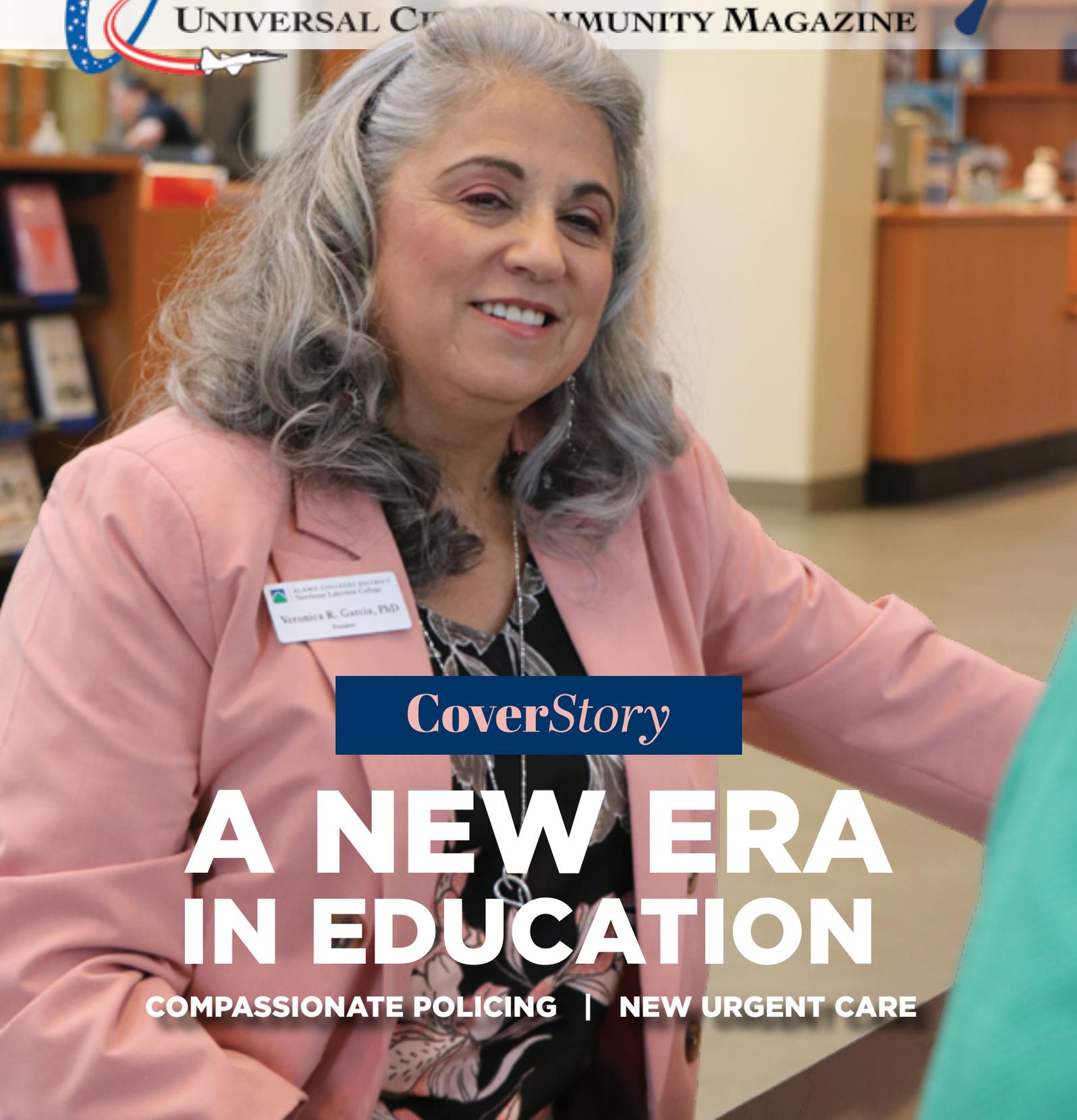


AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

The Gateway

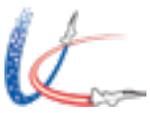
UNIVERSAL CITY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



