

NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

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San Antonio, Texas

CPS ENERGY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ON JAN 29th

Our January 29th WLCA meeting will feature a presentation by CPS Energy. Deborah Gunn, Local Government Relations Analyst, will head the team that will tell us of the programs of that agency. We have asked CPS Energy to tell us of projects ongoing and contemplated for future energy needs, consumer rates and rebates, energy conservation programs and practices, and home and personal security when dealing with agency representatives and employees.

CPS Energy is the nation's largest municipally owned energy utility providing both natural gas and electric service. It was acquired by the City from the San Antonio Public Service Company in 1942. The municipal utility was known as the City Public Service Board of San Antonio until changed to CPS Energy in 2005. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of four members, each representing a geographic quadrant of the City. The mayor serves as an ex-officio member. The day-to-day operations are carried out by the Senior Executive Team and staff under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer.

Today the agency serves more than 717,000 electric customers and 325,000 natural gas customers in and around the City, extending to portions of Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Medina, and Wilson Counties. It makes use of a wide mix of fuels to keep our electricity both affordable and reliable. Coal comprises almost 47 percent of the mix. Nuclear energy follows at 32 percent. Renewable energy, including wind, solar, and landfill-generated methane gas, account for 9 percent. Natural gas and purchased power comprise the remaining 12 percent. Its Save for Tomorrow Energy Plan (STEP) attempts to reduce the community's demand for electricity by 771 megawatts, the output of one large power plant, by 2020. To achieve this goal, CPS Energy has committed millions of dollars to energy efficiency rebates and programs for its customers.

Meet Your New Board - see page 2

Area Fire Station - see page 3

Lake Invaders - see page 4

SOLID WASTE OVERVIEW AND UPDATES AT FEB 26th MEETING

Matthew Hobson, Environmental Services Manager with the Solid Waste Management Department, will speak at our February 26th meeting. We have asked to be told about the various services and programs of that Department, issues for customers, as well as foreseen problems and contemplated solutions.

Solid Waste Management strives to protect the public health and safety of the City of San Antonio by providing quality municipal solid waste services and environmental programs that are safe, efficient, cost effective, and environmentally responsible. Its programs and services include automated garbage collection, automated single-stream recycling collection, residential brush collection, residential bulky-item collection, and dead animal pick-up. It also operates drop-off and processing sites for brush and household hazardous waste. Additionally, it manages and maintains the City's closed landfills in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The Department serves approximately 340,000 households, employs 482 individuals, and has an annual budget of over \$90 million. It operates four district centers located around the City, various closed landfills, and administrative offices.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Volksmarch. A non-competitive walk will take place on Saturday, January 26th. It will begin and end at the University atrium on the St. Mary's University campus. Participants will walk through the campus and on neighborhood streets to Woodlawn Lake and back. A complete route is 10KM/6.2mi. A half course is also available. Walkers can begin at any time between 10 am and 1 pm. Participation fee is \$3 with no charge for first-time walkers. The event is on the American Volkssport Association (AVA) website, www.ava.org. It is open to all.

Basura Bash. The annual Waterway Cleanup is on Saturday, February 23rd. Woodlawn Lake is not included this year. We hope to schedule a separate cleanup for our Park this spring. The nearest Basura Bash site will be at Martinez Creek starting at the W. Woodlawn bridge between N. Zarzamora and IH 10.

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168
wlca@att.net
Vice President: Gerard Bustos.....737-0998
Secretary: Ester Soto
Treasurer: Maria Luisa Reyna.....771-7174
Board Members:
Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839
Cathy Fernandez.....607-7516
Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296
Fred Ayers.....737-1228

2013-2014 BOARD BEGINS TERM

At our November meeting, WLCA members elected the officers and board members who will lead us for the next two years.

Alejandro Soto is returning as president. He is an attorney and serves on the City's Parks and Recreation Board. He was named "Neighbor of the Year" for 2012 by the City's Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC). Gerard Bustos is the new vice-president. He has lived in the Woodlawn Lake area for almost 20 years. He is an award winning audio recording engineer, has worked as a video producer at UTSA for over 25 years, and runs a small business called Red Door Multimedia. Ester Soto is again secretary, her WLCA role since 2005. She is retired from federal service where she worked in personnel staffing and recruitment. Maria Luisa Reyna became treasurer in 2007 and is staying on. She is a payroll administrator, an active member of the Hillcrest Neighborhood Association, and president of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Paul's Conference.

