

# Retiree MATTERS

News for City of San Antonio Retirees



Issue 59 - October 2023

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## COSAPERKS

Here are the latest discounts that have been offered to City retirees. We hope you enjoy them!

### UTSA Football

With this offer, you can purchase discounted tickets for remaining UTSA Roadrunners football home games. Scan this QR code or visit [utsa.spinzo.com/?group=COSA](https://utsa.spinzo.com/?group=COSA).



### San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

To receive a discount on the purchase of rodeo tickets, fairground admission, and more, scan this QR code or visit [www.ticketmaster.com/RTC](https://www.ticketmaster.com/RTC) and enter the code SABRIC.



### San Antonio Spurs

Receive a 10% -20% discount on tickets for the entire 2023-24 NBA season and a fee savings from traditional ticket sites. Scan this QR code or visit [fevo-enterprise.com/group/COSA](https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/COSA).



Mark your calendars for the next Brown Bag Session taking place **Friday, November 17, 2023 beginning at 11:30 a.m.** at the Phil Hardberger Urban Ecology Center (at Phil Hardberger Park), 8400 N.W. Military Highway, 78230. Mayor Ron Nirenberg will serve as the guest speaker to discuss San Antonio as an age-friendly community. This Brown Bag Session will be held along with RECOSA's Annual Meeting and board elections. Read more about the meeting on page 2 from RECOSA Board Chair Rebecca Waldman. Lunch will be provided, so to get as accurate a count as possible, **RSVP no later than November 14** by leaving a message at 210-207-7000 or emailing [AskHR@sanantonio.gov](mailto:AskHR@sanantonio.gov).

## Message From the HR Director



Renee Frieda

Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

And just like that, fall has arrived, although the temperatures outside seem to tell a different story.

At this time of year, the Human Resources team is busy with annual enrollment. As you'll see on page 3, there will be three virtual annual enrollment information sessions held for retirees. I hope you will make plans to attend so you can ask questions about our benefits. **Remember, if you do not want to make any changes to your current benefits, you do not have to take any action.**

If you are unable to attend an enrollment session and have questions, please be sure to contact Employee Benefits if you are a pre-65 retiree and Aetna if you are a post-65 retiree. Their numbers are listed on page 3

and they can assist you with any questions you may have.

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with the City, several departments, including Development Services, the Library, the Department of Human Services, and Parks & Recreation, often have volunteer opportunities. Call 311 to be directed to one of these departments to get more information.

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](mailto:cosaretiree@sanantonio.gov). We are eager to hear from you!

Best wishes for a great fall and winter!

Renee Frieda,  
HR Director

### Monster Jam

Experience full-throttle family fun at Monster Jam®, where world-class athletes and their 12,000-pound monster trucks tear up the dirt in wide-open competitions of speed and skill. Two shows at the Alamodome —January 13 at 7 p.m. and January 14 at 3 p.m. Call 210-226-5967 to receive your discount.



Sign up to receive text messages from Human Resources regarding annual enrollment, benefits notices, Brown Bag events, and more! Simply text COSARetiree to the number 877-872-4241. Message rates will apply.

## Message From The City Manager



Erik Walsh

Dear City of San Antonio Retirees,

As always, I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for some cooler temperatures and all the great things the fall and winter seasons bring. We just completed our budget season and adopted the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget on September 14. I hope you're pleased that our budget includes a 4.5% ad hoc cost-of-living adjustment for our retirees and no increases in health care premiums.

As we do each year, we're supporting the United Way Charitable Campaign through a COSA-wide effort. Along with our active City employees, I hope you'll join us as we raise money for the many important non-profit organizations that serve our community. Enclosed you'll find a pledge form and if you're able, I invite you to participate in whatever way you can. Each and every dollar helps.

Although it's a little early, since this is the last issue of *Retiree Matters* for the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe, healthy, and enjoyable holiday season. I look forward to connecting with you in 2024.

Until next time,

Erik Walsh, City Manager

## Words on RECOSA—A Note From the Chair

RECOSA (Retired Employees of the City of San Antonio) welcomes new and already retired employees! Our non-profit organization comprised of volunteer retirees of the City of San Antonio exists to help us keep involved in, advocate for, and inform each other about our retiree benefits. Stay informed and don't miss any of our gatherings by signing up at our website: [www.recosa.org](http://www.recosa.org)—there are no dues or membership fees! We've already had several Brown Bag sessions this year: Heart Healthy Living & Prevention from the American Heart Foundation and Methodist Healthcare in March, and in June, representatives from UT Health San Antonio, AARP, & ACOG talked about staying physically active and shared available services.

