed on its second reading. On 11.28.12, the City Council held a workshop to discuss the City of Windcrest Code of Ethics Policy. Ordinances that passed on their second reading were Ordinance 2012-681, amending the current residential and commercial refuse collection payment dates, ordinance 2012-682 appointing Kelly Rodriguez as the City Secretary and ordinance 2012-683 appointing Heather Weidenbach as the Assistant City Secretary.

Please remember City Hall will be closed New Year's Eve, January 1, 2013 (Tuesday) and MLK day, January 21, 2012 (Monday). There will be NO trash pickup on January 1. If your normal pick up falls on these days, pick up will not be until your NEXT regularly scheduled day.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief of Police - A. O. "Al" Ballew

In Pursuit of a Crime-Free Future!

With 2013 upon us, I would like to highlight some positive changes that have occurred within the Police Department since my appointment as Chief. I am rapidly approaching one year as the Chief of Police and we have made a lot of progress. I am surrounded by an incredible staff that cares greatly about the public safety of this City. I have started a new crime prevention program called, City-Crime Watch. You may have seen signs going up throughout the City highlighting the program and educating residents, visitors and businesses on the importance of reporting suspicious activity. In addition, Crime Watch decals are being distributed to businesses and will be available to citizens to assist in further educating and being proactive in preventing crime. We have designed, printed and made various types of crime prevention literature available to citizens, visitors and businesses to attack the problems of property crimes, vehicle burglaries and, personal safety.

We just celebrated our most successful National Night Out event with over 650 in attendance. Thanks to the support of our administration, we have new equipment in our police vehicles to further help in combating criminal activity, recently upgrading to COPsync in all of our police vehicles to assist officers in the field, both in fighting crime and providing enhanced officer safety through real-time criminal information, on-board video and real-time communication with surrounding police agencies. Our Communications dispatchers are now able to see all officers in the field, through global position system monitoring (GPS) and are able to communicate directly with the officers through the vehicle computers, to further enhance public and officer safety both in response times and more efficient use of patrol units. Traffic enforcement has been upgraded through the use of electronic ticket writing, which allows all traffic citations to be electronically submitted to our Court through COPsync.

I have made some organizational changes within the Department to greatly enhance customer service and allow for more efficiency in dealing with crime and public safety issues. These changes include the creation of a C.O.R. Unit (Community Oriented Response), which greatly enhances our partnership with the entire Windcrest community and a Covert Operations Unit that helps to fight criminal activity, such as vehicle burglaries and other property crimes thru the use of undercover officers. I am currently revitalizing the Bike Patrol Unit to allow for personalized patrol coverage in the business district, our parks, trails and residential areas. Now that the Police Department is responsible for the Code Enforcement and Animal Control Units, I have assigned a police officer to the Code Enforcement Unit to allow for a streamlined process enhancing the enforcement of our City Code and helping to strengthen and maintain the Windcrest Community for the beauty and family atmosphere it has always been known for. We have established a solid relationship between the Animal Control Unit and the citizen volunteers in the Animal Control Task Force and TNR Program, which allows for more professional response and care of our animals. Citizens' Patrol,

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now under the direction of the Police Department, is supervised by Patrol Operations. A vital program that allows citizen volunteers to be the eyes and ears of the Police Department and its assignment to Patrol Operations has created a stronger bond, and has established a solid working relationship between our citizen volunteers and our Patrol officers, fighting crime daily on the front lines. I am making changes to our Departmental website, which will provide increased public safety awareness as well as a better avenue of communication between the Police Department and the Windcrest community.

Crime prevention through community education, zero tolerance for all criminal activity and a rock solid relationship between the police and the citizens it serves, is the foundation for proactive crime fighting and an unbeatable team! My goal as your Chief is to strengthen our position as your protectors and send a clear message to all criminals... *the City of Windcrest is off limits to criminals and they are not welcome here!* We are making great progress and I am excited to lead the Windcrest Police Department into the future. Your Police Department has well trained and professional staff throughout the Department... from Communications and Records, to Patrol and Special Operations Divisions. Please call us at (210)655-2666, if you have questions or need assistance. We are here to serve and protect, "The City of Lights".

