

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful Since 1992

Published Bimonthly

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San Antonio, Texas

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCT 3rd

WLCA will host a National Night Out (NNO) community event on Tuesday, October 3rd, 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 expect visits by elected officials and city workers and will have 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. If you arrive before sundown, you will be able to view our Centennial Garden (right column) next to the pavilion.

VISION ZERO - SAFE STREETS DISCUSSED ON OCT 24th

Rebecca Pacini, Principal Transportation Planner with the City's Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) Department, will introduce us to Vision Zero at our October 24th meeting. Vision Zero is a program to make our roads safer for the people in our community. Its goal is to achieve zero fatalities on San Antonio's roadways. The responsibility for roadway safety is shared between those who design the road and those who use it.

The recent number of people walking and biking being killed in San Antonio has brought to light the need for action. The current crash picture illustrates that the problem is citywide and requires a multi-faceted approach. We hope to learn more about the City's program for a safe transportation system and about Vision Zero projects in our area.

NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September WLCA meeting, scheduled for the 26th, has been cancelled. The WLCA Board decided that, since our National Night Out event (left column) would take place one week following the membership meeting, it would be best to combine the two functions into one evening. Our October meeting will be on the 24th of that month, one week earlier than the last Tuesday on which our meetings usually take place. This is to avoid holding a meeting on Halloween night.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN UPDATE Next Workday October 7th

After a three months break for the summer heat, we returned to the garden on September 9th. Charles Bartlett, Albert Del Rio, Sally Avila, Vicki Wright, Susan Hudnall, Maria Rodriguez, and Alejandro Soto were joined by eighteen student volunteers from UTSA and Trinity University. We cleared out weeds that had sprung up following the August 7th rain and picked up trash that had accumulated. We spread more mulch to try to hold down future weeds and to retain moisture in the ground. We also added more plants to the spreading garden.

The City's Parks Department has provided some railroad ties that we will use to control erosion on sloping terrain. County Judge Nelson Wolff has donated \$100 to add another tree. After initial plant losses, all our plants seem to be surviving. Unfortunately, someone recently rode a bicycle through the garden damaging some of the plants. We expect the plants to recover but hope that behavior as this is not repeated (please keep an eye out). If you have not seen the garden lately, take time for a causal stroll and see what WLCA has accomplished in just a year and a half.

We plan to have one garden workday each month until hot weather returns. The next garden day is Saturday, October 7th. Please come by and lend a hand. Bring a friend or family member. We will gather at 8:30 am and be done by noon.

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WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CINCINNATI STUDY ADVANCES

On September 18th, the Westside Development Corporation (WDC) presented a draft study on the Cincinnati Avenue Corridor. Over the past one and one-half years, the WDC has been looking at the Cincinnati corridor from St. Mary's University to Woodlawn Lake Park (Nwsltr Nov-Dec'16). It has held community meetings, taken surveys, and done research on the current conditions of the street and on a vision for its future.

A main consensus is to make the street friendlier for pedestrians and bicyclists. This includes traffic calming, safer intersections (particularly at Bandera and at Gen. McMullen), shaded sidewalks, and slower vehicular traffic. There is a desire for continuity of design, using landscaping, art work, and lighting to unify the corridor. Other proposals are for encouragement of businesses to benefit foot traffic and using existing unused (often city-owned) land for small parks and rest stops.

One innovation presented was developing small homes in back yards to front the alleyways of the corridor. This could provide added housing for the area, especially for college students, while cleaning up and upgrading the alleys themselves. Other basics mentioned were bus transportation and drainage improvements. A final report will be out in about two weeks. The plan will go to City Council for approval, with implementation to follow.

WLCA Birthdays

September: flower - aster; birthstone - sapphire

William Alvarado, Francesco Cristadoro, Amelia De La Garza, Evangelina Escamilla, Dolores Escobedo, Frances Estrello, Dan Howarth, Alyssa Leal, Rose Montejano, Norma Jean Moore, Kay Shaw, Vicki Wright

October: flower - calendula; birthstone - opal

Diana Arévalo, Sylvia Ayers, Mary Ann Black, Joe Hanney, Cathy Fernandez, Deborah Gussman, Ashley Hernandez, Ana Mercedes Herrera, James Jones, Juan Morales, Rose Perales, Ralph Sanchez Sr, Kayellen Walker, Laura Wauson, Karen Weehler, Keith Wideman

WORKS, WASHES, WATCHING

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

On September 5th, community members attended a meeting at Madison Elementary for an update on Seeling Channel projects. Phase II, funded by the 2012 City Bond, is nearing completion. The work has included the deepening of the channel to hold more runoff, new bridges, and street and sidewalk reconstruction from Wilson to Morning Glory. Phase III, allocated \$18 million by the 2017 bond, will continue these improvements upstream past St. Cloud. Design work will begin soon, with construction starting next year. Phase I, from Woodlawn Lake to Wilson, a 2007 bond project, was completed in 2014.

