



City of Converse Texas

Connecting Community + Commerce

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Letter From the Mayor



Dear Citizens of Converse,

We are happy to announce that your Ad Valorem property taxes have been lowered to .50266 cents per \$100 property Valuation for the upcoming 2016-17 Tax Year (down from last year's .54 cents). This new property tax rate is an all time low for Converse since the 1980's. We are

proud to announce that your city council & city staff have approved a fiscally conservative balanced budget for 2016-17. Some of the budget highlights include the hiring of 4 Police Officers and personnel salary increases (in accordance with the past pay study). A utilities improvements project to re-paint the Toepperwein Road Water Tower has been approved and scheduled for this winter. In addition, we continue to have a very strong reserve fund balance for any emergencies. Thanks again to all the Converse residents for their continuous feedback.

The FM 1516 TXDOT Roadway Expansion project continues to progress. Utility poles and water lines are being relocated to facilitate additional space for the new 5-lane roadway expansion from FM 78 to FM 1976.

We continue to have plenty of water available for all commercial & residential customers and will NOT have to impose any water restrictions. We ask that you please use your water wisely.

The Judson ISD School year is well underway, please slow down when passing through Judson High School, Judson Middle School, Converse Elementary and Copperfield Elementary Schools. Good LUCK to the Converse Judson Rockets as they start their 2016 Football season. GO ROCKETS!

The new traffic light at the intersection of FM 78 & Converse Center Street/Shadow Creek Lane is now operational. This Traffic Light will assist in the safe expeditious flow of traffic in & around the vicinity. The recently approved "Speed Bump" test program is well underway on Ralston Dr. & Norris Dr. East. If the test program is proven effective,

the City Council will expand the speed bump program throughout the city at the discretion of the City Manager & Police Chief. This proactive approach will help manage the safe flow of traffic transitioning through our neighborhoods. Safety first for all residents!

My thanks to the City Council for holding the Toepperwein Road contractor accountable and demanding immediate repairs resulting in a safer road for all Converse residents.

We respectfully ask all residents to please avoid blocking sidewalks in accordance with Texas State Laws when parking your vehicles at your residences. We must leave enough space for our handicapped residents to safely utilize the sidewalks in accordance with the Federal American Disabilities Act.

The City Council has asked the City Manager to enforce all local ordinances with the assistance of our two Code Enforcement Officials. Overall compliance is preferred as opposed to the issuance of citations when possible. For Code Enforcement issues or questions please contact Odie Martinez at 210-566-1515 or email at omartinez@conversetx.net.

The 2015 Capital Bond Improvements continue to progress. Preliminary cost assessments and drafts have been received from the Projects Contractor. The City Council & staff will review and submit any recommended changes necessary to the Projects Contractor for a final draft. The Street Improvement Bond project continues to progress despite the recent rains. Cimarron Country/Silverton Valley & Cimarron Trails subdivisions were recently completed. We hope to break ground very soon on some of the facilities within the next couple of months. We will keep you posted. If you have any questions regarding the 2015 Bond Projects, please contact the City Manager at 658-5356.

Our Economic Development Corporation (EDC) continues to expand our retail development and increase our overall sales tax revenues. The City of Converse currently has Public/Private Capital projects totaling close to \$100 million dollars. Let's welcome our new Wal-Mart

cont'd from front pg.

Neighborhood Market store (now open from 6am to midnight 7 days a week) to the Converse Family (located on Toepperwein Rd. & Kitty Hawk Road). Congratulations to Papa Dante's on their new Banquet & Event Center expansion groundbreaking ceremony. Congratulations to the Dante Family for their continuous investment in our community. Thanks to Troy Lott (one of our long-time developers) on his newly approved project to build a light industrial park at the corner of FM 1976 & Old Cimarron Trail.

My personal thanks to the 6 local Church Pastors for coming together and meeting with the Mayor, City Manager, Police Chief and Fire Chief regarding strategies involving "active shooter" and "citizen interactions with Police" scenarios. We will continue to be proactive and keep Converse safe. Your safety is our primary concern.

CONGRATULATIONS to our employees of the month (July) Joseph Mitchell and Kelly McAuley. Thank you for your OUTSTANDING service to the Converse Community.