Code Enforcement, Jose Rosales

There have been a few residents complaining about vehicles parking in the street in front of their homes. The fact is the streets are for public use as a first come first served basis; basically any portion of the street can be used by anyone as long as you are **NOT** parked in front of a mailbox, blocking an entrance/exit or any driveway. Second, any vehicle you park on the street has to be used within a 24 hour period, has to display current registration/inspection stickers and has to be an operable vehicle. The street cannot be used as a storage parking area and you are limited as to what type of vehicles you can park on the street. In the driveway, Residents are also limited to one vehicle per licensed driver living in the residence plus one vehicle per home, not resident. This information is covered in Chapter 20/Traffic and Parking Ordinance.

Other interests are trailers, RV's, boats and commercial vehicles. They are also covered in Chapter 20. Vehicles covered by a protective cover are not protected from inspection by any Officer. Any vehicle under a cover must also be operable, have current registration/inspection stickers, otherwise these vehicles can be distinguished as a junked vehicle under Chapter 20/the traffic and parking ordinance.

If you need any assistance or want to report a violation of the Windcrest City Code, please contact your Code Enforcement Officer via the Windcrest Police Department Dispatcher at 210-655-2666.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Dan Reese

Windcrest Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) Leader wins area award

Kathie Maloney, Leader of the Windcrest CERT was selected by the Alamo Area Citizens Corps Council as the Instructor of the Year for 2012.

Kathie has been a long time member of the Windcrest CERT and revitalized it in the past few months. Kathie has been instrumental in local trainings for area CERT's. She was recognized in a ceremony on December 1st. Take the time to thank Kathie for the great works she is doing in our community. Kathie is Vice President of Learn CPR First Aid & Safety, located at 5313 Walzem in Windcrest.

Windcrest 2nd Annual Firefighters Gala

The Windcrest Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting the 2nd annual Firefighters Gala on March 2, 2013! This event was a tremendous success last year and we are excited to be hosting the 2nd Annual Firefighters Gala. The Gala includes a dinner and a band. Seats at the Gala are included in the Elite Plus level of giving and additional tickets are available at \$50 per ticket. Seats are limited and are already selling. We will sell out quickly, if you are interested in attending please contact Lisa Scott at the Windcrest Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment. Phone 210 599-6007, e-mail: wvfd@ci.windcrest.tx.us or stop by the Fire department office.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 2nd at 6 p.m. -11 p.m. in the Civic Center.

The Three Levels are;

- **Windcrest Gold Elite Plus \$170 Donation** – Two Gala tickets, additional sheet of raffle tickets, two meal tickets (picnic) Windcrest Gold gift. You will be eligible for a special drawing on the day of the picnic for Windcrest Gold/Elite only.
- **Windcrest Gold Elite \$130 Donation**– Additional sheet of raffle tickets, two meal tickets (picnic) Windcrest Gold gift. You will be eligible for a special drawing on the day of the picnic for Windcrest Gold/Elite/Elite plus only.
- **Windcrest Gold \$100 Donation** – Windcrest Gold gift. You will be eligible for a special drawing on the day of the picnic for Windcrest Gold/Elite/Elite plus only.

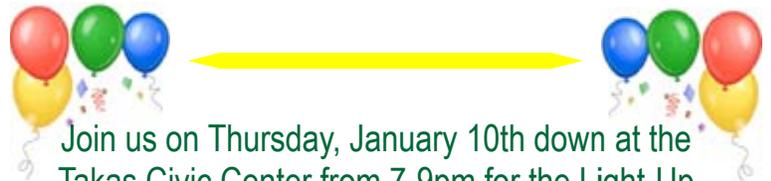
The Windcrest Volunteer Fire Department's Firefighters Picnic is two-days! To be held on Friday May, 17 and Saturday, May 18. Look for new and exciting fun-filled events for the whole family. More info on the picnic to follow.

Look for the traditional Firefighters Picnic letter in the mail January 2013.

We are very excited about the 2nd Annual Firefighters Gala, last year is was a great success! We hope you will join us again this year. If you weren't able to make it last year we hope you will be able to join us this year.

Your Understanding and Support are a Firefighters Strength.

Shweiki AD



Join us on Thursday, January 10th down at the Takas Civic Center from 7-9pm for the Light-Up Award Party! The entire community worked hard to make Light-Up the best ever and we want to say Thank You in style! There will be a DJ, Hors D'oeuvres and a special presentation of awards for the Light-Up Winners! This is event is FREE for all Windcrest residents! See you there!



