

# Retiree MATTERS

News for City of San Antonio Retirees



Issue 57 - June 2023

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Please scan the QR codes below with your smart phone to take advantage of the newest discount offers. Scanning the QR codes will take you to the vendors' websites. We hope you enjoy them!

**Beach Waterpark at Isla Blanca in South Padre Island.** With this offer, you can save 15% or more on one-day tickets and season passes. Use code SATX at checkout.



### San Antonio Zoo

To receive a discount on the purchase of a zoo Membership Pass, use the discount code COSA23M. To receive a discount on a single-day admission ticket, use code Single Day Admission: COSA23.



### Cheapo Ticketing

Receive a 10% discount for tickets to live sports, concerts and theatre events throughout the United States. Enter code GOVSAVER at checkout at CheapoTicketing.com.



## Message From the HR Director



Renee Frieda

Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

Summer is almost here, and it is amazing just how quickly the year is flying by. I hope that you have been doing

well over these last couple of months.

I'd like to thank RECOSA for their continued partnership as it relates to retiree benefits, assisting with Brown Bag speakers, and providing overall feedback. We will all be retirees one day and your input is helpful as we continuously look for ways to improve the employee and retiree experience.

As you may know, we are in the middle of budget season. Any changes regarding retiree benefits and compensation will be shared with you in the budget issue of this newsletter and during a Brown Bag session coming up in August.

I highly encourage you to attend the Brown Bag sessions that are scheduled throughout the year. They are intended to provide you with valuable information and are a great way to re-connect with former co-workers or maybe even meet some

new people. Please see details below about the next event scheduled for Friday, June 16—hope you can make it!

Just a reminder that last year we expanded our text messaging program to include our retirees. If you haven't already, please consider signing up to receive text messages from Human Resources regarding annual enrollment, benefits notices, and Brown Bag events. To sign up, simply text COSARetiree to the number 877-872-4241. Message rates will apply. This is just another way for the City to remain in contact with you. If you need assistance, please contact HR Customer Service at 210-207-8705 or via email at AskHR@sanantonio.gov.

Be sure to let us know if there are any topics you would like to see in this newsletter. If you have any ideas for a future Retiree Matters issue or for an upcoming Brown Bag session, please email us at cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov. We are eager to hear from you!

I wish you all a safe, healthy, and fun-filled summer.

Renee Frieda,  
HR Director



Make plans to attend the Retiree Brown Bag session **Friday, June 16, 2023, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Phil Hardberger Urban Ecology Center** (at Phil Hardberger Park), 8400 N.W. Military Highway, 78230. Dr. Monica Serra, PhD, Associate Professor at UT Health's Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging, will be on hand to discuss how being physically active will improve longevity and help reduce health care costs. Representatives from AARP and the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) will also be there with information about the resources they have available. Please RSVP by leaving a message at 210-207-7000 or emailing AskHR@sanantonio.gov by June 13. Be sure to RSVP today!

## Message From The City Manager



**Erik Walsh**

Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. As always, things at the City are busy, especially during this time of year – budget season! Our Communications & Engagement department is planning a number of community meetings to gather input from residents throughout the city about how budget dollars should be used to support City services. Your feedback as both a resident and retired employee is valuable and I hope you will attend one of the upcoming budget events. If you are unable to, but would still like to share your ideas, I invite you to complete a Budget Comment Card online at [saspeakup.com/sabudget2024](https://saspeakup.com/sabudget2024) or scan this QR code with your smartphone and fill out the card. Once the schedule of budget meetings has been finalized, it will be available on our website at [sa.gov](https://sa.gov).



May this summer bring you many good times with family and friends. Be sure to stay cool in what I'm sure will be a few very warm months ahead and I look forward to connecting with you again in the next issue.

Until next time,

Erik Walsh, City Manager

## Words on RECOSA—A Note From the Chair

Happy Summer, everyone!

Thank you to those retirees who were able to join us for the **March 24, 2023, Brown Bag session**. We enjoyed excellent presentations from the Methodist Hospital System and the American Heart Association on preventing heart disease, as well as blood pressure checks and a demonstration of hands-only CPR. Please visit the [recosa.org](https://recosa.org) website under Presentations and Reports to view the presentations that were shared during the March 24 session.