There are four elected board positions. Ashley Hernandez is beginning her second term. She is a junior at St. Mary's University and received the 2011 NRC's Commissioner Atkisson Youth Activity & Leadership Award. Cathy Fernandez is a past board member and treasurer. She is a youth worker, having served in different capacities with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the City, as well as with after school programs of the Northside Independent School District. Marcy Gutierrez is a life-long resident of this area. She has taught art at Jefferson High School for 17 years and is the Chair of its Fine Arts Department. The fourth board position became vacant after the election. Fred Ayers was appointed to fill this vacancy. Brought to our City by the Air Force in 1953, he has resided in the WLCA area since 2000 and is retired from the US Postal Service.

We thank outgoing vice-president Gene Herrera and board members Anita Valencia, Andres Perez, and Esther Flores for their service.

Next Meeting: January 29th, 7 pm

Salvation Army Peacock Center, 2810 W. Ashby, Bldg 2

Other meetings in 2013: Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 30, May 28, Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 25, Oct 29, Nov 26

TOWARDS TWELVE & TRANSITION

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

Ten years ago I began my first term as WLCA president. I never imagined that a decade later I would be beginning my sixth consecutive 2-year term. A lot has changed in our area during this time. Some changes came about without our input, but many have been influenced or initiated because of our voice. Some proposed changes did not come about because we objected. At times success seems to come slowly, if at all, yet when we look back, we see how much we have accomplished.

WLCA has itself changed. Comparing earlier membership rosters with those most recent, few names remain the same. We have lost some of our early activists, some members left the area, and some simply chose not to renew. At the same time, we have new neighbors as well as long-time residents now opting to be a part of our association. Thus, despite our losses, our ranks have tripled and our activity has grown.

A dozen years is a good place for a change. This, then, will be my final term as WLCA president. There is no heir apparent to lead WLCA after 2014. During the next two years I will begin sharing and handing off some of my tasks so that when change comes the transition will be smooth. Some of the tasks are preparation of this Newsletter, representing WLCA at City and other hearings and events, managing our membership drive, and arranging for our meeting speakers. Members are invited to try out some of these duties without obligation to continue.

In my final term I will work to insure that development in progress proceeds as planned and that our views are respected. From now through 2014 we will see the completion of improvements to the Seeling Channel from the Lake to St. Cloud, a new vehicle bridge and a new foot bridge at the Park, and a new Walmart and other stores at Bandera and W. Woodlawn. Several streets in our area will be improved, and our area schools will be revitalized, renewed, and in some cases repurposed. We will keep our members up to date as all this activity takes place, through our newsletter and by presentations at our meetings.

We will also follow through on our plans for a native plants garden at the northwest end of the Park. We will look at our past proposals and pursue them if still relevant. These include a bicycle trail on the streets around the Park, a neighborhood trolley shuttle, and a traffic circle at W. Woodlawn and Lake Blvd. We will also work to keep our area safe and attractive with Park watch and cleanup, graffiti wipeout, and bandit sign removal.

WLCA reflects our diverse neighborhood. Our members range from entrepreneurs to public servants, students to retirees, and natives to transplants. We are more than one person or one cause. We get things done as a community and we keep getting better at what we do. Our efforts have our Park and our community headed in the right direction and our association well-grounded. I look forward to these next two years.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association—Membership 2013

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership type: _____ Individual [\$5.00 per year] _____ Family/Household [\$10.00 per year]
(please check) _____ School; _____ Non-Profit; or _____ Business [each \$10.00 per year]

Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association

CLIP
OR
COPY

TIME TO RENEW your WLCA membership for 2013. If your personal information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2013 dues." If it has changed, please send the Form above with your dues to WLCA, P.O. Box 28374, San Antonio TX 78228; or bring the Form with your dues to our next WLCA meeting. If the address page of this Newsletter shows that you have paid for 2013, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, disregard this reminder.

WLCA ON THE WEB

We have updated our Neighborhood Link page. You can find WLCA at neighborhoodlink.com/Woodlawn_Lake. We have also started a new Facebook page to replace the 2009 entry. Please check out these sites and give us your thoughts on how they can be developed and improved. We thank Board member Cathy Fernandez for her work on this project.

KEEPING OUR PARK "DRY"

WLCA has campaigned to enforce the 1918 deed that prohibits alcohol at our Park. Last May the City reversed its 2002 allowance of alcohol at the Park's sailing club building. We have learned that for several years the City has been allowing beer to be sold at the Golden Gloves boxing tournament at the Woodlawn Gym. This clearly violates the deed. WLCA is standing firm to no longer allow this practice. Whatever merits the activity may have, it cannot cancel the specific terms of the deed. We also find it ironic that an activity to promote youth fitness and healthy living depends on the sale of beer for its success.