As an important reminder, the Presidential Elections are coming soon in November, in addition, the Converse City Council Place 2, 4, & 6 will be up for election in November as well. Please exercise your voice by VOTING. If you have any questions concerning Voter Registration, Early Voting, Poll locations, or any questions regarding elections, please call Holly Nagy (City Secretary) at 658-5356 or email her at citysecretary@conversetx.net.

Finally, we encourage everyone to attend City Council meetings, which are held at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. The City Council meetings are streamed "LIVE" on the city website at www.conversetx.net. Please note that all Council meetings are video-recorded and available online for viewing at a later time. Your City Council, City Staff, & Employees are working together as ONE COHESIVE TEAM... for one common GOAL... to make Converse a better place to live, work and raise a family. If you have a complaint, concern, question, or suggestion, please contact me anytime at 210-658-5356 (office), 210-204-0557 (cell) or email: mayorsuarez@conversetx.net. Please stop by and visit me at "MAYOR'S CALL" on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of every month from 8:00 am to 10:00 am (City Hall Conference Room/405 S. Seguin). **NO APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY.** Let's keep making a difference together! We look forward to hearing from you very soon!

Let's stay involved!

My Best Regards to everyone,
Converse Mayor Al Suarez



Joint General Election November 8, 2016

Come Out and Vote!



**Please see City Website for
Early Voting Calendars and More!**

(Listed in order of appearance on ballot)

Place 2

Chris L. Clark
Jeff Beehler



Place 4

Christopher Boyd



Place 6

Deborah James
Steve Brown



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Converse Public Library



Calling all Star Wars fans and readers! Please join us at Converse Public Library on Saturday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. for a day of festivities and crafts to honor Star Wars Reads Day! We will host the event inviting the community of both the Galactic Empire and Rebel Alliance. We will create edible lightsabers, Death Stars, Wookiee journals and more! Snacks and beverages will be provided for Jedi and Sith alike. We encourage patrons to check out our new collection of the Star Wars series located in the Fiction and Juvenile Fiction sections.

Join us for our annual Storytime Spooktacular Halloween party on Wednesday, October 26th at 10:30 a.m.! This year we will be reading Halloween stories, enjoying a special snack and announcing our pumpkin decorating contest winners! For full rules of the Pumpkin Decorating Contest please check the Library's Facebook Page or come in! Lots of fun is to be had at your Converse Public Library this fall season and you don't want to miss it. If you have any questions or for more information please stop by or feel free to contact us at 210-659-4160. Don't forget to stay updated on our Facebook page!

CONVERSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Converse Fire Department would like to remind everyone that Fire Prevention Week is October 9th to the 15th, 2016. This year's theme is "Don't wait – Check the date! Replace smoke detectors every 10 years." Please look at the date of manufacture on the back of your smoke alarm and if it older than 10 years, replace it. Please remember to install fresh batteries in all detectors no matter how old. A good rule of thumb is to change your batteries when you change your clocks. Also check the detectors operation once a month by pushing the test button. This will help ensure that the detectors will operate correctly in case of a fire. Please call us at 658-8900 if you have any questions about fire safety.





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Converse Lions Club will host



NIGHT IN OLE CONVERSE



Fri. September 30 - Sun. October 2

Carnival, Food, Arts and Crafts, and Live Entertainment. Parade on Saturday 10am. Proceeds go back into helping the community.

Live auction Saturday 2pm • Sunday carnival only

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
— TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4 —

Hosted by Converse Lions Club, Converse Police Department and Police Alumni. Converse Police station starting at 6pm. There will be food, games for the kids and lots of good information for keeping our neighborhood safe.



Converse Lions Club **WE SERVE** visit our website for more information www.converselions.org

Are you Ready for this?

City of Converse Economic Development Corporation News

By Kat Lindquist, Business Retention & Marketing Manager

Business Appreciation Event



At the July Quarterly Business Appreciation & Networking Event, the Converse EDC honored eleven Converse veteran-owned businesses.

Each honoree received: a U.S. Flag flown over the U.S. Capital (with assistance

from U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar); a Certificate of Appreciation from Texas State Senator José Menéndez; and a custom-designed Converse EDC Military Challenge Coin.

The ceremony included the United States Air Force Band of the West who played a selection of patriotic songs in honor of the veterans. The Joint Base San Antonio Honor Guard Colors Team presented the colors during the playing of the National Anthem.

