

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

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San Antonio, Texas

VIA's CHARLES GONZALEZ GIVES UPDATES ON SEPT 30th

Charles Gonzalez, VIA Chief of Public Engagement, will be the featured speaker at our September 30th meeting. He will be assisted by Jerri Ann Jones with VIA Community Relations. VIA has been very much in the news lately, particularly because of the derailment of plans for a city streetcar system. We have asked for some thoughts on the future of streetcars and light rail for VIA, alternate transit improvements from former streetcar funds, impact on state and federal monies that had been allocated for the rail project, and general people-moving plans in the works by VIA.

VIA is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors. It was approved by voters in November 1977. It currently serves over 1200 square miles, or roughly 98% of Bexar County, including San Antonio and seven other incorporated municipalities. VIA is funded by a one-half cent sales tax, set in the 1977 vote, and also receives one-half of a one-fourth cent sales tax from the Advanced Transportation District approved by voters in 2004. VIA recently completed SmartWaySA, a community driven study to develop a long range comprehensive transportation plan for Bexar County up to the year 2035.

Gonzalez was born in San Antonio and graduated from Edison High School. He received his bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969 and his juris doctor degree from St. Mary's University Law School in 1972. He served as a municipal court judge, then was elected as a judge in county and then district court. He was elected to the US House of Representatives, 20th Congressional District, in 1998, succeeding his father, Henry B. Gonzalez, who had represented the district since 1961. He was re-elected six times and in 2012 decided to retire and not seek another term. He began his work with VIA in 2013.

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCT 7th WLCA Hosts Community Event

WLCA will host a National Night Out (NNO) community event on Tuesday, October 7th, from 6 to 9 pm. It will be on N. Josephine Tobin Drive and street median between W. Woodlawn and W. Mistletoe (behind the monument). Members are urged to attend and to invite their neighbors to the first WLCA event of this kind. Membership is not a requirement. We thank Ashley Hernandez for organizing the event.

NNO is an annual nation-wide observance designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and community police partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are united and fighting back. Neighbors and neighborhood associations organize block and community parties as a way of getting to know fellow neighbors and promoting safety.

WLCA will provide drinks and grilled foods. Persons attending are asked to bring side dishes or snacks that can be shared with about six people (no plug-ins please). There will be a donation table for the Texas Diaper Bank to collect baby items, as wipes, diapers, formula, clothes, toys, etc. We will have music, visiting dignitaries, and crime safety information. Bring a lawn chair or walk around and meet your neighbors.

NEW SAFETY FEATURES - MORE NEEDED

A new all-way stop has been added at W. Ashby and S. Josephine Tobin, by the entrance to the Park Island House parking lot. Speed limits on the southern perimeter of the Park have been reduced to 25 mph. Last year an all-way stop was added at S. Josephine Tobin and Cincinnati. These are safety features that WLCA has been asking for. We ask drivers to abide by the new rules and SAPD to strictly enforce them.

We are also hoping for a lower speed limit on W. Woodlawn between Lake Blvd and Wilson, an all-way stop or traffic circle at W. Woodlawn and Lake Blvd, a no-parking zone on the bridge over the Lake spillway, and an all-way stop at Lake Blvd and W. Mulberry by the Young Women's Leadership Academy.

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....	485-6168
wlca@att.net	
Vice President: Gerard Bustos.....	279-8729
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

OFFICER & BOARD NOMINATIONS

Election for WLCA's Executive Board to serve in 2015 and 2016 will be at our December 2nd meeting (page 3). The Executive Board includes the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as four board members (above). Nominations will open at our October 28th meeting and will continue at the following meeting before the election. A candidate can be self-nominated or nominated by another member.

There are no term limits. Eligibility for office and duties of each office are set by our by-laws (page 3). Eligibility to vote is also defined by the by-laws and will not change for any current member this year. Only those present at the meeting can vote. Each member is entitled to one vote with family/household memberships being entitled to two votes of the group's choosing.

WLCA seeks officers and board members who will represent the total geographic area of our community as well as the varied interests within it. Tasks are not arduous nor time consuming and can be very rewarding. Members are encouraged to consider serving WLCA in one of these capacities. The new Executive Board will take office on January 1, 2015.

