

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful since 1991

Published Bimonthly

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San Antonio, Texas

SOLID WASTE PRESENTATION AT JAN 26th MEETING

The City's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) will be the featured presenter at our January 26th meeting. Speaking for the department will be Tiffany Edmonds, its Public Relations Manager. We have asked her to tell us about the upcoming changes with out collection containers, more about recycling and bulk collection, and about other SWMD services.

The mission of the department is 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. SWMD proudly serves City of San Antonio Solid Waste customers by providing them with a myriad of programs and services that effectively and efficiently manage municipal solid waste generated within the City of San Antonio.

Programs and services include automated garbage collections, automated single-stream recycling collection, residential brush collection, residential bulky item collection, and dead animal pickup. In addition to providing customers with reliable solid waste collection, SWMD operates drop-off and processing sites for brush, bulky items, and household hazardous waste. SWMD also manages and maintains the city's closed landfills in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

SWMD serves approximately 346,000 households, employs 663 individuals, and had a budget of over \$116 million for the 2015 Fiscal Year. SWMD operates four district centers located around the city, various closed landfills, and administrative offices.

A new service that we will hear about is the opportunity for residents to receive a green organics recycling cart. This is part of the new Pay As You Throw (PAYT) program. The green cart is for the weekly curbside collection of organic material such as leaves, grass, shrub and tree trimmings, food scraps, and food-soiled paper (e.g., used napkins, paper plates, and pizza boxes). Residents will learn of the green cart via a door hanger and be given the opportunity to opt out of the program. The green cart will be collected on the same day as the blue recycling cart.

SAPD CHIEF McMANUS REVISITS WLCA ON FEB 23rd

William McManus, San Antonio Chief of Police, will address WLCA members on February 23rd. He first spoke to us at our meeting in September 2006, when he had completed a half-year as head of our police department. He returned in September 2010. In 2014 he announced that he would retire at the end of the year. He ended his short retirement and returned as our police chief this past October.

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.

The San Antonio Police Department is dedicated to improving the quality of life by creating a safe environment in partnership with the people it serves. It strives to act with integrity to reduce fear and crime while treating all with respect, compassion, and fairness. Its vision is to be the premier law enforcement agency by building trust, creating partnerships, and sharing leadership within the San Antonio Police Department and the community for a safer San Antonio.

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WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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

Secretary: Ester Soto

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

Board Members:

Fred Ayers.....737-1228

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

Elia Reyna.....833-7419

Diana Sanchez Lira.....646-1595

Cathy Fernandez (Eastern Reach).....668-4602

HOLIDAY GIVING

At our December 1st WLCA meeting, we agreed that in lieu of a party for members, we should do something for children who might not otherwise have a good holiday. Through the efforts of one of our members, Dr. Carol Chincanchan, we got the names of two families in need, one with four children and one with eight. We had a wish list for each child. WLCA Secretary Ester Soto and her sister and board member Cathy Fernandez took it on themselves to hit the stores early. They were able to take advantage of holiday sales and came through for each child.

All the gifts were wrapped and were delivered two days before Christmas. At the first home, where a grandmother is taking care of her four grandchildren, ages 6 to 10, all came out to greet us. At the second home, with children from 6 months to 10 years of age, the mother came out while one child looked out from a window. We were not there to see any of the children open gifts, but hope that our contribution helped to make their Christmas day happier and more memorable.

We thank our “elves” whose efforts put reality into our plan. We will consider doing it again this year, and perhaps expanding it.