CoverStory

A NEW ERA IN EDUCATION

COMPASSIONATE POLICING | NEW URGENT CARE



Universal City Municipal Directory

2150 Universal City Blvd. Universal City, TX 78148

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION: 210-659-0333

Building Official	Jaclyn Redmon	7 2 4
City Clerk	Maribel Garcia.....	7 4 8
City Manager	Kim Turner	7 0 5
Code Compliance Officer	7 2 5
Communications.....	Kathy Williams.....	7 0 1
Court Administrator	Brenda Watkins.....	7 1 5
Community Relations.....	Regina Carmona.....	7 2 1
Development Services/EDC	Michael Cassata.....	7 2 0
Finance.....	Christine Green.....	7 0 8
Fire Chief.....	Todd Perna.....	7 8 6
Health Official	Anabell Maldonado.....	7 2 7
Permit/Zoning	Linda Iglehart.....	7 2 3
Police Chief	Johnny Siemens.....	7 5 5
Stormwater Inspector	Wes Keller	7 2 2
Water Billing.....	7 1 0

Departments

Animal Care & Control	210-659-0333	EXT. 700
Fire Department	210-659-0333	EXT. 250
Golf Course	210-659-0333	EXT. 653
Library.....	210-659-0333	EXT. 048
Parks/Pavilion Rental	210-659-0333	EXT. 364
Police Department	210-659-0333	EXT. 353
Public Works.....	210-659-0333	EXT. 364

City Council

Mayor

Tom Maxwell

mayor@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 737

Councilmember

Christina Fitzpatrick

Council1@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 734

Councilmember

Phil Vaughan

Council4@uctx.gov
210-619-0731

Councilmember

Lori Putt

Council6@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 732

Councilmember

Ashton Bulman

Council5@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 733

Councilmember

Bear Goolsby

Council2@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 735

Councilmember

Bernard Rubal

Council3@uctx.gov
210-659-0333 Ext 736

www.UCTX.gov



**For EMS, Police
and Fire Emergencies
Call 911**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024

MEETINGS



TAX FREE WEEKEND AUGUST 9-11

- **August 5, 2024**..... 6 pm
Planning & Zoning Meeting
- **August 6, 2024** 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting
- **August 8, 2024** 5 pm
Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- **August 20, 2024**..... 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting
- **August 26, 2024**..... 6 pm
Board of Adjustment Meeting
- **August 27, 2024** 6 pm
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- **September 2, 2024** CLOSED Labor Day
- **September 3, 2024** 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting
- **September 9, 2024**..... 6 pm
Planning & Zoning Meeting
- **September 12, 2024**..... 5 pm
Economic Development Corporation Meeting
- **September 17, 2024** 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting
- **September 18, 2024**..... 5:30 pm
Library Advisory Commission Meeting
- **September 23, 2024** 6 pm
Board of Adjustment Meeting
- **September 24, 2024** 6 pm
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting



UNIVERSAL CITY

FALL 2024

BULK CLEAN-UP

DATES:

OCTOBER 17-20

OCTOBER 24-27



BULK ITEMS

Dumpsters are available for Universal City residents to dispose of bulk household items. Proof of residency is required.

No commercial dumping permitted. No TVs or computer monitors accepted.

HOURS:

8AM-5PM



HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous materials can be dropped off any day of the clean-up. Motor oil is not accepted.

Please visit www.UCTX.gov for complete list of accepted items.

LOCATION:

PUBLIC WORKS

256 KITTY HAWK



BRUSH CHIPPING

Public Works will not accept brush. 30 mins of free chipping service is available by appointment during the clean-up dates.

Call 210-658-5364 by OCTOBER 18th to make an appointment.

 www.UCTX.gov

 210-658-5364

CoverStory

New Era in



Education for Universal City

ZOS
DEMY
SAL CITY



Building up

2 major developments bring new opportunities for UC-area students



“The reality is, some students don’t want to drive 33 miles for a degree. We’re having conversations with universities about bringing their four year degrees here.”

— Dr. Veronica Garcia
Northeast Lakeview College President



In the 1960-61 school year, Rose Garden Elementary became the city’s first school. It had just a handful of students and the Universal City population was barely one thousand.

