

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

The Gateway

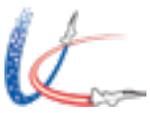
UNIVERSAL CITY COMMUNITY MAGAZINE



CoverStory

PUMPKIN PHILANTHROPY

COMING SOON UC TV | HONOR YOUR VETERAN



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
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
Bernard Rubal

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

Councilmember
Bear Goolsby

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

www.UCTX.gov



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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

MEETINGS

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



November 5, 2024

ELECTION DAY

■ **October 1, 2024** 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting

■ **October 7, 2024** 6 pm
Planning & Zoning Meeting

■ **October 10, 2024** 5 pm
Economic Development Corporation Meeting

October 14, 2024

CLOSED Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day

■ **October 15, 2024** 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting

■ **October 22, 2024** 6 pm
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

■ **October 28, 2024** 6 pm
Board of Adjustment Meeting

■ **November 4, 2024** 6 pm
Planning & Zoning Meeting

■ **November 5, 2024** TBD 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting

November 11, 2024

CLOSED Veterans Day

■ **November 14, 2024** 5 pm
Economic Development Corporation Meeting

■ **November 19, 2024** 6:30 pm
City Council Regular Meeting

■ **November 20, 2024** 5:30 pm
Library Advisory Commission Meeting

■ **November 25, 2024** 6 pm
Board of Adjustment Meeting

■ **November 26, 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

Brush **will not** be accepted at the Public Works yard during the event. Public Works will instead be offering 30 minutes of free chipping service during the clean-up dates.

Call 210-658-5364 by OCTOBER 25th to get on the list for chipping.

 www.UCTX.gov

 210-658-5364



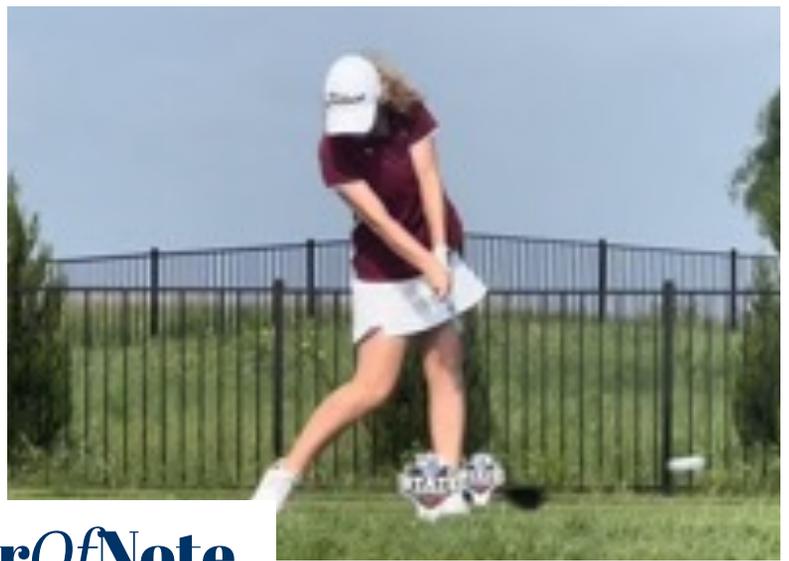
BLUE SANTA PROGRAM

**NOMINATIONS DUE BY
NOV 22ND**

NOMINATE A FAMILY IN NEED
STOP BY UCPD FOR AN APPLICATION

2150 UNIVERSAL CITY BLVD 78148





NeighborOfNote

FIRST TOURNAMENT WIN
OLYMPIA HILLS GOLF CLUB

Belle of The Fairway

When Belle Asbury was six years old, her dad encouraged her to attend the Junior Golf Camp at Olympia Hills Golf Club.

She has attended every summer camp since. Now 18 and heading to Texas Lutheran University, a golf scholarship will partially pay her way. Her passion has come a long way since that first camp.