WLCA Birthdays

January: flower - carnation; birthstone - garnet

Gerard Bustos, Gilbert Campos, Daniel Casas, Stella Castillo, Janice Clayton, Eleanor Garza, Norma Gonzales, Katherine Guerra, Marcy Gutierrez, Eloy Lozano, Helen Lozano, Todd Minshall, Ralph Wolf

February: flower - violet; birthstone - amethyst

Julio Amaro, Cabral Balreira, Mary Ann Contreras, Darlyne Cox, Luciana Cristadoro, Jane Dunnewold, Minnie Garcia, Jonathan Hamm, Teresa Longoria, Corrine Marin, Mary Jane Marin, Lidia Medina, Maria Rodriguez, Staci Rogers, Maria Sandoval, Lydia Torres-Tucker, Ruth Wimberly, Rebecca Vecera, Janet Zadeh

ADJUST, ABUSE, AVERT

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

I am beginning my fourteenth year as WLCA president. During that time, this association has taken large steps to protect the character and history of our community while enhancing its quality of life. To that end, we extended the Monticello Park Historic District into our area and participated in the creation of the Jefferson and the Woodlawn Lake Area Neighborhood Conservation Districts (NCD). Each of these ventures required public meetings and input, hearing before the Zoning Commission, and approval by City Council. Historic district expansion also required a petition of 51% of the residents to be affected, and HDRC approval.

We rely on the standards these districts set, as well as on zoning laws, for consistency and predictability of development in our neighborhoods. The Unified Development Code (UDC) recognizes circumstances “where, due to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the requirement will result in unnecessary hardship.” UDC Sec. 35-482(a). It sets up a Board of Adjustment (BOA) to hear requests for variances from these standards. One criterion for a variance is that the property have unique circumstances not created by the owner and not merely financial, and not due to or the result of general conditions in the district in which the property is located. UDC Sec. 482(e)6.

Our City’s BOA has consistently ignored the well-defined UDC requirements. Applicants for variances are often persons who have made changes to their property without obtaining a building permit. The BOA has granted the relief sought in large part because it disagrees with the standard being enforced and feels sorry for the violator. On December 7th, it approved a 28 foot wide concrete driveway where the CDC sets an 18 foot wide maximum. It also approved a front yard fence in the historic part of our community where such fences did not historically exist. I spoke for WLCA in opposition to both requests. The BOA, nonetheless, approved the requests because, in the case of the driveway, the home is across the street from a school (what?), and with the fence, “sometimes historic districts go too far.”

General disagreements with building standards should go before City Council or to the body that created them. It is not for BOA to ignore or rewrite them absent the strict standards set by the UDC. The District 7 representative has been on the board since 2005 and should know the rules by now. I sent a letter of concern to the City Manager, with copies to the Mayor, the District 7 Councilman, the Director of the Office of Historic Preservation, and the Director of Planning and Community Development. Only the latter sent a response, being that I can now sue in District Court. It should not have to come to this. We fight for our neighborhoods. What we gain should not be overturned on a whim of an unelected and undisciplined board. I expected more support from our elected officials, but these are the same people who last month voted to sidestep the City’s Code of Ethics.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2016

Name:	_____	DOB Mo & Day:	_____
Name:	_____	DOB Mo & Day:	_____
Address:	_____	Zip:	_____
Phone:	_____	E-mail:	_____
Membership type: (please check)	_____ Individual (\$5 per year)	_____ Family/Household (\$10 per year)	<div>CLIP OR COPY</div>
	_____ School, _____ Non-Profit, or	_____ Business (each \$10 per year)	
Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association			

TIME TO RENEW your WLCA membership for 2016. If your member information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2016 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 and your dues to our next WLCA meeting. If the address page of this Newsletter shows that you have paid for 2016, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, please disregard this reminder.

PARK NATIVE PLANTS GARDEN

In 1998, WLCA received a \$10,000 grant to develop an environmental project. Although some plans were made, no work resulted and the funds were used to purchase a certificate of deposit, from which we enjoyed the interest. We are now, at long last, coming up with that environmental project.

We have proposed having a native plants garden at Woodlawn Lake Park. It will be at the west end of the Park near to and along the widened inlet to the Lake. The Parks & Recreation Department has made available a portion of land for the garden and is working with us in this effort. We formed a committee which met at the site on December 8th. Charles Bartlett, District 3 representative on the Parks Board, who has been active in setting up native gardens for several years, is part of our team.