Much has changed in local education since then including Rose Garden Elementary moving to Schertz, and a population that’s grown to 20,000.

Fall 2024 marks two major developments in education that will not only benefit students and families, but potentially be a draw for new businesses.

Both positive developments are tied to Universal City's 267 acre and now 8200 student strong Northeast Lakeview College, part of the Alamo Colleges system. When the system announced each of its 5 campuses would offer five year degrees, it was a game changer.

While the other four campuses already have plans in place, Northeast Lakeview has to provide the State with five years of data to move forward.

Its president, Dr. Veronica R. Garcia, broadly regarded as a visionary, already has plans for that initiative, and others including new curriculum for this fall such as social media and logistics. Dr. Garcia sees four year degrees as a huge draw for NLC.

"The reality is, some students don't want to drive 33 miles for a degree. We're having conversations with universities about bringing their four year degrees here."

Dr. Garcia is also a leader for the second major development in education in Universal City. The first tuition-free Montessori-style pre-K for children 3-5 houses on the Northeast Lakeview campus.

It is a major coup for the City to be home to the 13th Bezos Academy. All funded by Amazon founder and billionaire Jeff Bezos. When it opens in October, there will be four classes of 20 students whose families had to qualify by being 400% below the poverty level.



**NEED
A
BRAND
REFRESH?**

**WE
CAN
HELP!**

- Design
- Printing
- Promotional Products
- Websites
- E-Commerce
- Video production
- Digital Content

CALL TODAY!



leapfrog
PROMOTIONS

210.236.7270

www.LeapFrogPromos.com



BENEFITS OF EARLY EDUCATION

Early Gains in Reading and Math Better Grades

Better Decision Making

Better Social Skills



The school received a staggering 700 applications from local families. The selection process is a random lottery selection. Families chosen are not only giving their child a priceless early education, they receive hard to find childcare.

Not only does the Bezos Academy provide three meals plus snacks, parents also have the option to get a free take home dinner.

“This is an amazing opportunity for local families and a point of pride for Universal City. The academy addresses critical educational and financial (free childcare) needs.”

Dr. Garcia’s focus also includes continuing to host events and take on projects that will draw local residents to the campus. There is a zen garden on the walking trail, and future projects include a veteran’s center and five soccer fields. 

“This is an amazing opportunity for local families and a point of pride for Universal City. The academy addresses critical educational and financial (free childcare) needs.”

— Dr. Veronica Garcia
Northeast Lakeview College President





Look, But Don't Feed

tpwd.texas.gov



Universal City residents have a new option for urgent care needs. Methodist Healthcare, now affiliated with Care Now, which has the goal of operating quality walk-in facilities with convenient expanded hours.

Urgent care facilities have exploded in popularity primarily for their convenience, gaps in primary care, and more affordability compared with an emergency room visit.

The Methodist Healthcare system has been serving local communities since 1963.

10,728

As of February 2024, there were 10,728 urgent care facilities in the United States.

SOURCE: DEFINITIVE HEALTH.





Still A Classic

— Weddings at Olympia Hills —

Convenient Marriott Hotel Access for Guests
Beautiful Grounds | Special Packages

Newly Expanded Unit Focuses on Mental Health

The City of Universal City has just announced its Mental Health Unit is expanding from five members to seven. The unit, composed of both police officers and fire personnel, was formed post-COVID in 2022 when mental health became a critical issue across the country. Smaller communities weren't exempt.

The City of Universal City has just announced its Mental Health Unit is expanding from five members to seven. The unit, composed of both police officers and fire personnel, was formed post-COVID in 2022 when mental health became a critical issue across the country. Smaller communities weren't exempt.

When team members respond to calls, someone is in crisis, perhaps suicidal, and a danger to themselves or others. When a resident is in crisis, so are other members of the household.

"We see people when they are in some very dark places. We try to help them see light," said Corporal A. Stevens.

With a background of compassionate service as a deputy and middle school counselor,



UC Police Chief Johnny Siemens with police officers assigned to the Mental Health Unit

CIVIC READY®

UNIVERSAL CITY'S OFFICIAL ALERT
NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

GET NOTIFICATIONS!
BE PREPARED!