“It’s not just the sporting aspect that’s great. The camp builds relationships, teaches etiquette, and prepares you for life both on and off the course.”

She’s not alone in her interest. According to KemperSports, its 2024 data indicates junior golf participation, both on-and off-course players, has increased by 60 percent over the last four years.

In an informal survey of Universal City residents, most weren’t aware of the inclusion at the club in general, or the golf club for kids specifically.

Belle’s father was aware when he reached out to friend Sal Garcia, Director of Operations at Olympia Hills. Garcia and his team are constantly strategizing to grow the club and its customer base.

As a mentor to the students at the Golf Camp, Garcia is highly regarded by both parents and campers. Belle is a huge fan.

“Sal is awesome, funny and great with the kids. The camp activities he (and his team) plan for us are well thought out.”

The respect is mutual. Garcia has watched Belle blossom over the past 12 years.

“Over the years, I noticed Belle’s strong work ethic and natural ability to lead her peers. This made it easy for younger kids to respond to her, so I wanted her to become a student golf coach at the junior golf camps. Growing the game of golf is very important to me, and having a young woman who can demonstrate to younger girls that it is very possible to excel in golf—and what it takes to do so—is invaluable.”

She is one of many looking forward to playing on the brand new greens with an eye on improving her 75-80 score. Stats for Belle and other youth golfers are tracked by the Southern Texas PGA (stpgajuniorgolf.com).

As for her future, Sal Garcia offers a prediction.

“She can take golf in any direction she wants. She has the ability to play the game at an elite level, possesses natural leadership qualities, and has a strong understanding of the game to teach. Whatever she chooses, golf is in good hands!”



MOST
VALUABLE
PLAYER
COURTESY:
DAVENPORT
GOLF X

Universal City

PUMPKIN PATCH

2150 Universal City Blvd
Behind the UC Fire Department



**OPENS FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 4**

▶▶▶ WEEKDAYS

- Wednesdays **Wags on Wednesdays**
- Thursdays **9a.m. Coffee with the Community sponsored by Shipley Do-Nuts**
- Fridays **10 a.m. Storytime in the Patch**

▶▶▶ SATURDAY EVENTS

- Oct 5th **Heroes Day**
- Oct 12th **Family Fun Day**
- Oct 19th **Kids' Day**
- Oct 26th **Family Photo Day**



CoverStory

Pumpkin Patch Time!

A Family Affair

When Stephanie Tennis went to her first Universal City Pumpkin Patch, she was the new mom of a 7-month-old. Now when she attends, she's also a representative of Olympia Elementary School, one of many beneficiaries of the event.

▶▶▶ **ADULTS ONLY**

Sunday, Oct 13th
Wine on the Vine
Tickets \$35 per person

▶▶▶ **PATCH HOURS**

FRI-SUN 10 a.m. -7 p.m.
MON-THURS 3p.m. -7 p.m.

Open through October 31st
FOOD VENDORS EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Details at

www.uctx.gov/pumpkinpatch



“We’re so lucky our city has something like this that’s free and brings families together.”

Now in its 9th year, guests can purchase amazing pumpkins and great food. There are pumpkin pie eating and throwing contests. But dozens of online reviews talk about the priceless offerings; old school pride in community and slowing down to savor memorable moments.

It’s been a part of organizer Oly Schaefer’s six sons’ lives for years. The older three are adults but are still Pumpkin Patch trained. The younger ones all have roles now.

“The boys could honestly run the event without us. That’s how much time they’ve spent here,” Schaefer said.

Time isn’t an issue for the families who travel great distances each year just to be part of the experience. “All of this effort shows that we are a city that cares,” said volunteer Lynne Diaz.

Credited with being an event with heart, a couple became engaged at the patch. And Baby’s 1st Pumpkin Patch is a huge draw. Parents who’ve lost precious little ones have quietly and privately attached their photos to pumpkins. “It’s a lot of work. But it’s worth it,” volunteer Teri Nelson shared.