The 2017 bond also funds a sidewalk on the westside of Lake Blvd from Club to W. Woodlawn. In addition, it provides \$5 million to develop a multi-generational recreation center at Woodlawn Lake Park. The State previously allotted matching grant money (Nwsltr Jul-Aug'15). At our last WLCA meeting (Aug 29th), members expressed concern as to where such a facility would be built. We have to insist on continuing dialogue with the community and the city to insure that this project does not compromise the openness and green quality of our Park.

Other city projects are funded through the annual budget process (page 3). The Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) Department sets a five-year rolling program to schedule maintenance of city hardscape. Service needs are identified city-wide and are scheduled for maintenance of streets, alleys, and drainage, as well as for sidewalks, traffic signals, pavement markings, and Advanced Transportation District (ATD) related projects. The Infrastructure Maintenance Program (IMP) that lists these projects can be found online at sanantonio.gov/tci.

Recent flooding along the Texas coast and in Florida recall flooding in our area that led to the Seeling Channel and other projects. Water runoff is made worse by development as absorption is minimized and lost. Although roughly equal in area, Harris County, home to Houston, has more than twice as many paved roads as Bexar County. As our city grows, we have to be mindful of potential consequences and take measures to safeguard downstream communities as ours. This includes alternatives to vehicular commuting, saving of green space, sharing of business parking areas, and upstream water detention. Our city is expected to add one million residents by 2040. Recent floods might move up that date if evacuees choose to stay and survivors seek higher ground.

The city's outward expansion makes it more important that our inner neighborhoods be heard. It is these communities that give character to our city. We have to continue to seek services that maintain and enhance our homes and surrounds, as well as keep vigilant on how new growth affects us. That is a major function of WLCA, as well as our fellow neighborhood associations.

PARK SAFETY TIPS

courtesy of District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño

As the City of San Antonio grows its parkland and encourages residents to be more active, park safety remains priority number one. The City's 2018 Budget calls for 42 new police officers, including 4 Parks Police Officers. Also, the Central City Substation will be the new home to Parks Police so that they are more centrally located and can improve their response times.

Here are some park safety tips from SAPD:

1. Go with a buddy. Enjoy your trails and parklands with a friend. Two or more trail users can assist each other in the event of accident or injury, and one can always seek help.
2. The day is your friend; avoid dusk and darkness.
3. Use all your senses. Listen for suspicious noises. Do not wear headphones; they impair your ability to hear someone approaching you from behind. If you sense that an area may be unsafe for you, leave.
4. Take what you need. Carry personal identification, a fully charged cell phone, and wear your medical bracelets.
5. Leave valuables at home. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle while you are enjoying your picnic lunch or using the trails, hide them well before you arrive at the parking area; auto burglaries are all too common.
6. Call for help. If you need assistance or encounter someone else needing assistance, call 911.
7. Have someone waiting. Always let someone else know where you will be going and when you will return, and instruct that person to call 911 if you do not return as planned.
8. Do not wear any expensive jewelry.
9. If you feel comfortable carrying pepper spray, that can be a tool of defense. Do research before purchasing.
10. Own the trail. Project alertness, confidence, and determination. Your shoulders are back, you are aware of your surroundings, and you have somewhere to go.

GOOD TO KNOW

Dial ten numbers: Beginning Saturday, September 23rd, you will have to dial ten numbers when making local calls. If you do not include 210 in calling, you will get a recording instructing you to do so. San Antonio is getting a second area code, 726, beginning in October. The new code will be an overlay, existing within the same geographic area as the existing code. Ten digit dialing of these codes is still local calling and not long distance.

Constitutional Amendment Election: November 7th; last day to register Oct. 10th; early voting Oct. 23rd - Nov. 3rd.

