

# OAKLAND HEIGHTS

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

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April/May 2025

## A VICTORY FOR OAKLAND HEIGHTS

Our Oakland Heights Board not only serves to preserve and protect our community but also works with city officials and other organizations on matters outside our walls that affect our neighborhood. Such is the story of the 18-Wheeler parking that plagued Beckwith Blvd. Over five years ago our Board began working with Councilman Manny Pelaez of District 8 to gain agreement from each business on Beckwith Blvd. to put up no overnight parking signs. But this approach was not good for the businesses and a broader solution was needed. Our Board and D8 Office then began working to introduce changes to City Code. While it took a few years, finally on March 20th, the City Council voted to amend City Code and prohibit 18-Wheeler parking on select streets that were designated as problematic based on 311 reports. Beckwith Blvd is included in these designated streets. This was collaborative solution with truck drivers because it only targeted problem areas, but did not eliminate the parking across the city that the drivers need. We are pleased to share that as of April 19th our residents will now be able to enjoy an 18-Wheeler free drive home on Beckwith Blvd. Thank you to the District 8 team for your support in making this change a reality.

## OAKLAND HEIGHTS DISTRICT 8 CANDIDATE SURVEY

In support of informing and engaging our Oakland Heights residents in the upcoming May 3 municipal election, a survey of issues that might be of interest to residents was sent out to the six District 8 Candidates. Four of the candidates responded to our request, see below.

We did not hear back from Cesario Garcia nor Rodney Kidd. The OHOA does not endorse candidates, this is for the benefit of our residents.

*(continued on page 2)*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Website:** [Oakland-Heights.com](http://Oakland-Heights.com)

Visit our site for Board of Directors Roles,  
Governing Documents, Resident's Resources,  
Gate Information,  
Portal & Payment information, ARC, and more!

**DAMC:** Diamond Association Management &  
Consulting

14603 Huebner Road, Building 40  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 561-0606

Comments or concerns can be sent to:  
[OaklandHeights.board@gmail.com](mailto:OaklandHeights.board@gmail.com)



	Ivalis Meza Gonzalez	Paula McGee	Cindy “Lou” Onyekwelu	Shakib Shaikh
Are you in favor or opposed to supporting more funding to increase police officers in San Antonio?	In Favor	In Favor	In Favor	In Favor
Are you in favor or opposed to expanding Casa Bella Rd to connect it to Vance Jackson Rd (CCR dated 03/04/2024)?	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed	Opposed
Are you in favor or opposed to increase funding to reduce the homelessness issue?	In Favor	Opposed	In Favor	In Favor
Please share your top reasons why voters should consider your candidacy for the District 8 Councilman position. (2-3 sentences max)	I am a lifelong San Antonian who has been living and raising my family in District 8 for the last 15 years, so I deeply understand the challenges our community faces. But more than that, I also know how to solve them - having served as Mayor Nirenberg's Chief of staff during our emergency response to the pandemic and the winter storm. I am proud to be endorsed by Mayor Nirenberg along with former County Judge Nelson Wolff, County Judge Peter Sakai, Former Councilman Art Hall, and the San Antonio Police Officer's Association.	I am not a politician or city hall insider. My candidacy is born from a heart for public service, this is not a stepping stone towards a future political career. I'm a wife, mother, grandmother, and attorney and I have volunteered service to the city as a Zoning Commissioner and as a member of the Ethics Review Board. I bring both professional and civic experience to this role, as well as the maturity and leadership skills to be strong advocate for the residents and businesses in District 8.	I'm running as a non-partisan because my policies support all San Antonio residents that want to live a better life more conveniently. I would push employers coming to our city to only hire local San Antonio residents within new contracts and inform locals through virtual monthly town halls of upcoming grants and local job openings they can apply to.	You should consider my candidacy because I have lived in and around District 8 for about 25 years. I went to Clark Highschool, UTSA, and St. Marys for graduate school. In 2017 I was the Director of Constituent Services for the District 8 Council Office. So not only was I raised in D8, and go to school here, but I also worked in the Council Office of this community.
What issue would be your first priority if elected? (1-2 sentences max)	One of my top priorities when elected will be to increase funding for public safety - reducing emergency response times and keeping our neighborhoods safe.	My priorities will be the priorities of the people of District 8, and I continually hear that they are concerned about rising crime and public safety. I am committed to ensuring that first responders have the resources and personnel that we can afford, that neighborhoods know and utilize their SAFFE officers, and that policing is increased in high crime areas.	Addressing homelessness, housing, and streets through data driven solutions, including analyzing emergency room reliance to inform mental health interventions and advocating for increased funding for affordable housing and public safety. I will also champion budget transparency for street maintenance and prioritize affordable housing near employment and transit, while increasing funding for animal care services.	My first priority would be to focus on public safety. Our population is 300,000 more than Dallas, but we have 1,100 officers less than Dallas.
For any program that you would support, how would you fund it? (2-3 sentences max)	It starts with making sure our city is spending its money responsibly overall to determine how we can better support departments like public safety that residents rely on every day. Having worked on four budget cycles with the Mayor, I know we can cut wasteful spending, find areas for improvement, and reallocate funds in a way that keeps neighborhoods safe.	Public safety expenses are a portion of the city's annual budget, which is funded primarily through taxes, sales taxes, and transfer from CPS energy and SAWS.	Applying for federal/private grants and talking to global sponsors that share the same cause!	Given the enormity of the gap I seek to fill, the funding has to come from broadening the tax base that starts with more housing. It can't come from raising taxes, which the city is capped on, nor can it come from increasing the share of the budget that public safety already portions for itself.
Please share the best information sources (website, upcoming speaking engagements, etc.) Where voters can learn more about your candidacy?	Call me at: (210) 446 - 8302 website: GonzalezFor8.com, social media @GonzalezFor8. Join me at the MEGA Volunteer Block Walk on Saturday, April 12 at 10am at 8647 Wurzbach Rd.	Website: electpaulamcgee.com	WEBSITE: <a href="https://www.votecindyonye4district8sa.org/">https://www.votecindyonye4district8sa.org/</a> OR Follow @HeyCindyLou on Instagram   “Cindy for District 8 San Antonio” on Facebook	votesakib.com

