

# NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

July - August 2009

San Antonio, Texas

### CODE COMPLIANCE TOPIC OF JULY 28th MEETING

John Kelly, Districts 6B & 7 Code Compliance Supervisor, will be the featured speaker at our WLCA meeting on July 28th. Code Compliance is part of the City's Housing & Neighborhood Services Department. It seeks "to enhance neighborhoods and their citizens' health, safety, and general welfare through efficient and effective city code enforcement" and to act "in a responsive and fair manner focusing on customer service and public awareness while respecting the property rights of citizens."

We have asked for information on neighborhood concerns, as noise, animals, junked cars, cars in the yard, trash and brush, signs, and home businesses. We have also asked for clarification on responsibilities of different City departments, as enforcement of building codes and historic restrictions. We have also asked for the best way to make a complaint and follow up. It should be a highly informative meeting.

### SAWS TRUSTEE ON AUGUST 25th

Elizabeth Provencio, newly appointed Trustee for the San Antonio Water System's Northwest Quadrant, will be the speaker at our August 25th meeting.

Liz lives in our neighborhood and is a WLCA member. She is a practicing attorney and is married to our District 116 State Representative, Trey Martinez Fischer. She received a BS degree in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She has served on the boards of The Children's Shelter and of Hispanas Unidas. She was co-chair for fundraising to benefit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower and served on the District 116 Advisory Committee. She enjoys marathon running, reading, flamenco dancing, and involvement in local government issues.

There are 7 SAWS trustees, including the Mayor, the Mayor's Chairperson, and 5 quadrant representatives. Liz will present SAWS issues and will receive comments on our concerns.

### POOL IMPROVEMENTS

The Woodlawn Lake Park swimming pool will be receiving needed improvements. These are an accessible chair lift and shade structures. The project is funded by the 2007 Parks Bond. The Parks Bond is also funding improvements at other District 7 swim facilities, including Sunset Hills, Gilbert Garza, and Joe Ward. The Joe Ward Pool will also receive a new bath house.

The chair lift brings the pool in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The shade structures will provide much needed shade along the western side of the pool for those on the deck and, depending on the time of day, those in the water. The shade structures have been designed to be of a low profile in earth tone colors to complement the pool house and gym. The supporting structure will be coffee brown and the canvas-type canopy will be desert sand.

The project plans had been considered by Parks & Recreation Department staff and had been presented and discussed at public meetings. Because the Park is a historic district, the project was reviewed by the City's Office of Historic Preservation and the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC). HDRC approved the project on July 15th.

WLCA reviews any proposed projects at the Park to insure respect for the Park's environmental and historic nature and the protection of its vista. We look to see that any change is the absolute necessary minimum to accomplish a desired purpose and that the change works to fulfill the recreational purpose requirement in the Deed that gave the Park to the City. This project fit our criteria and we went on record in its support.

**A Bad Stretch of Road - see page 2**

**A Conservation District? - see page 3**

**Member Milestones - see page 4**

The District 7 Field Office is at 2712 Hillcrest Drive. It is open from Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. The telephone number is 733-7525; the fax is 732-3345. You can also email the office at [district7@sanantonio.gov](mailto:district7@sanantonio.gov).

## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President:* Alejandro Soto.....733-5755  
asoto682@earthlink.net  
*Vice President:* Rodolfo Flores.....733-5101  
*Secretary:* Ester Soto.....733-5755  
*Treasurer:* Maria Luisa Reyna.....367-0029  
*Board Members:*  
Lou Kaplan.....735-8884  
Gene Herrera.....735-8528  
Lucy Phalen.....733-8858  
Anita Valencia.....734-6282

## FLOOD EMERGENCY SYSTEM

It will rain again. When it does, the potential for flooding will be present in San Antonio. The City has developed a flood public education and flood preparedness program called the San Antonio Flood Emergency System (SAFE). Its mission is to provide early flood notification during heavy rains and educate the public on actions necessary to protect life and property.

SAFE augments existing public warning systems by allowing City officials to notify citizens via a variety of devices, as home telephone, cell phone, email, fax, and text messages. Citizens can register by telephone at 1-866-484-3264 or on internet at [sanantonio.gov/emergency/](http://sanantonio.gov/emergency/) (follow the links) or the SAFE website, [safloodsafe.com](http://safloodsafe.com). You will be notified of flash flood and tornado watches and warnings and of hazardous material emergencies via the communications method you specify.

SAFE Routes have been established in key Low Water Crossing locations throughout the City so that citizens can easily find alternate routes away from flooded roads. The SAFE website displays downloadable family emergency plans, flood facts, flood solutions, preparedness, SAFE Route information, and links to Real-Time Traffic, street closures, river gauges, NEXRAD Radar, and NOAA Streaming Audio. SAFE reminds us that floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S. Do not attempt to cross a road that has been flooded. Seek a SAFE Alternate Route and follow the SAFE route signs away from dangerous low water crossings.

