

# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

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San Antonio, Texas

### CHANNEL & BRIDGE PROJECTS UPDATE ON MAY 28th

Our May 28th meeting will feature Richard Casiano, Capital Projects Officer with the City's Capital Improvements Management Services (CIMS). He is the Project Manager for the channel and bridge work now taking place at the Park on W. Woodlawn. He will be bringing us up to date on the construction and will tell us about the total scope of the projects.

Actual construction began in December 2012. This followed five years of public meetings and alternate plans on just what work would be done. The final project includes combining Parks Bond money and Drainage Improvements money, both from 2007, for the current work. We have already seen extensive excavation, removal of homes at Wilson and W. Woodlawn, and the rise of a new bridge span. Our speaker will tell us what work is ahead and how long each step will take.

Mr. Casiano is a graduate of Highlands High School. He attended San Antonio College where he majored in Drafting and Design Engineering. Before his current position, he had been a Senior Engineer Technician with the City. He also previously worked with the Texas Highway Department and Valero Energy. Other projects he has overseen for the City include De Zavala from Babcock to IH 10, the Henderson Pass Bridge, and the St. Cloud Road sidewalks.

### REPORT HISTORIC VIOLATIONS

To help protect the City's historic resources, residents are encouraged to notify Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, of potential violations. During regular business hours you can call 219-2093 or email [ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov](mailto:ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov). After hours call 311 or email [OHP@sanantonio.gov](mailto:OHP@sanantonio.gov) (Office of Historic Preservation). You can be anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up. WLCA also appreciates being notified of potential problems in our historic districts.

**Trouble With T's - page 2**  
**July 4th at the Park - page 3**  
**Earth Day Follow-up - page 4**

### THE SA FIRE DEPARTMENT & HOME SAFETY ON JUNE 25th

The City's Fire Department (SAFD) will make the presentation at our June 25th meeting. Recent home fires in our area and a nearby chemical explosion remind us of the need to practice fire safety and to know of the resources available for our safety.

SAFD operates 51 stations and has approximately 1800 uniform and civilian employees. Its operating budget of \$236 million is the second highest General Fund budget in the City. In October of last year, it moved into the new Public Safety Headquarters at 315 S. Santa Rosa, a 243,000 square foot building shared with the Police Department. SAFD's mission is to prevent and minimize the loss of life and property of citizens and fire service personnel; to provide Emergency Medical Services; to mitigate the consequences of natural and man-made disasters, to provide non-emergency support services; and to safeguard the environment and economic base of our community.

### WLCA's CLASS OF 2013

WLCA members and families are among this year's graduates:

Toya Schafer graduated this May from San Antonio College with an AAS degree in Account Technology. She will continue her education at Wayland Baptist University. Xavier Medina, grandson of Rose Perales, is graduating this summer from FEAST HomeSchool. Kelsi-Alexis Hernandez, daughter of Gerald and JoAnn Hernandez, is graduating from Providence High School and will attend the University of Texas, Austin. Her younger sister Jeri Ann is graduating from Providence Middle School and will attend Providence High School. Cassandra Nieto, granddaughter of Henrietta LaGrange, is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Incarnate Word University and will attend medical school. Regan C. Turner, grandson of Helen York, is graduating from Harvard Business and Harvard Kennedy College with masters degrees in Administration and Public Policy. He is taking a job in San Antonio starting July 1st.

We congratulate these graduates on their achievements and wish them well as they apply their educations to their new endeavors.

## 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

## BETWEEN MEETINGS

**Email.** If you have email, you will get our Newsletter and notices of interest at all addresses you give us. Email saves money on printing and postage and keeps you up to date on WLCA matters and on issues that affect our neighborhood. If we do not already have your email address, send it to us at wlca@att.net. We blind copy to multiple recipients to safeguard your address.

**Rules.** Our WLCA By-Laws (5 pages) and Finance Rules (2 pages) are available to you. On request, we will email either or both to you. You can have a paper copy delivered at our meeting for 25¢ a page printing fee. If you pay postage and the printing fee, we will mail the items to you.

**Time.** Our meetings regularly begin at 7 pm. We began our April meeting at 6:30 pm because of a possible Spurs playoff game. Let us know if you prefer that all our meetings begin at 6:30 pm. Will the earlier time make you more or less likely to attend our meetings? Will a time change make no difference - you would come anyway, or you could still not attend?

**Freebies.** We have low-flow showerheads left over from the SAWS presentation at our March meeting. Let us know if you want one of these free water-saving items.

**Project Start.** The Groundbreaking Ceremony for Laddie Place Phase III (see March-April 2013 newsletter) will take place on Wednesday, May 29th, 10 am, at the project site, Fredericksburg Road & Gardina Street.