Our sincere gratitude goes to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. We deeply appreciate our veteran-owned businesses who continue to serve our community through creating jobs and valuable capital investment in the City of Converse.

Thank you all, so very much!

Business Learning Session

The Converse EDC's **2nd Business Learning Sessions were held on August 18** at the Converse City Hall Conference Room located at 405 S. Sequin featuring presentations on:

1. **Access to talent** through internships (fields including aerospace, Information Technology & Security, Advanced Technology and Manufacturing, Health Professionals, and Heavy Equipment) through Alamo Academies, presenter: Gene Bowman, Executive Director Alamo Colleges / Alamo Academies
2. **Preparing ahead for Crisis & Workplace Safety**, presenters: Converse Police Chief Fidel Villegas & Assistant Police Chief Rex Rhiner
3. **Tools for Small Business** presentation by Woodforest Bank, presenters Janell Davila and John Rodriguez.

Special thanks to Texas Capital Bank for sponsoring this second business learning event.

Alamo Academies

Converse EDC wants the Converse Business Community to know how easy it is to get an intern from the Alamo Academies. In Converse, Prototype & Development Specialists and Wiretech have been working to get an intern. Converse EDC and Alamo Academies will meet with you at your business to

discuss this exciting opportunity. Please call Kat Lindquist at 210-659-9163 to make an appointment.

NIOC Parade Saturday October 1st

The Converse Lions club cordially invites you to participate in the 43rd Annual Night in Ole Converse parade to be held October 1st, 2016 at 10:00 am. The parade committee is now accepting applications from businesses, civic groups and citizens who wish to participate in the parade. See the Converse EDC website or Facebook for the application. Questions or comments, contact Rita Creswell 210-602-0291 – nioc-parade@outlook.com.

Support our New Businesses in Converse

Converse EDC welcomed **Walmart Neighborhood Market** located at 10781 FM 78, Converse, TX 78109 on August 31, 2016 with a Ribbon Cutting at 7:30 a.m.

Get everything on your shopping list for less at the new Converse Walmart Neighborhood Market! Fresh produce, electronics, home goods and LOT more!

Welcome, Walmart Neighborhood Market to Converse!

Converse EDC to welcome **Papa Dante's Event Center and Bocce Pavilion** located at 8607 FM 1976 Converse, TX 78109, on September 7th at 10:00 am with a Ground Breaking.

Dante's will host Bocce Ball League and Tournament play on their regulation-size courts, Open Bocce Ball play, Wine Tastings, Fundraising Events and more! Dante's kitchen will be open daily to serve their guests; pizza, pasta, sandwiches, salads, as well as tasty desserts. A full bar and wine cellar will be on premises, and a daily Happy Hour will be offered.

Welcome, Papa Dante's Event Center & Bocce Pavilion to Converse!

*Remember to Buy Local, Buy Often and **Buy Converse!***



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Brief History of Schumann Scheel Home and Parkland

By Clarence A. Scheel

The Schumann Scheel Home is located at 10565 Old Cimarron Trail in Converse. The land where the home is located was part of a 1476 acre ranch, known as the Converse Ranch, which Major James Converse, Chief Superintendent and Engineer for the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway Company and the founder of the City of Converse, had purchased in 1877. James Converse sold his ranch to Edward Hall in 1882. Anton Otto Schumann, born near New Braunfels on 3 January 1875, purchased 120 acres of that land from Hall on January 11, 1900.

Anton immediately began his quest to settle on the land. He initially built a barn to house his buggy. That building still exists and is now known as the Buggy House. After completing the Buggy House, Anton used his excellent carpenter skills, which he had honed as a young man while building homes in New Braunfels, to construct his own home, now known as the Schumann Scheel Home, on his 120 acre Converse farm. Upon completing the central part of the home, Anton married Ida Augusta Siebold on 22 January 1901 and they began their married life in their new home. Ida was born near Magdeburg, Germany on 22 September 1877 and had immigrated to Texas with her parents when she was 12 years old. Between 1901 and 1912, Anton finished building his home at which time it looked essentially as it does today.

