

# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

*Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful since 1992*

Published Bimonthly

March-April 2016

San Antonio, Texas

### **ZIKA VIRUS, MOSQUITOS TOPIC OF MAR 29th MEETING**

Stephen Barscewski, Sanitarian Services Manager with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health), will speak at our March 29th meeting. He has held that position since May 2007. His topic will be the Zika virus and mosquito control for the homeowner.

The Metropolitan Health District is the public health agency charged by State law, City code, and County resolution with the responsibility for providing public health programs in San Antonio and unincorporated areas of Bexar County. Its mission is to provide leadership and services for San Antonio and Bexar County to prevent illness and injury, promote healthy behaviors, and protect against health hazards. It is a City-County organization under the administration of the City and operated as a City department. Services include health code enforcement, food inspections, immunizations, clinical services, environmental monitoring, disease control, health education, dental health, emergency preparedness, and issuance of birth and death certificates to the public.

### **VIA UPDATES ON APR 26th**

Tony Luna, VIA Community Relations Coordinator, will bring us up to date on VIA's transportation plans and projects. Luna has been with VIA for ten years. We have asked him to tell us about public transportation in the San Antonio area, current projects and undertakings, and needs and plans for the Woodlawn Lake Park area.

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 is currently conducting a community survey, *Mapping Out Your Vision*, to help shape our regional transportation for the future.

### **CENTENNIAL GARDEN REPORT Showcased on Earth Day**

In our last Newsletter (Jan-Feb 2016) we introduced our WLCA project of a native plants garden at Woodlawn Lake Park. We have an initial committee consisting of Sally Avila, Charles Bartlett, Cathy Fernandez, Charles Oisten, Elia Reyna, Alejandro Soto, and Vicki Wright. The committee can be increased should others wish to be involved with planning and preparation.

On January 25th, Charles Bartlett and Alejandro Soto met at the site with Meredith Tilley, Parks Department Program Manager, to agree on layout and support. A City contractor was about to sow grass seed at the site and we were able to get the seeding cancelled. On February 6th, a group gathered for a discussion of concepts for the garden. On February 16th, four members removed the straw mats that the contractor had placed as a preliminary for seeding. On March 3rd, six individuals began setting steel edging for the garden boundaries and for a footpath. They also cleaned up weeds and pruned and trimmed plants on the site that will remain, including a mesquite tree, palo verde, and bougainvillea. There are also blue bonnets and Mexican evening primrose that we want to preserve. Our thanks go to Sally Avila, Charles Bartlett, Susan Hudnall, Charles Oisten, Alejandro Soto, and Vicki Wright for the work done to date.

The Parks Department has agreed to run a water line to the garden. It will also furnish three benches to be made from the wood of the cedar trees that once lined the Seeling Channel. The trees were removed when the channel was widened. It is fitting that they return to the Park in their new form.

On April 16th, in line with the City's Earth Day celebration at the Park (page 3), we will showcase the garden to the public. We have reserved the pavilion by the garden to talk about WLCA and about our project. We would also like to be doing some work, as mulching and planting. We hope to have many WLCA members present. Let us know if you can help out on that day.

**Area Construction – page 2**

**Earth Day – page 3**

**Borrow Tools – page 4**

## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President:* Alejandro Soto.....485-6168  
[wlca@att.net](mailto:wlca@att.net)

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

*Secretary:* Ester Soto

*Treasurer:* Elia Reyna.....729-7204

*Board Members:*

Fred Ayers.....737-1228

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

Diana Sanchez Lira. ....646-1595

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

## AREA CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

**Seeling Channel Phase II.** Construction continues between Wilson and Manor. Watch for road closures and detours in the area lasting anywhere from two weeks to four months.

**Laddie III.** The facility at 3700 Fredericksburg Road is now being finished. There will be a ribbon cutting / family event sometime after Fiesta. The City (which will receive ownership from the County) is looking at sports needs and if these can be accommodated at the facility.

