

# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

*Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful*

Published Bimonthly

November–December 2018

San Antonio, Texas

### **ELECTED PROBATE JUDGE TALKS WILLS, ETC NOV 27th**

On November 7th, Veronica Vasquez was elected Judge of Bexar County Probate Court 2. She will take office at the start of 2019. On November 27th, she will address WLCA members about final life preparations, including wills and inheritance.

Vasquez received a BS in Communications Study at the University of Texas and her JD degree at the UT School of Law. She currently serves as the Guardianship Program Director with Catholic Charities. She has served as a board member of Girls Inc. of San Antonio and as president of the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio. She is a Foundation Fellow of the San Antonio Bar and a member of the Women's Bar Association of San Antonio.

During her run for office, Vasquez visited one of our meetings and our National Night Out event. She offered to speak to us at one of our meetings, regardless of the outcome of the election. She will cover the probate process and talk about ways in which property is transferred at time of death. This is in way of introduction to options available to us under the law, rather than a do-it-yourself workshop. We appreciate the time that Vasquez is giving to our members so that we might better be informed on important decisions that we will be making. We also congratulate her on her election as Probate Judge.

### **ABOUT THE OCTOBER MEETING**

Our last Newsletter announced that the speaker for our October meeting would be Briana Barrera, Climate Justice Organizer with Public Citizen. On October 12th, we received a call from the office of US Representative Joaquin Castro saying that he would attend our October 30th meeting. We had worked to get Castro to speak at one of our monthly meetings. At the start of the year, we had a commitment for August 28th. That was rescinded, so we asked that other dates be considered. When we received this notice, we cancelled Barrera. After reconfirming with Castro's office, we notified our members. One day before the meeting, we received a call canceling his appearance. We regret any inconvenience to our members.

### **CITY EVENTS AT OUR GARDEN**

On October 13th, WLCA partnered with SA300 for a tricentennial project day at our Centennial Garden. We were joined by 20 volunteers, many from the Bandera Road City Church Social Action Team, plus individuals who had signed up as small teams from the community. Because of previous rains, the ground was too wet for new plantings. Instead, we focused on spreading mulch, trimming old and dried growth, and removing weeds.

During the weekend of November 10th and 11th, the Cultural Landscape Foundation, in collaboration with City Parks and Recreation, sponsored "What's Out There," a tour of the city's landscape legacy. Woodlawn Lake Park was a stop on the cool and damp second day of the tour. Although visitors were familiar with the lake, none had seen the garden. They learned of our two year effort and of the native plants now thriving, giving color, and attracting butterflies at the west end of the park.

Currently, plants show the effects of the recent freeze, but they will bounce back. The garden has grown out to its boundaries. Next year we will focus on filling in empty spots, adding some landscape features, and "polishing up" previous work. We thank the volunteers who have given their time and sweat over the past year in making our garden a recognized city landmark. We also thank our city partners who have helped us get the job done.

### **WLCA ELECTIONS**

Elections for WLCA Executive Board will take place at our November 27th meeting. Those elected as officers and board members will serve in 2019 and 2020. Nominations began at our October meeting and will resume prior to voting. Eligibility rules for candidacy and to vote are in our Sep-Oct 2018 Newsletter. Nominations to now are President, Alejandro Soto; Vice President, Sally Avila; Secretary, Ester Soto; Treasurer, Elia Reyna; Board Members (four positions), Marcy Gutierrez, Charles Oisten, Vicki Wright, and JD Morales. The duties of the Executive Board at at page 3.

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## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President:* Alejandro Soto.....485-6168  
[wlca@att.net](mailto:wlca@att.net)

*Vice President:* Dr. Diana Sanchez Lira

*Secretary:* Ester Soto

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

### *Board Members:*

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

Sally Avila.....734-2093

Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839

Charles Oisten.....702-234-0604

## HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECT

For the last three years WLCA has focused on doing something for children who might not otherwise have a good Christmas. Each year we identify two or three families in our general area. This year, rather than giving toys and other goods, we will consider gift cards to local educational venues. We welcome your thoughts on this project at our next meeting.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

WLCA held its annual National Night Out event on October 2nd 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. Those who came before sundown were able to view our Centennial Garden.

Pizza Hut on Bandera Road gave us a discount on ten pizzas. The Jefferson - Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation donated gift cards to local eateries that were awarded as door prizes. Some members brought additional food and snacks. We were visited by State Representative Diana Arévalo, SAPD SAFTE Officer John Garcia, and staff members from various governmental offices. We thank all who contributed to the event's success.

