

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

May-June 2019

San Antonio, Texas

COUNCILWOMAN SANDOVAL IS MAY 28th MEETING SPEAKER

Councilwoman Ana Sandoval will be the guest speaker at our May 28th WLCA meeting. On May 4th she was reelected as the City Council representative for District 7, garnering more than 68 percent of the vote against three opponents. Ana currently chairs the Community Health and Equity and the Public Safety Committees, and also sits on the Governance and Transportation Committees of City Council.

After attending Madison Elementary and Longfellow Middle Schools, Ana graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School where she was the 1993 valedictorian. She went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on a full scholarship, majoring in chemical engineering. She then studied binational business in Mexico City as a Fulbright Scholar. After that, she earned a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University.

She worked in San Antonio for VIA, and then in San Francisco for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. She moved on to the Harvard University School of Public Health, receiving a master's degree. She returned to San Antonio and purchased a home just outside of WLCA's western boundary, next door to her parents' house in which she had been raised.

We look forward to hearing about her accomplishments over the past two years, as well as her plans, thoughts, and concerns for San Antonio, District 7, and the Woodlawn Lake community.

PARKS TOBACCO FREE

On April 11th City Council voted 9-0 to prohibit smoking "in all city-owned public squares, plazas and parks," while also giving city administrators the ability to "designate temporary smoking areas for certain special events." The changes will take effect June 1st, at which point city residents will start seeing signage posted in the areas where tobacco will now be illegal. Smoking and all forms of tobacco will be prohibited in all city parks, greenway trails, the River Walk, Market Square, and La Villita. On passage of the new law, Councilwoman Sandoval recognized WLCA's efforts in bringing about this change.

PRELUDE TO THE 4th - EVENT SPONSORS VISIT ON JUN 25th

We have invited sponsors and key players of the 4th of July celebration at our park to our June 25th 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. This year a no smoking rule will also be in effect (left column). 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).

MAYORAL ELECTION RUNOFF

Early voting: May 28th – June 4th

Election Day: Saturday June 8th

If registered, you can vote even if you did not vote on May 4th. Remember your qualifying id card.

PLAQUES AT GARDEN, PARK

Our Newsletter a year ago (MayJun'18) mentioned that Woodlawn Lake Park 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. The City's Parks and Recreation Department has placed a commemorative plaque mounted on a large boulder by the Island House.

On Earth Day (page 2), the District 7 Council Office unveiled a plaque at the Centennial Garden. It reads "Centennial Garden - A gift to San Antonio on the 100th birthday of Woodlawn Lake Park by the Woodlawn Lake Community Association." The plaque, donated by the District 7 office, is on a boulder furnished by Parks and Recreation. It recognizes the vision, initiative, and effort of WLCA to add this landmark to our historic park.

Earth Day Report – page 2

July 4th at the Park – page 3

WaterSaver Saturday – page 4

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168
wlca@att.net
Vice President: Sally Avila.....734-2093
Secretary: Ester Soto
Treasurer: Elia Reyna.....279-7204
Board Members:
Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296
Charles Oisten.....702-234-0604
Vicki Wright.....286-7222
JD Morales.....885-7146

SUCCESSFUL BUT RAINY EARTH DAY

The City's official annual Earth Day celebration at Woodlawn Lake Park took place on April 13th. Sponsored and headed by the Westside Development Corporation, WLCA was involved in the organizing and planning of the event.

The event celebrated our planet and provided information on ways to honor and preserve it. Entertainment and vegetarian food booths completed the focus of the day. WLCA manned a booth to inform the community about our association and the Centennial Garden. We thanks our volunteers who braved rain and hail, then enjoyed the sunshine only to later fight the wind, at the event: Vicki Wright, Charles Oisten, Charles Bartlett, Alberto Del Rio, Norma Moore, and Alejandro Soto. We also thank Carol and Joaquin Chincanchan for the use of their canopy and table for our Earth Day booth.

SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Once a year we attempt to reach the 3000 residences in the WLCA area to tell them about our association. This year, because of manpower limits, we delivered our membership flyers to homes in one-third of the area. The members who delivered door to door are Sally Avila, Marcy Gutierrez, Vicki Wright, Mary Ann Contreras, Rosemary Shear, Justin Holley, Kevin Sethi, and Alejandro Soto. We also posted membership information on facebook and on nextdoor.com and handed out membership flyers on Earth Day (above).

