

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

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San Antonio, Texas

D7 COUNCILMAN MEDINA TO ADDRESS WLCA ON MAY 27th

District 7 City Councilman Cris Medina will address our members on May 27th. We invited the councilman to our monthly meeting after many of our members expressed concern about a lack of communication and responsiveness on the part of the District 7 office. Members talked about incidents reported to the office that were not acted on, calls that had not been returned, appointments that had not been made or met, and member activities that had been overlooked. On March 13th, Medina said that he will bring a 90-day assessment of issues worked on by his staff in the area. He also said "I am sure that we can restore any lack of communication that may have occurred."

Medina is in his second term on City Council. He was elected in June 2011 and re-elected in 2013. Prior to serving on City Council, he was on the staff of Councilman Justin Rodriguez and was WLCA's main point-of-contact with that office. This meeting will be our members' opportunity to hear how the Councilman is representing our community and to let him know what we expect as his constituents.

Game 4 of the Spurs-Thunder Series is on May 27th at OKC. Our meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 pm and end an hour later to allow members to be home in time for the TV coverage.

HUISACHE RE-DO TO BEGIN

Reconstruction of W. Huisache from Zarzamora to Kampmann will start on June 9th, with estimated completion in April 2015. Funded by the 2012-2017 City Bond, this project will also include installation of curbs, sidewalks, driveway approaches, and wheelchair ramps. The City's Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) Department will coordinate the project. Residents are advised to be aware of equipment and personnel that will be working in the area and to expect some inconvenience from time to time, especially during periods of wet weather.

A "Pre-Construction" meeting to discuss details of the project will take place on Monday, June 2nd, from 6 to 7 pm, at the Young Women's Leadership Academy, 2123 W. Huisache. Those living in and near the project area are urged to attend.

COUNTY JUDGE WOLFF TALKS COUNTY BUSINESS JUNE 24th

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff will be the featured speaker at our June 24th WLCA meeting. We have asked Judge Wolff to tell us about the role of Commissioners Court, the functions of the County, and current County issues.

The Commissioners Court is the governing body of Bexar County. It is comprised of the County Judge, who is the presiding officer of the Court, and four Commissioners, each representing a quarter of the County's population. The County Judge is also the spokesperson and ceremonial head of County government. The Court is responsible for budgetary decisions, tax and revenue decisions, and all personnel decisions except for certain positions which are either elected or appointed by the judiciary or other committees.

Judge Wolff was appointed to his current position in 2001 and has been elected and re-elected three times since. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1971 and to the State Senate in 1973. He represented District 8 on San Antonio's City Council from 1987 to 1991, and was mayor from 1991 to 1995. As Mayor, he led the effort to pass the largest parks bond in City history. This 1994 measure resulted in many major improvements to Woodlawn Lake Park.

Nelson Wolff is a graduate of St. Mary's University and St. Mary's School of Law. With his father and brothers, he was involved with several businesses, including Sun Harvest grocery stores, now Sprouts Farmers Market. He is only the second person in more than a century to serve both as San Antonio Mayor and Bexar County Judge (Brian Callaghan Jr. was elected Mayor in 1885 and County Judge in 1892).

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The three new bridges over the Seeling Channel (W. Woodlawn, S. Josephine Tobin, & pedestrian) will open before July 4th.

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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.....421-4894
Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296
Fred Ayers.....737-1228

WLCA's CLASS OF 2014

WLCA members and families are among this year's graduates. We congratulate each of them and wish them a bright future.

Board Member Ashley Ann Hernandez, daughter of members JoAnn and Gerald Hernandez, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science, with a Minor in Biology, from St. Mary's University. She will be starting her career path by choosing one of several job offers.

Brittany Marie Reyna, daughter of Board Member Mary Lou and Richard Reyna, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences, with a Minor in Art and Chemistry, from Texas A&M University - Kingsville.

Diego Fresquez (son of Juan and Carlamarina), grandson of WLCA members Luciana and Francesco Cristadoro, graduated from Incarnate Word University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts with emphasis in Performing Arts. He will next pursue a Masters degree. The proud grandparents say that Diego has a beautiful voice as a tenor.