## WLCA Birthdays

*November: flower - chrysanthemum; birthstone - topaz*

Jason Ambrose, Fred Ayers, Joe Barnard, Carol Chincanchan, Lauren Crawshaw, Susan Denk, Angela Ehrenfried, Beatriz Garcia, Eleanor Garza, Aleida Gomez, Diana Harwood, Norma Hernandez, Margery Huston, Dale Jenssen, Luis Leal, Regina Perez, Ester Soto, Raul Vasquez, Beth Weakley

*December: flower - narcissus; birthstone - turquoise*

Ruben Barrera, Kenneth Beanland, Carmen Blyth, Antoinette Cadena, Jesse Castillo, Paul Garza, Eugene Herrera, Lupe Peña, Anna Perales, Raymond Reyna, Woodrow Taylor

## ALTER, ADJUST, ADVISE

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

Having attended several meetings with other neighborhood association representatives, I realize that we are not yet facing many of the problems being experienced by other older parts of the city. Some areas are seeing new development squeezed in between older properties. Some are seeing older areas torn down and replaced with higher density units. Our experience here is more in terms of individual efforts, rather than large scale. There continues to be construction without permits, that often violate historic and conservation district standards. We can control this type of activity by reporting it as we see it. If in doubt as to whether a construction project is legitimate, it is best to call it in to be sure.

The city is implementing new rules for future land use and infill development. The Tier 1 Neighborhood Coalition (members inside of Loop 410) has been active in ensuring that our concerns are addressed and protected within these revised frameworks. We have also fought incompatible development and advocated for a short term rentals ordinance recently passed by Council.

In maintaining our neighborhood's character, I would like to see our abandoned shopping areas used for local businesses that benefit our community. The older grocery stores, pharmacies, and variety stores lost favor as stores became larger and all-encompassing. What several smaller shops did in the past is now found within the walls of one megastore. The older stores still stand, but often become second hand stores or bars or remain empty. In other neighborhoods, many older buildings are seeing new life as professional offices, cafés and coffee shops, and specialty stores. We have the remnants of old shopping areas that could be put to positive use. Having commercial corridor plans to guide a transition would help in this effort.

There is always another project, another goal, another vision, for our community. The effect we seek is what will enhance our neighborhood without changing its attraction and character, what will make life better for those who live here. Others have seen bulldozers and builders change their neighborhoods with no benefit to existing residents and harm to what the neighborhood represents. That is why it is important to stay engaged in our community, to know what others are planning and what the city is allowing. Being a part of WLCA is part of this effort.

At year's end we will be presenting our City Council representatives, District 1 and 7, with lists of needs and unfulfilled requests and promises. A couple of examples are improvements to Wilson between Woodlawn and Culebra, and better drainage at the intersection of Cincinnati and Zarzamora. If you have a item or more that needs attention, please pass it along to one of our board members--they're listed at the top left of this page. Working together we can "Keep Woodlawn Wonderful."

**Best Wishes for the Holidays and the New Year!**

## Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2019

Name: _____		DOB Mo & Day: _____	
Name: _____		DOB Mo & Day: _____	
Address: _____		Zip: _____	
Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	
Membership type: (please check)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$5 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household (\$10 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> School, <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit, or <input type="checkbox"/> Business (each \$10 per year)		
Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association			

CLIP  
OR  
COPY

**TIME TO RENEW** your WLCA membership for 2019. If your member information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2019 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 2019, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, please disregard this reminder.

### ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

WLCA officers and board members are elected every two years. Our next elections will take place at our November meeting (page 1). The offices to be filled are:

**President:** Presides at all WLCA meetings, appoints committee chairs and members, and represents WLCA in all matters or designates representatives for specific purposes.

**Vice President:** Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President, becomes President for the unexpired term should the office of President become vacant, and serves as assigned by the President.

**Secretary:** Takes minutes of all WLCA meetings, maintains all records and letters of value, prepares and files all required forms and reports, and prepares all correspondence.

**Treasurer:** Controls WLCA monies, keeps records of receipts and expenditures, and files forms required by the IRS and State Comptroller.

**Board Members (4):** Assist the officers in supervising WLCA activities, make recommendations on finances and proposed rules, transact business between WLCA meetings, and fill Executive Board vacancies.

The Executive Board physically meets at least once every 6 months. Much of the Board's business is conducted by email or telephone. In addition, officers and board members are expected to be at most of the regular WLCA meetings and to help with telephone notices of meetings and events to members without email. They also bring matters to the attention of the President and act as go-betweens with the members.

