

# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

*Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful Since 1992*

Published Bimonthly

September–October 2016

San Antonio, Texas

### **SAISD BOND & RATE HIKE PRESENTED ON SEPT 27th**

Ed Garza, District 7 Trustee of the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), will be the featured speaker at our meeting on September 27th. Ed will tell us about the two measures on the November ballot that concern SAISD. We have asked for an overview of the measures and on how these will impact on our tax bills and on the schools in our area.

The SAISD Board of Trustees voted on August 15th to call for both a \$450 million bond and a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) to raise the District's Maintenance & Operations tax rate by 13 cents. Voters residing within the District's attendance zone will be asked to consider the two separate ballot propositions to provide funding toward extensive school building renovations, upgrades for 21st-century classrooms, and programs for expanded learning opportunities outside the normal school day.

SAISD serves over 54,000 students within a 79 square mile area. It is the third largest public school district in Bexar County and the 13th largest of the State's 1,057 districts. It contains 90 campuses of various grade mixtures from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The bond would fund renovations at 13 schools, replacing aging infrastructure systems that in most cases are more than 40 years old, upgrading science labs, and expanding other classroom spaces to the recommended state guidelines. The renovations would enable the District to provide facilities that are more equitable with what is offered in neighboring school districts.

Ed was elected to the SAISD Board in 2009. He served as its president from 2012 to 2015. He was District 7 City Councilman from 1997 to 2001 and Mayor from 2001 to 2005. He is a graduate of Jefferson High School and has a BS in Landscape Architecture and an MS in Urban Planning from Texas A&M University. He and his wife Anna Laura, who is an elementary school teacher with SAISD, reside in our neighborhood.

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### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCT 4th**

WLCA will host a National Night Out (NNO) community event on Tuesday, October 4th, from 7 to 9 pm. It will be at the pavilion at the west end of Woodlawn Lake Park, next to the S. Josephine Tobin bridge at W Craig. We urge our members to attend and to invite their neighbors. Membership is not a requirement.

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). We will have music, visiting dignitaries, and crime safety information. There will also be give aways and drawings for door prizes. There are picnic tables at the site. You can also bring a lawn chair or walk around and meet your neighbors. The pavilion is next to our Centennial Garden (below), so if you have not yet seen it, this will be your opportunity to check out our progress.

### **CENTENNIAL GARDEN UPDATE**

#### **October 8th Workday**

The hot dry summer gave way to August rains. That helped our plants to thrive, but also brought back the weeds. Several of our plants are flowering, including some of the oxblood lilies that were planted just a couple of months ago. Since our last report, lantanas and a large cenizo (purple sage) have been added. Also, low growing ground covers have been planted along the sides of the granite foot path. A hummingbird is enjoying the flowers.

Past applications of mulch are now only about 1/4th of an inch in depth, so we need to apply more to keep down the weeds and prevent the soil cracking from lack of moisture. We also have a supply of plants ready for placing in the ground. We have set Saturday, October 8th, for planting and mulching. Please come by and lend a hand. Bring a friend. We will gather at 9 am.

## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| President: Alejandro Soto.....       | 485-6168 |
| wlca@att.net                         |          |
| Vice President: Gerard Bustos.....   | 279-8729 |
| Secretary: Ester Soto                |          |
| Treasurer: Elia Reyna.....           | 279-7204 |
| Board Members:                       |          |
| Fred Ayers.....                      | 737-1228 |
| Marcy Gutierrez.....                 | 313-8296 |
| Diana Sanchez Lira.....              | 646-1595 |
| Sally Avila.....                     | 734-2093 |
| Cathy Fernandez (Eastern Reach)..... | 485-6168 |

## NEW STOPS & SPEED LIMIT

Our area received new stop signs on August 12th. In the WLCA community, the new stops are on Kampmann at Mulberry and at Beverly, W. Woodlawn at Lake and at S. Josephine Tobin, and Donaldson at Kampmann,. Nearby, there are new stops on Lake at North and on W. Woodlawn at Hillcrest. In addition, the speed limit on W. Woodlawn from Zarzamora to Kampmann has been lowered from 35 mph to 30 mph. The City will make a further review of existing speed limit signage around Woodlawn Lake.

Our Mar-Apr 2009 Newsletter tells of our desire for an all-way stop at W. Woodlawn and Lake and for slower speed limits around the Park. After completion of the new bridge at S. Josephine Tobin we asked for a crosswalk at the intersection with W. Woodlawn. It often takes years of work and persistence to get results. Initial City reaction is often a variety of reasons why what we want cannot be done.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation of District 7 Councilman Cris Medina and his staff. They have worked with us in the past few years for other stops and slower speeds in our area. We also thank the Department of Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) for its efforts to bring about these measures.