WLCA Birthdays

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

Bezaleel Chincanchan, Enrique Mendoza, Charles Oisten, Dr Daniel Rodriguez, Emily Stone

June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl

Alberto Del Rio, Linda Felan, Miguel Gomez, Joe Gonzales, Liz Gonzales, Concepcion Gonzalez, Eugene Herrera, Johnny Montejano, Juliana Perez, Callie Ramos, Kathleen Trenchard, Elia Reyna

ROADS, ROSTER, ROOSTS

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

Our last newsletter (MarApr'19) called attention to what appeared to be a lack of traffic law enforcement around the park. I then received calls from the SAPD West Substation and the Park Police committing to regularly patrol those streets. I have heard back from those officers that they have cited several drivers for exceeding the speed limit and for other violations.

The issue of safe crossing came up at a recent public meeting on the new Almaguer Dance Studio and community center (Nwsltr JanFeb'19). Users of the facility would like to safely cross the street from the main park to the center by the casting pond. The Parks Department is considering having a crosswalk in the area. WLCA has also called for crosswalks by the gym to the dog park area, at the "Spineway" sculpture site, and at W. Craig before the vehicle bridge at S. Josephine Tobin Drive.

Our membership drive (left column) resulted in some new members and the return of some former members. However, about fifty members from last year did not renew their memberships. Added to previous non-renewals, we have lost close to 100 members in the last two years. WLCA is an active voice for our community and we have had many successes that benefit our park and its surrounding neighborhoods. Some of our members have moved out of the area, and sadly we have lost others (page 3). However, that does not explain the bulk of the non-returning members. A strong showing of members gives validity to our role in speaking for our area. I welcome any ideas for attracting new members and for keeping current members.

Our last newsletter mentioned the City's proposals to remove the cattle egrets (birds) at Elmendorf Lake. The County recently considered eradicating Egyptian geese from the Mission Reach river trail. Both ideas were received negatively by the public. We should study whether the ducks and other wildlife at our park suffer the type of trauma that the public rejected at the listed sites.

The trauma is brought by fireworks, which occur at least twice a year at our park. Fireworks are often terrifying for animals. Pet owners know to shelter and sedate their animals and calm them down when the explosions go off. The chief cause of discomfort for animals is the deafening blasts that fireworks emit. Most animals have far more acute hearing than our own.

Wildlife populations do not enjoy the comfort of a caring owner. When the fireworks go off, wild animals are known to flee in blind panic. Birds, in particular, suffer greatly. Nesting birds abandon their nests in the confusion, leaving their flightless chicks alone, often to die. These same birds have also been known to fly too far to return safely. Those who do return to their nests are known to suffer from weight loss, sluggishness, and poor sleep patterns in the weeks following a fireworks display. I strongly recommend that the City study how fireworks affect our park wildlife and consider if fireworks are proper for our park.

JULY 4th CELEBRATION AT WOODLAWN LAKE PARK

The City of San Antonio's 4th of July celebration returns to Woodlawn Lake Park in 2019. 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 day begins at 10 am with an aquatics class at the pool. Opening ceremonies will take place at 5 pm. At the printing of this Newsletter we do not have the schedule of other events nor the list of entertainers. This information will be available at our June meeting (page 1), online, and on local media. As in previous years, we expect fireworks over the lake to begin shortly after 9 pm. The fireworks are sponsored by H-E-B.

YARD WORKERS & CITY CODE

We often see groundkeepers and gardeners sweeping and blowing leaves and lawn clippings into our streets and storm drains. City Code prohibits these acts. Section 29-3 applies to public places, including streets, plazas, and plant containers. Section 34-701 applies to all waterways and systems on public property that feed into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. Also, Section 21-171 requires that workers who trim trees be trained and licensed by the City. Many who offer their services during City brush collection may not qualify to do the work.

EARLY SWIM AT THE POOL

The Woodlawn Lake Park Swimming Pool opened for early swim on May 4th (all City pools open in June--date to be set). On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, it features lap swim from 7:30 to 9:30 am. It features open swim on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4 to 7 pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 7 pm. Admission to City pools is free.