What started as a Fall Fest has morphed into a well-oiled machine that’s raised more than \$130,000 for charities and changed countless lives through scholarships, school



CoverStory

supply donations, school events, and gatherings that encourage social skills.

Schaefer, Diaz and Nelson are part of that well-oiled machine and the core team of organizers that's been together pretty much from the start.

Lori Putt and Christina Fitzpatrick were OG Pumpkin Patch volunteers long before they became city council members. Fitzpatrick moved here from Nebraska and went looking for a great pumpkin patch soon after arriving in U.C. "I already had great memories from pumpkin patches in



my past. And this project has become something very special."

Part of that something special is down to the relationship between these ladies that has grown over the years. They are a chicken soup crew when

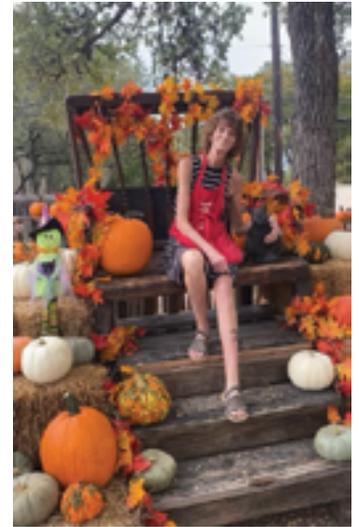
one of them or their kids or grandkids are ill. They pull together when one of them needs a little extra support. They endure.

"We're a family within ourselves that loves putting on this event. It's one of the highlights of the year for all of us," said Putt.

Cheryl Maxwell is also part of that original group. Like the others, she puts personal time on hold through the end of the year. The team calls her the Queen of Christmas for her work on the annual tree lighting. "The patch gets me geared up and ready for the big finale of the year," she laughed.

The number of charities supported by the event fluctuates year to year. This year 27 of them will benefit from sales.

Mike Miller of the Randolph Field Education Foundation (RFEF) is grateful that the three schools on Randolph Air Force Base have consistently been



beneficiaries. "The funds we get from the Pumpkin Patch might seem small to some, but they make a big difference to a kid in college on a tight budget."

Diana Salazar of Judson ISD feels the same way. "The events the Pumpkin Patch funds get these students out into the world."

It's a family affair for city employees as well. The city's amazing Public Works, Fire and Police departments all work hard to make the event a success. Groups like the FFA provide manpower too. Thousands of community service hours have been donated over the years.

RFEF's Miller shared a reflection about the Pumpkin Patch. "You can tell despite the very hard physical work involved, this is a labor of love." 



Universal City wants to
SALUTE YOUR VETERAN

Residents are invited to honor their local heroes by submitting the names of veterans to be proudly displayed in front of the Universal City Municipal building for Veterans Day Weekend. Let's come together as a community to recognize and celebrate the brave men and women who have served our country.

Submit your veteran's name at
www.UCTX.gov
by Monday, November 4, 2024.

Universal City is proud to employ veterans in several departments.

Michael Cassata-Air Force
Nathan Jaramillo-Army/Air Force
Christian Lockwood-Marine Corps
Ryan McCullough-Air Force
Jennifer Olinick-Air Force
Anthony Reyes-Army
Chief Johnny Siemens-Air Force

Weston Wilcox-Army
Logan Yee-Army
Matthew Zenner-Air Force
Asst. Chief Justin Garcia-Army
MH Officer Edward Todd-Army
Firefighter Francisco Betancourt-Army
Firefighter Mark Kovach-Navy
Dewayne Bumper - Navy
Cody Schmidt - Navy
Jeromy Gonzales - Army

MORE INFO

- 210-619-0721
- events@uctx.gov
- www.uctx.gov

Thrifty Business



For years Tom Daniels has frequented storage units and estate sales with an eye for quality, unique items.