Events



Public
Services



City
Council



Weather

1. SCAN TO REGISTER
OR VISIT WWW.UCTX.GOV/ALERTS

**2. SAVE ALERT NUMBERS TO YOUR
CONTACTS:**
TEXT ALERTS: 38276
VOICE CALLS: 830-465-3175

3. DOWNLOAD THE CIVICREADY APP



Text



Email



Voice Call



Mobile App

Universal City has switched from Blackboard Connect to CivicReady. Not all previous users were transferred, so please sign up to ensure you don't miss any City notifications.



UNIVERSAL CITY
Est. 1960

PoliceDept

Sgt. L. Ye is uniquely qualified to lead the unit. One component of the job that's become more and more relevant is addressing transient needs. More aptly homeless outreach.

"We were actually invited to meet with officials at (JBSA) Randolph. And I'm super proud that Corporal Stevens was able to get two homeless veterans off the street."

Police Chief Johnny Siemens says the department earmarked federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds to cover costs for the unit. That funding ends in 2026.

"We're hoping that the city, through our data collection and our initiatives and efforts, coupled with the results we've had they'll recognize the need to continue this unit."

The unit is proud to have two unique factors. One, having team members from another municipality. Paramedic A. Anderson is from Schertz EMS.

The second unique factor, there are both police officers and fire personnel in the unit. Universal City Fire Chief Todd Perna says if needed, unit members can get crisis peer-to-peer support as well.

"They see a lot. If one of our folks needs some extra support, we're here for them too."

Deputy Fire Marshal E. Todd is also a mental health officer.

"This job isn't for everyone. You have to have a lot of patience. A lot of passion."

For some, the passion for being in the unit is personal. Having had friends or family who've navigated similar challenges.

Officer N. Hernandez brings a lot of empathy to the assignment. "I love it when we have a success story. I enjoy helping people."

Residents with questions about the Mental Health Unit can email mhealth@uctx.gov. 

"Mental health is a serious issue in our country and it often results in very bad outcomes."

Chief Johnny Siemens
Universal City Police Department



UC Fire Chief Todd Perna with Schertz paramedic A. Anderson and Fire Marshall Ed Todd



OLYMPIA HILLS PRESENTS

Happy Hours

AUGUST

THURS

1

UNPLUGGED

THURS

8

UNPLUGGED

THURS

15

UNPLUGGED

THURS

22

UNPLUGGED

THURS

29

UNPLUGGED

Free admission. Open to the public.
Live music will return in September!

FAQs of Stage 3 Water Restrictions

What triggered the Stage 3 restrictions?

On June 25, 2024, Universal City declared Stage 3 water restrictions. Stage 3 is triggered when the 10-day rolling average of the Edwards Aquifer level drops to 640 feet mean sea level at the monitored well. Current Edwards Aquifer levels are measuring at an average of 628 feet mean sea level. (as of July 10, 2024)

When can I water my yard?

Universal City residents may only water once every other week on the

designated watering day. Residents can determine their watering day by the last digit of the property address.

- 0 & 1 Monday
- 2 & 3 Tuesday
- 4 & 5 Wednesday
- 6 & 7 Thursday
- 8 & 9 Friday

If there is no street address or if the property has more than one address with a continuous lot, then the irrigation day is Wednesday.

Watering hours are from 7:00 AM-11:00 AM and 7:00 PM-11:00 PM

Can I fill up my swimming pool?

Groundwater may be used to replenish swimming pools to maintenance level. Draining of swimming pools is permitted only onto a pervious surface or onto a pool deck where water is transmitted directly to a pervious surface, only if:

- Draining excess water from the pool due to rain to lower the water to the maintenance level;
- Repairing, maintaining or replacing a pool component that has become hazardous; or



- Repairing a pool leak. Refilling of swimming pools permitted only if the pool has been drained for repairs, maintenance or replacement set out in items 2 or 3 above.

Can I wash my car?