For our third Brown Bag session in August, we were happy to welcome over 60 retirees at the Pre-K 4 SA West Education Center. Our speakers, Human Resources (HR) Director Renee Frieda, Budget Director Justina Tate, HR Employee Benefits Administrator Manny Espino, and Aetna representative Heather Lockett provided important information and good news about the City's budget and retiree benefits, including a cost-of-living adjustment and no increases in premiums. HR addressed questions raised in RECOSA's 2022 Retiree Survey. We also appreciate the excellent door prizes obtained by board member Sal Garza: 3 San Antonio Missions Baseball game packages for four each, 3 VIP certificates for two each at the inaugural Cumbia festival "Día Nacional De La Cumbia," 2 Magik Theatre certificates for four each, and a collectible CD "Musica San Antonio."

Currently, we are working with City staff in preparation for the joint Fall Brown Bag session in conjunction with RECOSA's Annual Meeting on **November 17** at 11:30 a.m. **Mayor Ron Nirenberg** has accepted RECOSA's invitation to be our guest speaker discussing San Antonio as an age-friendly community, as well as current topics of interest. HR has booked a great venue for us at the Phil Hardberger Urban Ecology Center. This spacious venue will be a wonderful setting for our exciting program, a **complimentary box lunch funded by Generations Federal Credit Union, a silent auction, and our popular door prizes**. We will also hold our **annual board election**, which makes it a very important meeting for RECOSA. We urge new and existing retirees to consider volunteering and running for a board position. We need energetic, knowledgeable, and computer savvy individuals to serve on our board. Please email your statements of interest to the Nominating Committee chaired by Liz Garcia via [info.recosa@gmail.com](mailto:info.recosa@gmail.com) as soon as possible, but no later than October 31, 2023. Please note on the email's subject line "**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**." For more board election details, see the August 28, 2023, post under the "Home" tab on the RECOSA website, [www.recosa.org](http://www.recosa.org). Your participation and input are critical to the success of RECOSA!

Best regards,

Rebecca Waldman, RECOSA Chair

### Join/Contact RECOSA:

**Website:** [www.recosa.org](http://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  
leave a message and you will  
receive a call back)

## Health & Safety



Annual Enrollment is here! This is your chance to change your medical plan for the 2024 plan year, which begins on January 1. Health Care premiums can be found in the Benefit Matters Guide along with more details about your plans and other benefits. You can also view the guide online at [sanantonio.gov/EmployeeInformation/RetiredEmployees](http://sanantonio.gov/EmployeeInformation/RetiredEmployees).

In 2024, our medical, dental and vision providers will remain the same—Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Texas (pre-65 retirees), Aetna (post-65 retirees), Humana Dental, and VSP.

This year, information sessions about your health plan options will once again be held virtually. Below is information about how to join these meetings online or by phone from the comfort of your home. Feel free to invite a family member or anyone who helps you with your health care decisions to join.

### Pre-65 Retirees

**Dates:** Annual Enrollment is occurring now through October 31, 2023.

**Information Session:** An online information session will be hosted by the Employee Benefits team via WebEx. The WebEx will feature a presentation and an opportunity for you to ask questions. This WebEx will also be recorded and posted on the HR website at [sanantonio.gov/EmployeeInformation/RetiredEmployees](http://sanantonio.gov/EmployeeInformation/RetiredEmployees).

Date	Time	Phone Number	Meeting Number	WebEx Link
Wednesday, 10/25/2023	2 PM	1.415.655.0001	2632 597 8883#	<a href="https://shorturl.at/dCEPX">shorturl.at/dCEPX</a>

To attend this meeting by phone, dial the number above and enter the meeting number followed by the pound sign (#), when prompted. If asked to enter a password, enter zzNkxskF333 (99659753 from phones). To view the live web presentation on your computer or tablet, enter the WebEx link above into your internet browser.

### Post-65 Retirees

**Dates:** Annual Enrollment is October 30 through November 10, 2023.

**Information Session:** Aetna and Employee Benefits are teaming up to bring two information sessions to you. During these sessions, you will get more details about the 2024 Aetna Medicare Advantage Plans. The same information will be presented during each meeting.

Date	Time	Phone Number	WebEx Link
Thursday, 10/26/2023	2 PM	1.800.925.4216	<a href="https://aet.na/COSA1026">aet.na/COSA1026</a>
Tuesday, 10/31/2023	9:30 AM	1.800.954.0624	<a href="https://aet.na/COSA1031">aet.na/COSA1031</a>

To attend a meeting by phone, dial the phone number listed above that corresponds to the meeting that works best for you. To view the live web presentation on your computer or tablet, enter the WebEx link above into your internet browser for the meeting you wish to attend.

