



# The Valley Newsletter

CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

JANUARY 2014

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## City Purchases the Kennedy Property on Country White

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the City Council approved the purchase of 3617 Country White Lane. This property, known as the "Kennedy Property", is a 6.6 acres containing one single family home. The purchase was finalized on December 19, 2013 for the price of \$875,000 using the "Green Tax" fund, a special sales tax fund designated for water quality protection in the area along Brodie Lane and Country White Lane.



The Kennedy Property first went on the market in August 2013 with a listing price of \$1.2 million. The City Council met once in executive session to discuss the City's position on purchasing the property. During subsequent deliberations in open session, the Council considered the following factors supporting the purchase of the property:

- This is the largest tract available for use of the Green Tax.
- Majority of the property is within the 100 year floodplain, Critical and Water Quality Transition Zones.
- Opportunity to protect a portion of the drainage area to a nearby aquifer recharge feature, the Country White Sink.
- Location allows for the opportunity for future storm water controls and water quality enhancements.
- Property abuts to Sunset Valley Indian Prairie Preserve and City of Austin Water Quality Preserve land.

With the purchase completed, at the January 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, the Council discussed options for use and disposition of the property. While there were no decisions made, there was support from the Council and residents at the meeting for a plan that would minimize ongoing maintenance, liability, oversight and cost to the City and keep to the intent of the purchase—to protect the environmentally sensitive portions of the property and the watershed by restricting future intensive development on the property. Three basic options were discussed at the January 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting:

1. Remove the existing structure and allow the land to be returned to a more natural state (similar to adjacent property to the north owned by the City of Sunset Valley and to the west by the City of Austin).
2. Place a conservation easement on the entire 6.6 acre tract to prevent further development and then sell the entire tract to place it back in to private ownership. The proceeds from the sale would go back into the Green Tax fund for future purchases or water quality projects.
3. Subdivide the property into two lots: the smaller of the two which would include the existing house, and a second lot comprised of the remaining acreage as a separate conservation lot. Sell the new smaller residential lot to place it back in to private ownership and place the proceeds back into the Green Tax fund for future purchases or water quality projects.

The Council sent the project to the Planning and Environmental Committee to make a recommendation to the City Council. Residents interested in this project should attend or send comments to the upcoming Planning and Environmental Committee meeting scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. The City Council will host a public meeting for comments before the final decision is made.

# COUNCIL ACTION RECORDS

## Council Meeting on December 3, 2013

- **Inauguration and swearing in of newly elected Council Members.**  
Jeff Burdett, Rudi Rosengarten, and Forrest Arnold took the Oath of Office administered by Mayor Cardona.
- **Recognition of City Employees for actions during flood response on October 13, 2013.**  
Mayor Cardona presented Chief Ford with a Heroic Leadership Award; Chief Ford presented Joshua Ronson with the Community Civic Award; Chief Ford presented Sgt. Luis Saucedo with the Medal of Valor Award and Chief Ford presented Officer James Brownlow the Life Saving Award.

### AGENDA ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT

- **Approval of the minutes from the November 12, 2013 Regular City Council meeting, November 16, 2013 City Council Retreat, and November 18, 2013 Called City Council meeting.**
- **Approval of an extension of Temporary Special Use Permit for Home Depot to conduct a Christmas Tree Sale in the parking lot at 1200 Home Depot Boulevard.**
- **Approval of a of Temporary Special Use Permit for the Trail of Lights Foundation to use the Burger Center parking lot to operate a shuttle service for the Trail of Lights on December 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
- **Approval of an Ordinance amending Chapter 93 of the Sunset Valley Code of Ordinances relating to Food Safety.**
- **Council actions related to the contract for sale to the City of property located at 3617 Country White Lane.** A motion was made to issue a new contract with the following changes: purchase price of \$850,000, Ernest Money at \$250, seller pays for title and survey, and closing by December 30, 2013, if possible. All other terms remain the same. Mayor Cardona called for a vote: Mayor Pro tem Arnold, Council Members Jenkins and Powers voted no. Council Members Rosengarten and Burdett voted yes. The motion failed by a 2 for and 3 against vote.

A motion was made to issue a new contract with the following changes: purchase price of \$875,000, Ernest Money at \$250, seller pays for title and survey, and closing by December 30, 2013 if possible. All other terms remain the same. Mayor Pro tem Arnold and Council Members Jenkins, Powers and Burdett voted yes. Council Member Rosengarten voted no. The motion carried by a 4 to 1 vote.

*Later in the meeting, the City Council reopened the agenda item having received a counter offer from the seller who was present at the meeting.*

A motion was made to issue a new contract to purchase 3617 Country White Lane for \$875,000, with Ernest Money being \$10,000, the seller will pay for the title commitment, the buyer will pay for the survey, and a hard closing by December 30, 2013 with an extension provided, as necessary. Mayor Pro tem Arnold and Council Members Jenkins, Powers and Burdett voted yes. Council Member Rosengarten voted no. The motion carried by a 4 to 1 vote.