As summer approaches, it's time to get moving! The benefit of staying active is the focus of our **June 16<sup>th</sup> Brown Bag session**. Our speaker will be Dr. Monica Serra, PhD, Associate Professor at UT Health's Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging. Dr. Serra will share why being physically active is so important, especially during one's senior years. We will also host representatives from AARP and ACOG at tables to inform attendees on resources available through their organizations. Our 2022 RECOSA Survey revealed areas of concern for retirees such as: Social Security issues and assistance, Medicare fraud and scams, legal resources, long term care, transportation for medical appointments, and other related topics. Both organizations provide a variety of programs and services related to the needs of retirees. If they don't have the answers for you, they will know where to direct you.

On March 4, 2023, RECOSA representatives participated in the City's Retirement Education Workshop for active employees. RECOSA had the opportunity to introduce employees to RECOSA and to encourage them to join us when they retire. In addition, RECOSA will have a board representative on the evaluation panel for the review of proposals for pre-65 retiree/active employee health insurance and prescription coverage in FY 2024.

**RECOSA BOARD VACANCY:** We are also looking for another retiree to fill a vacant seat on our RECOSA Board. We meet the first Tuesday of every month via video conference. If you are interested, please send us an email at [info.recosa@gmail.com](mailto:info.recosa@gmail.com) that includes a bio and a statement of interest in serving on the RECOSA Board.

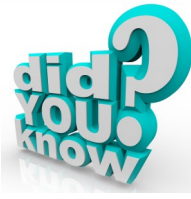
Please be sure to keep your contact information current with us so we can stay in touch with you with the latest information; see the box to the right for our contact information.

Best regards,

Rebecca Waldman, RECOSA Chair

**Join/Contact RECOSA:**  
**Website:** [www.recosa.org](https://www.recosa.org)  
**Email:** [info.recosa@gmail.com](mailto:info.recosa@gmail.com)  
**Mail:** RECOSA, P.O. Box 12973,  
 San Antonio, Texas, 78212-  
 0973  
**Phone:** 210-504-9567 (please

## Health & Safety



Did you know that both Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) and Aetna offer their members a travel/transportation benefit? See below for the specific details.

### Pre-65 Retirees enrolled in BCBSTX

This travel and lodging benefit provides reimbursement for those traveling to receive treatment for a transplant or inpatient/outpatient cancer treatments.

- The travel distance requirement for reimbursement is 100 miles. Eligible expenses should be compliant with IRS guidelines and are subject to a \$10,000 lifetime maximum.
- Benefits are paid at a per diem (per day) rate of \$50 per person per night. Individuals can include a person traveling with them.
- To be reimbursed, you will need to submit a qualifying receipt.
- Examples of travel expenses include: airfare at coach rate, taxi, ground transportation, and mileage reimbursement at the IRS rate for the most direct route between the patient's home and the designated provider.
- Prior authorization is not required for the travel, but would be required for any covered treatments.
- For more information about this benefit, call BCBSTX Member Services Line at 800-521-2227.

### Post-65 Retirees enrolled in Aetna

This transportation benefit provides rides to and from non-emergency medical appointments.

- You can schedule rides for any covered medical appointments such as visits with your primary care provider, dialysis, behavioral health, preventive services, vaccine appointments, chemotherapy, physical therapy, and dental visits.
- Trips must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance, but can be scheduled up to 30 days in advance.
- You can have an escort (family member or caregiver) ride with you.
- Professional drivers will bring you comfortably and safely to your destination.
- You are responsible for being ready when the driver arrives. Drivers are not responsible for assisting you from home door to vehicle or vehicle to office.
- Rides are provided through Access2Care<sup>SM</sup>.
- The number of trips and miles per trip depends on your plan. If you need a ride to and from the doctor, you'll use two trips.
- To schedule a ride, call 1-855-814-1699, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- For more information about this benefit, call Aetna Member Services at 1-800-338-4533.



Some of you may already be familiar with the City's Senior Centers, but if not, they provide valuable services for San Antonio's older adult community. The centers offer daily meals and activities that include arts and crafts, basic health screenings, exercise classes, field trips, social services, technology classes, and more. Transportation to and from the centers is also provided.

For information on center locations, services, transportation, and how to become a participant, visit the Department of Human Services website at [sa.gov/Directory/Department/DHS](http://sa.gov/Directory/Department/DHS) or call 210-207-8198.