## Financial Review

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses at 2.28.2025 -

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$67,848</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administrative	\$2,518
Gates and Pavilions	\$810
Grounds	\$1,749
Utilities	\$2,038
Mailbox	\$30,955
Other	\$261
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,331</b>
Reserve Contribution	<u>\$17,272</u>
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>\$12,245</b>

We have \$6,873 in past due assessments including \$1,475 in forced compliance that are fully collectible. Our Reserve fund balance at 2.28.2025 is \$620,000.

### TRASH AND RECYCLE BINS

The curb appeal of the community is very important. No one wants to come home to a street littered with trash containers and debris scattered around. One way to keep the community looking beautiful is to put away your trash and recycle bins promptly after pick up and store out of view from the front of your house.



### SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

If you notice someone in your area that may look suspicious, or you witness something out of the ordinary,

First call your appropriate law enforcement agency to get a faster response in getting these persons identified or the situation looked into.

Second, use your social media, if you use it, to get the word out of your observations or concerns.



Description	Presentation to Residents at Townhall	Actual Expenses
Pavilion Build	\$55,000 to \$65,000	\$61,366
Mailboxes	\$16,400	\$16,505
Security Cameras and Keypad	\$15,200	\$30,720
Fences*	\$13,700	0
Miscellaneous**	0	\$5,155
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100,300 to \$110,300</b>	<b>\$113,746</b>

\* Fences behind the pavilions will be replaced as funds permit.

\*\* Includes permits, lights, signs, encroachment fees, landscaping, engineer letter.

As a result of the resident protest, the city of San Antonio required a \$4,000 commercial permit and impacted the cost of commercial power. Project pavilion expenses have been finalized. The Reserve fund will be repaid for the incurred pavilion expenses through a \$50 per year assessment per resident for an 8.75 year period. Additional maintenance costs related to pavilion access and monitoring is estimated at \$4,200 a year.

### From Susie Riojas ...

#### Hello, Oakland Heights Neighbors!

As a fellow resident of our wonderful community, I know how important it is to stay informed about home values, market trends, and real estate opportunities. Whether you're curious about your home's current value or considering selling in the future.

*I'm here to help!*

**KW CITY VIEW**  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

**Susie Riojas REALTOR® ~ (210) 649-0928**



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15510 Vance Jackson, Suite 101  
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## SPRING MAINTENANCE

This is the time of year when we refresh mulch around our trees and in our garden beds. In order to encourage oxygen exchange and nutrient uptake for the tree, do not place mulch around the root flare (where the tree's trunk transitions into its root system). Last year, the HOA spent \$1,032 to treat trees where our tree trunks were deeply surrounded with mulch.

When disposing of fallen leaves, please do not rake or blow them into the street. One of two things occur, they decompose in the street and provide a growing medium for weeds which damages the integrity of the blacktop which costs the HOA to repair or the rain moves them down the street into the concrete culverts, which the HOA pays our Landscaper to remove. If you wish to pull or spray the vegetation in the gutter or sidewalk, thank you.