David Anthony Fernandez (son of Oscar and Diane), grandson of WLCA member Elia Reyna, will graduate Salutatorian from St. Anthony's High School. In high school he has maintained "A's" in all his courses, is in the National Honor Society, participated in the Brainpower Connection Program, and took college level classes at the University of the Incarnate Word. He has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship to UIW.

WLCA Birthdays

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

Amy Bailey, Bezaleel Chincanchan, Sylvia Garza, Alberto Herrera, Rod Logsdon, Daniel Ramirez, Rosario Rodriguez, Marty Barton-Rivera

June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl

Juan Alvarado Jr, Chris Alderete, Bert Clayton, Linda Felan, Trey Martinez Fischer, Miguel Gomez, Concepcion Gonzalez, Kathy Grayshon, Eugene Herrera Jr., Oscar Morales, Sheldon Levine, Alice Pieper, Mary Pieper, David Ponce, Elia Reyna, Brian Ramirez, Callie Ramos, Arthur Rodriguez, Johnny Shih, Kathleen Trenchard

ENTITY, EVENT, EMAIL

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

We welcome several new members to WLCA (page 4). As in previous years, too many members did not renew. Some members moved out of our area, and sadly some members have passed away. Others, however, choose not to stay on as members. We wonder if there is a loss of interest or a disagreement with a WLCA policy or program. We can discuss any issue or misunderstanding at any of our meetings. WLCA often takes the lead in advocating for or against changes. Our meetings generate a good amount of discussion on several community and Park issues. We respect all viewpoints but go with what the majority desires. We hope that this will encourage, rather than discourage, membership.

WLCA was back at the Park for Earth Day after sitting out last year's event (page 4). We offered more at our booth than before, with student projects and our ban park smoking petition. Yet the rest of the event seemed like a rerun of past years. People lined up for free trees; information booths gave various handouts; vegetarian food vendors prepared their fares; and the line dancers went back on stage. Last year WLCA volunteered to take over the local event with a thought of improving its content. One consideration was to offer more in terms of environmental education. Instead of stage entertainment, we would have a big tent classroom, where different topics could be addressed, as gardening, composting, non-toxic household products, rain barrels, and so on. Exhibitors and vendors would remain, but more demonstrations and hands-on learning would be offered. We hope that the community has a greater voice in future events so that our Earth Days get better each year.

If you received this newsletter in your mailbox, we do not have an email address for you. Email saves us money on printing and postage, and cuts down on paper usage. By having your email address, we send you updates between meetings and newsletters. Also, we can send the newsletter to more than one address. Send your current email address (or addresses) to wlca@att.net. If you do not have email, we will continue to send you our newsletter through the US mail.

WLCA does not give out any of the personal information we have on our members. Emails sent to more than one person are blind copied so that the addresses remain hidden. We do not give our mailing or telephone lists to any party, regardless of their cause or purpose. Each month members receive meeting reminders by email. Those who have no email receive a telephone call from one of our board members. If you do not receive meeting reminders, please let us know. We might not have a current email address or telephone number for you.

You can find past Newsletters and the WLCA By-Laws and Finance Rules at neighborhoodlink.com/Woodlawn_Lake. You can get the latest WLCA news and information at facebook.com/pages/Woodlawn-Lake-Community-Association.

JULY 4th CELEBRATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE PARK

The City of San Antonio's 4th of July celebration returns to Woodlawn Lake Park in 2014. 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 10:30 am at the gym and the parade begins at 11:30 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. Shortly after 9 pm the crowd at the Park and the surrounding area residents will be treated to the Fireworks Extravaganza, sponsored by H-E-B.

BATTLE OF ALAZÁN CREEK

June 20th marks the 201st anniversary of the Battle of Alazán Creek. This battle during the Mexican War of Independence took place in the area between our community and downtown. The combatants were the pro-independence Republican Army of the North (RAN) and the Spanish Royalist Army (SRA). At one time there was a State Historical Marker at the old Centeno Grocery administration building at 1500 W. Commerce. But the battle may have taken place further upstream around Martin Street, or even near the current casting pond at Woodlawn Lake.