### Contacts

#### City of San Antonio Human Resources

##### Customer Service

210-207-8705 (P)

210-207-6043 (F)

[sanantonio.gov/  
employeeinformation/  
retiredeemployees](http://sanantonio.gov/employeeinformation/retiredeemployees)

[cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov](mailto:cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov)

[AskHR@sanantonio.gov](mailto:AskHR@sanantonio.gov)

#### Vision Service Plan (VSP)

1-800-400-4569

[cosaretirees.vspforme.com](http://cosaretirees.vspforme.com)

#### Humana Dental

1-855-330-8060

#### Aetna

1-800-338-4533

[www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com)

#### Retiree Liaisons

Sara Mata

Ann Solis

Maricela Toral

210-207-0073

#### Texas Municipal Retirement System

1-800-924-8677

[www.tmr.com](http://www.tmr.com)

#### Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

1-800-521-2227

[www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com)

#### CVS/caremark

1-866-808-7470

[www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com)

#### HSA Bank

1-855-731-5220

[www.hsabank.com](http://www.hsabank.com)



**HUMAN  
RESOURCES**

PO Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas  
78283-3966

## Joining Your Ranks—Congratulations to Our Newest Retirees!

**Susana Alejandro, 29 yrs.**  
Library

**Adela Alvarez, 18 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Armando Balderas, 33 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Norman Berry, 5 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Delilah Bradley, 28 yrs.**  
Police

**Jose Brown, 21 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Bonnie Carson, 9 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Angelita Castillo, 21 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Frederick Clements, 14 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Donald Coleman, 36 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Juan Cortez, 21 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Eliseo Cuevas, 14 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Frances Daggett, 29 yrs.**  
City Attorney's Office

**Alfredo De Hoyos, 23 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Jesse De Leon, 21 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Julio Figueroa, 22 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Manuel Flores, 21 yrs.**  
Animal Care Services

**Rosemary Fuentes, 5 yrs.**  
Department of Human Services

**Christopher Garcia, 20 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Cynthia Garcia, 11 yrs.**  
Department of Human Services

**Arthur Garza, 20 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Joel Garza, 9 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Sandra Garza, 30 yrs.**  
Development Services

**Sylvia Gomez, 20 yrs.**  
Police

**Maria Gonzales, 6 yrs.**  
Library

**Diana Gonzalez, 21 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Richard Griffin, 42 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Maria Groomer, 7 yrs.**  
Metro Health

**Paul Gurley, 3 yrs.**  
Risk Management

**Joseph Gustis, 10 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Jerry Hernandez, 22 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Jesse Huizar, 3 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Ruben Ibarra, 18 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Mary Jaeschke, 10 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Myron Jones, 2 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Berdell Lindsey, 16 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Leslie Lizcano, 14 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Deedee Lu, 11 yrs.**  
Library

**Daniel Martinez, 24 yrs.**  
Neighborhood & Housing Services

**Christopher McCollin, 17 yrs.**  
Development Services

**Rosalie Monge, 31 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Hector Monita, 21 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Hector Morales, 5 yrs.**  
Fire & EMS

**Arnoldo Morin, 35 yrs.**  
Department of Human Services

**Leroy Ortiz, 34 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Carlos Pena, 21 yrs.**  
Neighborhood & Housing Services

**Mark Phillips, 6 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Raymond Puente, 37 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Abraham Ramirez, 20 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Anthony Ramirez, 21 yrs.**  
Public Works

**David Earnest Reed, 29 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Ronnie Resendez, 11 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Martha Rivera, 25 yrs.**  
Building & Equipment Services

**Christina Salas, 30 yrs.**  
Library

**Christopher Salazar, 20 yrs.**  
Library

**John Sanchez, 20 yrs.**  
Development Services

**Robert Sandoval, 24 yrs.**  
Fire & EMS

**Felix Sanjuan, 15 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Patrick Schneider, 15 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Debra Stevens, 14 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Warren Taylor, 32 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Alicia Trujillo, 35 yrs.**  
Municipal Court

**Melinda Uriegas, 22 yrs.**  
Office of the City Clerk

**Eddie Valdes, 11 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Raul Valdez, 18 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Janice Vogt, 20 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Wanda Williams, 38 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**David Ybanez, 25 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Steve Ybarra, 21 yrs.**  
Metro Health

**Richard Zertuche, 29 yrs.**  
Development Services

**David Zuniga, 22 yrs.**  
Public Works