- **Approval of appointments to the Arts Commission.** John Frick, Karen Medicus, James Hart, Erika Montero, Sasha Russell, and Matt Young appointed as regular members; and Cat Quintanilla, Betty Dunn, and Melissa Gonzales, as alternate members to the Arts Commission with Council Member Jenkins being the City Council Liaison. All voted yes .
- **Approval of appointments to the Board of Adjustment.** Tom Cedel, Marshall McHone, Randall Rosengarten, Steve Borochoff, and Richard Hayes appointed as regular members; and Sandy Cox and Jennifer Fadal as alternate members to the Board of Adjustment. All voted yes .
- **Approval of the Ordinance to amend Chapter 31 of the Code of Ordinances.** All voted yes .
- **Presentation on Land Development Code Revision Project.**

### Council Meeting on December 17, 2013

#### AGENDA ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT

- Approval to accept the Sunset Valley Street Crack Sealing Project as constructed by Alpha Paving Industries LLC for the final amount of \$25,000.
- Approval to accept repairs to the Sunset Valley Villas flood control berm by RGM, Inc. in the final amount of \$68,975.
- Approval of an Ordinance amending the following sections of Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code : Section 2.300 Procedures for Special Use Permits, Zoning Variances, Zoning Changes and Zoning Code Amendments; Section 2.305 Zoning Code Amendments; and Section 2.501-2.504 Special Uses (and related definitions in Chapter 1).
- Referred to the Zoning Commission to undertake review of Section 2.503(f) Special Use Farmer's Market.
- Approval for the City of Austin to install and maintain a rain gauge at the Indian Grass Prairie Preserve (near the radio tower).
- Approval of a Managing Partner Agreement with the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan to allow the Gaines Greenbelt to be included in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve System. All voted yes.
- Referral to the Zoning Commission to consider amendments to Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code to clarify the definition of "structure"; to create a definition for "accessory structure" and to consider exceptions and exemptions for regulation of certain types of structures such as small structures of insignificant size , rain harvesting tanks and free standing solar arrays. All voted yes.

### 2014 Sunset Valley Citizen Police Academy

The Sunset Valley Police Department will hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Citizens Police Academy starting in April. The class is scheduled to run 10 weeks with participants meeting once a week on Wednesday from 6 PM to 9 PM. Last year, the City's first Citizen Police Academy had 13 participants, and those who participated said it was a great experience and they provided feedback and support to improve future classes. Participants were given insight into the world of Law Enforcement, while providing training in several areas of the profession including; The Court and Legal System, Narcotics and Drug Enforcement, Patrol Operations, DWI Intervention, Traffic Enforcement, Communications and Technology, Building Searches, Arrest, Search and Seizure, Use of Force, and Conservation and Greenbelt Patrol. Participants were introduced to guest speakers from other agencies, and were able to conduct mock traffic stops, and clear buildings. For 2014, in addition to the standard core training, the participants will receive training on topics such as: conservation patrols, Sunset Valley PAC-TAC (Police and Citizens Together Against Crime), CPR/First Aid, weapons handling, and a hands on use of force/shooting scenarios.

With the addition of new topics and the exposure to new programs, we are encouraging graduates from the 2013 Sunset Valley Citizen Police Academy to return and assist the Police Department in staffing these programs.

The class requires a minimum of 10 students, with a maximum of 15. Interested residents are encouraged to come demonstrate your ability to succeed in a community program while experiencing the community through a different perspective. We encourage anyone with an interest to contact Sgt. R. Stern or Officer M. Zajac at the Sunset Valley Police Department.

## ARTS COMMISSION REPORT

By John Frick

On Saturday evening February 15<sup>th</sup>, you're invited to enrich your Valentine's weekend by joining legendary actors Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn aboard the **AFRICAN QUEEN** for one of the most thrilling adventures and one of the most beautiful love stories ever told. Both were nominated for an Academy Award in 1952. The African Queen was filmed in rich Technicolor in Africa and directed by the great John Huston.

Alamo Draffthouse Cinema will set up their 9'X16' screen inside City Hall and project a beautifully restored print. Comfy padded chairs, linen table cloths, chocolate-covered strawberries and other refreshments will be provided to make this a special evening. It's our free **Winter Movie Night** presentation for all ages to enjoy. Please join us.



Office Building to be built at 4910 Hwy 290

### What's in the Works? 4910 Hwy 290

ATS, a consulting engineering and inspection firm, broke ground on their 2 acre tract next to Holiday Inn. The \$1.7M project, approved by the City Council in 2012, is to construct a three-story, 12,000 square foot office building, with the first story being a parking area under the building. Work started last month on site improvements and construction of required water quality controls on the property.

## THINGS TO DO IN Sunset Valley

### Sunset Valley Craft Get Together

1st Sunday of the Month, 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
Crafters meet the 1st Sunday of each month in the City Hall Conference Room.