## WLCA Birthdays

*May: flower - lily of the valley; birthstone - emerald*

Marty Barton-Rivera, Bezaleel Chincanchan, Sylvia Garza, Juan Peña, Daniel Ramirez, Toya Schafer, Mary Wright

*June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl*

Chris Alderete, Bert Clayton, John Dauer, Linda Felan, Ramon Flores, Trey Martinez Fischer, Fernando Fuentes, Anna Laura Garza, Miguel Gomez, Eugene Herrera Jr., Rosa Juarez, Kathy Grayshon, Oscar Morales, Sheldon Levine, Juliana Perez, Mary Pieper, Alice Pieper, Elia Reyna, Brian Ramirez, Kathleen Trenchard, Arthur Rodriguez, Javier Salazar, Gracie Villarreal

## TRAIL, TITLE, & T-SHIRTS

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

The City Bond passed a year ago allots \$1 million for Woodlawn Lake Park improvements. We will be deciding what these should be. One need is for a better, longer lasting foot path. Those of us who run on this trail do not want to have it replaced with concrete. Although more durable than asphalt, it is hard on the feet and joints. Asphalt could be made more stable and attractive. Drainage around the trail should be improved to prevent puddles and mud during a rain. More pavement should not be added to our Park, whether for parking or bicycling or any other purpose. Green space is an amenity too valuable to lose.

There are new banners hanging on street posts around our Park. They state, "Woodlawn Lake Park; deep in the heart of District 7." The showcasing of the Park is a nice touch. However, the Park is not deep in the heart of the district. It is the geographic center of Bexar County. There is even a landmark pointing it out by the Community Wi-Fi Room at the gym. The heart, or middle of District 7 is the City of Leon Valley. The Park is more the gateway to the district. But why even focus on District 7? Too often downtown makes decisions for our community without checking with the people who live here. That's how we end up with historic district signs with incorrect block numbers, improper private memorials, and now a misleading title.

Before Earth Day (page 4), I objected to the giving of t-shirts at our local event. So, what is wrong with t-shirts? They are given out at political campaigns, fun runs, reunions, and other special events. That's the problem. We have drawers full of these memorial garments which we do not wear. Following this practice for an Earth Day event contradicts the message of the day.

Earth Day is about making a long-term commitment to change habits in favor of helping our planet. Worthwhile goals in this pursuit are to conserve energy and water. Cotton is a thirsty crop. It takes over 700 gallons of water to produce one cotton t-shirt. That's about 900 days of drinking water for one person. It also takes a lot of energy to get the cotton from the field to the factory to your closet. Cotton commands 16 percent of the insecticides used each year, more than for any other single agricultural product (there are organic alternatives). Africa and Asia grow much of the world's cotton for export, using much of their farmland that could be used to raise food for local populations.

I am not condemning cotton. It is cool and comfortable and is preferable to synthetic fabrics which come from a petrochemical source. The problem is over-consumption and waste of resources. How many t-shirts does one person need? If you wear them, that's great. But they should not be handed out as mementos of a special day, to be relegated to the closet never to be seen again. It is not good for the earth so it should not be done, especially on Earth Day. I visit thrift stores and find many of these special day t-shirts. If you need a t-shirt for working or working out, buy it used. It beats growing a new one from seed.

# JULY 4th CELEBRATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE PARK

The City of San Antonio's 4th of July celebration returns to Woodlawn Lake Park in 2013. Families are invited to celebrate the nation's Independence Day at the Park with a fun-filled day featuring games, food, musical entertainment, and an explosion of fireworks over the Lake. The event is sponsored by the San Antonio Parks Foundation in cooperation with the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The day begins with the Salute to the Red, White, and Blue Children's Parade. Pre-parade activities are at 10 am at the gym and the parade begins at 11:00 am. Opening ceremonies will take place at noon on stage at the west end of the Park. There will be live music by local talent throughout the day. More than 20 vendors will be offering food and beverages. Rio San Antonio Cruises Kids' Zone will have carnival rides and games for the children.

The U.S. Air Force Band of the West will take the stage at 7:30 pm. At 9 pm the crowd at the Park and the surrounding area residents will be treated to the Fireworks Extravaganza, sponsored by H-E-B. Along with H-E-B, corporate sponsors of the event are Rio San Antonio Cruises, and News 4 WOAI.

## AREA WESTSIDE CREEK PROJECTS

On May 6th, the Terra Design Group presented its plans for trail improvements along the Alazán and Martinez Creeks. The proposed projects would be beginning steps on the Westside Creeks Restoration Project. This is a community-based planning effort initiated in 2008 by the San Antonio River Authority to develop concepts for restoring the environmental condition of the Alazán, Apache, Martinez, and San Pedro Creeks, maintain the current flood control components of these creeks, and provide increased opportunities for people to enjoy these urban creeks.

The Alazán Creek begins at the outlet of Woodlawn Lake Park and continues south past Guadalupe Street until it merges with the Apache Creek, a distance of 3.63 miles. The first phase of this creek way work will be from the Park to Lombrano Avenue, about one-half mile. The Martinez Creek begins west of Blanco Road and Fulton Avenue and flows south until it merges with the Alazán Creek, a distance of 2.81 miles. Its first phase will be from Fredericksburg Road to Cincinnati Avenue, also about one-half mile. The improvements will be for trails only, with landscape and channel upgrades to come later. The work is projected to begin next year.

There will be a follow-up meeting on these projects in August or September of this year. We will let you know of the date.

