

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

July–August 2019

San Antonio, Texas

311 PROGRAM & UPDATES SCHEDULED FOR JUL 30th

On July 30th we will gain a better understanding of the City's 311 system and learn of techniques we can employ to make best use of it. Paula X. Stallcup, Senior Manager over the 311 Call Center, will be our speaker. She joined the City of San Antonio in March 1992 and has served the City in a variety of capacities. She is responsible for overseeing the Call Center operations and strategic initiatives in customer service. Paula is a native of San Antonio, graduating from Southside High School and earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees from St. Mary's University.

The Office of 311 Customer Service serves as the City's non-emergency office that assists residents with reporting neighborhood issues and nuisances, as potholes, stray animals, overgrown yards, and so on. The 311 Call Center is open seven days a week, Monday through Friday from 7 am to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8 am to 5 pm.

The office reports to the City Manager's Office and is part of the General Fund. 311 serves all city departments and specifically facilitates requests for Animal Care Services, Development Services - Code Enforcement Division, Metro Health, Parks and Recreation, and Transportation and Capital Improvements.

The office also has a web portal and free mobile app where residents can submit requests for services online or through their smartphone. 311 can also be reached at 207-6000. More information is available at www.sanantonio.gov/311.

GARDEN GROOMING

The hot weekend of July 13th and 14th saw a lot of volunteer activity at the Centennial Garden. On Saturday, Sweat N Serve activists, a component of the City's Fitness in the Park, spent two hours clearing weeds. On Sunday, a group of men from The Dig League moved railroad ties, spread mulch, and pruned overgrowth. In all, over 50 community members helped to groom the garden, including WLCA members Vicki Wright, Charles Bartlett, Alberto Del Rio, and Alejandro Soto. The garden now has flowers blooming and butterflies gathering. We plan another workday when temperatures cool to add more plants and fill the empty spots in the garden.

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR PRESENTATION ON AUG 27th

Our August 27th meeting will feature a presentation by the Office of the County Tax Assessor-Collector. The office provides services for property tax collections, beer and wine permits, motor vehicle registration, and titling functions. It is responsible for over 1.5 million vehicle registrations per year and for collecting over \$3 billion in taxes. It collects ad valorem property taxes for Bexar County, the Flood Control Fund, and 52 other taxing entities. This includes 23 municipalities, 11 school districts, and 18 special districts.

The County Tax Assessor-Collector is one of two constitutionally mandated county-wide elected positions. They serve four year terms and are elected by and are directly responsible to the people. The State Constitution of 1845 originally set up an elective office of Assessor and Collector of Taxes. Changes over the last 174 years have led to the responsibilities of today's position.

The current incumbent is Albert Uresti, who was first elected in November 2012. His office has developed new payment options to help keep families in their homes, with an emphasis on helping senior citizens, the disabled, veterans, and children. We will learn about these options, as well as about the functions and other services of the office. Office representatives will have a computer to look into issues and answer questions pertaining to any member's specific tax situations.

DECO H-E-B CONCERNS

On June 15th, George Monita Jr., Deco H-E-B store manager, met with representatives of area neighborhood associations. A 30-year employee of H-E-B, Monita began his duties at our local store earlier this year. He wanted to hear our suggestions and complaints to better serve the community. Issues presented ranged from food selection to parking lot security. Monita and H-E-B welcome input from shoppers on any problems, ideas, and desired products.

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Lerma's Rebirth – 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

ALMAGUER CHANGES APPROVED

On July 17th, the Historic and Design Review Commission approved the demolition of the current Almaguer Dance Studio at 132 S. Josephine Tobin, and gave conceptual approval to a new Woodlawn Lake Recreation Center. The new facility will include two dance studios, an outdoor yoga patio, classrooms, and a digital library. It will retain the name Berta Almaguer, who taught dance in the City for 36 years (Nwsltr Jan-Feb'19).