Residential car washing and mobile equipment (e.g. washing vehicles at a residence) is permitted only on Saturday and Sunday with a pressure washer, hand held hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle or bucket of five(5) gallons or less, without waste. Fleet managers are encouraged to only wash those vehicles as is necessary for health and safety.

Can I wash down my driveway and sidewalks?

No person may use water to wash an impervious outdoor ground covering such as a parking lot, driveway, street, or sidewalk unless for health or safety reasons.

How long will Universal City be in Stage 3?

Stage 4 will be triggered in the event the J-17 monitoring well in Bexar County has reached 630 ft. msl based on a 10 day rolling average or the City Manager declares an emergency water shortage condition exists, which is the trigger level for Stage IV water restrictions. The Edwards Aquifer Authority has imposed significant percentage reductions on the city’s annual water use while we are in critical period drought stages. 🇺🇸

Universal City may move back to Stage 2 when the Edwards Aquifer Index Well ,J-17, maintains a level 640 ft.-msl for fifteen (15) consecutive days.

For complete list of Stage 3 water restrictions, please visit www.uctx.gov/water



Young's Tree Service
since 1984

Certified Tree Services Include:
Detailed Pruning & Shaping
Cut Downs & Stump Grinding
Services Starting at \$90



ACCREDITED BUSINESS



A+



TOP RATED

- 20% off for seniors and military
- Free Estimates ● Licensed and Insured

(210) 650-4629

Out & About

Independence Day Celebration

Universal City's Mayor and Council greeted residents on floats at the Schertz Jubilee and the Riverwalk



UCFireDept

Congratulations

UC Fire Department pinning ceremony

New Universal City firefighter Nathaniel Fonseca becomes “official” in a ceremony led by UC Fire Chief Todd Perna



A New Zen Garden for Universal City

There's another place to chill Universal City. Northeast Lakeview College recently unveiled its oasis which is officially named “Harmony Haven: A Zen Garden Retreat.”

The garden is phase one of a two-part project. The garden is designed to accommodate yoga enthusiasts and is planned to add more outdoor seating, a wooden deck, plants, trees and a central walkway.

It was funded in part by grant funds from the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness (SACADA).

In an NLC press release, president Dr. Veronica Garcia said the garden was designed with the local community in mind. “Strategically placed rocks, trees and open areas are meant to invoke feelings of serenity, calmness, and peace. All of these things emphasize NLC’s focus on overall health and well-being, to include understanding the needs surrounding the mental health of our students, creating an inviting work and learning environment, and bringing harmony and a peaceful space to benefit the communities NLC serves.

Coming soon to the NLC campus:
soccer fields.

Source: Northeast Lakeview press release.

THE GATEWAY

City of Universal City
2150 Universal City Blvd.
Universal City, Texas 78148

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1030
SAN ANTONIO, TX

5 TOP REASONS WHY YOUR CHILD SHOULD SEE DR. MUELLER

1

She is board certified!

After dental school, Dr. Mueller went to 2 more years of school where she received special training to detect early problems. She provides high quality care for children, adolescents, infants, and patients with special health care needs.

2

She knows what to expect!

Dr. Mueller is a mom of 2 little ones and understands the obstacles you may encounter while taking care of your child's teeth. She can help you overcome these struggles and help keep your sanity and your children's mouths healthy at the same time.

3

Keeping up with growing kids!

Teenagers should see a pediatric dentist because their teeth and bone structure are still growing and changing. Teens appreciate that Dr. Mueller talks to them and takes the time to explain things on their level.

4

It's never too early to bring your child in for a dental check-up!

Dr. Mueller has special training to evaluate your baby's mouth and spot issues that can interfere with latching/eating, breathing, speech, and developmental issues as young as a few days old.

5

Laser Dentistry!

Dr. Mueller uses laser dentistry on most restorative care patients.

No Needles, No Dental Drill, and No Numbness!



**ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS!**

**NOW ALSO IN
NETWORK WITH
DELTA DENTAL**

OLYMPIA HILLS JR. - PEDIATRIC DENTAL
8056 Shin Oak Drive, Live Oak, TX 78233

CALL TODAY: (210) 658-3131
OLYMPIAHILLSJR.COM