

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

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San Antonio, Texas

SOLID WASTE PRESENTATION AT MAR 26th MEETING

The City's Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) will be the featured presenter at our March 26th meeting. Speaking for the department will be LaMar Hicks, SWMD Recycling Coordinator. LaMar has a Bachelor's Degree in Sports & Fitness Management from Troy University. He has worked for SWMD for five years, and has been performing recycling presentations in the Outreach Division for the last three years. We will hear about recycling, bulk collection, and about other SWMD services.

The mission of SWMD is to protect the public health and safety of the City of San Antonio by providing quality municipal solid waste services and environmental programs that are safe, efficient, cost effective, and environmentally responsible. Programs and services include automated garbage collections, automated single-stream recycling collection, residential brush collection, residential bulky item collection, and dead animal pickup. SWMD also operates drop-off and processing sites for brush, bulky items, and household hazardous waste. It manages and maintains the city's closed landfills in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

MAYOR & D7 CANDIDATE FORUM

The Woodlawn Lake Community Association, Jefferson Neighborhood Association, and Monticello Park Neighborhood Association are hosting a Candidate Forum for Mayoral and District 7 Council candidates. It will be on Tuesday, April 9th, at the Jefferson United Methodist Church - Jackson Hall, 758 Donaldson. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.

The mayoral candidates will be featured from 6 to 7:30 pm, followed by the District 7 council candidates from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. All candidates for the respective offices have been invited. They will be asked questions that the attendees submit in writing. Please try to prepare your questions ahead of time and have them directed at all the candidates.

Election day is May 4th. Early voting begins on April 22nd.

JUDGE RON RANGEL & CRIMINAL JUSTICE APR 30th

Ron Rangel, Judge of the 379th Criminal District Court, will be the speaker at our April 30th meeting. He will focus on the criminal justice system and on significant changes currently underway in Bexar County.

Judge Rangel was first elected in 2008. He was reelected in 2012 and 2016. He currently serves as the administrative judge for the district courts in the county. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees at St. Mary's University. His previous law work include private practice and as a prosecutor for the Hidalgo County District Attorney.

The 379th hears only felony criminal cases. A felony is a serious crime that is punishable by death or imprisonment in excess of one year in a federal or state prison. Lesser crimes are misdemeanors punishable by confinement to county or local jail and/or fine. These are tried in county and municipal courts. Civil cases involve legal issues, statutes, and lawsuits, and are heard in the civil county and district courts.

DISTRICT 7 PROPERTY TAX APPRAISAL WORKSHOPS

The Bexar County Appraisal District will deliver 2019 appraisals this April. The District 7 Council office is connecting you with experts to help you learn strategies to protest your home's appraisal value and ensure you have proper exemptions registered. Property Tax Appraisal workshops will be held:

Apr. 6; 2-3:30 pm; Maury Maverick Library, 8700 Mystic Park
Apr. 17; 7-8:30 pm; St. George Maronite Church, 6070 Babcock
Apr. 29; 7-8:30 pm; Leon Valley Community Center, 6427 Evers (co-hosted with the City of Leon Valley)

May 9; 7-8:30 pm; YWLA, 2123 W. Huisache Ave.

You can register at <https://tinyurl.com/D7TaxWorkshop> or by calling the District 7 office at 210-207-0870.

Park Views – page 2
Earth Day at the Park – page 3
Birds at Elmendorf Lake – page 4

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168
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Board Members:
Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296
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Vicki Wright.....286-7222
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PROTECTING PARK'S VISTAS

In early 2019, the City's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) launched a series of discussions regarding potential zoning overlays for the Woodlawn Lake area. The first meeting was held on February 4th at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Public feedback from this meeting is available online at the OHP website (sanantonio.gov/historic).

This initiative stems from the 2017 CCR from District 7 Councilwoman Ana Sandoval to explore viewshed protections for Woodlawn Lake. Following a year of input from the public and analysis through a technical advisory committee, it was recommended to Council that a viewshed may not be the most effective tool for the Woodlawn Lake area and that a zoning buffer, similar to the River Improvement Overlay Districts, should be explored. A Resolution to proceed with an overlay for Woodlawn Lake was approved by Council in December 2018.

The concept of a viewshed is to protect vistas within the Park, from the Park outward, and inwards towards the Park. In the coming months, OHP will work with an advisory committee of neighborhood representatives, technical experts, and City staff to develop recommendations for the types of development tools that are most appropriate for Woodlawn Lake. Contact Cory Edwards at cory.edwards@sanantonio.gov with any questions or to participate on the advisory committee.