WLCA Birthdays

January: flower - carnation; birthstone - garnet

Tina Aguilar, Ralph Banda, Gerard Bustos, Stella Castillo, Janice Clayton, Patti Garcia, Red Garcia, Edward Garza, Marcy Gutierrez, Consuelo Gonzales, Katherine Guerra, Rod Logsdon, Annette Lopez, Eloy Lozano, Helen Lozano, Rosalinda Rubio

February: flower - violet; birthstone - amethyst

Mary Ann Contreras, Darlyne Cox, Luciana Cristadoro, Jane Dunnewold, Maria Garcia, Minnie Garcia, Zach Greene, Mary Jane Marin, Jonathan Hamm, Darrell Higgins, Corrine Marin, Allie Melancon, Marguerite Nemky, Leonela Silvas, Rebecca Vecera, Lydia Torres-Tucker

FIRE STATION A CITY LANDMARK

Fire Station No. 10 at 1103 Culebra is being considered for landmark designation. The City's Office of Historic Preservation initiated the Westside Cultural Resource Survey in 2011 to identify, document, and protect places of significance on the Westside as a way of celebrating the rich history and cultural heritage of this part of San Antonio. The WLCA area between Culebra Road and Cincinnati Avenue is within the Westside boundaries and its properties were included in this process.

Initially, more than 90 properties were nominated for this landmark status, a few being in the WLCA area. The properties include residential and commercial, with both private and public ownership. After partnering with community organizations and holding public meetings, the list was narrowed to 24 sites. The list was presented to the Historic Design and Review Commission on January 16th which approved a finding of historic significance. The measure will be going forward to the Zoning Commission and then to City Council for final approval.

The fire station at Culebra Road and N. Zarzamora is the only WLCA site on the final list. It was built in 1914. It is a two-part commercial block building with Prairie influence, has fire-proof construction with reinforced concrete roof and floors and front brick curtain walls. The second story provided sleeping quarters and meeting area and was considered when built to be one of the most modern and ornamental firehouses in the City. It was restored in 1999 with minor alterations.

The structure today remains a functioning fire station. It represents San Antonio's early fire fighting history and early 20th century Prairie stylistic influences applied to industrial design. Its place at a prominent corner at a busy commercial intersection serves as a gateway into our community. The station does double duty to welcome visitors and protect residents. It is in all regards a landmark and should be preserved.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association

P.O. Box 28374
San Antonio TX 78228



GREEN GROWTH IN LAKE

That green growth that has invaded our Lake is water hyacinth. This is a free-floating plant that can grow to a height of 3 feet. One of the fastest growing plants known, it is native to tropical and sub-tropical South America. It made its ways into the US in an 1884 exhibit in New Orleans. From there, it rapidly spread.

Water hyacinth is a floating plant that is easy to identify by its round to oval shiny green leaves up to ten inches in diameter, held upright so they look like sails. It has striking light blue to violet flowers located on a terminal spike and has a thick, heavily branched, dark fibrous root system. The plant reproduces primarily by way of runners which eventually form daughter plants. Each plant can produce thousands of seed each year, and the seeds can remain viable for more than 28 years. It is a very aggressive invader and can form thick mats. If the mats cover the entire water surface, they can cause oxygen depletions and fish kills. The plant also creates a prime habitat for mosquitos.

These plants have to be controlled so that they will not cover the entire lake. Under the State Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan, organizations and individuals who wish to conduct vegetation management activities in public water must first submit a Treatment Proposal for review by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and its local controlling entities. The SA Parks and Recreation Department (SAPAR) has submitted the

proper paperwork for a permit. The application is still pending approval. In the meantime, TPWD has granted SAPAR permission to remove a small amount of hyacinth located around the boat dock area and pier.

It is hard to say what brought the plant to our Lake. Because of its attractiveness, it has been sold in nurseries as an ornamental. If used, it should be confined to a home pond or other contained area. If disposed of, it should not be thrown to where it could end up in a river, stream, lake, or drainage ditch.

CHRISTMAS PARTY THANKS

On December 9th, we held our annual WLCA Christmas Party. Our members and their families came together for our end-of-year celebration. As always, the party was well attended and members brought a wide variety of food for all to enjoy. Many members helped make our party a huge success. Richard & Maria Luisa Reyna, Norma M. Gonzales, Mary Jane Marin, Mary Ann Contreras, Cathy Fernandez, and Alejandro & Ester Soto arrived early to set up. This group, along with Darlyne Cox, also stayed late to clean up. Gene & Isabel Herrera, Norma Rodriguez, SAFFE Officer Marcos Serda, Ed & Anna Laura Garza, Salvation Army Citadel Commanders Captains Rojelio & Rebecca Galabeas, and Joe & Chris Alderete donated door prizes. We thank all of these members for their contributions and all attendees for the great food that they brought.