## WLCA Birthdays

*September: flower - aster; birthstone - sapphire*

William Alvarado, Adrian Anderson, Francesco Cristadoro, Amelia De La Garza, Dolores Escobedo, Frances Estrello, Dan Howarth, Norma Jean Moore, Andres Perez, Michael Perez, Kay Shaw, Vicki Wright

*October: flower - calendula; birthstone - opal*

Sylvia Ayers, Mary Ann Black, Rudy Blanco, Guadalupe Blanco, Cathy Fernandez, Alicia Gonzales, Deborah Gussman, Gloria Gutierrez, Joe Hanney, Ashley Hernandez, Richard A Hernandez, James Jones, Juan Morales, Rose Perales, Berma Prado, Anita Valencia, Kayellen Walker, Laura Wauson, Karen Weehler

## TERRITORY, TOGETHER, TREND

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

We are having some exterior remodeling work done at our home. Some neighborhood passerby called the president of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) to inquire as to whether we had a building permit. Our home does not fall within the purview of MPNA. Fortunately, we know the association president, who let us know of the call (yes, we had a permit). The incident brings up a point. Some residents appear to be confused as to what constitutes MPNA and the Monticello Park Historic District (MPHD). They are not one and the same. MPNA is an association of residents (much like WLCA) in a community generally north of Donaldson. MPHD is a zoning overlay designed to protect the architectural heritage and design of our community. It includes the MPNA area but also extends south of Donaldson to W. Woodlawn, an area that encompasses both WLCA and the Jefferson Neighborhood Association (JNA). Any question or issue within the WLCA boundaries (N: Donaldson; S: Culebra; E: Zarzamora; W: St. Cloud - Gen. McMullen) should be brought to the attention of WLCA, notwithstanding that the property is also within MPHD.

WLCA has joined with two dozen other neighborhood associations in the inner city to form the Tier One Neighborhood Coalition. We became concerned as the SA Tomorrow plan was being developed. Our neighborhoods were not represented on the various committees that were forming the comprehensive plan. Instead, the committees seemed to be dominated by developer and real estate interests. The plan focused on high density in-fill commercial and residential development, which directly threatened the older neighborhoods. In addition, it called for the development of regional plans that would override existing community and neighborhood plans as well as neighborhood conservation districts, all of which have been designed by area residents. District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño was successful in amending the plan at City Council to lessen the perceived threats to the neighborhoods. The Coalition will continue to work to protect our neighborhoods from City and external intrusions and to advocate for the needs of these neighborhoods.

Universal City has banned smoking in all of its public places, including parks and outdoor recreation areas. That makes it the 50th city in Texas to do so. San Antonio continues to lag behind when it comes to certain health and quality of life issues. The City does prohibit smoking at the zoo and in park playgrounds and pavilions. Last year it made Main Plaza, the San Fernando Portal, and Travis Park (all downtown) smoke free. But the remainder of city parks remain under a cloud and subject to cigarette litter. WLCA has been advocating for smoke free parks and circulating a petition in support since 2013.

We welcome Sally Avila to our Executive Board. She is active in WLCA and our community and will be an asset to our Board.

## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS IN OCTOBER

Our last Newsletter (Jul-Aug 2016) mentioned the WLCA Officer and Board Election that will take place at our November 29th meeting. Nominations will begin at the October 25th meeting. The last newsletter described the process, eligibility to run and to vote, and the term of office. The offices to be filled are:

**President:** Presides at all WLCA meetings, appoints committee chairs and members, and represents WLCA in all matters or designates representatives for specific purposes.

**Vice President:** Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President, becomes President for the unexpired term should the office of President become vacant, and serves as assigned by the President.

**Secretary:** Takes minutes of all WLCA meetings, maintains all records and letters of value, prepares and files all required forms and reports, and prepares all correspondence.

**Treasurer:** Controls WLCA monies, keeps records of receipts and expenditures, and files forms required by the IRS and State Comptroller.

**Board Members (4):** Assist the officers in supervising WLCA activities, make recommendations on finances and proposed rules, transact business between WLCA meetings, and fill Executive Board vacancies.

The Executive Board physically meets at least once every 6 months. Much of the Board's business is conducted by email or telephone. In addition, officers and board members are expected to be at most of the regular WLCA meetings and to help with telephone notices of meetings and events to members without email. They also bring matters to the attention of the President and act as go-betweens with the members. WLCA seeks officers and board members who will represent the total geographic area of our association as well as the varied interests within it.

