

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful since 1991

Published Bimonthly

November–December 2016

San Antonio, Texas

ARBORIST TALKS TREES AT NOV 29th MEETING

City Arborist Mark Bird will be the speaker at our November 29th meeting. We have asked for information on residential tree issues, as proper pruning, city certification, oak wilt and other diseases, care of fruit trees, and correct trees for our area. We have also asked for a quick overview of the City's tree preservation ordinance.

The City Arborist is part of the Land Development staff within the City's Development Services Department (DSD). It is the responsibility of DSD, under the guidelines of the Landscaping and Tree Preservation Ordinance, to maintain, preserve, and add to the existing tree population. The goals of that ordinance are to enhance the aesthetic environment, to provide health benefits to the community, and to continue to provide elements essential to establish and maintain a strong ecosystem.

This past April the City officially became a Tree City USA. This program offers direction, assistance, and national recognition for our community and a framework for sustainable tree programs, initiatives, and ordinances. Today, the City Arborist manages a staff of 13. DSD, along with the Parks and Recreation and the Transportation and Capital Improvements Departments, have an annual estimated combined budget of \$3.4 million dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trees in the City. This investment includes community outreach programs to raise public awareness about the values and benefits provided by a healthy and diverse tree canopy.

WLCA ELECTIONS

Elections for WLCA Executive Board will take place at our November 29th meeting. Those elected as officers and board members will serve in 2017 and 2018. Nominations began at our October meeting and will resume prior to voting. Eligibility rules for candidacy and to vote are in our Jul-Aug 2016 Newsletter. Nominations to now are President, Alejandro Soto; Vice President, Diana Sanchez-Lira; Secretary, Ester Soto; Treasurer, Elia Reyna; Board Members (four positions), Marcy Gutierrez, Fred Ayers, Sally Avila, and Ashley Hernandez.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT REPORT Evening Gathering at the Park

WLCA held its annual National Night Out event on October 4th at the pavilion at the west end of Woodlawn Lake Park. Several members, as well as other neighbors, came together for an evening to show support for our community, stand together against crime, and enjoy one another's company.

Our area Walmart donated a \$50 gift card for food, drinks, and supplies. Little Caesar's on Fredericksburg Road gave us a discount on a dozen pizzas. Gerard Bustos set up his sound system and provided a musical background. The Jefferson - Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation donated Subway and Starbucks gift cards that were awarded as door prizes.

Several members brought additional food and helped out in other ways, including Bezaleel and Carol Chincanchan, Diana Sanchez Lira, Sally and Mariana Avila, Vicki Wright, Susan Hudnall, and Alejandro and Ester Soto. SAWS provided goodie bags. We were visited by SAFFE Officer John Garcia, Christine Gutierrez representing District 1 City Councilman Roberto Treviño, Code Enforcement Officer Khrystal Townes, and Eyole Mbongo from the office of US Representative Joaquin Castro.

Those who came before sundown were able to view our Centennial Garden, which is next to the pavilion. The site also includes lighting, electricity, bbq grills, and picnic tables, providing for a pleasant two hour event. We thank the helpers and donors for a successful evening.

NEW JUDGE

On November 8th WLCA member Norma Gonzales was elected Judge of the 131st District Court. A 1984 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, she has been in solo practice specializing in criminal and family law. She and husband Rod Logsdon reside in our community. Norma dons the judicial robe on January 1st. We congratulate her and wish her well.

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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: 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

HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

Last year WLCA decided to forego having a holiday party and instead to focus on doing something for children who might not otherwise have a good Christmas. We identified two families in our general area, with a total of twelve children. Each child had a wish list and we were able to get them all the gifts that they had hoped for. All gifts were paid for from WLCA funds.

At our last meeting, we decided to continue with this project and perhaps to expand it. We will again find area families to help. Last year, the shopping, wrapping, and delivering was handled by a few individuals. We would like more members to participate this year, especially if we increase the number of those we help. We discussed asking for donations and contributions from businesses and individuals in addition to using our funds. We, again, would need more volunteers if we are to expand the project in this way.

Let us know if you are willing to help and how you would like to help. We hope to make this project a WLCA tradition.