REMEMBRANCES

We have recently lost two WLCA members. We extend our sympathies to their families.

Eloy Lozano passed away on April 8th at age 89. He served in the Navy during the Korean war and worked as a cartographer at Fort Sam Houston for over 30 years. He is survived by Margaret Lozano, his wife of 64 years, whom he met when they were attending Tech High School. He is also survived by a son and two daughters.

Philip Schuback passed away on May 11th at age 93. He enlisted in the military during World War II and retired as a major. He was an employee of the Northside School district and served as principal at Leon Valley Elementary for 14 years. He is survived by his wife Betty McMillan Schuback and a son.

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 (103), 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 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. Alcohol, glass containers, and smoking (page 1) 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.

NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

San Antonio Neighborhood Day 2019 takes place on Saturday, June 1st, from 8:30 to 11:50 am, at the UTSA Downtown Campus - Buena Vista Building, 501 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. The free event features speakers and discussions on topics of community interest and importance. Kristin Schell, author of the *Turquoise Table*, will deliver the keynote address - *Putting Neighbors back in the Neighborhood*.

This half-day summit will feature workshops on prime issues facing neighborhood leaders including engaging with local officials, building leaders from within, understanding and working with city and county services, and networking with each other. Coffee and breakfast tacos will be served.

This is the fourth annual event sponsored by the Bowen Center for Neighborhood Advocacy, Inc. Chair and founder of the Center is former County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson. Event partners are UTSA and the City Neighborhood Housing Services Department. You can RSVP to anne.englert@yahoo.com.

Next WLCA Meeting: May 28th at 6:30 pm

Wi-Fi (Community) Room ~ Park Gym Bldg

Remaining 2019 meetings: Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27, Sep 24, Oct 29, Dec 3, Holiday Activity TBA

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



WATER SAVER SATURDAY

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and William R. Sinkin Eco Centro are hosting WaterSaver Saturday on Saturday, June 1, 2019. It will take place at the Palo Alto College Performing Arts Center, 1400 W. Villaret Blvd, from 9 am to 1 pm.

The event is a free half day of mini-workshops on gardening, permaculture, low impact design, landscaping, flood mitigation, native plants, pollinator gardens, rainwater harvesting and more. There will be free plants, gardening tools, and other goods at each one-hour workshop. Breakfast and snacks will be served. An ask-the-experts forum and gardening and sustainability showcase will follow the workshops.

Participants will also earn up to \$150 of credits in the SAWS WaterSaver Rewards Program. This program allows participants in SAWS-approved conservation events or programs to earn WaterSaver Rewards points. The points are redeemable for coupons to use toward water-saving materials like plants, mulch, compost and rain barrels. This event will allow participants to earn the maximum points for the calendar year in just one day.

You can register at ecocentro.eventbrite.com. At that time you can choose one of four series: (1) Sustainable Landscape Design, Composting; (2) Rain Water Harvesting, Gardening with Native Plants; (3) Permaculture, Home Efficiency – Slash Your Utility Bill; (4) Water Conservation in Your Vegetable Garden, Thinking Outside the Box - Sustainable Gardening Strategies.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

There are exemptions you can claim that will lower the amount of property taxes that you pay. You must apply for these with the Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD). The forms are online at bcad.org or at the BCAD building, 411 N. Frio. Three common tax exemptions for the home in which you reside are:

Homestead Exemption. A Homestead Tax Exemption potentially reduces the amount of property taxes owed on a property. To qualify, applicants must occupy the home by January 1st of the taxing year. The value of the exemption is \$25,000 on the property value for calculating school district taxes.

Age 65 or Older Exemption. This exemption is effective January 1st of the tax year in which the property owner turns 65. Property owners not identified on a deed or other instrument recorded in the applicable real property records as an owner of the residence homestead must provide an affidavit or other compelling evidence establishing the applicant's ownership interest in the homestead. The exemption value depends on various additional exemptions and tax ceilings from the taxing authorities.

Disabled Veteran's or Survivor's Exemption. This application is for use in claiming a property tax exemption pursuant to Tax Code Section 11.22 for property owned by a disabled veteran with a service connected disability, the surviving spouse or child of a qualifying disabled veteran, or the surviving spouse or child of an U.S. armed service member who died in active duty.