WLCA Birthdays

March: flower - jonquil; birthstone - aquamarine

Olivia Arriaga, Diane Bertrand, Bertha Diaz, Arturo Galindo, Gilbert Gonzales, Matilde Gutierrez, Justin Holley, Richard Holgin, Vivian Olmos, Diana Sanchez Lira, Yolanda Santos, Philip Schuback, Rosemary Shear, Deborah Vasquez, Derek Wauson

April: flower - sweet pea; birthstone - diamond

Alice Almaraz, Ines Benavides, Humberto Guerra, Manuel Bernal, Ignacio Carreon, Chuck Harvey, Isabel Herrera, Dina Saad, Ronald Shaffer, Gloria Torres

SPEEDING, SPEAKING, SHOPPING

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

This is an experience that many of us have had. I was heading west on S. Josephine Tobin Drive in front of the Bertha Almaguer Dance Studio, observing the 25mph speed limit. A Park Police Officer was parked in the studio lot, facing the street. A speeding vehicle passed me on the left, crossing the double yellow lines. This was in plain view of the officer, yet the officer did not react.

We have heard complaints before about speeders on streets around the park, bicycles and motorized scooters on the park's foot trail, and drinking of alcohol in the park. No action seems to be taken. A few months ago we reported a person selling puppies at the park. The Park Officer did not budge but told us to call Animal Care Services. We have met with police superiors and have had them at our WLCA meetings. I would like to see a more active presence by SAPD and the Park Police in keeping our park safe for all people in and around its grounds.

We want to be heard whenever the City makes plans that affect us and our community. The City has instituted "SA Speak Up" to hear our thoughts and ideas on programs and policies. It begins with Community Engagement in which we take a quick survey on a variety of topics or meet up at public events to learn more about City services and initiatives. The feedback is shared with City leaders in Under Review and carefully considered. We can check the City site to see what was said and see how our input is helping the City take shape. In Final Report, a final feedback report is presented to City leaders. Implementation then follows, whether new projects, services, budgets, or programs, hopefully employing our feedback in helping shape the work the City conducts in the community. Current surveys online include the FY2020 Budget, Climate Action (until March 26th), and Dockless Vehicles. To learn more about SA Speak Up, including the latest initiatives, survey topics, meet up open house events, and various ways to stay connected, visit www.saspeakup.com.

In 2002, having been elected WLCA president, I was invited to the opening of the new Deco H-E-B. We were excited with having a new, modern grocery store in our area. For the past several months, however, I have seen many comments online critical of the store. Many shoppers prefer the H-E-B on Olmos or the Market Place on Bandera. The opening of Walmart at Bandera and W. Woodlawn in 2015 gave us another place to shop for groceries. I would like to hear from WLCA members if we should invite H-E-B management to talk about how our local store could better serve our needs.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN

Our next garden workday is Saturday, March 30th, from 9 am to 12 noon. We are preparing the garden for Earth Day (page 3). Please join us, even if for just a portion of that morning. Take time to see the proliferation of bluebonnets now in bloom.

This is your LAST NEWSLETTER if you have not renewed your membership (check your email).
Your 2018 membership ends on Earth Day. Please renew now.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2019

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership type: _____ Individual (\$5 per year) _____ Family/Household (\$10 per year)
(please check) _____ School, _____ Non-Profit, or _____ Business (each \$10 per year)

Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association

CLIP OR COPY

If your member information has not changed, send your payment (only) annotated "2019 dues." If it has changed (or if a new member), please send the Form above with your dues to WLCA, P.O. Box 28374, San Antonio TX 78228. You can also bring the Form (if needed) and your dues to our Earth Day booth (below) or our next WLCA meeting.

EARTH DAY SA 2019

Earth Day San Antonio is on Saturday, April 13th, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Woodlawn Lake Park. It is an Official Fiesta San Antonio event and is put on by the Westside Development Corporation and The Earth Day Committee. The event seeks to educate San Antonio residents and visitors on the value of protecting the environment and on practices that can preserve or improve our communities.

With news in July 2018 that San Antonio had been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be in "non-attainment" due to high ozone levels, the Earth Day Committee has chosen "Quality Air, Quality Life" as the theme for 2019 Earth Day. This phrase – coined by an East Central H.S. AP Environmental Science student – demonstrates the link between clean air and vibrant communities. The aim is to increase awareness about activities that contribute to air pollution and the changes we can make to improve air quality.

