

# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

*Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful Since 1992*

Published Bimonthly

May-June 2017

San Antonio, Texas

### **COUNCILWOMAN-ELECT ANA SANDOVAL MAY 30th SPEAKER**

On May 6th Ana Sandoval was elected as the next City Council representative for District 7. She garnered more than 50 percent of the vote against the incumbent and three other opponents, thus avoiding a runoff. Ana will be sworn into office on May 31st and take office on June 1st. She will be the guest speaker at our May 30th WLCA meeting.

Arriving in San Antonio at age one, Ana attended Madison Elementary, Longfellow Middle, and Thomas Jefferson High School, where she was the 1993 valedictorian. She attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on a full scholarship, majoring in chemical engineering. She then studied binaural business in Mexico City as a Fulbright Scholar. After that, she earned a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University.

She went to work in San Antonio for VIA, and then in San Francisco for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. She moved on to the Harvard University School of Public Health, receiving a master's degree. She then returned to San Antonio and purchased a home just outside of WLCA's western boundary, next to the house in which she was raised and her parents still reside.

We congratulate Ana on her election and look forward to hearing about her plans, thoughts, and concerns for San Antonio, District 7, and the Woodlawn Lake community.

### **WLCA's CLASS OF 2017**

WLCA family members are among this year's graduates:

Elia Reyna's grandson David Fernandez has graduated summa cum laude from St. Mary's University with a BA in sports medicine. He plans to attend medical school.

Gerald and JoAnn Hernandez have two daughters in cap and gown. Kelsi-Alexis Ann graduated on May 20th from the University of Texas in Austin with a BSA in neuroscience. She plans to attend medical school. Jeri Ann graduated on May 22nd from Providence Catholic School. She will attend St. Mary's University majoring in political science as her pre-law.

### **JUN 27th: VIA METRO TRANSIT**

Our June 27th meeting will focus on VIA Metropolitan Transit. Representing VIA will be Jeff Bazan, Government Relations Analyst, and Tony Luna, Community Relations Specialist. They will bring us up to date on VIA's transportation plans and projects. Bazan has been with VIA for a year and a half. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from UTSA. Luna has been with VIA for eleven years. He began as a bus driver while earning a BA in education from UTSA and then moved into administration. We have asked them 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.

### **CITY RUNOFF ELECTION**

On ballot: Mayor & City Council Districts 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10  
Early Vote - May 30 to June 6  
Election Day - June 10

### **NEIGHBORHOOD SWEEP**

On April 29th, a crew made up of Code Enforcement, Animal Care Services, SAPD, and WLCA conducted a sweep of the WLCA area. The purpose was to find and act on infractions of City ordinances. The crew also had a list submitted by WLCA members of addresses on which to focus. The most common violation found was junked cars, followed by parking off pavement and blocking the sidewalk, unrestrained dogs, and overgrown yards. The sweep was only able to cover from W. Woodlawn to Culebra, but Code Enforcement and our SAFFE Officer are checking on violations reported north of W. Woodlawn.

**July 4th at the Park - page 3**

## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

[wlca@att.net](mailto:wlca@att.net)

Vice President: Diana Sanchez Lira.....646-1595

Secretary: Ester Soto

Treasurer: Elia Reyna.....279-7204

Board Members:

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

Sally Avila.....734-2093

Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839

Charles Oisten

## 33 NEW WLCA MEMBERS

WLCA welcomes 33 new members for 2017. We also saw the return of some prior members who were not on our rolls last year. Our membership drive ended on Earth Day, but we are still receiving dues from late payers. Unfortunately some members did not renew and we remain short of our goal of 200 members that we last achieved in 2014.

We published a special Spring Membership Drive edition of our newsletter and distributed it to the homes in the WLCA area. We thank members who took the time and energy to go door-to-door passing out the flyer: Sally Avila, Marcy Gutierrez, Vicki Wright, Susan Hudnall, Charles Oisten, Gerard Bustos, Ashley Hernandez, Jeri Hernandez, Norma Jean Moore, Rosa Manzano, Angela Ehrenfried, Kayellen Walker, Norma Hernandez, and Ester and Alejandro Soto. We were not able to get to all parts of our area. We plan to cover these soon and welcome volunteers.

Many residents are not aware that they have a neighborhood association to which they can belong. Many are not aware of our long history, list of accomplishments, and current goals. By letting area residents know about us, we are able to expand our membership by adding neighbors who share our concerns about this community.

