

2015 Retiree Matters

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
for City of San Antonio Retirees
Issue 22 | May 2015

In this Issue

Brown Bag Series

Page 1

City Manager's Letter

Page 2

Delta Dental Resources

Page 3

Joining Your Ranks

Page 4



Lori Steward that spring is in the air, I hope that the good weather finds you enjoying the outdoors with your friends and family.

Message from Interim Human Resources Director

Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

Welcome to the second issue of *Retiree Matters* in 2015. Now

Also, for those retirees who are enrolled in dental coverage through Delta Dental, there is information about their new oral health online resource center, SmileWay.

City staff is preparing for this year's budget season, and our special edition that will go out in August will offer highlights of the proposed retiree benefits package for FY 2016.

As always, please let us know if there are any topics you would like to see in future issues of *Retiree Matters* by emailing your ideas to cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov.

In this issue, you will find information about the next session in the Brown Bag series, which will take place on Thursday, May 21 at the Central Library. At this session, you will learn about San Antonio AirLIFE's Guardian Angel Program. We hope to see you there!



Save The Date!

The next session of the retiree brown bag series will take place on **May 21** from

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the **Central Public Library Auditorium, 600 Soledad.**

Representatives from San Antonio AirLIFE will be on hand to talk about their AirLIFE Guardian Angel Program. You will also hear about the City's five-year financial forecast.

Light refreshments will be provided, but please feel free to bring a bag lunch. Free parking will be available in the Library's parking garage.

To reserve your seat at this session, please contact Human Resources Customer Service at 210-207-8705.



Rock the Ballot Box! Vote on May 9

Elections for Mayor and City Council take place on May 9. In addition to casting your ballot to fill these positions, you also have the opportunity to vote on two propositions that would continue the 1/8th cent sales tax and four amendments to change the City Charter.

Proposition No. 1: would authorize the City to protect the quality and quantity of water in the Edwards Aquifer through the protection of land over the aquifer's sensitive Recharge Zones.

Proposition No. 2: would authorize the City to continue building the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail system by expanding the trail system.

Charter Amendment No. 1: would add language to the Charter stating that no streetcar or light rail project could be funded or developed without first receiving approval of the voters in an election.

Charter Amendment No. 2: would allow City Council members to be paid an annual salary of \$45,777 and the Mayor to be paid an annual salary of \$61,725.

Charter Amendment No. 3: would amend the Charter so vacancies in the office of the Mayor and City Council would be treated the same.

Charter Amendment No. 4: would eliminate outdated language in the City Charter that is no longer relevant or has been superseded by state law.

For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov/ElectionsCampaignFinance/CityElections.aspx#13227904-upcoming-elections.

NOTES FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Dear City of San Antonio Retirees:

This letter provides an update regarding two important issues: the City's contract negotiations with the San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA); and the third-party testing of the soil that was recently removed from the Convention Center expansion project site.

Negotiating sessions with SAPOA were conducted on March 17, 20, and 31. The police union offered a proposal on March 17. The City countered on March 20. However, on March 31, the police union did not offer a counter proposal, refusing to continue bargaining until after the City Council election. The general election is May 9; the run-off election (if necessary) is June 13. The City has made clear its willingness to negotiate, without regard to the elections, and offered to continue meeting in April and May in order to reach a resolution. SAPOA has

refused to offer any meeting dates and no further negotiating sessions are scheduled.

The City's March 20 proposal is a fair and affordable wage and benefit package that meets the policy guidelines established by the City Council and addresses the union's concerns regarding healthcare (with no premium for employee-only coverage and a very modest premium for dependent coverage). As directed by City Council, the City's proposal keeps public safety spending within 66% of the General Fund budget. Plus, the average San Antonio police officer nets \$14,154 over the three and a half year contract.

The union's last offer on March 17 is nearly \$45 million more expensive than the City's March 20 proposal. The union's proposal would allow public safety spending to grow to nearly 70% of the General Fund budget by 2018. Each percentage above 66% equals \$10.5 million.

The fire union has yet to come to the table to negotiate. Both the police and fire contracts expired on September 30, 2014. However, all terms and conditions continue for 10 years under the "evergreen" provision of the existing collective bargaining agreements. The City challenges the constitutionality of this provision in the contracts because it makes them virtually perpetual and financially binds future City Councils.

Regarding the testing of the soil removed from the Convention Center site, on April 7, the City's Metro Health Department received the results of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Report conducted by Weston Solutions, an independent, third-party environmental services company. The study included laboratory analyses of 48 samples taken from 48 acres of City-owned property located at Highway 151 and Old Highway 90 where the Convention Center soil was transported. The soils were analyzed for metals concentrations, including arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and silver. In addition, samples were analyzed for the presence of volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile compounds, and total petroleum hydrocarbons.

The results confirmed the soil is safe and showed concentrations well below the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Protective Concentration Levels for both human exposure and groundwater protection. The results indicate the soil is safe for residential use, which is consistent with the data from two previous reports. In fact, the concentrations of chemicals in the soil samples were consistent with typical undeveloped agricultural property in the area.