Begun in 1970, Earth Day is observed world-wide on April 22nd. San Antonio had its first event in 1990. Our local event will feature environmental speakers, free and reduced-price plants, vegetarian food booths, solar information, and gardening ideas. Other features will include music, exercise, kids activities, raffles giveaways, and kayaks. It will take place by the Island House and the tennis courts at the west shore of the lake. The area parking lot will not be available, so bus, walk, or bike if you can.

The SAWS water truck will be on site for refillable bottles. To cut down on plastic pollution, bottled water will not be available, nor will single use plastic utensils. Alcohol is never allowed at the Park and smoking is not permitted at the event. For general inquiries and ways to get involved email info@westsidedevcorp.com.

GRADUATES

If you or a member of your family is graduating or receiving a degree this year, or recently received the honor, please let us know. Tell us who it is, your relationship to the person, the accomplishment and where it is being (or was) received, and the honoree's next step (school, job). We will recognize the graduate in our next newsletter.

HELPERS NEEDED

Newsletter Distribution

From March 30th to April 10th, we will be distributing our annual membership drive newsletter to all residents within the WLCA boundaries. We do this to tell our neighbors about our association and to recruit new members. It is done by hand delivery, walking door to door, and depends on volunteers.

WLCA Earth Day Booth

WLCA will be a part of the local Earth Day celebration (left). We will be telling our neighbors about WLCA and will be signing up members. We will also be giving information about the Centennial Garden and its native plants and leading tours through the garden. If you can, please spend part of the day with us at our booth.

Please let us know at our next meeting, or by telephone or email, if you will be able to help out with either of these projects.

Next WLCA Meeting: March 26th at 6:30 pm

Wi-Fi Room, Woodlawn Lake Park Gym Bldg
Remaining 2019 meetings: Apr 30, May 28, Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 29, Dec 3

NOTE: We meet on the last, not the fourth, Tuesday of the month. In October if it falls on Halloween, we meet one week before. In November, if it is in Thanksgiving week (as this year), we delay the meeting one week.

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



THE CITY VERSUS CATTLE EGRETS

The cattle egret is a white bird species of heron. It nests in colonies usually near bodies of water. Recently, Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) contacted the City of San Antonio and expressed concerns regarding the threat of bird aircraft strikes in the heavily populated areas between Elmendorf Lake and Kelly Field. Bird strikes can injure crew members, destroy engines, and cause crashes in and around the airport.

Due to health and safety concerns for both the community and the egrets, the City and JBSA support a recommendation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for mitigating hazards associated with the cattle egret roost. The cattle egrets at Elmendorf Lake Park have been documented flying across JBSA-Kelly Field's runway in large flocks, reducing or halting flight operations. From an environmental standpoint, the accumulation of fecal remains and fungus in the roosting area destroys vegetation and natural habitats and pollutes the waterways. There is also a risk to human health when exposed to the fungus and its associated infectious diseases.

The USDA had planned to lead habitat modification activities at Elmendorf Lake Park by humanely breaking up the large cattle egret roost using non-lethal dispersal methods in smaller, less concentrated flocks. The initial phase of the project was to have included clearing dead underbrush and trees due to bird occupancy and trimming trees to open the canopy.

The second phase of the project would discourage any migratory birds from roosting and persuade them to roost elsewhere. Some methods used to disperse cattle egrets include pyrotechnics, lasers, spotlights and predatory bird calls. Several of these methods produce loud noises and flashing lights that may be heard or observed by local residents.

Public meetings were held on February 11th and 18th. Reaction from the public was largely negative on the mitigation plans. Shortly thereafter the USDA and the City's Parks and Recreation Department conducted a site visit of the island at Elmendorf Lake Park and discovered three eggs in a nest. To adhere with state and federal wildlife laws, bird mitigation efforts have ceased until all eggs on the island have hatched and chicks are able to leave the nests.

Over the next several months, the community is encouraged to provide their suggestions for alternative or supplemental solutions to disperse birds from the flight path of aircraft in the area. Suggestions provided by the community will be examined by subject matter experts and considered for implementation. Partners in bird mitigation efforts will continue to keep the community informed and updated on mitigation plans. The City's Government & Public Affairs Department will create an online feedback system to collect suggestions and keep us informed on the status of the project. The Department can also be contacted at 210-207-8109.