

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

September–October 2018

San Antonio, Texas

SAFETY ON OUR STREETS PRESENTED ON SEP 25th

On August 28th, a driver speeding on Culebra lost control of his car as he attempted to turn onto Zarzamora. He hit four people who were waiting for a bus. Fortunately, they all recovered. We have asked for representatives from the police and from Vision Zero to tell us of road safety design and enforcement. That is the topic of our meeting on September 25th.

SGT Steven Markgraf will represent the SAPD Traffic Unit. We will also have a spokesperson from Vision Zero, a program to make our roads safer for the people in our community. It is part of the City's Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) Department. 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.

Too many people walking and biking have been killed in San Antonio. Those numbers and the recent incident in our community bring to light the need for action. We hope to learn how the City's program for a safe transportation system plus police enforcement of our traffic laws can help make our streets safer.

SA CLIMATE JUSTICE TOPIC OF OCT 30th MEETING

Briauna Barrera, Climate Justice Organizer with Public Citizen, will be our presenter on October 30th. Barrera has a degree in urban studies and environmental studies from Trinity University. She will tell us of climate justice work happening in San Antonio and how we can get involved.

Public Citizen is an advocacy group that works on issues such as consumer safety, climate justice, and democracy. In San Antonio it works in a coalition called Climate Action SA (CASA), a group of nonprofits that focuses on environmental and social justice. CASA, along with governmental agency and business, also is currently in the process of working with the City to help develop the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Barrera will talk about the climate issues and ongoing action to address them. The presentation will address policy and action required based on scientific consensus.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCT 2nd

WLCA will host a National Night Out (NNO) community event on Tuesday, October 2nd, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. It will be at the pavilion at the west end of Woodlawn Lake Park, by the S. Josephine Tobin Drive bridge. 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 pizza and drinks. 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 (below) next to the pavilion.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN

The hot dry summer gave way to a rainy September. Both have limited our gardening work to weed control and survival watering. The rain has brought new life and color to our plants. It has also brought new weeds. We will be working on clean up and dressing up of the area. Let us know if you can help.

On October 13th, in line with the City's Tricentennial, the garden will be a part of Serve 300 SA Day. This 3 hour project will begin at 9 am. We welcome garden volunteers and visitors. A similar event planned for last May 5th was cancelled because of rain. We are hoping for sunshine this time around.

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WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Charles Oisten.....702-733-0839

Vicki Wright.....286-7222

OFFICER & BOARD ELECTIONS

Election for WLCA's Executive Board to serve in 2019 and 2020 will be at our November 27th meeting. The Executive Board includes the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as four board members.

Nominations will open at our October 30th meeting and will continue at the following meeting before the election. A candidate can be self-nominated or nominated by another member. There are no term limits.

Eligibility for office and duties of each office are set by our by-laws (posted at neighborhoodlink.com). To run for office this year, a candidate must have been a WLCA active member on May 1st. Only active and associate members as of September 1st of this year can vote in this year's election. Only those present at the meeting can vote. Each member is entitled to one vote with family/household memberships being entitled to two voters (who must be present) of the respective group's choosing.

WLCA seeks officers and board members who will represent the total geographic area of our community as well as the varied interests within it. Tasks are not arduous nor time consuming and can be very rewarding. Members are encouraged to consider serving WLCA in one of these capacities. The new Executive Board will take office on January 1, 2019.

WLCA Birthdays

September: flower - aster; birthstone - sapphire

William Alvarado, Francesco Cristadoro, Deb Cundy, David Garcia, Evangelina Escamilla, Rose Montejano, Norma Jean Moore, Michael Perez, Kay Shaw, Ron Whitehawk, Vicki Wright

October: flower - calendula; birthstone - opal

Sylvia Ayers, Mary Ann Black, Cathy Fernandez, Esther Garcia, Gloria Gutierrez, Joe Hanney, Carol Herrera, Juan Morales, James Jones, Rose Perales, Virginia Saenz, Anita Valencia, Kayellen Walker, Laura Wauson

MOTTO, MOBILES, MOVERS

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

We have dropped "since 1992" from our motto at the masthead of this Newsletter. WLCA received its state charter that year. However, our Association was active before that date. There is a plaque at the Park Island House that lists WLCA as one of the parties that worked on the building's renovation in 1986. We also have a plaque presented to WLCA by Mayor Henry Cisneros as the Public Land Day Winner in 1988 "for preserving a clean and beautiful environment." One of WLCA's founders, Lou Kaplan (dec.) had told us that she and her neighbors were working for park and area improvements in the late 1940's. We welcome any information as to when the Woodlawn Lake Community Association came to be.