**D8** COUNCILMEMBER  
Manny Pelaez

**CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 8**

**DISTRICT 8 OFFICE CONTACT:**  
**Office:** (210) 207-0943  
**Email:** council.district8@sanantonio.gov  
**Social Media:** cosa\_cd8

**EMERGENCY** 911  
**CITY SERVICES HOTLINE** 311  
**STATEWIDE REFERRAL SERVICE** 211  
**SAFD NON-EMERGENCY** (210) 207-7744  
**SAPD NON-EMERGENCY** (210) 207-7273  
**SAPD PRUE SUBSTATION** (210) 207-7425  
**SAPD PRUE SAFFE OFFICERS** (210) 207-7169  
**ANIMAL CARE SERVICES** (210) 207-4738  
**SAWS** (210) 704-7297  
**CPS ENERGY** (210) 353-2222

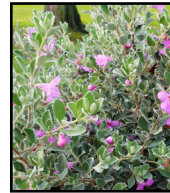
**BEXAR COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR** (210) 335-2251  
**HOMELESS CONNECTIONS HOTLINE** (210) 207-1799

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**  
 Call 1-800-799-7233 and TTY (confidential & free)

## BRING POLLINATORS TO YOUR YARD

As warmer weather rolls in, consider adding plants that attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. These vital creatures help sustain biodiversity and contribute to a healthy ecosystem by pollinating flowers, fruits, and vegetables. In Texas's warm, dry climate, selecting native and drought-tolerant plants can support pollinators while keeping your garden beautiful and resilient.

Here are some excellent choices:

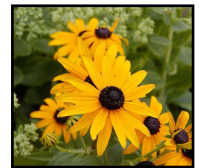


### 1. Texas Sage

A native Texas plant, Texas Sage blooms with vibrant purple, pink, or white flowers and attracts bees and butterflies. It's drought-tolerant and thrives in our climate.

### 2. Black-eyed Susan

With bright yellow petals, Black-eyed Susans are a favorite of bees and butterflies. They're low-maintenance and perfect for our hot summers.



### 3. Lantana

These colorful plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds and are heat and drought-tolerant. Lantanas come in several bright colors, making them a vibrant addition to your yard.

### 4. Purple Coneflower

Purple Coneflowers are easy to care for and attract bees, butterflies, and birds. This native plant is drought-resistant, making it ideal for Texas gardens.



### 5. Mexican Sunflower

Known for its vibrant orange flowers, the Mexican Sunflower attracts Monarch butterflies. It thrives in our heat and is drought-tolerant.

In addition to planting these pollinator-attracting flowers, consider adding a shallow water source like a birdbath to provide hydration for bees and butterflies. Avoid using pesticides, as they can harm pollinators and disrupt the ecosystem. To ensure a steady food supply for pollinators throughout the season, plant a variety of flowers that bloom at different times.

By incorporating these plants and practices, you can create a thriving habitat that supports pollinators and enhances the beauty of your garden. A pollinator-friendly space not only benefits wildlife but also contributes to a healthier environment for all.

## A GUIDE TO SUNLIGHT FOR PLANTS



Have you ever wondered what it really means when a plant is labeled as needing full sun or partial shade?

Here's a simple guide:

**Full Sun:** Requires more than 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, including afternoon sun.

**Part Sun:** Receives 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, with some afternoon exposure.

**Part Shade:** Gets 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, primarily before noon.

**Full Shade:** Gets less than 4 hours of direct sunlight per day, with no afternoon sun.

It's perfectly normal for your plants to droop a bit in the late afternoon sun, as they have already absorbed the sunlight they need for growth earlier in the day.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Marigolds aren't just beautiful, they're also natural pest repellents! These vibrant flowers produce a scent that helps keep aphids, mosquitoes, and even certain nematodes (microscopic

worms that damage plant roots) away from your garden. Marigolds contain pyrethrum, a compound used in many natural insect repellents. Planting them near vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and beans can help protect your crops from harmful pests. Plus, marigolds attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, making them a great addition to any eco-friendly garden!



**MEALS  
on WHEELS  
SAN ANTONIO**



When you volunteer with Meals on Wheels San Antonio, you are doing much more than delivering a meal! Your support enables our senior neighbors to age independently and safely in the comfort of their own homes, making a significant difference in our community.