No WLCA Meeting in September
Remaining meetings in 2017: Oct 24, Nov 28

FY 2018 CITY BUDGET

from report by District 7 Councilwoman Ana Sandoval

On September 14th City Council approved the City's budget for the fiscal year that begins October 1st. This plan incorporates District 7 residents' priorities, the ones expressed in public forums, emails and phone calls, and numerous one-on-one conversations. It provides funding to hire 42 new police officers and 43 new firefighters. The budget also maintains the city's strong commitment to improving streets, sidewalks, and other basic infrastructure in every district and secures an additional \$2 million for drainage projects in District 7.

The plan begins to address the lack of public investment in some of San Antonio's older neighborhoods. Repairs to some of the most deteriorated streets and sidewalks in Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10 are in addition to the city's regular maintenance spending. Thus, this fairer, more equitable budgeting does not mean some districts will lose out on infrastructure funding.

City Council also voted to keep the City's property tax rate at its current level. A proposal to cut the tax rate was not approved as relief would have been minimal while significantly impacting the city's ability to repair and maintain its infrastructure.

COMING EVENTS

Historic Homeowner Fair, Sat. Sept 30th, 9:30 am - 3 pm, Pearl Stable: rescheduled from August 26th (Nwsltr Jul-Aug'17).

#Get Moving public meeting, a special Walk & Bike Night event, Wed. Oct. 18th, 6 - 8 pm, Roosevelt Clubhouse, 331 Roosevelt: hear about corridors with the highest severe pedestrian crashes, provide input on the Bike Share Master Plan, and get an update on the MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Śiclovía, along Broadway, between Alamo Plaza & Lions Field, Sun. Oct. 22nd, 11 am - 4 pm: 2.7 miles of road will become car-free for families and pets (on leash) to walk, run, ride bikes, and enjoy; a 5k run/walk will precede the event at 8 am at Alamo Plaza and follow a route through downtown.

Planet K Día De Los Muertos, Thur. Nov 2nd, 6 - 9 pm, Woodlawn Lake Park: the event begins with a vintage car parade, followed by memorial balloon releases through the day; featuring craft vendors, food trucks, charity booths, and radio & tv participation, ending with a giant fireworks display

Solar Fest, Sat., Nov. 4th, 10 am - 4 pm, Roosevelt Park.

REMEMBRANCE

Mary Pieper passed away on August 22nd at the age of 89. She was employed with USAA for 40 years and was a member at Jefferson United Methodist Church for 30 years. Mary was also a long time member of WLCA. She is survived by her daughter Alice Pieper and her sister Kathleen Grayshon, to whom we extend our sympathies.

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**
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DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

Recent hurricanes and floods remind us of the need to be prepared for emergencies and to have survival supplies on hand should the need to evacuate your home arise. This is one list of recommended items:

- A 3 day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that will not spoil (and a can opener);
- One change of clothing and footwear per person, and one blanket or sleeping bag per person (anticipate seasonal weather, as rain or cold);
- A first aid kit that includes prescription medications;
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered radio, flashlight, plenty of extra batteries, dust masks, and a wrench or pliers for shutting off utilities;
- A whistle to signal for help;
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash;
- Sanitation supplies, moist towelettes, garbage bags and ties;
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members;
- An extra pair of eyeglasses and a charger for your cell phone.

Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Gather the listed items, fill up your gas tank (check the car), and charge your cell phone when an emergency appears likely.

SAFEGUARD YOUR SSN

from AARP Bulletin

An identity thief can use your Social Security number to steal your money and government benefits, get medical care and other services in your name, and leave a mess for you to clear up. Here are ways to protect yourself:

- Do not carry your Social Security card. The same goes for your Medicare card; it contains your Social, unless you are seeing a health care provider for the first time.
- Do not give out your number. Only a few organizations have a legal right to your number: your employer, banks and lenders, the IRS, and government-funded programs (as workers' compensation). When asked by others, just say no.
- Guard the last four. These are the most widely used and shared. They are truly random and unique. The first five numbers represent when and where your card was issued. Scammers can get those numbers by knowing your birthdate and hometown. Do not use the four as a password or for a company id.
- If your number is used for identity theft, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877-438-4338 or at identitytheft.gov. File a police report and notify credit reporting bureaus and banks. Report Medicare fraud to 800-447-8477. To protect your tax refund, call the IRS at 800-908-4490. For lost or stolen SS cards, call 800-772-1213, or go to socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.