WLCA Birthdays

September: flower - aster; birthstone - sapphire

Francesco Cristadoro, Amelia De La Garza, Frances Estrello, Evangelina Escamilla, Rodolfo Flores, David Garcia, Kat Gollando, Harvey Guerra, Olivia Guerra, Tanya Howell, Andres Perez, Joseph Rivera, Diane Serda, Kay Shaw, David Valdez, Vicki Wright

October: flower - calendula; birthstone - opal

Sylvia Ayers, Jerry Bailey, Mary Ann Black, Cathy Fernandez, Christie Fryatt, Ricardo Garza, Deborah Gussman, Joe Hanney, Gloria Gutierrez, Ashley Hernandez, Ana Mercedes Herrera, Rose Perales, Lucy Phalen, Berma Prado, Norma Rodriguez, Marcos Serda, Diane Torre, Anita Valencia, Bobbie Walker, Laura Wauson

TRACKS, TRENCH, TURNABOUT

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

At our next meeting we will hear about VIA's plans and programs for advancing public transportation in Bexar County (page 1). Plans for a streetcar system were recently dropped or set back substantially. In 2000, voters turned down a plan for a light rail system. The City is expected to add one million new residents in the next 25 years. In view of these developments, how does VIA plan to promote systems that will ease traffic crowding, lessen the need for added paving of our landscape, and ease the effects of fossil fuel pollution?

In June 2009 State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer named me as his representative on VIA's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). The CAC was kept up to date on VIA projects, including bus rapid transit, transit centers, park-n-rides, and, yes, the streetcar. All of these projects were well planned and presented to the public for review and comment. Growing up in Los Angeles in the 1950's I recall streetcars being replaced by buses and the public tuning out rail commuting in favor of personal cars. Fifty years later the streetcars are back, light rail parallels the freeways, and MetroLink carries commuters into the city on former railroad tracks. This is happening in other major cities as well. Is San Antonio making the right plans for its future, are our choices best for attracting commerce and maintaining our quality of life? This should make for an interesting discussion.

The Seeling Channel project at the Park should be completed by next February. The work I call "the big dig" began in December 2012. Those near the project area have endured the constant noise of machinery, sump pumps, and heavy duty trucks. There have been other, un-reported effects. As a jogger at the Park, I found it more difficult to breathe. Others told me that they were having the same experience. A possible cause is the years of contaminant runoff soaking into the the channel bed, including yard fertilizers and pesticides, car grease and oil, animal waste, and plant decay. The big dig suddenly released these pollutants into our air. There were reports of rats and other vermin, having lost their homes in the thickets along the channel, turning up in our yards and homes. We are now seeing graffiti on the new channel concrete walls. We hope the Lake and channel can be kept clean and attractive as well as environmentally safe.

In our January-February 2013 newsletter, I said that this would be my final term as WLCA president. Yet, there is still much unfinished business. I would like to see the creation of a native plants garden at the Park. I would also like to see orderly commercial development in our area. I would like to prevent another incident of politics trumping community concerns, as we recently saw at our Park. I have thus decided to seek another term. If someone else is interested in the job who will put the interests of our community first, I will be glad to step aside.

TIME TO REVISE BY-LAWS

At our meeting of August 26th, members approved the amendments to our by-laws proposed in our July-August 2014 newsletter. Our current by-laws were adopted in 2006. They were based on prior by-laws, with revisions to meet current needs and practices. They have since been amended three times.

We are now proposing a revision of the by-laws by cleaning up language and incorporating changes intended and brought about by the amendments. The major change would pertain to membership of individuals within and outside of WLCA's geographic boundaries. The amendments of 2011 and 2014 were intended to keep control of WLCA within its geographic boundaries. Unlike most other neighborhood associations in the City, WLCA has extended full membership privileges to individuals outside of our boundaries. We now propose changing this practice and being in line with Jefferson, Monticello Park, and other area neighborhood associations.

Only Active members, those residing within WLCA boundaries, would be able to hold elected office. Associate members would be able to vote but not hold elected office. This includes those owning land or doing business, but not residing, within the boundaries, plus area schools and non-profits, renters and leasees, and those under the age of eighteen. Ancillary members, those outside of our boundaries, would not be able to vote nor hold elected office. We could thus delete the 2011 amendment to Article IV and the recently passed amendment to Article I.

Other parts of the by-laws concerning voting and holding office would be modified to reflect these changes. Article VI would also increase the time of membership required for seeking elected office from October 1st to May 1st, and for voting in WLCA elections from November 1st to September 1st. This would avoid last minute memberships solely for the purpose of wresting control of the Association. The 2009 amendment to Article V that set up the position of board member emeritus would be deleted as no member is in fact now eligible for it.

The proposed revised by-laws are available on line at neighborhood.com/Woodlawn_Lake and can be sent by e or regular mail. They will be presented at the September meeting and will be voted on at the October meeting. If passed, they will become effective immediately. Current members will retain privileges now enjoyed until the end of their 2014 membership.