Meal delivery opportunities are available across San Antonio, with pick-up sites located at:

- University Methodist Church - 5084 DeZavala Rd., 78249
- Morningside at the Meadows - 730 Babcock Rd., 78201
- Northwest Church of Christ - 9681 W Loop 1604 N, 78254

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY TO DELIVER, PLEASE VISIT [MOWSATX.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://MOWSATX.ORG/VOLUNTEER), CALL (210) 735-5115, OR EMAIL [VOLUNTEER@MOWSATX.ORG](mailto:VOLUNTEER@MOWSATX.ORG)

## SPRING CLEANING TIPS AND TRICKS

As spring is now in full swing, what better way to refresh your life than by decluttering your home?

Here are some simple and effective tips to help you declutter your home and create a clean, organized space:

### Set Realistic Goals

Start by setting small, achievable goals. Trying to declutter your entire home in one weekend can be overwhelming. Break the task into manageable steps, like tackling one room or area at a time. Setting a goal for a specific number of items to declutter (e.g., “I will let go of 20 items this week”) can also keep you motivated.

### Start with a Clear Out of Seasonal Items

Get started by sorting through seasonal items that may have piled up over the holidays. This could include decorations, extra blankets, or winter gear like coats and boots. Go through them to see what you actually use and donate or recycle anything you no longer need.



### Adopt the “One In, One Out” Rule

To prevent clutter from building up in the future, try the “one in, one out” rule. For every new item you bring into your home, commit to getting rid of something old. This can be especially helpful for clothes, toys, or kitchen gadgets that tend to accumulate over time.

### Tackle the Tough Areas First

Some areas tend to collect clutter more than others—think junk drawers, closets, or the garage. Start by organizing these high-traffic spots to feel an immediate sense of accomplishment. For example, try emptying a closet, sorting through the items, and then donating or discarding anything that doesn't belong.

### Create Functional Storage Solutions

Decluttering isn't just about getting rid of things, it's also about organizing! Invest in storage bins, baskets, or shelving to create designated spaces for items, making it easier to maintain order.

Once you've tackled a space, take a moment to appreciate your hard work! Celebrate your progress, every little bit of decluttering you do is an achievement!

## KEEPING YOUR HOME PROTECTED FROM CYBERSECURITY THREATS

With so much of our lives happening online, it's more important than ever to protect your personal information. Here are simple steps you can take to keep your home network secure.

Weak passwords are one of the easiest ways for hackers to access your accounts. Avoid using obvious passwords like your name or “12345.” Instead, create long passwords (at least 12 characters) with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. For convenience, use a password manager to generate and store unique passwords for each account, ensuring no two accounts share the same password.

Your home Wi-Fi is a prime target for hackers if it's not properly secured. First, change the default password your router came with to something strong and unique. Use WPA3 encryption for the most secure network, or WPA2 if WPA3 isn't available. Disable features like WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup), which is vulnerable to attacks, and set up a guest network for visitors, so they don't access your main devices.

Phishing scams trick you into giving away sensitive information by pretending to be a trustworthy source. These scams often appear in the form of fake emails, text messages, or phone calls. Always check the sender's email address for legitimacy and avoid clicking on any suspicious links or downloading attachments. If you receive a suspicious message, contact the company directly through their official website or customer service.

If your device is compromised by a cyberattack like ransomware, you risk losing valuable data. To protect against this, regularly back up your files to a cloud service (like Google Drive or Dropbox) or an external hard drive. Having a backup ensures you can recover your data even if your device is attacked.

Smart devices, like cameras, speakers, and thermostats, can be a security risk if not properly secured. Always change the default passwords that come with these devices and use strong, unique passwords instead. Consider isolating your smart devices on a separate Wi-Fi network to prevent hackers from accessing your main network and devices.

By following these simple yet effective tips, you can significantly reduce the risk of cyberattacks and keep your personal information safe. Cybersecurity is an ongoing process, so staying vigilant and informed is key to protecting your digital life.



SAN ANTONIO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ENDORSES  
**IVALIS MEZA GONZALEZ**  
FOR DISTRICT 8 CITY COUNCIL



The safety of our families and businesses comes first. That's why the SAPOA PAC endorses  
**IVALIS MEZA GONZALEZ.**



***Ivalis will:***

- Reduce 911 response times
- Recruit and retain top first responders
- Fully fund public safety

**VOTE**  
**IVALIS MEZA GONZALEZ**  
**FOR A SAFER SAN ANTONIO**

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## Important Community Reminders

- Trash collection is on Friday, recycle and brush is on Wednesday. Please ensure when cans are stored they are in an enclosed structure or appropriately screened from view.
- Parking on the street is limited to 6 hours for all residents. Please do not leave your cars overnight on the roads or for extended hours during the day.
- Please ensure you submit any changes you are planning to make to the exterior of your home or landscape (other than routine maintenance) to the ARC prior to making these changes.
- When walking your dog, please be kind and courteous and keep your pets off your neighbor's property.



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