

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

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San Antonio, Texas

TAX ASSESSOR & TEXAS ONE STICKER ON MAR 31st

Beginning this month (March 1st), Texas is transitioning to a new single-sticker system for vehicle inspections and registrations. The "Two Steps, One Sticker" concept is to align inspection and registration sticker expiration dates so that both are due at the same time. This, then, will require only one sticker on a vehicle's windshield. The first year will be the most confusing, as many if not most vehicles do not now have both stickers expiring in the same month.

In the new system, vehicles will need to pass a safety inspection as before. However, the inspection stations will no longer issue a sticker. Instead, they will issue a vehicle inspection report and the vehicle identification number (VIN) will be entered into a statewide data base. The cost of the inspection will not change, but the \$14.50 fee will be split. The inspector will receive \$7 at the time of the service and the State's portion of \$7.50 will be paid when obtaining or renewing the vehicle registration.

The Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector, Albert Uresti, will be at our March 31st meeting to explain this new system. That office is the County's official agent of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Uresti explains that it is his office's responsibility to ensure that the driving public is aware of the change and how it will affect them.

Mr. Uresti was elected to his current position in November 2012. He is a native of San Antonio, received his Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Education from Texas State University and Master's Degree in Public Administration from UTSA. While pursuing this education, he was a member of the San Antonio Fire Department where he rose to the rank of District Fire Chief. He has served as the City Manager and Chief Executive Officer for various cities.

The County Tax Assessor-Collector is one of two constitutionally mandated county-wide elected positions. They serve four year terms and are elected by and are directly responsible to the people. The State Constitution of 1845 originally set up an elective office of Assessor and Collector of Taxes. Changes over the last 170 years have led to the responsibilities of today's position.

AQUIFER PROTECTION & LINEAR CREEKWAYS APR 28th

Propositions 1 and 2 on the May 9th City ballot will be the subject of our April 28th meeting. Proposition 1 is the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. It funds the acquisition of property for a conservation easement or open-space preservation program and the development of a recharge, recharge area, or recharge feature protection program intended to protect water in the Edwards Aquifer. Proposition 2 is the Linear Creekway Parks Program. It funds the acquisition of open space and development of linear parks along San Antonio's creekways, including the Westside Creeks, as well as improvements to the Municipal Parks and Recreation System. These measures authorize the collection of a 1/8 sales tax to fund the programs. Both were first approved by the voters in 2000 and were renewed in 2005 and 2010. Voters are being asked to continue the programs for another five years.

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) will present these programs and seek support for the propositions. Former councilwoman Bonnie Connor will speak for EAPP at our meeting. She represented District 8 on City Council from 1999 to 2003, where she co-authored the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance. She also formed Friends of Medina River, served on the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors from 2004 to 2008, and was active in several other environmental and recreational causes and organizations.

The EAPP protects the quality and quantity of the water recharging into the Edwards Aquifer through the conservation of land over its sensitive recharge and contributing zones. Over the last ten years it has funded the purchase of nearly 135,000 acres of land to protect our main source of drinking water, and it has contributed \$110 million towards the 86-mile Linear Creekway Parks Program. WLCA welcomes opposing viewpoints. Any person wishing to speak on this subject is asked to contact the WLCA president before the meeting.

Developments – page 2

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WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168

wlca@att.net

Vice President: Gerard Bustos.....279-8729

Secretary: Ester Soto

Treasurer: Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839

Board Members:

Fred Ayers.....737-1228

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

JoAnn Hernandez.....733-0839

Elia Reyna.....729-7204

THE ELECTION & LOCAL ISSUES

Being an active part of the community, as are many WLCA members, involves us in community and political issues. As citizens, all WLCA members can express their view and preferences on public issues. However, members cannot make it appear that their opinions are those of WLCA if WLCA has not in fact formally taken that position. Thus, a member can speak as an individual and as a resident of our area, but in so speaking cannot represent himself or herself as a member or leader of our Association. This includes using such inferences that would lead an outsider to construe the personal view to be that of WLCA and its members.

POOL EARLY SWIM SEASON

The Woodlawn Lake Swimming Pool is one of four regional pools that has an early swim season. It will open beginning May 2nd through June 11th. On Tuesdays through Thursdays, it will have lap swim from 7:30 to 9:30 am and open swim from 4 to 7 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays, it will have open swim from 1 to 7 pm. During Memorial Day weekend, from Saturday, May 23rd, to Monday, May 25th, it will have open swim from 1 to 7 pm. The regular outdoor pool season is from June 13th to August 16th. Admission is free.