### COMING EVENTS

Síclovia – Sept 25th, 10am – 3 pm, Broadway St.  
Planet K Día De Los Muertos – Nov 2nd, 6–9 pm  
(fireworks at 8:30), Woodlawn Lake Park

### YARD WORKERS & CITY CODE

We often see groundkeepers and gardeners sweeping and blowing leaves and lawn clippings into our streets and storm drains. City Code prohibits these acts. Section 29-3 applies to public places, including streets, plazas, and plant containers. Section 34-701 applies to all waterways and systems on public property that feed into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. Also, Section 21-171 requires that workers who trim trees be trained and licensed by the City. Many who offer their services during City brush collection may not qualify to do the work.

## GENERAL ELECTION - Dates; New Rules

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 8th. October 11th is the last day to register to vote. Early voting will take place from October 24th to November 4th.

There are 7 forms of ID previously required by state law in order to vote. These ID's must not have expired by more than four years when presented (previous requirement was 60 days):

1. Driver license issued by the TX Dept of Public Safety (DPS);
2. Personal identification card issued by DPS;
3. TX Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
4. TX handgun license issued by DPS;
5. US military identification card containing person's photo;
6. US citizenship certificate containing the person's photo;
7. US passport.

If unable to obtain an ID from the list above, and the voter has a reasonable impediment or difficulty to obtaining an ID from that list, the voter may present one of the following forms of ID and execute the "Reasonable Impediment Declaration":

1. valid voter registration certificate;
2. certified birth certificate;
3. copy of or original current utility bill;
4. copy of or original bank statement;
5. copy of or original government check;
6. copy of or original paycheck; or
7. copy of or original of other government document with voter's name and an address (original required if it contains a photo).

## GOOGLE FIBER

Google Fiber construction crews will soon be working in our area to build a new fiber optic network for San Antonio. Its network is primarily built in the public right-of-way, alongside the water, gas, and electricity infrastructure. Much of the network is attached to existing utility poles. In other areas, it performs underground construction, holding disruption to traffic, neighborhoods, and existing utilities to a minimum. Google Fiber will let residents know if it will be doing construction near their homes. It will ask for the appropriate permission if it needs to access private property.

This construction should not disrupt any of our utility services, but please let WLCA know immediately if you hear of any issues. Once construction for an area is completed, crews will come back through to restore property as needed. If construction work has been completed in our area and you notice that your property has yet to be restored, let WLCA know and call Google Fibers' construction inquiry line at 877-454-6959.

**Next WLCA Meeting: Sept 27 at 6:30 pm**  
Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg  
Other meetings in 2016: Oct 25, Nov 29

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



## **CODE ENFORCEMENT TOPIC OF MEETING ON OCT 25th**

Khrystal Towne, Code Enforcement Officer, will address our meeting on October 25th. Code Enforcement is a section of the City's Development Services Department. The department is responsible for promoting the health, safety, and quality of life of the citizens of the City through regulation of land and building development and through enforcement of property maintenance and quality of life related codes. Code Enforcement deals with additional issues as Dangerous Premises, Graffiti, and Damage Assessment. The Neighborhood Assessment Team (NET) coordinates code investigations and special projects with emphasis on highly travelled areas throughout the City's main district corridors and inner city reinvestment areas.

We will hear about common code violations, code provisions of which we might not be aware, the process for making a complaint, and the manner in which a complaint is processed. We will have the opportunity to ask about problems that seem to recur or fester in our community.

### **NEW SAFFE OFFICER**

John Garcia is our new SAFFE Officer. He replaces Marcos Serda who has retired. Officer Garcia grew up on San Antonio's west side and now resides in our community. He will attend our WLCA meetings and can be reached at 210-218-6546.

## **WATERSAVER LANDSCAPE COUPON**

SAWS will give you a \$100 coupon to toss out a portion of your lawn and replace it with a water-saving garden. The WaterSaver Landscape Coupon program encourages residential customers to replace parts of their traditional lawns with garden beds made up of hardy, drought-tolerant plants.

The fall offering runs September 1st to October 31st. The coupon is for the purchase of certain plants at participating nurseries. The plant package includes 15 trees and 10 shrubs from which to select. Customers must pick 7 plants from the plant list, at least two 5 gallon trees and five 1 gallon shrubs or trees. The coupon is intended to cover only a portion of the total cost of the plants.

You must be a SAWS water customer. If you have an irrigation system, you must remove all irrigation in the bed area before planting. The bed must be at least 200 contiguous square feet. Customers who remove at least 400 square feet may apply for a maximum of 2 coupons (per package cycle). You must apply 1 cubic yard of mulch (organic or crushed granite/rock) around your plants for each 200 square feet of grass removed. The package is available for grass/turf replacement only. Existing beds are not eligible for this program. The customer must agree to allow a post-inspection by SAWS staff. For more information on this program, contact SAWS Conservation at 210-704-SAVE (7283) or email [consult@saws.org](mailto:consult@saws.org).