The RAN was led by Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara and Major Henry Perry. Under a green flag, it was comprised of Criollos, Mestizos, Anglo-Americans, and Indians. In 1812, the RAN entered Texas from Louisiana and captured the town of Nacogdoches and the Presidio of Bahia in Goliad. The SRA confronted them but had to retreat to San Antonio with the RAN in pursuit. In March 1813, the SRA ambushed the RAN along Rosillo (Salado) Creek, but were defeated. A truce was signed, and on April 6, 1813, the RAN drafted a declaration of independence, which established the first Republic of Texas.

In June 1813, the SRA under Colonel Ignacio Elizondo, left central Mexico for San Antonio. On June 12th, they camped about 500 yards west of Alazán Creek. Underestimating the insurgents' strength, they failed to take needed precautions and allowed camp-followers, wives, and children to mingle with the troops. On June 20th, the RAN surrounded the camp before sunrise and just after dawn fired their cannons and attacked. After charges and counter-charges in a two-hour battle, the SRA began to give way. The RAN cavalry and their Indian allies mercilessly killed the royalists. Only those on fleet horses were able to escape. The victory was short-lived as the Spaniards defeated the RAN near the Medina River on August 13, 1813.

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 25th Annual Neighborhood Conference will take place on Saturday, June 7th, from 8 am to 1 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. To sign up for lunch and the workshops, you can RSVP at nrcsa@swbell.net or at 735-0586.

This year the NRC is "Celebrating 25 Years of Community Leadership." It is presenting a look back, a look at the future, and where we are today in our San Antonio and Bexar County neighborhoods. A variety of speakers and resources will help in this regard. Topics will include Legal Issues, Code Compliance, Traffic & Pedestrians, and Working With the City. Free shredding will be offered in the parking lot starting at 7:30 am.

Next WLCA Meeting: May 27th, 6:30 pm
Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg

Other meetings in 2014: Jun 24, Jul 29, Aug 26, Sept 30,
Oct 28, Nov 25 (tentative), Dec (Christmas Party to be set)

Woodlawn Lake Community Association

P.O. Box 28374
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38 NEW WLCA MEMBERS

WLCA welcomes 38 new members for 2014. We also have the return of 24 prior members who were not on our rolls last year. Our membership drive ended on Earth Day. We lost a few of our 2013 members who did not renew, but gained in total paid members. We are 12 below our goal of 200 members, last achieved in 2012, but are still receiving 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, Bert Clayton, Bertha Diaz, Ashley Hernandez & siblings, Marcy Gutierrez, Mary Ann Contreras, Richard & Mary Lou Reyna, Grace Rosales, Alejandro & Ester Soto, and Rebecca Vecera. Because we did not get enough volunteers to cover our entire geographic area, WLCA hired a helper to distribute about one-third of the newsletters.

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. Please help spread the word about WLCA to a new neighbor or to anyone else interested in our part of the City.

EARTH DAY SA 2014

WLCA returned to San Antonio's Earth Day observance at Woodlawn Lake Park. Our booth served three purposes. Marcy Gutierrez, TJHS Art Department Chair and WLCA Board Member, and eight of her National Art Honor Society students, created bird feeders, planters, and jewelry from recycled materials, which were demonstrated and given to visitors. Three of these participants were "rewarded" by winning bicycles in the event drawings. WLCA President Alejandro Soto and Board Member Cathy Fernandez spoke to visitors about WLCA and signed up new and returning members. They were also able to collect 200 signatures on WLCA's petition to ban smoking in City parks.

We thank Marcy and her students for promoting the environmental messages to reuse-recycle and to care for animal and plant life. We hope to continue to partner with the younger people of our community in future Earth Days and in other area activities. We also thank Alex and Cathy for devoting their day to promoting WLCA and our ban smoking petition. We are looking ahead to next year's event and welcome suggestions on how to increase WLCA participation and impact.

CONDOLENCES

WLCA extends our deepest sympathy to members Lucy and Bill Phalen whose son Norbert passed away on April 14th at the age of 52, and to the family of member Juan G. Peña who passed away on May 13th at the age of 83.