NEWSLETTER

Woodlawn Lake Community Association

March - April 2009 San Antonio, Texas

NEXT 2 WLCA MEETINGS

PARK MASTER PLAN MARCH 31st
Public Meeting Starts at 6:30 PM

Our March 31st meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. The special program will be a public meeting to review and comment on updates to the Woodlawn Lake Park Master Plan. Councilman Justin Rodriguez, City staff, and design consultants TBG Partners will be presenting graphic plans of different options for the pedestrian bridge configuration within the Park. These updates are based on the 2007-2012 City Park Bond that includes $400,000 for "development of basic park improvements, including a pedestrian bridge and playground expansion" for our Park.

The Woodlawn Lake Park Master Plan was created in 1996 after the 1994 Park Bond election provided for $2 million to improve Woodlawn Lake Park. Citizens (Woodlawn Lake Park Planning Team) worked with the City and with consultants (Ford, Powell, & Carson Landscape Architecture) to determine the desires for the Park and the ways to make the improvements happen. Much of the resulting Plan has become reality. There are some parts, though, that are left pending. One is a bicycle trail around the Park. (Besides it being in our Plan, in 1995 the Metropolitan Planning Organization recommended a bike route "traveling one way clockwise around the Park.")

WLCA has been actively pursuing pedestrian and bicycle safety around the Park, as well as environmental preservation and recreational enhancements at the Park. We urge our members to attend this important meeting to learn of proposals for our Park and to insure that its historic character and idyllic nature are respected and maintained.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES APRIL 28th

The major contenders for Mayor have been invited to address our April 28th meeting. These include former District 7 Councilman Julian Castro, District 2 Councilwoman Sheila McNeil, District 8 Councilwoman Diane Cibrian, and business owner Trish DeBerry–Mejia. Our April meeting will start at 7 pm.

BASURA BASH SUCCESS
Kudos to Ashley Hernandez

Basura Bash Woodlawn Lake was a huge success. Nearly 300 people came out on the cool morning of March 7th to clean up Woodlawn Lake Park. This was the first time the annual cleanup of the San Antonio River and its tributaries included our beautiful lake and park. The turnout shows how much we value this scenic and environmental center of our community.

The Woodlawn Lake Tributary Leader who organized the local effort is Providence High School senior and WLCA member Ashley Hernandez. She took on this massive task and saw it through to its acclaimed finish. She was assisted by her family, all of whom also took part in the cleanup: her mother Jo Ann; brothers Zachary and Gary; sisters Kimberly, Kelsi-Alexis, and Jeriann; and her grandmother Mary Gomez. Ashley also credits her father, Gerald Hernandez, who she says chooses to stay in the background but is a big factor in her accomplishments. We thank all members of this dedicated and talented family for their contributions to our community.

In addition to the Hernandez family, WLCA was very well represented in this local endeavor. Other WLCA members who participated are Marisa Bono, Andres Perez, Christie Fryatt, George and Pam Martinez, Michael and Linda Moore and their mother, Richard and Mary Lou Reyna and their daughter Brittney, Justin and Victoria Rodriguez and their kids, David Ross, Alejandro and Ester Soto, Michael Soto, Celina Pena, and Anita Valencia. We thank all participants for their efforts.

Congratulations to Julian and Erica Castro on the birth of their daughter Corina Victoria this past March 14th.

WLCA's Grammy Winner - see page 2
Earth Day 2009, April 18th - see page 3
Neighborhood Preservation - see page 4

WLCA OFFICERS & BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto……..….…….733-5755
asoto682@earthlink.net
Vice Pres: Rodolfo Flores…….....….733-5101
Secretary: Ester Soto……..……..…..…..733-5755
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Lou Kaplan……...…..735-8884
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Anita Valencia….……..……....734-6282

WLCA PREZ HEADS ACCD PANEL

WLCA President Alejandro Soto has been chosen to chair the Alamo Community College District (ACCD) Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for 2009. He has been a member of the committee since 2006 and had served on the predecessor committee that helped develop the successful $450 million ACCD bond package in 2005. The Oversight Committee monitors the ACCD construction projects for compliance with the 2005 bond provisions. Alejandro was appointed to the Bond and Oversight Committees by Dr. Bernard Weiner, ACCD District 1 Trustee.

Alejandro is originally from East Los Angeles. He attended Garfield High School and East Los Angeles College, where he was student body president and was executive vice president of the California Junior College Student Government Association. While in college, he served on Governor Edmund Brown's Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and was awarded the Governor's Medallion for Outstanding Youth Service. He received a BA in Political Science from UCLA and came to San Antonio's Medina Base to attend U.S. Air Force Officer Training School. While stationed here, he met Ester Fernandez. They recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary.

