

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful Since 1992

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San Antonio, Texas

HOME VEGETABLE GARDENING TIPS LEARNED ON MAY 29th

On May 29th, Nick and Liz Campanella will tell us about their business, Uprooted Gardens, and will share home gardening tips. Uprooted Gardens is San Antonio's newest edible garden service specializing in raised bed construction, garden maintenance and coaching, existing garden overhauls, drip irrigation installation, seasonal garden planting, and more.

Nick and Liz formed the business in 2016 with the idea that everyone can grow something edible somewhere. Through a personal journey of gardening in South Texas, and volunteering in multiple organizations, they recognized the need for something like Uprooted Gardens. They both share a love for all things green and are overwhelmingly excited to share their passion for edible gardening with their hometown.

Liz is a San Antonio native, attended O'Connor High School, raised pigs for OHS FFA chapter, and graduated from UTSA in 2012 with a BA in psychology. Nick was born in Bozeman and grew up in Great Falls, Montana; attended Churchill High School; and earned BA's in psychology & sociology, with a minor in anthropology at UTSA. We look forward to hearing from this interesting couple on a very useful and often tricky subject.

WLCA's CLASS OF 2018

WLCA family members are among this year's graduates:

- Mark Fernandez, grandson of Elia Reyna, is graduating from Holy Cross High School. He will attend Texas A&M San Antonio and will major in cybersecurity.
- Ruth Chincanchan, daughter of Bazaleel and Carol, is graduating from Saint Mary's Hall. She will attend UCLA and major in psychobiology.
- Michael Medina, grandson of Rose Perales, is graduating from Fox Tech. He will attend San Antonio College and begin the process to become a firefighter.
- Miguel and Aleida Gomez are honored with two graduates. Son Miguel is receiving a bachelor's in civil engineering from Vanderbilt in May, and daughter Aleida Michelle is being awarded a master's in education from Notre Dame in July.

PRELUDE TO THE 4th - EVENT SPONSORS VISIT ON JUN 26th

We have invited sponsors of the 4th of July celebration at our park to our June 26th meeting. Representatives from the San Antonio Parks Foundation, SAPD Traffic Division, and the Park Police will be on hand to tell us of their plans for the event. We will focus on problems we have had in past years and hear about plans to remedy or temper those issues.

We have previously brought to the attention of these parties, as well as the District 7 Council Office, issues with mobility through our streets, trash in the park and our neighborhood, and excessive alcohol drinking. We are looking forward to the annual celebration at our park and hope that any associated problems can be kept at a minimum (page 3).

LEGACY AWARD FOR PARK

Woodlawn Lake Park has received the Legacy Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society. The award goes to parks that have had a long-lasting impact on the community. Our Park well deserves this honor. This part of the city grew and improves because of it. Our Park is a model of ecology, recreation, and relaxation, an integral and vital part of our community.

NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

San Antonio Neighborhood Day 2018 takes place on Saturday, June 9th, from 8:30 am to 2 pm, at the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church, 227 W. Woodlawn Avenue. The free event is open to the public and includes complimentary lunch. It features speakers and discussions on topics of community interest and importance. Representatives from the City and other entities will be on hand to speak, answer questions, and receive community feedback. You can RSVP to anne.englert@yahoo.com.

This is the third annual event sponsored by the Bowen Center for Neighborhood Advocacy, Inc. Chair and founder of the Bowen Center is former County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson.

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WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168
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Vice President: Diana Sanchez Lira.....646-1595
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Board Members:
Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296
Sally Avila.....734-2093
Charles Oisten.....702-234-0604
Vicki Wright.....286-7222

SUCCESSFUL EARTH DAY REVAMP

April 21st saw a new look to the City's official annual Earth Day celebration at Woodlawn Lake Park. Sponsored and headed by the Westside Development Corporation (WDC), WLCA was involved in the organizing and planning of the event.

WDC President and CEO Leonard Rodriguez summed up the day: "Though it is hard to capture exact metrics of event success it is clear that the day was one to celebrate: there was a bustling crowd from start to finish, a diversity of stage performances, wide participation in the raffle, lines for demonstrations, food vendors sold out, and many exhibitors confirmed their desire to participate in 2019. We had visitors come from all over San Antonio and beyond, many had been attending the event for years, but there was an impressive number of visitors from other areas – some had never been to Woodlawn Lake Park, some had only recently moved to the city, and some came from as far as San Marcos and Houston. Remarks of praise were heard from all those involved, some going so far to say that this was the best Earth Day event they had experienced. Earth Day 2018 was a success in all respects and it will only serve as a springboard for the planning of future Earth Day events."