### OAK WILT & TREE PRUNING

*Courtesy of "Code Connection" & Mark C. Bird, City Arborist*

Oak wilt is a deadly fungal disease that infects and disables the water-conducting system in oak trees. All oaks are susceptible to this disease, but some species more than others. With no known cure, methods to control and treatments are expensive and not guaranteed. These are some tips to help prevent oak wilt:

- Minimize pruning oak trees between February 1st and July 1st. This is when the oak wilt fungus is most active.
- The best time to prune trees is either in the middle of summer, when temperatures are the hottest, or in late fall or the early winter months when temperatures can be the coldest. (Hire only a City Licensed Tree Maintenance Contractor to prune your trees.)
- Paint all cuts and wounds on oak trees within 30 minutes. Remove red oaks identified with oak wilt.
- Know where your firewood comes from. Do not transport unseasoned firewood from diseased red oaks.

If you suspect oak wilt in your neighborhood, contact the Texas Forest Service at 210-494-1742. Additional recommendations and information are at [texasoakwilt.org/oak-wilt-management](http://texasoakwilt.org/oak-wilt-management).

### GAMING ROOMS CLOSED

This past August a posting on [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) announced the opening of Pot O' Gold Sweepstakes Lounge at 833 Cincinnati. The owner planned to open at least 10 more. A representative for the equipment supplier claimed that it operated under the same guidelines that govern the Texas Lottery. However, the system of payoffs advertised appeared to be gambling. We notified the D1 Council Office, which had already received a complaint, and our SAFFE Officer, John Garcia. SAPD Vice found the games to be illegal gambling, seized equipment and money, and closed the lounge (the signs remain). A similar operation was found at 2212 N. Zarzamora and it, too, was shut down by the police.

**Next WLCA Meeting: Nov. 27th at 6:30 pm**  
Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg  
Following Meeting: Jan.29, 2019

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



## **RULES FOR SCOOTERS**

City Council approved a six-months pilot program that regulates the use of dockless vehicles. Effective last October 19th, these are the provisions concerning the motor-assisted scooters that are now appearing at many street corners of the city.

Riders must use bike lanes when these are available. If there is no bike lane, riders may ride on streets that have a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, and on sidewalks, including sidewalks adjacent to roads that have a speed limit over 35 miles per hour. Riders must obey all state and city traffic laws, maintain a distance of two feet from all pedestrians if on a sidewalk, and always yield to pedestrians. They may not ride on trails, creek ways, plazas, and in parks, but may ride on public streets and sidewalks that intersect parks and plazas. The person operating or in control must be at least 16 years of age and can carry no passengers. Riders may not use a portable wireless communication device while operating a vehicle. The wearing of a helmet is encouraged but not required.

### **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 1st, from 5 to 7 pm, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 4603 Manitou Drive. A suggested donation is an unwrapped toy in support of the Elf Louise Project.

## **Local Holiday Activities**

*(some events require an admission fee or a donation)*

Nov 17 - Jan 6: Light the Way, Univ of the Incarnate Word  
Nov 22 - Dec 30: Old West Christmas Light Fest, Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne  
Nov 23: Tree Lighting, Travis Park, 3pm - lighting at 6:20pm  
Nov 23: Ford Holiday Parade, 6-9pm, Riverwalk  
Nov 24: Holly Daze Dance Perf, Arneson River Theater, 1pm  
Nov 23-25: International Peace Market, Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 922 San Pedro, 10am-6pm  
Nov 29 - Dec 30 (Thursdays): Pearl Holiday Market, 4-8pm  
Nov 30 - Dec 16 (Fri, Sat, Sun): Riverwalk Luminarias, at dusk  
Dec 1: River of Lights, Museum Reach, 6-9pm  
Dec 1: Silver Bells in the City Tree Lighting Ceremony, Main Plaza, 5-9pm  
Dec 1: Blessing of the Animals, Market Square, 1pm  
Dec 8: USAF Band of the West "Holiday in Blue," Edgewood Theatre of Performing Arts, 402 Lance St., 3-5pm,  
Dec 8: La Gran Tamalada, Market Square, 11am-7pm  
Dec 9: Chanukah on the River, Arneson Theatre, 4-5pm  
Dec 12, Holly Daze Rock!, Arneson River Theater, 7-9pm  
Dec 14 (11am-11pm) 15 (10am-11pm) 16 (10am-8pm): Holiday Artisan Show, Riverwalk  
Dec 16: La Gran Posada, Little Flower Basilica, 7-10pm  
Dec 31: Celebrate SA!, Hemisfair Park, 1pm-midnight  
Jan 6: Three Kings Day / Fiesta de Los Tres Reyes Magos, San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 1-4pm