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Director of Public Affairs and Marketing, Katy Brought

kbrought@windcrest-tx.gov

Going to look at the Windcrest Light-Up has been a tradition my husband and I have kept for years, and it was an honor help plan and organize it this year. I hope everyone that came out this season was as impressed as I was at all the amazing lighted homes!

Light-Up is so much more than just lighted homes and there are so many people behind the scenes that make this wonderful tradition come to life. A BIG thank you goes out to Lisa Scott in the Fire Department for all her time and effort with the planning! To the ENTIRE Public Works



Department for working many, many hours to get the City decorated!

Another thank you goes out to Rackspace, Windcrest Little League and the Volunteer Firefighters for volunteering and helping decorate homes for Windcrest residents who were unable to decorate this year; also to Shipley's, Taco Cabana, HEB, Starbucks and Home Depot. This Light-Up was one of the best I've seen! Thank you to everyone who made it great!



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www.independencehill.com

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From the Desk of Tom Garcia, Director of Public Works

tgarcia@windcrest-tx.gov

Fall has brought its normal changes to the city's needs. We have expanded our street sweeper time to better clean the streets of our beautiful city. Unfortunately, due to the sweepers extended use it has come with a price because of break downs. We maintain our equipment frequently and do services on machines when they are due however it doesn't totally keep away break downs. We have also adjusted the street sweeper to pick up better the Acorns which puts more stress on the machine. Operator of the street sweeper, Chris Estes, does a great job for the Public Works Department. He does a route through our city and repeats the route every week. You can always call Public Works Department for any and all questions you may have concerning the street sweeper service.

We hope everyone enjoyed the New Christmas Tree in front of City Hall. It's 40 ft plus tall and is lit by thousands of LED light bulbs. The Old Christmas Tree is now located at the corner of Jim Seal and Crestway. The Big Red Bows on the Old Tree added a great touch to a very pretty tree. We want to thank all the PW Crew who worked very hard to put up all the decorations this year. And a special THANKS needs to go to Mrs. Ruth Fritz and Mrs. Rita Davis for their unbelievable help in decorating and preparing the New Tree for its first Christmas here in Windcrest.

Hope everyone had some wonderful fun this Christmas season . . .
Happy New Year !!!

FRIENDS OF THE PARK

Happy New Year from Friends of the Park of Windcrest! January provides a time for both reflection and anticipation. Let us tell you about Friends of the Park of Windcrest: who we are, what we have done, what we hope to do in coming months. As you learn about us, perhaps you will be interested in joining our organization.

Friends of the Park (FOTP) is a non-profit closely tied to the parks and green spaces of Windcrest, their preservation and enhancement. We are embarking on our second year. The major project of 2012 was a Parks Inventory Project completed in conjunction with students at Roosevelt's DATA (Design and Technology Academy). Please look at our exciting website (windcrestfotp.org) for details, photographs, and an interactive map of this challenging project! Look around you for trees in Windcrest public spaces and you will see a metal tag affixed indicating that this tree was catalogued and that it can, in fact, be located on an interactive map! This coming year, with the city's anticipated permission, we plan to install demonstration gardens in Windy Hollow Park which will showcase plants suited for sunny and shady areas in our city. We also plan, again with cooperation from DATA students, installation of vine-covered arbors over bridges and picnic tables in all of the parks. We'd love to have you join us!

Important Information:

1. Annual Kick-Off Meeting **January 7, 2013, 6:30 p.m.** in Council Chambers.
2. FOTP Website: windcrestfotp.org
3. Questions/Membership: contact@windcrestfotp.org

Ann Friday for FOTP

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Director of Windcrest Economic Development Corporation

Sherry Mosier  smosier@windcrest-tx.gov

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, the Racker Road Project will be near completion with street lighting finished and the road now known as Windsor Park (formerly Conn's Drive) in final stages of construction. Many thanks for your patience during construction of this project.

We have word that several properties in the City are now under contract and leases have been signed by a couple of new businesses at existing retail centers and office buildings... stay tuned for announcements on new projects and businesses coming to Windcrest!

The Randolph Metrocom Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Metrocom Community Restaurant and Business Showcase on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at the Live Oak Civic Center from 5pm-8pm. Admission is FREE to the public and 3000 attendees are anticipated. This is an opportunity for business owners to promote and expose their unique business to the public...but hurry booths are going fast! For more information, please contact the Randolph Metrocom Chamber of Commerce at 210.658.8322 or visit www.MetrocomChamber.org.