Our Centennial Garden was on display for event goers. We thank Charles Bartlett, Alberto Del Rio, Lorenzo Delgadillo, and Alejandro Soto, who spent the day meeting with these visitors.

WLCA Birthdays

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

Carmen Barrera, Bezaleel Chincanchan, Sylvia Garza, Rod Logsdon, Enrique Mendoza, Susie Navarro, Charles Oisten, Dr Daniel Rodriguez

June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl

Yolanda Bernal, Bert Clayton, Linda Felan, Trey Martinez Fischer, Miguel Gomez, Joe Gonzales, Liz Gonzales, Eugene Herrera, Johnny Montejano, Leticia Treviño, Callie Ramos, Elia Reyna, Kathleen Trenchard, Steve Weakley

WORDS, WANE, WHAT

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

In reading comments posted online I often find area residents asking about neighborhood events and projects, complaining about area conditions, and making assumptions on city rules and functions. These are on Facebook and nextdoor and could be on other sites that I do not follow. Interestingly, those making the entries are usually not familiar names associated with WLCA or other neighborhood associations in this area.

One of the functions of a neighborhood association (NA) is to keep its members aware of what is going on in their community. We do this through our newsletters, eblasts, and meetings. At WLCA meetings in the past year we have had the Police Chief; County Tax Appraiser; representatives from CPS Energy, Animal Care Services, Transportation and Capital Improvements, and the 311 Call Center. Our meetings are regularly attended by our SAPD SAFFE Officer and representatives from Council Districts 1 and 7, State Senate District 26, and State House District 116. When we do not have information at our disposal, we seek it out.

That is why I am disappointed that forty of last year's members chose not to renew their membership for 2018. I wonder if WLCA did not meet these members' expectations, if they lost interest, or if they just forgot. We begin printing renewal reminders in our November-December newsletter and continue in the following two until Earth Day. WLCA does overlap with the Jefferson NA. There is also some confusion concerning the Monticello Park Historic District and the Monticello Park NA. Some residents think that the historic district and the neighborhood association are one and the same, thus that they are not in WLCA. Additionally, we did not get the usual new member boost from our spring membership drive. The help we anticipated for our community outreach this year did not deliver as we had expected.

I welcome ideas on ways to improve WLCA that would interest people in joining and then in retaining their memberships. I want our members to feel that they are a part of our association and that their voices matter in our community. We represent the concerns and desires of the Woodlawn Lake area. Our opinions and feedback are sought out by the City and its agencies when planning for, and when dealing with conditions of this area. The more members we have, the greater our voice and the greater our credibility. In 2014, we had a record high 221 paid members. I would like to reach that number again, or at least come close.

Vicki Wright has become a member of the WLCA Board, filling a position that had become vacant. Vicki has helped in our garden, with newsletter deliveries, and at WLCA events. I welcome her to the Board.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN

Next Work Day: Saturday, June 2nd
8:30 to 11 am

JULY 4th CELEBRATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE PARK

The City of San Antonio's 4th of July celebration returns to Woodlawn Lake Park in 2018. The day begins at 8 am and continues to 9:30 pm. 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 of San Antonio and the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

The Celebration will feature the always popular "Firecracker Fit-Family Walk/Run" around the lake, Free Zumba Sessions, Carnival games and rides, face-painters, and children's activities and workshops. Confirmed live entertainment includes the US Air Force Band of The West, and local Selena Tribute Act, Bidi Bidi Banda, with more artists and performers to be announced. 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.

ALMAGUER DANCE STUDIO SITE FOR MULTI-GENERATIONAL CENTER

The 2017 City Parks Bond allots \$5 million for a multi-generational center at Woodlawn Lake Park. The State previously allotted a \$1.5 million matching grant "for development of a library or activity center in or adjacent to the park" (Nwsltr Jul-Aug'15). That brings the funds available for the project to \$6.5 million.