Page 3 of this Newsletter gives a history of our lake and park. It mentions that the West End Improvement Club was organized in 1920 to work with the City in the "development, improvement, and beautification" of the community and the lake. WLCA is today's "West End Improvement Club" as we work to "keep Woodlawn Wonderful." We take extraordinary pride in having the lake and park as the focal point of our community. We feel a responsibility to take care of it for ourselves, for our fellow citizens of San Antonio, and for those generations yet to come.

We have recently seen electric scooters popping up all over the city. There are currently three companies that are offering these vehicles for rent. The scooters are "dockless," meaning that they can be parked anywhere. They are unlocked through smartphone apps and GPS. City Council is considering regulations for their use, including where they can be ridden and parked, minimum age of riders, and right-of-way priorities. Current city code prohibits use of electric vehicles in parks, along trails, and in creekways. This rule will not change. Scooters are not allowed on the foot path around Woodlawn Lake.

We will be electing new officers and board members this year (left column). As stated above and on page 3, the people of this community have been instrumental in the development of the park and its surrounding area. WLCA and its predecessor local groups have worked to bring about improvements and to protect and preserve the historic and environmental features of the area. We want all WLCA members to feel that they have a voice in making decisions that affect the park and community. In so doing, we encourage attendance at our meetings, taking part in our activities, and choosing to serve on our Executive Board.

Events of the past brought members to our meetings. In 2002, it was the July flood. From 2007 to 2011, it was the S. Josephine Tobin Drive bridge controversy. After that, it was major construction projects, city, school, and private. We stay aware of local activity and give our input. There is always something of interest at our meetings and urge our members to attend.

WOODLAWN LAKE PARK CENTENNIAL

On October 24, 2018, Woodlawn Lake Park will complete one century as a property of and for the citizens of San Antonio. Our Park began as a recreation area to enhance a new suburb outside of San Antonio. The development of the lake and park go hand in hand with the growth of the surrounding neighborhoods.

In 1887, General W. Russ organized the West End Townsite Company and acquired 1,000 acres of land that is now the lake and surrounding neighborhood for an exclusive residential development. The Alazán Creek meandered through this land. In 1888, the Company obtained a franchise for a street car company. To run its tracks, the Company built up the land across the path of the Creek, damming up the waters and forming a lake. Dirt for the dam was dug up from the opposite side of the lake, to create what is now the casting pond. Later the lake was deepened by dredging with mule teams.

The new pool was named West End Lake. Two artesian wells were drilled to feed it. Improvements were made to include a driveway around the lake, a boat landing, and some landscaping. A club house was erected on a floating island that was a pavilion on air-tight floats. When this did not work out well, the house was moved to the banks of the lake. West End became the social center of the City. People came out to enjoy dancing, boating, and fishing. There was also driving around the lake in the late afternoons, as well as picnics and barbecues on the shore.

As other suburbs developed, West End began to decline in popularity. The depression of 1893 added to the Company's financial woes and it was forced to borrow money from Julia Anderson and F.H. Baldwin. After default, Anderson and Baldwin foreclosed on the property and took possession. At his death in 1918, Baldwin left his interest in West End Lake to the university of Cincinnati, a city-owned university. Anderson joined with the University to give the 87 acres of land to the City of San Antonio on the condition that the lake and surrounding area be improved.

The City drilled an artesian well and installed a pump station so the lake could be maintained as a live body of water. The West End Improvement Club was organized in 1920. Its purpose was to cooperate with each City administration in the development, improvement, and beautification of West End and the lake. The Club suggested that the name be changed as a way to improve conditions. With the approval of City Council, West End Lake became Woodlawn Lake.

In 1924, the City bought five privately owned acres of land northeast of the lake that is now the playground by the swimming pool. After a 1928 bond issue, extensive improvements were made, including a community building and a concrete-lined

bathing pool. The driveway around the lake was widened, paved, and named Josephine Tobin in honor of the mother of Mayor Tobin. A new arch was built over the Cincinnati entrance of the driveway, with a red neon sign saying "Josephine Tobin Driveway." The arch was later damaged by a large truck and the arch that now greets visitors was erected in 2002.