We appreciate all the comments received regarding type of eateries, retailers, services, entertainment, etc. you would like to see come to Windcrest. Please continue to send us your comments or suggestions by emailing me at smosier@windcrest-tx.gov, calling me at 967-9381 or stopping by the WEDC office. Please visit the City's Facebook and Twitter pages for updates. Board meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers unless posted otherwise.

Windcrest Animal Control Task Force

WeACT



A reminder again that we are having an immunization and registration clinic on Saturday, January the 19th, 2013. This will allow residents to get their pets' vaccinations up to date and then register or re-register their pets with the city. (A yearly requirement) It will be held at the parking lot at City Hall from 9 - 11am. No appointment necessary...you just show up, meet your neighbors and be patient.

Here are the fees for registration:

- Dog or cat sterilized (no microchip)** \$5
- Dog or cat not sterilized (no microchip)** \$10
- Sterilized with a microchip** FREE

Registration of your pet with the City can be done at any time of the year. When it is time to reregister your pets (which should be done each year) then we are asking you to do that in January and February. It is important that you register your pet even if it is not an outdoor animal. Scooty has, from time to time, managed to wiggle his way out the door so we need to make sure that the City knows where he/she belongs. Pictures will be taken to be included with the registration description. So come make your furry friend a legal resident of Windcrest!



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BEXAR COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #10

Richard Frenzel, General Manager, rfrenzel@windcrest-tx.gov 210-655-2888

STAGE II WATERING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT AS THIS IS WRITTEN. EVEN IF THE AQUIFER GOES UP SIGNIFICANTLY, WE WILL REMAIN IN RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT AT LEAST THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY.

SUPERIOR WATER SYSTEM. Last August, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality recognized this District as the 2012 Public Drinking Water System of the Year. There are over 7000 public drinking water systems in Texas, so we were pleasantly surprised to receive that recognition. On December 7, 2012, we were also notified that the District has been recognized as a SUPERIOR water system "in view of the high standards of water service made available to the residents of Bexar County WCID 10-Windcrest". That rating is the result of having back-to-back Comprehensive Compliance Inspections with no discrepancies. And comprehensive it is. They dig into everything from record keeping and administrative procedures, personnel qualifications of the staff, day-to-day operations, water quality standards, to security issues and management of water resources and financial management. You can be confident in the quality of the water and service you are getting and proud of your Water District! And our water rates are still the lowest in the region! In the near future, you will see state authorized signs going up around the City recognizing this achievement.

ANNUAL SEWER AVERAGING. The annual sewer averaging process started on November 19. The National Weather Service is now forecasting a drier than average winter which is going to tempt you to

water the lawn. We know it is tough to resist (we all have lawns), but don't give in. The grass is dormant at this time of the year and can survive just fine. For additional information on sewer averaging and hints on how to achieve a low sewer average, please visit our "Frequently Asked Questions" at our website. Look under INFORMATION.

COMPLIANCE WITH WATERING RESTRICTIONS. At the request of the Windcrest City Council, the Board of Directors put off adopting the District's Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan at its November 15th Board meeting. We anticipate that the Plan will be approved at its December 13th meeting. There are some significant changes between Windcrest Ordinance 547, Critical Period and Water Conservation Plan and the District's plan. Please visit our website to catch up on the changes.

WATER STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH: The average household used approximately 7740 gallons of water (10.35 ccf) during the October-November billing cycle. That's about 106 gallons per person per day; it was 131 gallons per person last year during the same time frame. Consumption during this billing period ranged from zero to 77 ccf (57,600 gallons).

RAINFALL. We received 0.50 inches of rainfall in November for a total of 38.47 inches for 2012. We are still way above average for the year but we will probably face restrictions for another 60 days.



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Windcrest Folks Come Through **AGAIN!!!**

By the time you are reading this newsletter, Christmas Light-Up 2012 will be over. So, you may be wondering how I could use such a positive headline to my article. Easy I tell you. Starting right after Thanksgiving, as I drive around our city, day by day, night by night more and more Windcrest folks began lighting the homes. With days to go, a good percentage of the City was already lit up. Knowing that, I knew that we would have a fantastic participation again this year.