He and his family own and operate the newly opened Daniels Resellable on Pat Booker Rd.

His timing for opening the shop comes at a time when thrift store shopping is booming. The biggest driver, second hand and vintage clothing. While the industry has been around for decades, its growth has steadily increased every year.

While some thrift stores get bad reviews for cleanliness and poor quality, Daniels Resellable is Pristine and full of unique and well-cared for items.

“We started out using the items for small sales and just grew into this shop we have now,” he said.

World Metrics reports a 15% growth in resale shop sales since 2023. Resale fashion has slowly become competitive with sales at retail outlets and the online market for second hand items is booming as well.

For some families, resale shopping can save them hundreds of dollars over the course of a school year. But no matter the income, everyone loves a good buy. Thrift store valuable finds include original artwork by well-known artists, rare memorabilia, and high dollar pieces of jewelry.

The current number one demographic flocking to thrift stores here and around the country? “Thrifties.” The Gen Z crowd. They love finding unique clothing that makes them stand out. That

generation is also outspoken about sustainability, so every purchase keeps an item out of the landfill.

For a city of its size, Universal City has a great variety of thrift stores. In addition to Daniels Resellable, there’s the relatively new Thrifty Hippie and Mall Litto. Grasp Thrift store is in the West Aviation District.

Those with access to Joint Base San Antonio Randolph can also shop at the on base thrift store which gets high praise for its unique finds from military families.

Daniels’ wife Stephanie is a knowledgeable presence in the store.

“The storage unit items we buy are special, like the 100-year old phone we’re working on. We remodeled the space to be bright, airy and pleasant. We want people to feel that when they come by.”



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Award-Winning Service in Universal City



Universal City’s Marriott TownePlace Suites has earned a coveted Silver Circle Award and is grateful to the hotel guests who submitted excellent reviews.

The award means the hotel ranks among the top 20% of properties worldwide, so it’s a high honor.

“We’re so happy that the guests who’ve stayed at our hotel are happy with our facility and staff,” said Devin Bylsma, Assistant General Manager.

Most of the hotel’s reviews are five star and guests aren’t just from out of town.

“Our stay was not planned, but due to some plumbing issues at our home we needed a place to stay . The staff was very helpful with the booking process as we were having trouble booking online. The place was ver clean and the room was comfortable,” wrote Gvela in an online review.

“We’re so happy that the guests who’ve stayed at our hotel are happy with our facility and staff.”

— Devin Bylsma
Assistant General
Manager

Better Connecting Universal City with Victra's Total Wireless Stores

Victra, headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., stands as the nation's largest authorized retailer for Verizon Wireless, delivering a full spectrum of wireless products and services. With over 1,600 stores nationwide, Victra operates solely as Verizon's authorized agent, providing customers with access to the latest smartphones, tablets, accessories, and device insurance.

A trailblazer in the wireless industry, Victra has spearheaded the rollout of the Total Wireless brand. Total Wireless, known for its straightforward approach with no contracts or credit checks, is

revolutionizing the prepaid wireless market. Since 2023, this innovative brand has brought exceptional connectivity and affordability to Universal City, TX, challenging the notion that cost-effective plans compromise on quality.

By offering top-tier devices and customer service, Total Wireless ensures the local community stays seamlessly connected via Verizon's reliable and trusted 5G network*. Total Wireless also features a diverse selection of devices from leading brands such as Apple, Google Pixel, and Samsung Galaxy.

"We now have 18 stores across the San Antonio metro area,

including a location on Pat Booker Road in Universal City.

As value and convenience continue to reign supreme, we wanted to introduce an affordable wireless service to the area that does not compromise on network quality or guest experience," said Vincent Sheehan, Senior Vice President of Retail Experience at Victra. "Local residents in the city and beyond can now stay better connected with loved ones with flexible plans with 5G Ultra Wideband coverage, generous hotspot allocations, and exclusive deals on popular streaming services like Disney+."