Development of the surrounding neighborhood and construction of paved streets caused more drainage and silt to go into the lake. There have been several dredging projects to restore the lake depth. The current spillway and dam were built as part of the 1970 dredge project. In 1980, the lake was dredged for almost two years while the City coordinated efforts to dredge the lake to a depth of six feet. The jogging trail was added at that time.

In 2000, Woodlawn Lake Park was designated as a historic district. In 2012, a WLCA-led effort resulted in a midnight to 5 am park curfew. From 2013-15, the inlet channel was widened as part of a flood control project. New car and pedestrian bridges were then built, replacing the older bridge at S. Josephine Tobin Drive. In 2014, the Marc Fornes art sculpture "Spineway" was added at the south edge of the park. In 2016, WLCA began work on the Centennial Garden (page 1) to mark the park's 100 years.

GENERAL ELECTION

Last day to Register: October 9th

Early Voting: October 22nd to November 2nd

Election Day: November 6th

311 APP

The City of San Antonio has launched a new 311SA mobile app. The app provides an alternative to calling 311 through a user-friendly experience and allows residents to report issues easily, check the status of their service requests, get badges for their engagement on services and view other requests submitted in their area. 311SA is free and available for download in the iTunes and Google Play stores. To learn more, visit sanantonio.gov/customerservice/mobileapp.

HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR

The 10th Annual Historic Homeowner Fair (HHF) will be Saturday, September 29th, 9 am to 2 pm, at the Pearl Stable, 307 Pearl Parkway. HHF brings together owners of aging and historic homes with local professionals, services, products, and solutions to educate homeowners about caring for and maintaining their properties. It features local contractors and preservation organizations, as well as educational sessions and hands-on demonstrations. You do not have to live in a historic district to attend this free event hosted by the City's Office of Historic Preservation. Free parking is available.

Next WLCA Meeting: Sept 25th at 6:30 pm

Remaining meetings in 2018: Oct 30, Nov 27

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**
PO Box 28374
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COMING EVENTS

Síclovia, organized by the YMCA of Greater San Antonio, Sun. Sep 30, 11 am - 4 pm: city streets will become car-free for families and pets (on leash) to walk, run, ride bikes, and enjoy; from Madison Square Park on Lexington, north on Camden, east on Brooklyn, and north on Broadway to Mahncke Park.

WalkWestside Fall Kick-Off Event, Tue. Oct 23rd, 3 - 7 pm, Our Lady of the Lake University Wellness & Activities Center: the Westside Walkability Coalition presents free food and activities for the entire family, with keynote speaker luchador and pedestrian activist Peatónito.

Walk and Bike Night, Wed. Oct 24th, 6 - 8 pm, VIA Bldg, 1021 San Pedro: A meeting will focus on all the different ways people can commute to work besides driving alone in a car.

Planet K Día De Los Muertos, Fri. Nov 2nd, 5 - 9 pm, Woodlawn Lake Park: Witness an epic light display of life-affirming fireworks (8/8:30 pm) to celebrate the Day of the Dead Planet K style and come together as a community to pay tribute to those we have lost.

Solar Fest, Sat., Nov. 17th, 10 am - 4 pm, Hemisfair: family fun and learning with live music, local artisans, a variety of food trucks and engaging activities celebrating renewable energy, energy efficiency and our beautiful city!

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-San Antonio)

Back to school—an exciting time for students, from our youngest learners at Pre-K 4 SA to college campuses. It means buying supplies, reunions with friends, and the promise of cooler days. While our littlest learners on campuses like Nelson Elementary worry about progressing at math, or college-aged learners stress about their first exam, in Washington we are facing our own challenges. Every day, I am resisting an Administration that does not support adequate federal resources for either public schools or student financial assistance for pursuing higher education.

Protecting Public Schools: I remain committed to protect funding for our schools because I believe education is vital to economic security and democracy.

Reaching for Higher Education: For students willing to work hard to obtain higher education, we must work hard to make it affordable. I have backed legislation to limit interest rates on federal loans and provide more Pell Grants and other types of assistance. I also wrote provisions in the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), which authorized a tax cut of up to \$10,000 on education expenses such as tuition, textbooks, and fees.

As school bells across Texas ring in the new year and college mascots spread spirit, know that I too will be at my desk, hard at work, ensuring your priorities are my priorities.