After rising to the rank of captain, Alejandro left active duty and went to work for the federal government as an employee relations specialist, first for the Department of the Army and then for the former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He left the federal service after seven years to attend the University of Texas School of Law. He practiced law in El Paso for 19 years and moved to San Antonio in 2000. In November 2002, he was elected to his first term as WLCA President.

Alejandro also serves as the District 7 representative on the City's Parks and Recreation Board, is on VIA's Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Council, and is the president of The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Advisory Council. He has served on the board of the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation and the San Antonio Independent School District's Facilities Advisory Committee. He has a solo practice in "friendly" law and he and Ester are restoring and renovating their 1940 Mediterranean-style brick home.

WLCA's GRAMMY WINNER
Gerard Bustos Also Has An Emmy

Many of us watched the Grammys last February 8th. The Grammys are awards made annually by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for special achievement in the recording industry. They are named for the gramophone that the award trophy represents. WLCA is proud to have among our members and in our neighborhood a previous Grammy winner.

Gerard Bustos has worked as an audio engineer and video producer for over 20 years. His professional work includes design and implementation of remote audio and video recording systems throughout the United States. In the past 16 years, Gerard has worked with many audio engineering teams recording high profile artists and performers in radio, television, film, webcast, CD, and DVD for entertainment divisions of Disney, HBO, Showtime, CBS, ABC, Paramount, NPR, Sea World, and Harpo Productions. Some of the many personalities he has worked with include Elton John, Reba McEntire, Celine Dion, Robert Plant, Enrique Iglesias, Selena, Los Lonely Boys, Grupo Mazz, Journey, Garth Brooks, Willie Nelson, Tigres Del Norte, Wynnona Judd, Doobie Brothers, Jaime Y Los Chamacos, Oprah Winfrey, Cher, and Tina Turner.

Gerard has also worked on several award winning projects. Production crews of which he was a part received a Grammy Award for Latin Music in 2004 and an Emmy Award for prime time television in 2003. He is a graduate of Edgewood High School and received an Associate of Arts Degree in Radio, Television, and Film Production from San Antonio College. For the last 23 years, Gerard has worked full time as a video producer for UTSA in the university video production department. Gerard is married to Laura Bustos, a social worker for Communities In Schools assigned to Jefferson High School. Please feel free to visit his professional website at www.gerardbustos.com.

Happy Birthday to

March: Bertha Diaz, Robert Gallegos, Tammy Garcia, Mary Garcia, Gilbert A. Gonzales, Ana Blancarte-Gravin, Richard Holgin, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kelley, Vivian Olmos, Elizabeth Robalin, Yolanda Santos, Michael Soto, Deborah Vasquez, Harold Warford

April: Rachel Baugh, Mark Campa, Dolores Castillon, Ed Codina, Elizabeth Gallegos, Isabel Herrera, Kimberly Lander, Victoria Macias, Maria Elva Morales, Grace Padron, Mary Lou Reyna, Marcia Weiner

Next Meeting: March 31st, 6:30 pm

Salvation Army Peacock Center, 2810 W Ashby, Bldg 2

Other meetings this year: Apr 28, May 26, Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 24.

This is your LAST NEWSLETTER if you have not renewed your membership (see address page).
Your 2008 membership ends on Earth Day. Please renew now.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association—Membership 2009

Name:_____ DOB Mo & Day:_____

Name:_____ DOB Mo & Day:_____

Address:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____ E-mail:_____

Membership type (please check):
_____Individual [$5/yr]
_____Family [$10/yr]
_____School/non-profit [$25/yr]
_____Business [$50/yr]

Please fill out this form and bring it with your dues to a WLCA meeting or to our Earth Day booth, or mail the form and dues to: WLCA, PO. Box 28374, San Antonio TX 78228

CLIP OR COPY

Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association

EARTH DAY 2009

April 18th at Woodlawn Lake Park

Earth Day is an annual global event that celebrates the natural order of our planet. San Antonio's Earth Day 2009 is on Saturday, April 18th, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Woodlawn Lake Park. Our celebration will feature environmental information, giveaways, vegetarian food booths, gardening ideas, and music and entertainment for the whole family. There will also be a 5K Fun Run (details are at runawayclub.com). Alcoholic beverages are never allowed at the Park and smoking is not permitted at the event.