## Happy Birthday to

*July:* Bo Beanland, Allison Boerger, Bruce Bronstad, Dr. W.R. Elizondo, Lou Kaplan, Martha M. Kwan, Pam Martinez, Linda Moore, Diana Prado, Dr. David Ross, Yolanda Sheppard, Patrice Washburn

*August:* Gloria Bolick, Osvaldo De La Garza, Efraim Diaz, Fr. Virgil Elizondo, Esther Diaz Flores, Jennifer Harris, Celina Peña, Ruth Ann Perez, Elizabeth Provencio, Cory Retherford, Irene Rodriguez, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Peggy Selden, Alejandro Soto, Paul Stahl, Becky Whitehead, James Wolfe

## DESIGN, DISDAIN, & DANGER

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

As I was completing my jog around the Lake, I saw 3 police cars surrounding a black sedan on N. Josephine Tobin at W. Woodlawn. I could not tell if there had been an accident, or if the driver had been driving so erratic as to have caught the attention of 3 SAPD vehicles. This intersection has seen many accidents. Inside the Park next to where these cars were parked is a damaged cable television box that was knocked over more than a year ago. Also damaged in that accident was a wooden vehicle access gate. The gate has since been replaced by one made of metal. Just last week, a pick-up turning left onto W. Woodlawn from N. Josephine Tobin was struck by a white sedan. The truck spun around and landed in the Park inside the footpath. Luckily no one was on that part of the path at the time. Having been a driver for 45 years and an attorney for 30, I feel that either the sedan was speeding, the pick-up ran a stop sign, or both. A vehicle coming from a dead stop will not be thrown into a spin by a smaller car traveling the posted 35 mph limit.

When writing my column for our July-August 2006 Newsletter, I noted how I had just heard a loud crash and saw that 2 cars had collided at the bridge on S. Josephine Tobin at W. Woodlawn. One of the cars ended up in the Park. Two months after that, I heard another collision at Lake Blvd and W. Woodlawn. Those of us who live near the Park hear the speeding wheels of cars and motorcycles on W. Woodlawn. We see cars speeding on N. and S. Josephine Tobin. I have also seen cars ignore the crosswalks at the W. Woodlawn and Lake / N. Josephine Tobin intersection. If the school zone signs are flashing, most will slow down, but they will not stop for a pedestrian trying to cross. When the flashing lights go off, the speed of the cars turns up.

W. Woodlawn has become faster since it was resurfaced and made smoother a year and a half ago. We have proposed several ways to make the street safer. We have said make N. Josephine Tobin one-way south, close the bridge at S. Josephine Tobin, lower the speed limits all around, and outline the brick crosswalks in white. The City will not consider an all-way stop at Lake Blvd (March-April 2009 Newsletter), but one official at Public Works suggested a traffic circle. This could work if a structure of some type were placed on it to alert drivers to go around. The circle at Blanco and Fulton has an art sculpture, and the one at McCullough and Olmos has a fountain. Ours could have some type of landmark to commemorate the Bandera Stage Road that once carried carts, wagons, stage coaches, and horses through here on the way from Bandera to San Antonio. We should not wait for more damage before we act to prevent it.

### WLCA meetings this year:

7 pm on Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 24

**Peacock Center, 2810 W Ashby, Bldg 2**

## **NCD PROPOSED FOR WLCA's SOUTHERN PORTION**

WLCA has applied to the City's Planning & Development Services Department to create a Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) within the southern portion of our Association boundaries. This would include some or all of the area bounded by W. Woodlawn on the north, Culebra on the south, Zarzamora on the east, and Gen. McMullen - St. Cloud on the west. We are also considering whether to extend an NCD past these borders to include both sides of certain major streets, as Zarzamora, to promote compatible development along our area's gateways.

An NCD is a zoning overlay that contains standards for new development. The standards are put in place by the property owners in the area working together with City Planning staff. This differs from a historic district where standards are set by the City. An area qualifies for NCD status if at least 75% of the neighborhood is more than 25 years old; contains at least one blockface; and the area possesses distinctive features that create a cohesive, identifiable setting, character, or association. The area being considered qualifies on all counts. Because the Near Northwest Community Plan, adopted on February 14, 2002, identifies NCD's as a planning tool for our area, the NCD can be initiated by the City's Planning & Development Services Department. Each year that Department considers one NCD project for completion. WLCA applied for the 2009-2010 fiscal year designation and is one of the finalists.

The WLCA portion north of W. Woodlawn in large part already has or is being considered for historic or conservation status. From St. Cloud east to Kampmann (to Wilson north of the Mulberry-Summit alley) is in the Jefferson NCD. West of this, to Lake Blvd, the area is in the Monticello Park Historic District (MPHD). The area further west, to San Antonio Avenue, is in the process of petitioning to become a part of MPHD. On the south side of W. Woodlawn Avenue, Woodlawn Lake Park is a single-use historic district. Adding to our historic and conservation areas helps to protect and strengthen the desirable and unique features; design characteristics; and recognized identity, charm, and flavor of our neighborhood.