### CPR and First Aid Training

Monday, February 3, 6:30 P.M. —City Hall  
Sunset Valley hosts a CPR and First Aid Training Course each month. Residents can register and take the class at no cost. Contact Matt Lingafelter at City Hall to register or email Matt [mlingafelter@sunsetvalley.org](mailto:mlingafelter@sunsetvalley.org)

### Farmers Market/Artisan Market

Every Saturday, the Farmers Market is open rain or shine from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Toney Burger Center.  
[www.sfcfarmersmarketsunsetvalley.org](http://www.sfcfarmersmarketsunsetvalley.org)



### December 2013 Police Blotter

Alcohol Offenses	2
Theft/Shoplifting	17
Accidents	23
Alarm Calls	12
Disturbance/Other	2
Calls for Assistance	42
Traffic Hazard	11
Suspicious Calls	17
Parking Violations	16
Violation of City Ordinance	1
Traffic Stops	204
Welfare Checks	11

## CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 2014

Tuesday, February 4th  
6:00 P.M.

**City Council Meeting**  
City Hall

Wednesday, February 5th  
9:30 A.M.

**Community and Economic Development Committee**  
City Hall Conference Room

Wednesday, February 12th  
7:00 P.M.

**Board of Adjustment** (*if needed*)  
City Hall

Thursday, February 13th  
6:00 P.M.

**Planning and Environmental Committee**  
City Hall Conference Room

Tuesday, February 18th  
6:00 P.M.

**City Council Meeting**  
City Hall

Thursday, February 20th  
7:00 P.M.

**Public Works Committee**  
City Hall Conference Room

Monday, February 24th  
6:00 P.M.

**Public Safety Committee**  
City Hall Conference Room

Wednesday, February 26th  
7:00 P.M.

**Zoning Commission**  
City Hall

Wednesday, February 26th  
7:00 P.M.

**Budget, Finance and Administration**  
City Hall

**Meeting Dates  
and Time May  
Change.  
Please check the  
City's Website  
SunsetValley.org  
for updates.**

## Water Saving Tips: Bathroom

When it comes to conserving water, small adjustments can have a big impact. For the next few months, you will find water saving tips around your home to make those small changes.

- If your shower fills a one gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, consider replacing the showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Take a 5 minute shower instead of a bath. A full bath requires up to 70 gallons of water.
- Toilet leaks can be silent! Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year. An easy test, put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
- When running a bath, plug the bathtub before turning on the water. Adjust the temperature as the tub fills.
- Upgrade older toilets with water saving models. The City has rebates available for water saving toilets. Contact Public Works for more information about water conservation rebates at 512-891-9103.
- If your toilet flapper doesn't close properly after flushing, replace it.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save up to 4 gallons a minute, that's up to 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- Turn off the water while washing your hair.
- When washing your hands, turn off the water while you lather.
- One drip every second adds up to five gallons per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks.
- Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them.

# ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE ROSTERS

**Rose Cardona, Mayor**  
rcardona@sunsetvalley.org

**Forrest Arnold, Mayor Pro tem**  
farnold@sunsetvalley.org

**Jeff Burdett, Council Member**  
jburdett@sunsetvalley.org

**Walter Jenkins, Council Member**  
wjenkins@sunsetvalley.org

**Mickie Powers, Council Member**  
mpowers@sunsetvalley.org

**Rudi Rosengarten, Council Member**  
rrosengarten@sunsetvalley.org

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**Arts Commission  
Committee Members**  
John Frick, Chair  
Walter Jenkins, Council Liaison  
James Hart  
Karen Medicus  
Erika Montero  
Sasha Russell  
Melissa Gonzales - alternate  
Cat Quintanilla - alternate

**Board of Adjustment  
Committee Members**  
Thomas Cedel  
Richard Hayes  
Marshall McHone  
Randall Rosengarten  
Steve Borochoff  
Sandy Cox - alternate  
Jennifer Fadal—alternate

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**Budget, Finance & Administrative  
Committee Members**  
Rudi Rosengarten, Chair  
Michael Francis, Vice Chair  
John Bellanca  
Mary Black  
Marc Brunner  
J.R. Esquivel  
Robert Harrison  
Melissa Gonzales— alternate  
Walter Jenkins—alternate

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**Community & Economic  
Development Committee Members**  
Mickie Powers, Chair  
Karen Flournoy, Vice Chair  
Penny Cedel  
Rudi Rosengarten  
Sasha Russell

**Planning & Environmental  
Committee Members**  
Forrest Arnold, Chair  
Helen Besse, Vice Chair  
Margaret Bentley  
Mitch Chazan  
Edward Grimes  
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**Public Safety Committee Members**  
Jeff Burdett, Chair  
Art Williams, Vice Chair  
Gregg Bell  
John Bellanca  
Pam Bellanca  
Erwin Haddon  
Frank Williams Pam Bellanca - alternate  
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**Public Works Committee Members**  
Walter Jenkins, Chair  
Randy Machemehl, Vice Chair  
John Bellanca  
Mary Black  
Melissa Gonzales  
Ken Schroeder  
Randy Williams Richard Leigh - alternate  
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**Zoning Commission  
Committee Members**  
Robert Skewis, Chair  
Margaret Bentley  
Susan Durso  
Miguel Huerta  
Cynthia Nelson John Frick - alternate

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**City of Sunset Valley Newsletter**  
**3205 Jones Road**  
**Sunset Valley, TX 78745**