WLCA Birthdays

March: flower - jonquil; birthstone - aquamarine

Olivia Arriaga, Matthew Boerger, Mark Cooper, Bertha Diaz, David Paul Garcia, Cynthia Gomez, Gilbert Gonzales, Gary Hernandez, Richard Holgin, Vivian Olmos, Larry Pearson, William Phalen, Yolanda Santos, Philip Schuback, Tim Tucker, Deborah Vasquez, Derek Wauson

April: flower - sweet pea; birthstone - diamond

Alice Almaraz, Jeanna Balreira, Rachel Baugh, Jesse Galvan, Ines Benavides, Joseph Cooper, Humberto Guerra, Gerald Hernandez, Jeri Ann Hernandez, Kelsey Hernandez, Isabel Herrera, Mary Lou Reyna, Jose Rodriguez Sr, Ronald Shaffer

CELLS, CHANNEL, CHISME

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

The City enacted a "Hands-Free" Ordinance that became effective January 1st. After passage but before the effective date WOAI 4 News caught four Council members using hand-held cellphones while driving. One Councilman said that "old habits are hard to break." Sadly, this should not have been a habit for anyone. Public officials should lead by example. It has always been dangerous to use a cellphone while driving. It should not take a law to cause any safe driver to put the phone down.

One of these Council members then proudly showed up with a bluetooth in his ear. Yes, the new City law allows hands-free phones, but these devices are also dangerous while driving. In a study funded by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, University of Utah researchers concluded that "simply put, hands-free does not mean risk-free." A 2013 study at Touro University (CA) found that impairment between drunk drivers and hands-free cellphone users was roughly equivalent. Engaging in any phone conversation while driving slows reaction time and increases levels of distraction. Because use of a hands-free phone while driving is not banned does not mean that it is wise or safe.

A process that began with the 2007 City bond is about to conclude. That bond allotted \$400,000 for Woodlawn Lake Park projects that would expand the playground and develop a pedestrian bridge. From the start it was unclear how to develop the bridge and it was clear that there were not enough funds for both projects. The same bond package funded a "Midcrest Detention Facility" to control flooding in the Hillcrest neighborhood. That project would include improving the flow of the Seeling Channel from the Hillcrest neighborhood to Woodlawn Lake. In 2009, it was decided that the Seeling Channel improvements begin downstream from the Lake, rather than upstream near Hillcrest and Babcock. About the same time, Councilman Justin Rodriguez was able to secure the funding needed to build two new flood-proof bridges over the widened channel, as well as construct a new playground. After years of arguments among neighbors, road detours, and construction dirt and noise, we are seeing the return of a peaceful and improved park and a safer neighborhood.

Anyone who speaks "San Antonio" knows that "chisme" means gossip. Another rumor has surfaced. At the northeast side of the Park, along French Drive, a road has been cut into the grassy area and a pile of gravel and debris have built up. I have received calls about bleachers, soccer fields, and softball diamonds being placed on the site. This is simply the staging area for the trail reconstruction. Once the work on the trail is completed, the contour of the Park will return. WLCA will keep an eye on the development to insure the proper restoration of a green turf. This chisme can rest alongside of such rumors as that the failure to open the Lake flood gates (there are none) led to the 2002 flood.

This is your LAST NEWSLETTER if you have not renewed your membership (see your email).
Your 2014 membership ends on Earth Day. Please renew now.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2015

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership type: _____ Individual (\$5 per year) _____ Family/Household (\$10 per year)
(please check) _____ School, _____ Non-Profit, or _____ Business (each \$10 per year)

Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association

CLIP OR COPY

If your member information has not changed, send your payment (only) annotated "2015 dues." If it has changed (or if a new member), please send the Form above with your dues to WLCA, P.O. Box 28374, San Antonio TX 78228. You can also bring the Form (if needed) and your dues to our Earth Day booth or our next WLCA meeting.

EARTH DAY SA 2015

At the Park - April 18th

San Antonio's Earth Day 2015 is on Saturday, April 18th, from 9 am to 2 pm, at Woodlawn Lake Park. It will feature environmental information, giveaways, vegetarian food booths, gardening ideas, and music and entertainment for the whole family. Alcohol is never allowed at the Park and smoking is not permitted at the event.