Earth Day provides everyone the opportunity to learn how to do their part in preserving our natural resources. The focus is on environmental sensitivity, recycling, conservation, and consumer awareness. The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. San Antonio had its first event in 1990. The current format of San Antonio's Earth Day began in 2003 when the Woodlawn Lake Community Association moved to keep the event going after Bexar County Master Gardeners withdrew its sponsorship. Former District 7 Councilman Joe Alderete was chosen to chair the event, which he continues to do to this day. Joe is now ably assisted by WLCA member Esther Flores, Shirley Jonas of Beautify San Antonio, and Liza Meyer of the City's Office of Environmental Policy.

Earth Day is now sponsored by the City and is an official Fiesta event. The celebration grows each year, with more neighborhood, environmental, and governmental participation. The spirit of our local Earth Day has also evolved. On this day, local residents ride their bicycles to the Park, walk with their families and their dogs from booth to booth, and enjoy and share their friendships with the environment and with each other.

The giveaways at the celebration have also grown. This year, the Earth Day Committee will be raffling off 30 beach cruiser bicycles, CPS Energy will be giving out 2000 trees, and SAWS will be giving away 1000 xeriscape plants. Each of the 80 exhibitors will be giving away earth-helpful products. As in past years, WLCA plans to give out flower seeds along with information about our Association. We hope to sign up new members and get reacquainted with current members. If you can, please spend some time at our booth. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Park this April 18th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WLCA will print a special two page Earth Day edition of our newsletter that will be distributed to a great part of the residents within our geographic boundaries. To save on hundreds of dollars in postage, we will deliver the newsletters door-to-door. This is a task we have undertaken in previous years to let the community known of our existence and function and to attract new members.

We will need volunteers to hand-deliver the newsletter during the period of April 4th to 12th. Please let us know if you can help, or if you have a group that can help. The more volunteers we get, the easier it will be for all. Please call or e-mail Ester Soto if you can participate.

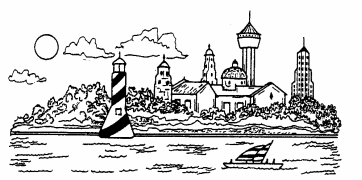
NEWSLETTER ADS

Rates per issue to advertise in the WLCA Newsletter are: full page $35; half page $20; quarter page $12; and business card size $7. Business members can place a business card ad in each newsletter at no charge. Individual members can place a free business card ad once a year. Contact Alejandro Soto to place an ad.

"Think globally; act locally"
Friends of the Earth

Woodlawn Lake
Community Association

P.O. Box 28374
San Antonio TX 78228



PRESERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

There are currently two campaigns to give protection to parts of our community:

Monticello Park Historic District (MPHD). MPHD is seeking to expand its boundaries to include the 1900 and 2000 blocks from W. Gramercy to the north (odd-numbered) side of W. Woodlawn. If you reside or own property in this area, you are encouraged to learn how this would affect you. If you favor this change, please sign a consent form. It takes 50 percent plus one of the property owners to advance the application.

Jefferson Neighborhood Conservation District. Area residents have applied to create a neighborhood conservation district (NCD) in the area bounded by Babcock on the north, W. Woodlawn on the south, St. Cloud on the west, and Wilson (to the Summit-Mulberry alley) and Kampmann on the east. Unlike a historic district, in an NCD the residents, rather than the City, set the standards for the area in line with existing zoning, deed, and other restrictions. Because our current Near Northwest Neighborhood Plan calls for the creation of NCD's, no residents' approval is needed. However, residents can give their views in writing and at public meetings and will receive notices of upcoming hearings before City agencies. More details are at sanantonio.gov/planning/neighborhoods/jefferson_ncd.asp.

STOPS, SPEED, & SAFETY

We have asked for certain traffic controls to make our area streets safer. We get answers as to why our requests cannot be done. Yet, City reasoning does not seem to apply elsewhere.

We have asked for an all-way stop at W. Woodlawn and Lake. We are told that W. Woodlawn is an arterial and that traffic flow cannot be disrupted by a stop sign. Yet, on Vance Jackson, outside Loop 410, there is an all-way stop at Marlboro and the Cornerstone School entrance.

We want slower speed limits around the Park. On E. Commerce, driving between cemeteries, the speed limit is 30 mph. On Fred Road, west of the Deco District, on 4-lane streets in commercial area, it is also 30 mph. On the narrower W. Woodlawn and Josephine Tobin, with the Park on one side and homes on the other side of each street, the speed limit is 35 mph. .

We have asked for an all-way stop on W. Mulberry and Lake. The current stop is on Lake. Historic stone markers block the view of the intersection from Mulberry and the Young Women's Leadership Academy is at the site. The City says that there is not enough traffic to warrant the all-way stop. Yet, San Antonio Avenue has all-way stops at Magnolia, Mulberry, and W. Kings Hwy, with very little traffic at any of these intersections.