Source: Victra Corporate Statement





Protect Your Vote

In March of this year, almost 18 million Texans were registered to vote. Bexar County is one of a handful of counties across the state to add 100,000 citizens to their voter rolls.

The upcoming November 5 election could break registration and turnout records here in Texas and across the country. While the presidential election is a major driver, down ballot issues and races such as our state's Senate race are hotly contested.

But election misinformation and scammers are at record highs as well.

Your email and phone may have already been flooded with urgent messages to "confirm your voter registration," or pressure you to rush and submit your personal information, or invite you to join an "exclusive political focus group."

Bexar county election officials urge voters to proceed with caution and investigate before clicking on a link from an unfamiliar source.

AARP is sharing information on how to protect yourself for voters of all ages:

If someone claims you're not registered to vote and offers to register you by phone, hang up. You cannot register by phone, email or text. In all 50 states, you can only register to vote online, by mail, or in person at a local election office.

The safest option is to register at a government location or do so by mail. If you do register online, do not use unsolicited links.

Voter registration drives often occur at events such as festivals and

farmers markets, and sometimes the filled-out forms are left on tables where anyone can see them, the Identity Theft Resource Center warns. A better option is to take a form, fill it out, and mail it or deliver it in person to an election office.

BEXAR COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

1103 S. Frio, Suite 100
San Antonio, TX 78207
Open: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Walk-Ins Open: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Phone: 210-335-VOTE (8683)
Fax: 210-335-0371 (Elections)
Email: BexarCountyElections@bexar.org
elections.bexar.org

BEXAR COUNTY EARLY VOTING CLERK

1103 S. Frio St., Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78207-6328

The safest option is to vote at a government location or do so by mail. If you do register online, do not use unsolicited links.

IMPORTANT NOVEMBER 5 ELECTION DEADLINES

OCTOBER 7

Last day to register to vote

OCTOBER 21

First day in person early voting

OCTOBER 25

Last day to apply to receive ballot by mail
(Received, not postmarked)

RESIDENTIAL BRUSH REMOVAL 2024

The last 2024 WM Fall Brush collection dates are:

Monday, October 28, 2024

Monday, November 25, 2024

To ensure you do not miss the truck when it come to your neighborhood, please review the following guidelines.

VERY IMPORTANT! All brush for collection must be at the curb by Monday at 7AM of the scheduled pickup week.

Residents may begin placing brush at the curb for pickup on the Wednesday prior to collection date. Example: For the Monday, October 28th collection, residents may begin placing brush curbside as early as Wednesday, October 23rd .

Waste Management will begin collecting brush on Monday and work their way through the City collecting brush during the week. Once the collection truck leaves your area, it will not return so please have all brush curbside by the Monday scheduled to ensure you do not miss the collection.

In the event that WM does not collect all your bags/brush, they will return. Quite often, the collection trucks fill up and they will have to return with an empty one to continue the route.

Please review the following procedures to prepare your brush for pickup. If brush is not bagged and bundled properly, WM will not collect it.

Brush collection is limited to 6 cubic yards in total including both bags of leaves and bundles of limbs.

Branches and limbs must be cut to 4ft. in length, no thicker than 6in. in diameter and bundled. Loose branches will not be picked up. WM workers lift branches into the trucks by hand. If they are not cut properly, they will not be able to collect.

Trees trimmed by a tree service company will not be picked up. Before hiring a company, ensure they will remove the brush at completion of the job.

Leaves should be bagged and weigh no more than thirty-five (35) pounds per bag. Trash bags should only contain leaves, grass clippings, and other similar materials. Rocks, gravel, and soil should not be placed in trash bags. Small trimmings and grass clippings can also go in the twice weekly trash carts year-round.

For additional brush collection services, please visit www.UCTX.gov/WasteServices.