City Planning and WLCA will hold public meetings to discuss the NCD. The City will make a final decision on which project to approve based on neighborhood commitment. The boundaries of the NCD will be determined by interest of the property owners in the area. If approved, volunteers will be needed to survey all the properties within the proposed NCD. Volunteers will also be needed to develop design and building standards. Once surveys and standards are completed, the NCD designation and plan will go before the City's Zoning Commission and to City Council for approval. We ask residents and owners in this area to let us know their views and whether they would be willing to volunteer in this effort.

## **FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR**

The City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation is sponsoring a Historic Homeowner Fair. The purpose of the fair is to give citizens and professionals an opportunity to interact and discuss issues related to historic properties. It will be held on Saturday, August 29th, from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Municipal Auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

All the resources for historic preservation will be in one place at one time. Attendees will be able to get ideas and advice on dealing with their historic property or in considering the purchase of a historic property. The fair will include sessions on improving energy efficiency, repairing wood windows, "green" living in historic properties, and appropriate additions to historic homes. It will also feature an Exhibitors' Fair with products and services of interest to owners of historic properties.

### **COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM**

There will be a Community Symposium on preservation on Monday, August 31st, from 7:30 to 9 am. It will be held at the Development and Business Services (One-Stop) Center, 1901 S. Alamo Street, Training Rooms A & B. It is free and coffee and refreshments will be served.

Donovan Rypkema, renowned preservation expert, will provide attendees with information about historic preservation and the economics of preservation and sustainability. He is a principal of Place Economics, a real estate and economic development - consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., and is the author of *Historic Preservation is Sustainable Development*. His talk will cover how sustainability and preservation are one and the same.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE**

The 20th Annual Neighborhood Conference will take place on Saturday, September 12th, from 8 am to 3 pm, at the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, 227 W. Woodlawn Avenue. It will feature City officials and community leaders and will emphasize a unified goal of revitalizing our neighborhoods.

The first Annual Neighborhood Conference was organized in 1989 by civic leaders and individuals from the San Antonio Coalition of Neighborhood Associations. The purpose was to provide an annual venue where neighborhood people could attend workshops and network with other community representatives. The Neighborhood Resource Center was created in 1994 and it assumed the responsibility for holding the conference.

A \$10 donation to help cover costs is requested but is not mandatory. An RSVP is not required, but it will reserve a lunch ticket. You can RSVP at [nrcsa@swbell.net](mailto:nrcsa@swbell.net) or at 735-0586. Also, please let us (WLCA) know if you plan to attend.

**Woodlawn Lake  
Community Association**  
P.O. Box 28374  
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## **SAN ANTONIO A "PLAYFUL CITY"**

San Antonio is one of 33 cities across the U.S. recently honored with the designation of Playful City USA by national non-profit organization KaBOOM! The recognition is for demonstrating a creative commitment to innovative strategies for making play a priority for the health and well-being of the children of the community. Now in its third year, the Playful City USA program has honored 93 cities for creating and implementing programs to positively impact childhood wellness, public safety, and the quality of life in the areas of quantity, quality, and access.

KaBOOM! CEO and co-founder Darell Hammond said "San Antonio took a stand and determined that the future of the community - the children - deserve a commitment to the cause of play. This is an investment in the future, not an expenditure...." San Antonio's plan includes an aggressive playground replacement program, seeking funding for new and replacement playgrounds, and a stringent 2-tiered inspection program.

WLCA has been an advocate for a larger children's playground at Woodlawn Lake Park. We have also advocated for enhanced safety by limiting automobile traffic in and through Park lands and advanced environmental awareness at the Park by promoting clean-up and recycling efforts, limiting car traffic, and sponsoring and supporting the City's Earth Day celebration.

## **MEMBER MILESTONES**

### **Ayers Celebrate 50 Years**

WLCA members Lowell Fredrick Ayers and Sylvia Ayers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 10th. Fred is originally from Illinois and came to San Antonio as a member of the U.S. Air Force. He is retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Sylvia is a native of San Antonio and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. She is retired from Southwestern Bell (now AT&T). They have 3 sons and 10 grandchildren. They were the 2008 recipients of the WLCA President's Award for Outstanding Service. We congratulate Fred and Sylvia and wish them many more happy years together.

### **Lou's Birthday**

WLCA member Lou Kaplan celebrated her 88th birthday on July 18th. Lou was one of the organizers of WLCA in the late 1940's, has served in various Association offices, and is still on our Executive Board. She remains active in her church and community. In October 2007, she was named "Neighbor of the Year" by the Neighborhood Resource Center.

WLCA now has 189 paid members.

Also, 2 area nonprofit organizations have joined WLCA.