**Westside Creeks.** The Alazán Creek Trail will connect Woodlawn Lake Park and West End Park, with safe pedestrian passage under Waverly and Culebra Streets. Remaining work on this half-mile project is the trailhead at the Casting Pond and a section of trail between W. Laurel and Lombrano. Much of the Martinez Creek Trail, which will connect Fredericksburg Road to Cincinnati, is now in place. Construction of the trail head and parking area at Cincinnati has started and the street connection between W. Magnolia and W. Mistletoe is underway. Both linear creekway trails are scheduled for completion in April 2016.

**Gus Mann.** The Gus Mann gas station at Fredericksburg Road and Hildebrand has been demolished. A Starbucks will be erected on the site. The dome from the station has been preserved and will be made a part of the coffee house building.

## WLCA Birthdays

*March: flower - jonquil; birthstone - aquamarine*

Olivia Arriaga, Matthew Boerger, Mark Cooper, Bertha Diaz, Gilbert Gonzales, Vivian Olmos Hanney, Richard Holgin, Edward Rivera, Diana Sanchez Lira, Yolanda Santos, Philip Schuback, Rosemary Shear, Tim Tucker, Deborah Vasquez, Derek Wauson

*April: flower - sweet pea; birthstone - diamond*

Alice Almaraz, Jeanna Balreira, Rachel Baugh, Humberto Guerra, Ines Benavides, Isabel Herrera, Dusty Kahl, Ronald Shaffer

## PESTS, PEDESTRIANS, POSTERS

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

Earth Day focuses on ways to keep our planet healthy. Often our comfort levels and our respect for the environment seem to conflict. One example is on how we deal with mosquitos, a topic of our next meeting. A purpose of our native plants garden (page 1) is to attract and maintain a habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and other pleasant and beneficial creatures. Yet, in battling yard pests, we often revert to the use of pesticides that are indiscriminate in their victims. Monarch butterfly populations have declined 90 to 95% in the past two decades because of habitat loss and pesticide use. Many pesticides contain neonicotinoids ("neonics"), a nerve toxic ingredient manufactured under different brand names. It is being blamed for a massive reduction in the number of honey bees since 2006. Please take precautions in deciding whether to spray and what to spray in your yards.

I attended the Home Show at the Alamodome last month. I then walked downtown to catch the #90 bus to return home. I walked west on Market in the opposite direction of the one-way vehicle traffic heading east. There are no signs marking the cross streets as you walk in this direction. I had to look over my shoulder at each cross street to let me know where I was.

If downtown is going to be pedestrian friendly, street signs should not be for drivers only. Pedestrian street signs do not have to be as large as those for drivers, but there should be signs at each intersection indicating the cross street, even though car traffic is in the opposite direction. A few years ago I brought this up to Diego Bernal, then the City Council member for District 1, which includes downtown. To my knowledge, nothing was done. I have now brought it to the attention of the current District 1 Councilman, Roberto Treviño.

Political season is upon us. We have gone through a landscape of sign postings. Many are in residential yards. So long as the homeowner or resident approves, there is no problem. Many signs end up on City property. The City will allow a sign on right-of-way so long as it does not block the view of traffic. This is land the City owns, typically alongside a street. It does not mean a utility pole, a fence, or a park. The issue came up recently when large signs were placed on the fence along the Seeling Channel at W. Woodlawn. The signs were removed.

We learned at our January meeting from the Solid Waste Management Department that typical political signs are not recyclable. Other than becoming trash, there are many uses for them after an election. I have used them as garden kneelers, car drip catchers, poster backings, and tool shed flooring. City code requires posters to come down 90 days after the election. That is too much time for what is then a dead issue. At our last meeting, the District 7 Council representative said that she would look into the possibility of shortening the time to perhaps 30 days.

**This is your LAST NEWSLETTER if you have not renewed your membership (check your email).**  
**Your 2015 membership ends on Earth Day. Please renew now.**

## Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2016

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 "2016 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 Centennial Garden on Earth Day or our next WLCA meeting (4-26).