### All Retirees

Remember, **if you do not wish to make any changes to your medical, dental, or vision coverage for 2024, you do not have to take any action; your current plans will roll over to 2024.**

### Contacts

#### **Aetna**

1-800-338-4533  
[www.aetna.com](http://www.aetna.com)

#### **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas**

1-800-521-2227  
[www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com)

#### **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)

#### **City of San Antonio**

##### **Retiree Liaisons**

Sara Mata  
Ann Solis  
Maricela Toral  
210-207-0073

#### **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)

#### **Humana Dental**

1-855-330-8060

#### **Texas Municipal**

##### **Retirement System**

1-800-924-8677  
[www.tmrs.com](http://www.tmrs.com)

#### **Vision Service Plan (VSP)**

1-800-400-4569  
[cosaretirees.vspforme.com](http://cosaretirees.vspforme.com)



**HUMAN  
RESOURCES**

PO Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas  
78283-3966

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

**George Aguilar, 24 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Anastasia Anders, 26 yrs.**  
Police

**Roland Arevalos, 22 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Daniel Ayala, 8 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Raymond Briseno, 31 yrs.**  
Building & Equipment Services

**Estella Campos, 41 yrs.**  
Fire & EMS

**Reynaldo Cantu, 22 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Fred Casares, 23 yrs.**  
Fire & EMS

**Jaime Castellano, 26 yrs.**  
Building & Equipment Services

**Jose Castillo, 19 yrs.**  
Parks & Creation

**Michael Castillo, 28 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Jesus Cazares, Sr., 30 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Jovita Cervantes, 20 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Ronnie Cervantez, 38 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Roger Cortez, 30 yrs.**  
Development Services

**Marva Crisp, 21 yrs.**  
Police

**Ann Cruz, 20 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Sylvia Davila, 18 yrs.**  
Police

**Jeffrey Dean, 18 yrs.**  
Fire & EMS

**Thomas Dewaelsche, 21 yrs.**  
Library

**Chris Estrada, 27 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Josie Galvan, 21 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Carlos Garcia, 41 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Carlos Garcia, 28 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Josie Garcia, 18 yrs.**  
Library

**Mario Garcia, 26 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Jason Gentry, 21 yrs.**  
Police

**Steven Gomez, 39 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**William Gunter, 18 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Sherry Harris, 21 yrs.**  
Police

**Herlinda Hernandez, 7 yrs.**  
Pre-K 4 SA

**Hernando Hernandez, 7 yrs.**  
Aviation

**Ruben Hernandez, 20 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Beverly Horne, 21 yrs.**  
City Attorney

**William Hubbs, 27 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Charles Johnson, 20 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Timothy Kleiber, 25 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Tracey Knouse, 15 yrs.**  
Library

**Cheryl Lee, 31 yrs.**  
Metro Health

**Marvin Lee, 12 yrs.**  
Development Services

**Julio Lopez, 20 yrs.**  
Building & Equipment Services

**Marilyn Malmer, 6 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Bertha Martinez, 26 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Delia Martinez, 21 yrs.**  
Police

**Maricel Medina, 25 yrs.**  
Human Resources

**Norbeto Medina, 32 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Edward Mendez, 17 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Mary Montano, 35 yrs.**  
Metro Health

**Albert Mora, 20 yrs.**  
Center City Development & Opts.

**Marion Mosley, 6 yrs.**  
Development Services

**Jeni Oquinn, 5 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Juan Ortegón, Jr., 21 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Guadalupe Ortiz, 6 yrs.**  
Police

**Robert Ramon Ortiz, 21 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Lorenzo Ramirez, 26 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Michael Ramirez, 11 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Ruben Ramirez, 22 yrs.**  
Convention & Sports Facilities

**Ricardo Rivera, 15 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Joann Rule, 14 yrs.**  
Pre-K 4 SA

**John Saenz, 27 yrs.**  
Metro Health

**Anthony V. Salazar, 27 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Rudolfo Sanchez, 21 yrs.**  
Information Technology Services

**Cresencio Sandoval, 21 yrs.**  
Fire & EMS

**Lawrence Sandoval, 29 yrs.**  
Solid Waste Management

**Roberto Santos, 8 yrs.**  
Police

**John Solis, 17 yrs.**  
Public Works

**Gregory Stewart, 6 yrs.**  
Metro Health

**Jimmie Stitt, 7 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation

**Mary Vazquez, 14 yrs.**  
Department of Human Services

**Brady Wise, 26 yrs.**  
Parks & Recreation