## WLCA Birthdays

*May: flower - lily of the valley; birthstone - emerald*

Carmen Barrera, Bezaleel Chincanchan, Sylvia Garza, Rod Logsdon, Enrique Mendoza, Susie Navarro, Charles Oisten, Brent Robison, Dr Daniel Rodriguez, Steven Smith, Marta Torres

*June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl*

Yolanda Bernal, Linda Felan, Trey Martinez Fischer, Miguel Gomez, Joe Gonzales, Concepción Gonzalez, Elia Reyna, Kathy Grayshon, Johnny Montejano, Leticia Treviño, Mary Pieper, Alice Pieper, Brian Ramirez, Callie Ramos, Kathleen Trenchard

## SOLAR, SIGNAGE, SUCCESSION

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

A hearing came up a short time ago in which a resident appealed to the Board of Adjustment for a variance to allow her to install solar panels at her home. That home is within the Jefferson Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD). The NCD Plan says that solar panel systems “must not be visible from the front facade or public right of way.” Yet, the Texas Property Code says that “a property owners' association may not include or enforce a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts a property owner from installing a solar energy device [with certain exceptions].” In the end, the owner won her appeal.

There is a public policy to encourage alternative energy sources, like sun and wind. At times this seems to conflict with a public policy to preserve the architectural integrity of our older neighborhoods. The City's Office of Historic Preservation has established guidelines for solar collectors (page 3). These work to tone down the appearance of the panels, but do not prohibit them. As with all other improvements, a building permit is required before installation of solar panels. Any questions should be worked out with City staff before investing in the equipment.

On April 6th a public meeting was held to discuss a memorial overlay for W. Woodlawn from Zarzamora to Bandera to honor Archbishop Patrick Flores. Because of poor prior notice, many residents believed that the street's name was being changed. Once clarified, some objections dropped. Other doubts remained, as whether a street memorial was a proper way to honor the late archbishop and if honoring a man of the cloth was best left to the church. Another concern was the glut of signs already existing on that stretch of road--65 in each direction. On April 20th City Council approved the overlay and the signs have been installed.

City Council members can now serve four 2-year terms, but it is still up to the voters to decide if their Council member should continue in office or if the reins should be handed to someone new. Last month District 7 voted for a change (page 1). We bid a farewell and thank you to Cris Medina who began his relationship with WLCA ten years ago as a council aide, then chief of staff, for Justin Rodriguez, and six years ago moved up to the councilman position. During those years we have seen many changes in our area. WLCA initiated several of these, endorsed others, and at times opposed the change. We are glad to have been part of the discussions that brought some changes and prevented others. Regardless of who is in office, WLCA will continue to speak for our neighborhood.

Fred Ayers asked to be replaced on our Board after two terms. The Board has selected Charles Oisten to fill that job. Charles has helped in our garden and with newsletter deliveries. I welcome him to the Board. Fred and his wife Sylvia have been active in WLCA for several years. I thank them for their service.

# JULY 4th CELEBRATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE PARK

The City of San Antonio's 4th of July celebration returns to Woodlawn Lake Park in 2017. Families are invited to celebrate the nation's Independence Day at the Park with a fun-filled day featuring games, food, musical entertainment, and an explosion of fireworks over the Lake. The event is sponsored by the San Antonio Parks Foundation in cooperation with the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Day begins with the Salute to Red, White, and Blue Children's Parade. Pre-parade activities are at 10:00 am at the Gym and the parade begins at 11:00 am. Opening ceremonies will take place at noon on stage at the west end of the Park. There will be live music by local talent throughout the day. More than 20 vendors will be offering food and beverages. Rio San Antonio Cruises Kids' Zone will have carnival rides and games for the children. Shortly after 9 pm the crowd at the Park and surrounding area residents will be treated to the Fireworks Extravaganza, sponsored by H-E-B.

## CPS ENERGY ADOPTS COOL ROOFS

CPS Energy has adopted a program initiated by District 1 City Councilman Roberto Treviño. Begun as a way to help low income residents save on energy bills by providing roofs that help keep a house cooler, CPS Energy is extending the concept by providing rebates for cool roofs. A cool roof is one that has been designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat. This can help reduce the energy required to cool a home by reflecting solar energy which helps to lower roof temperatures by up to 50 degrees and reduce cooling demand by 10 to 15 percent.

Customers must purchase and install roofing materials between June 1st and December 31st of this year. To qualify, a home must have a roof that is 75 percent or more in direct sunlight, no significant obstruction of direct sunlight to the roof, and functional air conditioning. Customers who retrofit their homes with qualifying materials will be eligible for one of two tiered rebate structures: \$0.08/sq.ft. for projects with reflectance greater than 40%; or \$0.20/sq.ft. with reflectance more than 65%. An average size roof of 1800 square feet can result in a rebate of about \$144 to \$360. Contact CPS Energy for more information.

## A HAPPY 90th

Gilbert Gonzales celebrated his 90th birthday on March 25th. He and his wife Consuelo, who passed away in 2015, moved into their home by Woodlawn Lake Park in 1969. They had seven children who were educated at Little Flower School. He owned a welding business and several local car washes. His ornamental iron works are still visible all over San Antonio. His proudest achievement is paying for all seven kids to attend college and earn their degrees. A long-time WLCA member, we congratulate Gilbert on his full life and wish him the best.