NOVEMBER MEETING RESET

The WLCA November meeting will be in December. Rather than meet during Thanksgiving week, which results in low attendance, we will move the meeting one week, to December 2nd. At this meeting we will elect officers and board members for the next two years. We will also plan any WLCA holiday party or other activities.

A TEMPORARY EASTERN REACH

The residents of the area immediately to the east of WLCA, from Zarzamora to Fredericksburg Road between W. Woodlawn and Culebra, currently are part of no neighborhood association. We have worked with some of these residents in the past in dealing with problems in their neighborhood. We have recently been approached by St. Ann's Parish to become involved with WLCA.

We are proposing a temporary expansion of WLCA's boundaries to take in this area. The aim is to organize the area until such time as it is able to form an independent neighborhood association. These residents would join WLCA as Associate members. The Executive Board would designate one member from the area to serve as an additional board member. These provisos are included in the proposed revised by-laws (left column).

HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR

The City's Office of Historic Preservation is sponsoring the Sixth Annual Historic Homeowner Fair. It will be on Saturday, September 27th, 9:30 am to 3 pm, at the Pearl Full Goods Studio & Breezeway (200 E. Grayson). Want to learn more about caring for your historic home? Have questions about researching the history of your house? Need information on historic wood windows? These topics and more will be covered at this year's Fair. This free public event is perfect for owners of historic homes and those interested in learning about historic preservation and rehabilitation. Activities include educational sessions, hands-on demonstrations, an Exhibitor Hall with services and projects for historic homeowners, and much more.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS AT THE PARK

Planet K invites you and your families to join them in the celebration of remembering the lives of loved ones passed, at its 7th annual Día De Los Muertos Fireworks Celebration. It takes place at Woodlawn Lake Park on Sunday, November 2nd, from 3 to 9 pm, and includes numerous craft vendors, food vendors, face painting, live painting, ice carving, vintage car show, and a balloon memorial release. A beautiful display of fireworks at 8:15 pm ends the event. All proceeds from vendors and sponsors directly benefit four local charities; San Antonio AIDS Foundation, the Little Church of La Villita, Bexar Area Harm Reduction Coalition, and House the Homeless. **At the event, Thomas Jefferson National Art Honor Society members will coordinate with WLCA in a spectacular arts and craft sale. All items are made by hand and are unique.**

Next WLCA Meeting: Sept 30 at 6:30 pm

Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg

Other meetings in 2014: Oct 28, Nov meeting is Dec 2, Christmas Party date to be set

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**
PO Box 28374
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SAPD CHIEF MCMANUS AT WLCA MEETING ON OCT 28th

William McManus, San Antonio Chief of Police, will address WLCA members on October 28th. He first spoke to us at our meeting on September 26, 2006, when he had completed a half-year as head of our police department. He has now announced that he will retire at the end of this year. He will then become senior director of security with CPS Energy.

Chief McManus began his law enforcement career with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department in 1975. In September 1998, he became Assistant Chief and was placed in charge of the day-to-day operations of over one-third of that department. In November 2001, he retired and became Police Chief in Dayton, Ohio. He left Dayton to become Chief of Police in Minneapolis in February 2004. He became our Police Chief on April 17, 2006. At our meeting on September 28, 2010, we asked him how soon would it be before he would leave San Antonio. He said that he planned on staying.

Chief McManus is a graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute and National Academy, and of the Senior Management Institute for Police at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He holds a bachelor's degree from Villanova University and a master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University.

DOWNTOWN SÍCLOVÍA SEPT 28th

Síclovia, San Antonio's largest FREE health & wellness event, returns to Broadway with an extended route! On Sunday, September 28 from 10am to 3pm, Broadway--between Alamo Plaza and Lions Field on Mulberry--will be closed to automobile traffic so that streets become temporarily car-free for families to run, ride bikes, and enjoy. The route will branch out for an additional mile on Nolan St. past Lockwood Park and Dignowity Park, featuring nearby community attractions such as the Hays Street Bridge and the historic Dignowity Hill neighborhood for a total of 3.25 miles of fun.

PARK PET WALK OCT 5th

District 7 Councilwoman Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez will be hosting a Pet Walk at Woodlawn Lake on Sunday, October 5th, from 9 to 10 am. One of the issues that was reflected in the 311 data report was a high number of incidents of aggressive animals and stray animals. We will be walking the park with Animal Care Services (ACS) to bring more attention to this matter. We are also having affordable micro chipping available for your pets courtesy of ACS for \$15.00.

WLCA paid membership for 2014 is now 204.
Thank you supporting our community.