So no matter how much you did, from a wreath in a window to an elaborate display thanks for keeping our tradition alive. Generations of San Antonio area residents have made coming to Windcrest Light-Up part of their Holiday traditions. It is fun and a little humbling to think that so many families rely on us for part of their Merry Christmas Activities!

We again had judges from outside Windcrest so preserve the integrity of the category winners. Each winner got a beautiful picture of their home all lit up and a small stipend to help with electricity costs. Our post Light-Up party for the winners is always a fun time. Try to come next year.

The Light-Up Committee will be quiet for a few months but we will be back in the Spring with the Theme and encouragements to keep Light-Up the amazing city-wide event it has always been.

Thanks again,
Jaquie Rothermel' Light-Up Chair

Women's Club News

Pamela Dodson



You are invited on **January 23rd at 10:00AM**, to United Methodist Church Community Hall (the old Cici's building) for a morning with the Jolly Jubilee Jammers. They are a group of musicians that use kitchen and household utensils along with a piano player. They will provide some really interesting musical entertainment.

And of course you don't want to miss the **Membership Tea on February 27th** at the Civic Center. It is always a pleasant break from every ordinary day, to step back in time to a more genteel era and remember all the ladies that helped bring this group to where we are today. The tea cups are lovely and the food is dainty so please come down memory lane with us.

The Windcrest Women's Club meets on the **4th Wednesday of each month from August through May**. It is never too late to join this group of ladies and it is only a cost of \$20.00 to meet with us all year long. Don't forget the other special interest groups that meet: Arts & Crafts (1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesday at 9:30), Bridge (1st & 3rd Tuesday at 10am), Gourmet I (3rd Thursday at 11am) and Gourmet II (2nd Thursday at 11am).

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Windcrest Garden Club

Helma Ann Martinez
210-599-8583

We enjoyed our Holiday Potluck Luncheon on December 3rd, with plenty of good eats, good friends & good fun! And, in keeping with our community spirit, the Garden Club once again donated to the Angel Tree Program & had the joy of purchasing coats for needy students from Windcrest Elementary.

As we begin the New Year, please join us **Monday, January 7th, 10 am** for coffee & refreshments at Windcrest Civic Center.

It'll be our annual "Circle of Gardeners" event. A panel of our Master Gardeners answer questions & share their expertise in a lively open forum. We'll give them special honors & they'll tell us about what it takes to be a Master Gardener.

One of the master gardeners will also conduct a plant auction.

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener?

Texas AgriLife Extension Service will be conducting its spring Master Gardener class #57 for adults interested in gardening/horticulture and related topics. Deadline to register is February 25, 2013. The cost is \$220 with classes running every Wednesday, 12 noon-4 pm, March 6 - May 29.

<http://mastergardener.tamu.edu/become/> (210) 467-6575

<http://www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org/>

Upcoming events:

Executive Board Meeting ~ **Monday, January 31, 10 am**

Hostess ~ Annette Hoffman @ 8010 Hickory Forest, 946-1205

Monday February 4th ~ 10 am @ Windcrest Civic Center

Guest Speaker, Gayle Randolph will give us instruction in "Flower Arrangements" just in time for Valentine's Day.

Executive Board Meeting ~ **Monday, February 25th, 10 am**

Hostess ~ Carolyn Freeman @ 630 Fenwick, 655-5816

But though an old man, I am but a young gardener.

~ Thomas Jefferson



The Windcrest CERT Team is planning a presentation for the Windcrest Residents on "How to Prepare for a Disaster" as well as How To Create a "GO BAG" on January 29th from 6:30

to 8:30 p.m. at the Takas Park Civic Center. If you were told that you needed to vacate your home or Windcrest business in 5 minutes due to a local disaster, would you be prepared? We will also present information on the importance of a CERT team and how to complete the requirements to join our newly formed Team Windcrest.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic training consists of about 23 hours of training over a 5 Wednesday night period. The training is free and all material and gear is loaned to the students for their use during the classes. Training will include Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety and Suppression, Terrorism and CERT, Disaster Psychology, Search and Rescue, the ICS Structure, Emergency Communications with HAM Radio and FRS, and Disaster Medical Operations.