## EARTH DAY SA 2016 At the Park - April 16th

San Antonio's Earth Day 2016 is on Saturday, April 16th, from 9 am to 2 pm, at Woodlawn Lake Park. It is part of the City's annual Fiesta that focuses on appreciation of our planet and its natural order. Begun in 1970, Earth Day is observed world-wide on April 22nd. San Antonio had its first event in 1990. Our local celebration 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 who will have a booth at the event. We will also showcase our Centennial (Native Plants) Garden to the west of the City event, at W. Craig and S. Josephine Tobin (page 1). We will have our petition for smoke-free parks and will be signing up members. We need volunteers to help out at the Garden and to meet with visitors. If at the Earth Day event, please take a short detour and come by to talk to us about WLCA, our Park, our Garden, and our community.

## 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 4th to 14th. Please call or email the WLCA president to volunteer yourself or a group.

## 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 29th at 6:30 pm**

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

Remaining 2016 meetings: Apr 26, May 31, Jun 28, Jul 26, Aug 30, Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 29, Holiday Party TBA

## NYA ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Network for Young Artists (NYA) presents its official Fiesta event, the Deco District Arts and Music Festival. The event is free and will take place on Sunday, April 17th, from 12 noon to 8 pm, at 1800 Fredericksburg Road (at Fulton). The celebration brings together dozens of performances by local and national musicians of all ages, local art vendors, and food vendors.

NYA is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by Terry "Coach" Lowry, a former educator with the Edgewood Independent School District. It provides affordable classes in voice, guitar, percussion, keyboard, and dance for area youth ages 4 to 20. It has grown from the initial 30 members to over 250 with open enrollment throughout the year.

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



## **SÍCLOVÍA ON APRIL 3rd**

Síclovíá is a free event that turns major city streets into a safe place for people to exercise and play. The streets become temporarily car-free for families to run, ride bikes, walk their dogs (on a leash), take exercise classes, and enjoy their city streets. San Antonio's 10th Síclovíá is on Sunday, April 3rd, from 11 am to 3 pm. Beginning on the north at Maverick Park (Jones), it will follow Broadway south to W. Travis (Travis Park), west to N. Flores, south to César Chávez, east to S. St. Mary's, and south to Roosevelt Park (Grove).

## **EARLY SWIM AT WOODLAWN**

The Woodlawn Lake Park Swimming Pool is one of four regional pools that has an early swim season. The others are South Side Lions, Heritage, and Lady Bird Johnson. Regional pools will open May 7th (all City pools open June 11th). On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, they will feature lap swim from 7:30 to 9:30 am, and open swim from 4 to 7 pm. On Saturday and Sunday, open swim will be from 1 to 7 pm. Admission to City pools is free.

### **ELECTIONS**

May 7 – SAISD & Alamo Colleges Boards  
runoff in June if needed  
May 24 – Party Runoffs (from March 1st primary)

## **COMMUNITY TOOLSHED**

The City's Development Services Department offers a Community Toolshed that contains a collection of hand and gas powered tools that can be used at no cost by residents, businesses, and community groups of San Antonio to clean and improve their properties. They can also be borrowed for community projects within the city limits.

The tools available for loan include lawnmowers, leaf blowers, rakes, shovels, tree pruners, weed eaters, and wheel barrows. To borrow a tool, you must fill out a short application and a release form, and make a reservation. Tools are checked out on Friday mornings and returned on Monday mornings, within one week in order to ensure their availability for use by others. The borrower is responsible to pick up and drop off the tools.

The Community Toolshed is centrally located in the downtown area. For more information about the program, call 207-4084 or visit the website at [sanantonio.gov/ces/resources/toolshed.aspx](http://sanantonio.gov/ces/resources/toolshed.aspx).

*This information was contributed by Dale Russell, Code Enforcement Officer for the Neighborhood Enhancement Team.*

### **SA TOMORROW SURVEY**

City residents are invited to provide their feedback on the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan through a new online survey available at [sacompplan.com](http://sacompplan.com).