## Plan Ahead for Enjoyable Day

We who reside around Woodlawn Lake Park are familiar with the traffic build-up in our area every July 4th. Please suggest to your guests that they arrive early to avoid the crowds. VIA buses will be running on Sunday schedule. These are bus lines on Zarzamora (520), Woodlawn (90), Wilson (89 & 522), and Culebra (82 & 88). We are hoping that Park visitors take the bus, ride a bicycle, or walk, rather than drive. If they do drive, we ask that they cooperate with the police officers directing traffic and observe parking regulations.

Those picnicking at the Park should carry bags for their trash. On busy days, the Park's trash cans fill up fast and a lot of debris ends up on the ground and in the water. Also, there are no receptacles for ashes, so visitors who plan to grill or barbeque should bring foil or other material for disposing of their spent charcoal. There are blue receptacles for recycling empty cans and uncapped bottles. These receptacles should be used only for this purpose. Visitors should carry a bag for their other recyclables to take home for later curbside collection. Overnight camping is not allowed for the 4th. Both alcohol and glass containers are prohibited at City parks. Please report any abuses that you see to the on-site Park Police or to 311 or 911 (emergency).

Remember your pets. If at the Park, they must be on a leash. Whether at home or at the Park, pets may be uneasy with fireworks noise. Shield them indoors or away from the action.

## OHP GUIDE FOR SOLAR COLLECTORS ON HISTORIC HOMES

The City's Office of Historic Preservation sets out this guide for the installation of solar collectors on historic residences:

Locate solar collectors on side or rear roof pitch of the primary historic structure to the maximum extent feasible to minimize visibility from the public right-of-way while maximizing solar access. Alternatively, locate solar collectors on a garage or out-building or consider a ground-mount system where solar access to the primary structure is limited.

Mount solar collectors flush with the surface of a sloped roof. Select solar collectors that are similar in color to the roof surface to reduce visibility. On flat roof surfaces, mount the collectors flush with the roof surface to the maximum extent feasible. Where solar access limitations preclude a flush mount, locate panels towards the rear of the roof where visibility from the public right-of-way will be minimized.

## Next WLCA Meeting: May 30th at 6:30 pm

Wi-Fi (Community) Room ~ Park Gym Bldg  
Remaining 2017 meetings: Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 29, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec Holiday Party TBA

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



## **ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL BATTLE Alazán Creek Predates Álamo**

The Álamo is much in the news lately, dealing with proposals for restoring or enhancing the site of the 1836 battle in the Texas Revolution. Yet there is a largely overlooked, and possibly lost site of an earlier battle for independence that took place in our community, or somewhere between our community and downtown. It occurred on June 20, 1813, along Alazán Creek. At one time there was a State Historical Marker at the old Centeno Grocery Administration building at 1500 W. Commerce (at Colorado). But the battle may have taken place further upstream along Martin Street or even near the current casting pond at Woodlawn Lake.

The Battle of Alazán Creek took place during the Mexican War of Independence, which lasted from 1810 to 1821. The combatants were the pro-independence Republican Army of the North (RAN) and the Spanish Royalist Army (SRA). The RAN was led by Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara and Major Henry Perry. Under a green flag, it was comprised of Criollos, Mestizos, Anglo-Americans, and Indians. In 1812, the RAN entered Texas from Louisiana and captured the town of Nacogdoches and the Presidio of Bahía in Goliad. The SRA confronted them but had to retreat to San Antonio with the RAN in pursuit. In March 1813, the SRA ambushed the RAN along the Rosillo Crossing at Salado Creek, but were defeated. A truce was signed, and on

April 6, 1813, the RAN drafted a declaration of independence, which established the first Republic of Texas.

In June 1813, the SRA under Colonel Ignacio Elizondo, left central Mexico for San Antonio. On June 12th, they camped about 500 yards west of Alazán Creek. Underestimating the insurgents' strength, they failed to take needed precautions and allowed camp followers, wives, and children to mingle with the troops. On June 20th, the RAN surrounded the camp before sunrise and just after dawn fired their cannons and attacked. After charges and counter-charges in a two-hour battle, the SRA began to give way. The RAN cavalry and their Indian allies mercilessly killed the royalists. Only those on fleet horses were able to escape. The victory was short-lived, as the Spaniards defeated the RAN near the Medina River on August 13, 1813.

## **ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTERS**

WLCA Newsletters are published bi-monthly, at the end of each odd-numbered month about one week before our meetings. They are sent to current dues-paying members, by email to those who have that service and by US Mail to all others. Issues dating back to Nov-Dec 2012 are posted at [neighborhoodlink.com](http://neighborhoodlink.com).

To insure delivery, please keep us current on your email and home addresses. The Newsletter and other WLCA correspondence can be sent to more than one email address. Send your email preferences to [wlca@att.net](mailto:wlca@att.net). Email saves on printing, paper, and postage.