These results clearly support the decision of the City to efficiently and safely relocate the soil, saving approximately \$6 million in unnecessary landfill costs. According to the third-party consultant, additional assessment of the fill soil is not recommended. We are pleased to put this chapter behind us.

As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions. Thank you for your service to our City.

Sincerely,



HEALTH CORNER



Do you have retiree dental coverage through Delta Dental? Great! Then, the **SmileWay Wellness Challenge** makes it easy to get smart about your dental health. Visit www.mysmileway.com to take advantage of Delta Dental's oral wellness resources.

Review your habits: Take one or both of Delta Dental's interactive quizzes to see if you are at risk for cavities or gum disease and sign up to receive customized emails based on your risk level. **Get educated:** Read articles or watch short videos on a variety of dental health-related topics, from acid reflux to X-rays. **Stay informed:** Get up-to-date dental health news and tips by signing up for *Grin!*, Delta Dental's health e-newsletter

For detailed retiree dental plan information, visit www.deltadentalins.com/cityofsanantonio/retirees.html. You can also call Delta Dental at 1-800-422-4234.

WORDS ON RECOSA

Are you a member of RECOSA? If not, this would be a great time to join! RECOSA (Retired Employees of the City of San Antonio) is partnering with the San Antonio Fire and Police Pensioners Association (SAFPPA) to make available to members a special discounted rate for the AirLIFE Guardian Angel services.

AirLIFE Guardian Angel is a non-profit membership program that covers out-of-pocket expenses that a patient may incur for AirLIFE helicopter ambulance services. AirLIFE provides emergency response to local EMS, law enforcement, fire departments, and inter-hospital transfers requested by authorized hospital personnel. AirLIFE aircrafts are strategically located to serve the residents of South Texas.

Some of the advantages of joining RECOSA and becoming a member of AirLIFE Guardian Angel *are*:

1. **A discount rate of only \$10 per year is available to RECOSA members and ANYONE living under your roof.** The normal cost is \$49 per year. AirLIFE will accept your insurance payment for their service, but you will not be billed for the remaining amount as an AirLIFE member. Air ambulance services can be very expensive.
2. Serving a 150-mile radius around San Antonio, AirLIFE offers reliable, safe air medical transport for adult and pediatric patients with a registered nurse and paramedic on every mission.
3. AirLIFE has reciprocal agreements with other similar services in Texas. This means you get the benefit of 24/7 coverage for your entire household in a larger service area that includes almost two-thirds of Texas. Check out the AirLIFE website at www.txairlife.com for the coverage area and other information.

Additional information will be available from AirLIFE's Steve Soliz at the May 21 Brown Bag session. You can ask Mr. Soliz questions and sign up for the AirLife Guardian Angel Program at this meeting. ***An application form will be available, and you will need a check or money order for \$10 made payable to AirLIFE Guardian Angel.***

This a great benefit for members of RECOSA only! Not a member of RECOSA yet? You can join at the May 21 Brown Bag session. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you are unable to attend the May 21 event, we will have information available on our website, www.recosa.org following the event.

Contacts

City of San Antonio Human Resources Customer Service

111 Soledad, Ste. 100
San Antonio, TX 78205
210-207-8705 (P)
210-207-6043 (F)

www.sanantonio.gov/hr
cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov
hrcustomerservice@sanantonio.gov

Davis Vision

1-800-448-9372
www.davisvision.com

Delta Dental

1-800-422-4234
www.deltadentalins.com/cityofsanantonio/retirees.html

Humana Advantage

Customer Care
1-866-396-8810
www.humana.com

Medicare

1-800-633-4227
www.medicare.gov

Retiree Liaison

Ann Solis
210-207-0073

Texas Municipal Retirement System

1-800-924-8677
www.tmr.com

UnitedHealthcare

Customer Care
1-800-996-2078
www.myuhc.com



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Human Resources Department
Riverview Towers Building
111 Soledad, Ste. 100
San Antonio, TX 78205

JOINING YOUR RANKS

Congratulations to the following people on their recent retirement! Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the City of San Antonio.

Janie Baez

Finance, 25 yrs.

Charlotte Balusek

Library, 20 yrs.

Margarita Canales-Garcia

Municipal Courts, 35 yrs.

Hayward Dotson

Information Technology Services,
34 yrs.

Diana Felan-Leiva

Police, 30 yrs.

Joseph Kjos

Police, 33 yrs.

Rudy Lopez

Information Technology Services,
40 yrs.

Will Mair

Transportation & Capital
Improvements, 26 yrs.

Yvonne Mireles

Aviation 21 yrs.

Maria Molina

Police, 20 yrs.

Mary Perez

Library, 35 yrs.

Guadalupe Rangel

Solid Waste Management, 21 yrs.

Gilbert Sandoval

Health, 30 yrs.

David Segovia

EastPoint & Real Estate Services,
33 yrs.

Eric Slade

Police, 30 yrs.

Diana Soria

Police, 21 yrs.

Pedro Sosa

Information Technology Services,
33 yrs.

Erica Swenson

Police, 23 yrs.

Rumaldo Valdez

Convention & Sports Facilities,
22 yrs.