We want to have an area for native perennial plants, which are drought tolerant, mostly evergreen for year-round good appearance, a long flowering season, and which provide fruit, nectar, and pollen for our winged friends. Last month, Mayor Ivy Taylor designated San Antonio a "Butterfly City USA" to promote native gardens that might sustain more pollinators as bees, butterflies, and humming birds. Although not resulting from it, our native garden fits well within the Mayor's initiative.

We hope to engage the cooperation of other area neighborhood associations and partner with area schools. To make this project work, we will need volunteers. Besides planting, there will be mulching, watering (while plants get established and during droughts), and weed control (including invasive Bermuda grass). We will also have to watch out for plant snatchers.

As San Antonio celebrates its 300th birthday in 2018, Woodlawn Lake will mark 100 years as a City park. An appropriate gift for our community is a Centennial Native Garden, a place for learning about and enjoying the plant life natural to this area.

Candidate Forum

Texas State Senate District 26
Texas House Rep. 116

Monday February 8th

7 PM - 8:30 PM

Jefferson United Methodist Church
758 Donaldson Ave

Join us for a Community 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.

Hosted by:

Jefferson Neighborhood Association
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association
Woodlawn Lake Community Association

MEETINGS GUN FREE

The Texas Open Carry law went into effect at the start of this year. Handgun license holders can now enter the public areas of City properties, walk along City streets and sidewalks, or any area that is open to any other member of the public. A handgun owner can be prohibited from bringing a handgun into specified areas where a sign has been properly posted, including a room where a public meeting is being held. Although we meet in a City facility, WLCA is a private entity. Our Board has determined that no handguns will be allowed at our meetings.

Next WLCA Meeting: Jan. 26th at 6:30 pm

Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg

Other 2016 meetings: Feb 23, Mar 29, Apr 26, May 31,
Jun 28, Jul 26, Aug 30, Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 29

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



ON & OFF FRED ROAD STUDIO TOUR

The 9th Annual On and Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour is on Saturday, February 20th, from 11 am to 6 pm, and on Sunday, February 21st, from noon to 5 pm. Presented by Bihl Haus Arts, “Fred,” as the event is known, is a self-guided tour of private homes, studios, and galleries of more than seventy established artists, including painters, sculptors, metal smiths, and photographers. In addition, some 200 musicians, poets, theater troupes, and dance groups help make this community event the biggest art studio tour in San Antonio.

The event also gives residents of the Woodlawn Lake, Monticello Park, and Jefferson communities an opportunity to showcase our attractive historic neighborhoods. Last year, more than 2,500 locals and visitors walked, biked, and drove up and down a 5-mile stretch of Fredericksburg Road to get a first-hand look at the artists working in their studios and to purchase their art, reported Kellen McIntyre, executive director of Bihl Haus Arts. She added, “It’s the only time of year these art studios are open in such large numbers on one weekend.”

A full-color catalog in both hardcopy and online versions is available for \$10. The catalog includes a map to help attendees plan their route, as well as bios of participating artists and an image of their work. More information is available at www.OnAndOffFred.org or by calling 210-383-9723.

<input type="checkbox"/> A check mark here shows that you have paid your 2016 dues. Thank you.
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MEMBER BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Nestled in our community is San Antonio’s best kept little secret. It’s the Educational Childcare Cottage, owned and operated since 1998 by WLCA member Sally Avila. What is exceptional is the learning approach. It’s a naturalist, hands on environment because children are learning how to grow their own fruits and vegetables, speaking Spanish, learning problem solving skills, creativity, social skills, and world cultural aspects, all while meeting and surpassing national accreditation standards.

The Educational Childcare Cottage has received numerous accolades over the decades. It has been featured on “A Place of Our Own” on California’s Public Television station, and received Senatorial and Congressional recognition, along with excellent standings with the Texas Department of Family Protective Services.

HELPERS FOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We hope to distribute the annual Spring Membership Drive edition of our newsletter to all residents within WLCA’s boundaries. Once a year, shortly before the City’s Earth Day event at our Park, we tell our community about WLCA as a way to recruit new members. This year’s event is on April 16th, and we will distribute between April 4th and 14th. There are about 3,200 residents in our area, so need at least fifteen volunteers to deliver door to door. Let us know if you can help out.