**Next WLCA Meeting: May 28th, 7:00 pm**  
**Peacock Center, 2810 W Ashby, Bldg 2**

*Other meetings in 2013: Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sept 24,  
Oct 29, Nov 26, Dec (Christmas Party to be set)*

## Plan Ahead for Enjoyable Day

We who reside around Woodlawn Lake Park are familiar with the traffic build-up in our area every July 4th. Please suggest to your guests that they arrive early so to avoid the crowds. VIA buses will be running on Sunday schedule. There are bus lines on Zarzamora (520), Woodlawn (90), Wilson (89 & 522), and Culebra (82 & 88). We are hoping that Park visitors take the bus, ride a bicycle, or walk, rather than drive. If they do drive, we ask that they cooperate with the police officers directing traffic and observe parking regulations.

Those picnicking at the Park should carry bags for their trash. On busy days, the Park's trash cans fill up fast and a lot of debris ends up on the ground and in the water. Also, there are no receptacles for ashes, so visitors who plan to grill or barbeque should bring foil or other material for disposing of their spent charcoal. There are blue receptacles for recycling empty cans and uncapped bottles. These receptacles should be used only for this purpose. Visitors should carry a bag for their other recyclable items to take home for later curbside collection. Overnight camping is not allowed for the 4th. Both alcohol and glass containers are prohibited at City parks. Please report any abuses that you see to on-site Park Police or to 311 or 911 (emergency).

Remember your pets. If at the Park, they must be on a leash. Whether at home or at the Park, pets may be uneasy with fireworks noise. Shield them indoors or away from the action.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

The 24th Annual Neighborhood Conference will take place on Saturday, June 8th, from 8 am to 1:30 pm, at the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, 227 W. Woodlawn Avenue. It is presented by The Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), an independent non-profit organization that provides training and resources to community groups so that they can better represent and develop their neighborhoods. The event is free but a \$15 donation is suggested. You can RSVP at [nrcsa@swbell.net](mailto:nrcsa@swbell.net) or at 735-0586. An RSVP will reserve a lunch ticket.

The theme for the conference is "Strength from Within - Making Our Neighborhoods Safe." This year the NRC is dedicating the conference to safety in the neighborhood. It is offering a variety of speakers and resources to help in this regard. Topics will include Legal Issues, Code Compliance, Water Conservation, and Board Training. SA Police Chief Bill McManus and Bexar County Sheriff Deputy Chief Joe Hamilton will lead a neighborhood safety panel. Safety roundtables will focus on crime prevention from National Night Out, SAFFE Officers, Citizens on Patrol, Neighborhood Watch, and Volunteer Policing. Former State Senator Jeff Wentworth will speak on Texas Castle Doctrine Law. Free shredding will be offered from 7:30 to 11 am.

## **Woodlawn Lake Community Association**

P.O. Box 28374  
San Antonio TX 78228



### **44 NEW WLCA MEMBERS**

WLCA welcomes 41 new members and the return of 3 prior members for 2013. Our membership drive began October 1st of last year and ended with our Spring Drive. We have lost a few of our 2012 members who have not renewed. The net result is that we have dropped below our paid membership goal of 200 members. We do continue to receive dues from late payers.

The membership drive included publishing a special Spring Membership Drive edition of our newsletter and distributing it to 3,200 homes in the WLCA area. We thank the members who took the time and energy to go door-to-door passing out this flyer: Fred & Sylvia Ayers, Gerard Bustos, Daniel Ramirez, Alejandro & Ester Soto, Cathy Fernandez, Mary Wright, Bert Clayton, Norma Gonzales, Ashley Hernandez & siblings, Marcy Gutierrez, Javier & Cristina Salazar, Ed & Anna Laura Garza, Norma Hernandez, and Vivian Olmos.

Many residents are not aware that they have a neighborhood association to which they can belong. Many are not aware of our long history, list of accomplishments, and current goals. By letting area residents know about us, we are able to expand our membership by adding neighbors who share our concerns about this community. If you have a new neighbor or know someone interested in WLCA, pick up some membership information or invite him or her to one of our meetings.

### **EARTH DAY 2013 PASS**

This year WLCA did not participate in San Antonio's Earth Day observance at Woodlawn Lake Park. We were unable to resolve the disputes described in our March-April 2013 newsletter, so we chose to sit out the event. At our March WLCA meeting, we were offered the leadership of next year's event. We gave notice to the Earth Day participants that we, with other neighborhood groups, would run Earth Day 2014. At our April meeting, the leadership offer was rescinded. We would like to see our annual event return to community input, with emphasis on environmental education, healthy living, and commitment to helping our planet and its inhabitants. If we can play a role in this effort, either by leading or contributing, we will be back.

### **NO SMOKING AT PARKS**

We want to make City parks smoke free. If you agree, please sign our petition and help circulate it. The petition reads: "Secondhand smoke is unhealthy and discomforting to the public both indoors and outdoors; cigarette litter is a costly and unhealthy nuisance; and tobacco smoking in public places presents an unhealthy model to children. City parks and park visitors would benefit from the absence of tobacco smoking. We ask the San Antonio City Council to ban smoking at all San Antonio parks and to make our public spaces smoke-free."