WLCA Birthdays

November: flower - chrysanthemum; birthstone - topaz

Jason Ambrose, Margaret Anderson, Fred Ayers, Joe Barnard, Carol Chincanchan, Angela Ehrenfried, Roxanne Galindo, Beatriz Garcia, Ben Garza, Aleida Gomez, Elida Gore, JoAnn Hernandez, Norma Hernandez, Margery Huston, Regina Perez, Melanie Seale, Ester Soto, Raul Vasquez

December: flower - narcissus; birthstone - turquoise

Kenneth Beanland, Carmen Blyth, Antoinette Cadena, Jesse Castillo, Servando De La Garza, Paul Garza, Martha J Kwan, Anna Perales, Raymond Reyna, Woodrow Taylor, John Zadeh

Next WLCA Meeting: Nov. 29th at 6:30 pm
Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg
Following Meeting: Jan. 31, 2017

REVIVE, REPAIR, REFLECT

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

In our May-June 2016 Newsletter, I wrote about a Cincinnati Avenue study in 2013 that seemed to have faded away. This covered the corridor from Woodlawn Lake Park to St. Mary's University. The Westside Development Corporation (WDC), one of the sponsors of that study, is beginning anew. It is soliciting proposals from firms to produce a study of the same corridor. The WDC staff of today is changed from that of 2013. I spoke with a representative of that office to tell him of the previous study. I also told him of WLCA's desire to make improvement to Cincinnati Avenue east of the Park, as well as to Zarzamora. I asked that we be kept informed on the project as it progresses.

In our last Newsletter (Sept-Oct 2016), I mentioned repairs that we are having done at our home. We bought the house as a fixer-upper in 2000. Having moved from another city, we were unfamiliar with the various tradesmen we would have to employ. We made some good choices and some we wish we could undo. We now have resources for finding workers. Home Advisor is a free referral services that places you in contact with home improvement professionals for your specific project (homeadvisor.com). We have also used nextdoor.com to get references from our neighbors on workers they have employed. We have been more than satisfied with results from each of these sources.

There are some cautions in selecting workers. You should specify in writing the tasks to be completed, the payment amount and how it will be paid, whether the payment includes materials or if they will be paid separately, the hours to be worked or completion time. You should also include the need for permits, injury liability, and payment of subcontractors and employees. You should place these specifics in a contract and have all parties sign. You should be wary of workers or contractors wanting a large amount of money up front. Once paid, if they do not complete the job or if they do inferior work, it will be extremely difficult to get your money back. If you are paying separately for materials, you should purchase them yourself, or carefully inspect all receipts before reimbursing or crediting the expenses. You should not make the final payment until you have had a chance to inspect all the work and are satisfied that everything has been professionally completed as agreed.

Looking back on 2016, WLCA has continued to work for the betterment of our park and our community. We began our long-awaited environmental project, the Centennial Garden. We are teaming up with other neighborhood associations to protect the development plans and preservation districts that we set up in our communities. We achieved more traffic calming around our park. Through our meetings and newsletters we are staying informed on City rules and functions. We are watching out for each other in dealing with matters of crime, safety, and nuisances. We adopted the slogan, "Keep Woodlawn Wonderful," and we do.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2017

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 2017. If your member information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2017 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 2017, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, please disregard this reminder.

PREVENT PORCH PIRACY

Courtesy of Neighborhood Link

A porch pirate is a thief who steals packages from your porch. If UPS, FedEx, or USPS delivers a package, you are responsible if it is stolen. Here are some ideas to cut down on porch piracy:

1. Lock boxes. You can build or buy a rugged lock box and bolt it down to a permanent surface. Install a combination lock and then share the combination in "special instructions" of your on-line checkout. Change the combination after a few uses.
2. Security Services. There are companies that will accept your packages and deliver them to you at a convenient time. Other companies create a high tech delivery surface for packages on your porch, notifying you of a delivery and setting an alarm if anyone besides you removes the package. A variety of companies sell lock boxes as described in 1, above. Amazon has a service called Amazon Locker. Instead of a package being delivered to your home, the package arrives at a nearby Amazon Locker location. The package is placed in a secure compartment, which you access with a code. The closest Locker location to us is at an area 7-11 store.
3. Timely Package Collection. Track your package. You can be notified as soon as the package is delivered. You can then pick it up or have a neighbor retrieve it for you.
4. Security Cameras. Thieves are well aware of cameras and often look for them before attempting a theft. Also, if a package is stolen, you have video evidence to pass along to the police and online stores. These cameras can be relatively inexpensive and come with a wide variety of options.
5. Security Signs. For a quick or inexpensive fix, consider posting a sign that your home is under security surveillance or has security alarms. Many criminals are not going to take the time or the chance to call your bluff.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN EXPANDS

We had a rain-postponed planting day on October 15th. Our core group of workers added plants to the garden. We followed up on November 19th, this time joined by two area residents who saw our post on nextdoor.com, as well as by a dozen student volunteers from St. Mary's University. We were able to add several more plants and spread mulch, as well as clean up trash and litter in the garden area. We hope, with this larger group, to be able to take advantage of the cooler season and expand the garden to cover much of the area allotted to us by the Parks Department.