The plan at this point is to replace the Bertha Almaguer Dance Studio by the Casting Pond with a facility double in size. It will have two dance studios as well as program spaces for members of the community of all ages. It will not duplicate facilities available across the street at the gym. Currently in design stage, the final plan should go to City Council for approval in about another year and a half, with construction to take place between April 2020 and September 2021. The timing could accelerate with a reduced overall project timeframe.

The community will have the opportunity to share ideas on the project. WLCA has already been heard on some facets. The project plan when first presented placed the new center next to the gym and into the gym parking lot, closing Alexander Avenue. Our members did not agree with that footprint. We also recalled that after the 2012 bond, users of the dance studio cited a need for a larger space. The current plan will serve this purpose, meet the State requirement, and give the community more space for recreation-related programs.

WLCA is also asking that the new center have an ecological component, as solar panels, rain capture, natural landscape, and preservation of green space. We will keep the members informed on meetings and construction as the project advances.

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.

URBAN WILDLIFE SERIES

The Bexar County Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee is offering a Wildlife Series with a particular focus on water. Programs will begin in June and continue through August. The cost is \$25 for the series or \$10 per class. Programs will be held from 10 am to 12 noon.

- Why Conservation Matters for People and Wildlife; San Antonio River Authority and the Clean River Program - 6-14 (Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge)
- Water and Wildlife of Texas - 6-28 (Bexar County Ext Ofc)
- Stormwater Management for Wildlife and Water Quality; Ponds, Birdbaths and Wildlife - 7-10 (Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center)
- Native Plants and Water Conservation - 7-31 (Hardberger Park)
- Field Trip - 8-14 (TBD)

For more information, see the brochure at agrilife.org/bexar county or contact the Extension Office at 210-631-0400.

Next WLCA Meeting: May 29th at 6:30 pm

Wi-Fi (Community) Room ~ Park Gym Bldg

Remaining 2018 meetings: Jun 26, Jul 31, Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 30, Nov 27, Dec Holiday Activity TBA

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**
PO Box 28374
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SAN PEDRO CREEK CULTURE PARK

On May 5th, the first segment of San Pedro Creek Culture Park, from N. Santa Rosa to Houston Streets, opened to the public. This part of the Park starts at the Tunnel Inlet, site of the Plaza de Fundación and its "Rain from the Heavens" public art installment. Custom tile work adorns the surrounding 12 Generational Benches and other features. There are also commissioned murals and other art pieces that represent the history and culture of this historic creek. The Park is open daily from 5 am to 11 pm.

San Pedro Creek Culture Park is a four phase project, with three segments in phase 1. The second segment of the first phase is currently under construction from Houston Street to Nueva Street. When the four phases are completed, the San Pedro Creek Culture Park will span 2.2 miles through downtown, beginning at IH-35 at the flood tunnel inlet at Santa Rosa Street and ending at the confluence of the Alazán and Apache Creeks at IH-35 to the south. The Alazán Creek Trail, which now begins at the Woodlawn Casting Pond and ends at Lombrano Street, is being extended to the Apache Creek Trail (Nwsltr Nov-Dec'17). When completed, we will be able to reach San Pedro Creek Culture Park from Woodlawn Lake Park via the Alazán Creek Trail.

Bexar County is the primary funder of the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project and the San Antonio River Authority is the project manager for the project. SARA will have oversight and maintenance responsibility as project phases are complete.

COP CLASS OFFERED

A Citizens on Patrol (COP) [formerly Cellular on Patrol] class will be held Thursday, June 21st, at the West Police Substation, 7000 Culebra. The class begins at 6 pm and runs through 9 pm. There is no cost to attend this class. Attendees are offered a ride-along with a police officer following the class.

The purpose of the COP Program is to prepare residents to be the "eyes and ears" of the police and to promote closer cooperation between residents and city agencies that exist to serve them. Residents in the program patrol their streets, using cell phones to report crimes.

The application is at www.sanantonio.gov (SAPD>citizen on patrol). You can either take the completed application to the West Substation in person or mail it in.

AREA STREET WORK

TCI is working to improve the alley between W. Magnolia and W. Huisache, from Lake to Kampmann. Work should be completed by June 15th. Until then, waste collection will be curbside in front of the affected properties.

Road surface improvement will begin in mid-June on N. Josephine Tobin Drive from W. Woodlawn to W. Mistletoe. The project consists of new asphalt pavement with significant base repair that includes new curb installation and driveway approach replacement. Construction will last about three months.