Reminder: UC Public Works provides a free 30 minute brush chipping service during the Spring Clean Up dates, October 17-27. Call 210-658-5364 before October 18th to be added to the brush chipping list.

It's Tee Time!



New Greens Same Great Course

After much anticipation, the massive renovation project for the new Paspalum greens at the Olympia Hills Golf Club has been unveiled.

“It’s a work in progress. While we are extremely proud of what my team has done, there are even more great changes ahead,” said Sal Garcia, Director of Operations

at Olympia Hills. “As the greens mature.....we’re confident they’ll offer an exceptional experience once fully settled.”

In addition to the new greens, guests will also see an added creek and new bridges.

Garcia has a hardworking, creative, and committed team includes pro shop

manager Michael Olde and Harrison Jarvis assistant golf supervisor.

There will be expanded coverage of the launch of

the new greens in the next edition of The Gateway. In the meantime, you can book a tee time at www.olyMPIAHillsgolf.com



OLYMPIA GOLF TEAM (LEFT TO RIGHT: MICHAEL OLDE, SAL GARCIA AND HARRISON JARVIS)

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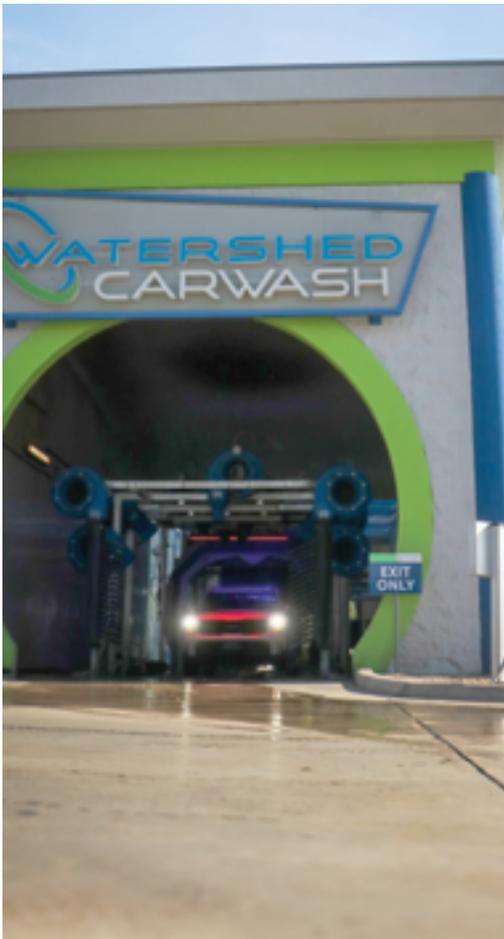
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- Licensed and Insured

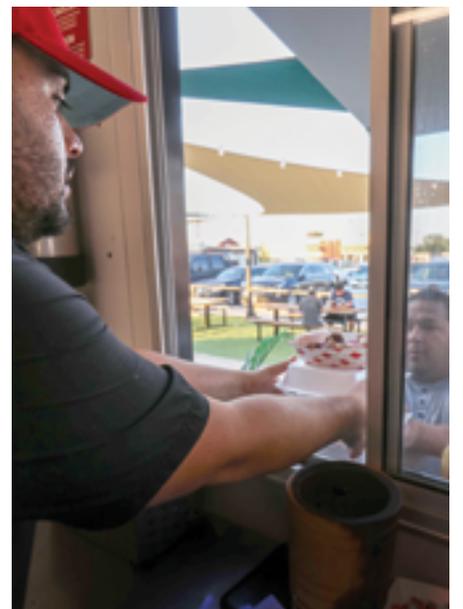
(210) 650-4629

UCCommunity

Out & About

In The Community





Out & About

UCCommunity



COMING SOON

UCTV



Your City on Demand

THE GATEWAY

City of Universal City
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Universal City, Texas 78148

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5 TOP REASONS WHY YOUR CHILD SHOULD SEE DR. MUELLER

1

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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!

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