Through hard work and careful saving, Anton and Ida were able to add to their original 120 acre farm by purchasing 70 acres of land, adjacent to their 120 acre tract, in 1908 and an additional adjacent 104 acres in 1909. This resulted in a total of 294 acres, all of which had been part of the 1476 acre James Converse Ranch. Their farm was roughly L-shaped. It extended from the Union Pacific Railroad, north along Old Cimarron Trail to the northern Converse boundary with Universal City, then west to Schumann Road, then south along Schumann Road, encompassing the entire Rolling Creek Subdivision, then east along the northern boundary of Unit 5 Cimarron Valley Subdivision, south again, encompassing the entire present day Cimarron Landing Subdivision, to the Union Pacific Railroad where it crosses Salatrillo Creek, then east along the Union Pacific Railroad to the point of beginning.

Anton and Ida Schumann had 6 children, born between 1902 and 1912 in the Schumann Scheel Home. After marriage, four of their children settled elsewhere on farms which Anton and Ida had acquired, while two remained in Converse. Younger Son Milton and his wife Gertrude and their young family initially lived with Anton and Ida until they built their own home on present day Schumann Road during the early 1940s. Milton's son, Melvin "Red" Schumann, was a long time Fire Chief of the Converse Volunteer Fire Department and has a pavilion in Converse City Park named after him. Milton eventually acquired roughly half of Anton and Ida's 294 acre Converse Farm, which is now the Rolling Creek Subdivision. Youngest Daughter, Mary Hildegard (who was a twin to Edna Carolina), and her husband, Adolph Joseph Scheel, acquired the Schumann Scheel Home and the other half of the land which is now the Cimarron Landing Subdivision, the Scheel Farms Subdivision, and the future park.

Anton Schumann was a very progressive farmer for his time. He was one of the first farmers in the Converse area to terrace his land. Anton purchased his own transit that he used to lay out the terraces and used mules and a scraper (grader) to build the terraces. (The original mule drawn scraper has been saved and will be on display at the Converse History Museum.) Since a large part of his farm was on steep hill sides, the terraces reduced erosion and allowed him to more effectively use the land for cultivation. Even though Anton or his two sons, Herbert and Milton, never attended high school or college, they were very active with the Texas A&M Extension Service and displayed their farm products and farming techniques at the Texas State Fair in Dallas during the 1920's. During the regular school summer break at Converse Rural School, Herbert and Milton would attend classes at Texas A&M College in College Station.

Anton and his two sons worked hard on the farm, raising cotton, corn, oats, wheat, hay, sugar cane for making molasses, and broom corn, among others. They also raised hogs for butchering, milk cows for milk, cream and butter, and chickens for meat and eggs. Ida always had a large vegetable garden and fruit orchard which provided fresh vegetables and fruit for immediate use and to can for future use. The entire family participated in the fall butchering and the molasses making process. During winter months when farm work slowed down, Anton hand-made household brooms using the broom corn which he had raised. Brooms and excess produce, molasses, eggs and butter were sold to the general store in Converse—initially at Simon and Borgfeld General Store, which was located on the site where the Converse Fire Station No 1 is now located, and later at Gold and Rhodius General Store.

Just as Anton and Ida had accumulated land early in their married life, they continued to purchase additional land such that they were able to gift 100

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go green

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Questions? Feel free to contact Neighborhood News at (210) 558-3160 with any website-related questions.

cont'd from pg. 5

acre farms to each of their six children and retain several hundred acres for themselves which their estate sold to family members.

Through hard work, Anton and Ida became quite affluent for their time. They were some of the first members of the Converse community to purchase an automobile. In about 1913, they purchased a Pullman automobile which they used as the family's transportation until the 1920's when they bought a Buick sedan. This served their needs until the early 1940's when they bought their third and final car, a Nash coupe. During the 1920's they also bought a Ford stake bed truck. Anton saved the license plates for all of his cars, dating from his first car in 1913 through 1949 when he died. His son-in-law Adolph J. Scheel continued the license collection through 1977 when he displayed the complete collection at the Centennial celebration of the City of Converse. That license plate collection will be on display in Converse History Museum.