WLCA will again sponsor members of the Thomas Jefferson High School National Art Honor Society. Under the tutelage of TJHS art instructor Marcy Gutierrez, a WLCA board member, the students will be making and giving starter seed pots from recycled materials. They will also be seeking donations for Voice for Animals, which will be situated in an adjoining booth. WLCA will have its petition for smoke-free parks and will be signing up members. We will also be giving reusable grocery bags and low-flow shower heads (handouts left over from our meetings). If you have unused bags that you would like to donate, please bring them to our March meeting or to our Earth Day booth.

We need volunteers to set up our booth and to help out a short spell during the event. If at the event, please stop by, talk to us about WLCA, our Park, and our community.

GRADUATES

If you or a member of your family is graduating or receiving a degree this year, or received the honor in recent months, please let WLCA know. Tell us who it is, your relationship to the person, the accomplishment and where it is being (or was) received, and the honoree's next step (school, job). We will recognize the graduate in our next newsletter.

Next WLCA Meeting:
March 31st at 6:30 pm

Wi-Fi (Community) Room
Woodlawn Lake Park Gym Bldg

Remaining 2015 meetings: Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27, Dec 1, Holiday Party TBA

HELPERS NEEDED

Deliver Membership Drive Newsletters

We will be distributing the annual Spring Membership Drive edition of our newsletter to all of the residents within WLCA's boundaries. Once a year we tell our entire community about WLCA as a way to recruit new members. To save on hundreds of dollars in postage, we hand-deliver the newsletters door-to-door. In past years this effort has been highly successful in bringing people to our Earth Day booth and in signing up new members. We need helpers during the period of April 7th to 16th. Please call or email the WLCA president to volunteer yourself or a group.

In July: Walmart grand opening (tentative); **Park trail** reconstruction completed (by July 4th, weather permitting); **Woodlawn Lake Public Art Project** sculpture, now in fabrication stage, completion deadline - installation to follow.

CONDOLENCES

Mario Valencia died on March 3rd at the age of 84. An avid runner and running advocate, he retired as a Branch Manager in the Logistics Division, Kelly Air Force Base. He and his wife of 59 years, Anita, had been WLCA members for many years.

Irene Gutierrez passed away on January 3rd at the age of 88. Married for 69 years to Antonio Gutierrez, she was the mother of WLCA member Marcy Gutierrez.

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**
PO Box 28374
San Antonio TX 78228



NAME FOR FRED ROAD RSWF

The Laddie III Regional Storm Water Facility (RSWF) has a name. On March 3rd, County Commissioners approved the name Old Spanish Walking Trails and Flood Control Basin. The name commemorates the Old Spanish Trail (OST) of which Fredericksburg Road is a part, recognizes the recreational component of the facility, and emphasizes that the primary purpose of the facility is to alleviate flooding in the area and downstream to Woodlawn Lake. The facility will be completed and dedicated in about two months. It will then be transferred to the City.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Elizondo asked WLCA President Alejandro Soto to form a committee from area communities to recommend a name reflecting the area and the new landmark. Representatives from the Jefferson (JNA), Monticello Park (MPNA), and Los Angeles Heights Neighborhood Associations, as well as WLCA, met and agreed on a name. WLCA members were board members JoAnn Hernandez and Elia Reyna (also JNA vice president), and Bianca Maldonado (MPNA President).

The facility, on the site of the former Northwest Shopping Center, consists of two detention ponds that will be soccer fields when not holding water, and a walking trail above the ponds. The OST is an early 20th century movement to promote a paved highway across the southern U.S., connecting six centers of historic interest from St. Augustine FL to San Diego CA.

District 7 Candidate Forum

Monday April 13th - 7PM - 8:30PM

**Jefferson United Methodist Church
758 Donaldson Ave**

Join us for a San Antonio District 7 Candidate Forum to hear the candidates talk about the future of our community and their priorities. The Candidates will be asked questions* from the audience.

Moderated by The League of Women Voters

Hosted by:

**Jefferson Neighborhood Association
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association
Woodlawn Lake Community Association**

*[*Please try to prepare your questions ahead of time and have them directed at all the candidates.]*

CITY ELECTION

Election Day – May 9

Last Day to Register – April 9

Early Voting – April 27 to May 5

RUN OFF, if needed

Election Day – June 13

Last Day to Register – May 14

Early Voting – June 1 to 9