If Interested in joining the Windcrest CERT Team, we have a new Basic CERT Training to be held at the San Antonio Fire Department Firefighting Training Academy, located at 300 Callaghan Rd at Hwy 151 each Wed. from February 6 to March 6th from 5:45 PM to 10:00 PM. For more information or to sign up, contact: Kathie Maloney - Team Windcrest CERT Coordinator, 210-887-5069 or e-mail @ teamwindcrest@gmail.com

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➤ CUTOFF DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER NOTICES TO CITY HALL:

To provide timely information in the next *Newsletter*, **notices must be in the Administration Office by noon on January 6th**, and announce activities occurring after January 30th only. Please e-mail articles to newsletter@windcrest-tx.gov in 'Word' documents **only** so articles can be edited for misspellings, etc. which cannot be done in PDF or any other format. Also, please provide a contact name & phone number for City Hall.

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Organizations:

Little League – Miriam Guzman
210-473-1585 * windcrestlittleleague@gmail.com
Lion's Club – Marlene Patton
210-393-7383 * marpatton@aol.com
Girl Scouts - Brittany Byrd
210-349-2404 ext. 227 * bbyrd@girlscouts-swtx.org
Boy Scouts - John Echevarria
210-341-8611 ext. 123 * jechevar@bsaemail.com
Swim Team – Katherine Garcia
210-831-4681 * windcrestdolphins@hotmail.com
Optimist Club - Herb Strait
210-653-9519
Women's Club - Patty Robles
American Legion - Buddy Cooper
210-656-3426
Golf Course – Dennis Dooley
210-655-1421 * dennidooley@windcrestgolfclub.com
Tennis Center - Scott McKay
210-590-8500 * scottmckay@satx.rr.com
Citizen's Patrol Team 1 Captain - Henry Berman
210-655-5650
Citizen's Patrol Team 2 Captain - JoAnne Anderson
210-587-7052
Citizen's Patrol Team 3 Captain - Ennice Mosley
210-646-5519
Citizen's Patrol Team 4 Captain - Helma Ann Martinez
210-599-8583
Garden Club - Pauline Fay - 210-653-1414
Friends of the Park-Ted Hanes
210-413-6264 * tedhanes@me.com

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

Economic Development Corporation

Tim Maloney
Lisa M. Pepi
Beckie Gergen
Leonard Neeper
Sue Alexander
Roy E. Wratlslaw
Irv Gerrow

Planning & Zoning Commission

Col. Henry Berman
Kevin Fleuret
James McFall
Ronald Armes
Tom Moore
Michelle Ramos-Martinez
Jaqueline Wickware

Board of Adjustments

Bill Love

WCCPD Board of Directors

Dr. William Mueller
Bill Lambrides
Wesley Manning
Edwin Miles
William Roberts, Jr.
Harry Ter Maat
Margaret J. Weidenbach (Jeanie)

Animal Task Force-Pam Dodson

210-590-8436 * pdodson@windcrest-tx.gov

Parks & Recreation Commission

Joann Hillard
Mike Scott
Dennis Dooley
Jay Eldridge
Jan Leaders
Will Harrison
Scott Gorton

Pool Manager- Jonathan Hay
210-590-6848

Water Board President-Melroy Brandt
210-655-5528

Newsletter Committee

Mayor Alan Baxter
Katy Brought
Claudia Carrera
Sue Moore
Col. Henry Berman
Barbara Lindell
Council Member Rita Davis
Gayle Baker
Veronica Dixon
Alice Briones-Ditmer
Carolyn Freeman
Joanne Anderson
Ruth Fritz
Eliana Sandoval



City Meetings in Windcrest City Hall Council Chambers

Special City Council Mtg	January 7	6:00 p.m.
Municipal Court	January 8, 15	4:00 p.m.
WEDC	January 10	6:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation	January 9	6:00 p.m.
Water District Meeting	January 17	7:00 p.m.
Regular City Council Meeting	January 21	5:15 p.m.

For updated information go to www.ci.windcrest.tx.us

City Holidays on January 1 and 21

Articles that appear in the Windcrest newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official position of Neighborhood News, Inc. and their publication does not constitute an endorsement therein. The appearance of any advertisement in the Windcrest newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Neighborhood News, Inc. or the City of Windcrest of the goods or services advertised. Neighborhood News, Inc. is not responsible for errors beyond the cost of the actual ad space. Any publication of Neighborhood News, Inc., whether draft or final, is the sole property of Neighborhood News, Inc. and cannot be reproduced or distributed in any way, whether in print or electronically, without the express written consent of Neighborhood News, Inc. ©Neighborhood News, Inc.