We thank the core group members who have participated in all or most of the work days and have come out in between to check the garden and water the plants: Charles Bartlett, Sally Avila, Charles Oisten, Vicki Wright, Susan Hudnall, Rosemary Shear, Alejandro Soto, Alberto Del Rio.

STATE SENATOR'S HOLIDAY PARTY

State Senator José Menéndez invites our neighborhood residents to the Senate District 26 Holiday Party. It will take place on Saturday, December 3rd, from 6 to 8:30 pm, at the Alamo Convocation Center, 110 Tuleta Street, next to Alamo Stadium.

The event is free and open to the public. It will feature food, musical performances by students, face painting and balloon animals for the families. You can have your picture taken with the Senator in front of a holiday-themed backdrop. Senator Menéndez suggests the donation of an unwrapped toy to benefit the Elf Louise Project. You can contact his office at 733-6604 to RSVP and if you have any questions.

SAPD: Emergency 911; Non-emergency 207-7273
SAFFE Officer John Garcia: (cell) 218-6546

Best Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year!

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



SAWS...AREA PROJECT TO BEGIN

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) will soon begin construction work on the C-12 Donaldson Terrace Project. It will replace approximately 2 miles of existing 18-inch and 21-inch gravity sewer main with 24-inch and 30-inch gravity sewer main. Some of the old line route will be abandoned in favor of a new route in the area. The \$8.5 million project is part of the work required by San Antonio's agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency to rehabilitate poor quality sewer infrastructure across the city.

Construction will run along Morning Glory from Mulberry to Senisa, along Senisa from Morning Glory to St. Cloud, along Donaldson from St. Cloud to Evelyn, along Evelyn from Donaldson to Sunshine, and along Overbrook from Sunshine to Babcock Road. Tunneling will start on December 22nd and open cut work will start in February at the south end of the project. During construction, there will be alternating lane closures.

...RAIN BARREL COUPONS

Through December 9th, SAWS customers who live in houses can apply for rain barrel coupons. The 50 gallon barrels usually cost more than \$100, but with the coupon, they will be \$40. 6,000 barrels are available; customers can purchase one or two. They must be purchased by December 16th and picked up on January 14th. For information go to saws.org or call 704-7283.

Holiday Activity in the City

(some events require an admission fee or a donation)

Nov 18 - Jan 1: Zoo Lights, SA Zoo, 6pm
Nov 19 - Jan 6: Light the Way, Univ. of the Incarnate Word
Nov 25: Tree Lighting Ceremony, 3pm, Alamo Plaza; River Parade & Lighting Ceremony, 6-9pm, Riverwalk
Nov 25 & 26: International Peace Market, Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 922 San Pedro, 10am-6pm
Nov 26: Holiday DIY, Wonderland, 10am-4pm
Nov 30 - Dec 18: Boat Caroling, Riverwalk, 6:15-9:30pm
Dec 3: Silver Bells in the City Tree Lighting Ceremony, Main Plaza, 6-9pm
Dec 3: Tamales! Holiday Festival at Pearl, noon-6pm
Dec 3: Winterfest, 20644 IH 10 West (Exit 554), 10am-6pm
Dec 3 & 4: Hecho a Mano, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, noon-6pm
Dec 9-11: Holiday Artisan Show, Riverwalk, 11am-11pm
Dec 10: La Gran Tamalada, Guadalupe Theater, 11am-1pm
Dec 10: Blessing of the Animals, Market Square, noon-6pm
Dec 11: Winter Celebrations Around the World, Inst. of Texas Cultures, noon-4pm
Dec 28: Chanukah on the River, Arneson Theatre, 4-5pm
Dec 31: Celebrate San Antonio, New Year's Eve Festival, Hemisfair, 5pm-midnight