Ida Siebold Schumann died in on 3 March 1947 and Anton died on 8 September 1949. Upon his death, their daughter, Mary Hildegard and her husband, Adolph Joseph Scheel, purchased the family home (Schumann Scheel Home) and 44 acres of land from Anton's estate. Mary and Adolph moved their large family of 11 children into the home. Mary and Adolph and their family continued to operate the farm, along with the 104 acre neighboring farm which her parents had gifted to Mary in 1942, until Mary's death in 2000. Adolph continued operating a very successful custom hay baling operation, and raised a large flock of sheep and a large herd of beef cattle which he had already begun prior to relocating to the Schumann Scheel Home. Adolph also started a small, but very successful cattle feed lot, for fattening his own calves for sale, feeding grains he had harvested on his various farms.

Similar to Mary's parents, Anton and Ida Schumann, Mary and Adolph, through hard work and sound business practices, also accumulated approximately 1000 acres of land, after starting with basically nothing but four mules, a farm wagon and a Model A Roadster in 1933 when they married and began life together as share croppers on 104 acres owned by her parents.

In 2000, the Texas Department of Agriculture honored the Anton O. Schumann Farm with a Family Land Heritage Plaque. This Century Farm honor is given to any family whose farm, or parts thereof, has been in continuous ownership by the same family within Texas for at least 100 years. At that time, Anton had owned the farm for 49 years from 1900 until 1949. Anton's daughter, Mary, and her husband Adolph, owned the farm from 1949 until 2000 when Mary died. Adolph then owned the farm until he died in 2008. Adolph and Mary Schumann Scheel's 10 children then inherited the farm and owned it until they sold some of the land for the Scheel Farms Subdivision and, at Adolph's request before he died, donated 17.39 acres of parkland and the Schumann Scheel Home for a Converse History Museum to the City of Converse in 2015. The Family Land Heritage Plaque will be on display in the Schumann Scheel Home.

The accomplishments of Anton Otto and Ida Augusta Siebold Schumann and Adolph Joseph and Mary Hildegard Schumann Scheel demonstrate what hard work, ambition and the desire to achieve will produce. They were highly respected within their church parishes of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Selma and St. Monica Catholic Church in Converse, and within the Community of Converse.

Converse Street Project Update

The street bond construction program started in March with Public Works working with our prime contractor Lone Star Paving. The weather has not been cooperative as it has rained quite a bit and it has hampered our schedule. Nonetheless, I'm pleased to report that we are making progress and we have completed the planned work in the Autumn Run, Silverton Valley and Cimarron Country subdivisions.

The work in the Copperfield is 95% complete with the only remaining street to be done is Copperway. We decided to delay the work on Copperway because KB Homes is currently building the water, sewer, drainage and street infrastructure in their next unit. They are using heavy trucks and equipment that use Copperway as their access to the construction site. The trucks and equipment will do damage to new pavement so it is best to wait until KB completes their work. We expect to pave Copperway in October.

Randolph Valley is approximately 85% complete and we expect to finish the work there next week weather permitting.

We will begin work in the Meadows North Subdivision early next week and the last subdivision to be paved will be the Meadows. We anticipate working/paving in the Meadows in mid September.

Several streets that include Gateway in Randolph Valley and Meadow Branch and Meadow Dale in the Meadows will require a different paving treatment. We will be using the reclamation paving process on these three streets so they will probably be done at the end of the program in October.

Through the July billing cycle, we have expended \$2,600,142 on the street program.

Manny Longoria, Director of Public Works & Utilities



D.A. DESIGNS 

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Lower Seguin Road

08/31/2016



Lower Seguin Road

08/31/2016



08/31/2016



Mission Creek Street

08/31/2016



Southcreek Street

08/31/2016



08/31/2016



Mustang Ridge

08/31/2016



Autumn Ledge Street

08/31/2016



Ralston Street

08/31/2016



Coppergate Road @ Loop 1604

08/31/2016



08/31/2016



Kerrybrook Drive

08/31/2016

HUMAN RESOURCES

Job opportunities with the City can be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/jobs.aspx> or by calling Human Resources at (210) 658-5357 and selecting option 2.

Applications are accepted only for open, posted positions and to be considered, applicants must submit a properly completed Application.

Applications for Fire Department uniformed positions may be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/DocumentCenter/View/956> and more information obtained by calling (210) 658-8900.

Applications for Police Department and Dispatcher job openings may be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/jobs.aspx> under Tools and more information obtained by calling (210) 658-2322.

Applications for all other jobs may be found at <http://www.conversetx.net/DocumentCenter/View/767>.

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