More than twenty people spoke at the public meeting. The majority were in favor of replacing the old structure, including young dancers, their parents, Berta Almaguer's granddaughter, and representatives from WLCA and the Jefferson and Monticello Park Neighborhood Associations. Speakers for saving the structure were concerned about its historic nature.

The current building was built more than 60 years ago for casting pond fishermen. It was converted to a dance studio and has undergone several changes and additions. It has structural and other issues that can in many ways be traced to its inadequate slab foundation and many modifications. Transportation and Capital Improvements determined that repair of the building would be too costly and that replacement was a better option.

Demolition will probably start in April of next year. Before then, design work will be completed and contract bidding and approval will take place. Construction will begin in May 2020 and will continue for one year. Occupancy of the new facility will be in June 2021.

WLCA Birthdays

July: flower - larkspur; birthstone - ruby

Victor Almaraz, Sally Avila, Bodil Beanland, Allison Boerger, Bruce Bronstad, Sylvia Freeman, Maria Hernandez, Rosa Manzano, Mary Gantt, Cathleen McClure, Diana Prado, Manuel Sandoval, Henrietta Zavala

August: flower - gladiolus; birthstone - peridot

Gloria Bolick, Tiffany Dale, Efraim Diaz, Mark Franki, Agustin Gonzalez, Alejandro Soto

ORDER, ORATIONS, OUTAGES

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

WLCA has an arrangement with Parks and Recreation for the use of the Wi-Fi Room. The room is made available to us for our monthly meetings from 6 to 8 pm. A Parks employee opens and closes the room in accordance with that schedule. Our meetings begin at 6:30 pm. We have a guest presentation at each meeting, for which we allot 15 minutes plus questions and answers (which can get lengthy). We also have reports from our City Council districts (1 and 7), our SAFFE Officer, and representatives who at times show up from our State Senate and House districts. The reminder of the time is for association business, which we must conclude by 8 pm.

The Chair presents business items that include current events and activities in our area. Members can bring up other items as time allows. WLCA's focus is our Park and our community. We will discuss other area concerns only if they impact on WLCA interests. The Chair can stop and refocus any discussion that deviates from this standard. For better scheduling we ask members who wish to discuss a particular subject to present it beforehand to an officer or board member (left column) for placement on the agenda. Items not on the agenda will be heard only if time is available and can be limited to a three minute presentation.

Many remarks are made in the course of a meeting. These are not placed into the minutes. Also, the content of a guest speaker's presentation is not recorded, although the topic covered is noted. The minutes record the business of the association, as motions, resolutions, expenditures, and other votes. The treasurer's report presented at a meeting is made a part of the minutes of that meeting. Other items can also be recorded if deemed significant by the Chair.

On June 6th, our area was hit by a strong storm that damaged trees and buildings and knocked out electrical power. Many of us were without electricity for one or two days. We also had yard damage, as felled trees and broken branches. Often, these damaged trees had fallen onto electrical lines and into our streets. CPS Energy worked long hours to remove fallen live wires and to reconnect our electrical power. However, a combination of hours without power and the hot weather spoiled our refrigerated and frozen food and made it unsafe.

The City and the District 7 office responded to our needs. Solid Waste Management picked up yard debris for several days following the storm. They also picked up discarded food items. This was at no extra cost to residents. The District 7 office and the San Antonio Food Bank held five food giveaways in our area. Several community members helped with food distribution. We appreciate how the City and our neighbors came together to help return life to normal after a storm that seemed to hit the Woodlawn Lake area harder than other communities. We thank all who responded to our local emergency.

LOCAL BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS

Councilman Roberto Treviño will again be hosting his annual District 1 Back to School Wellness Fair on August 3rd at Thomas Edison High School from 9 am to 1 pm. The event will offer backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, family and health services, educational support services, and other resources for District 1 families. It targets elementary and middle school children within District 1. The goal is to ensure that as many children as possible in the district begin the school year prepared and ready to learn. The councilman anticipates servicing 2,000 students this year. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Christine Gutierrez at 210-207-7112. For more information, call 210-207-0900.

Councilwoman Ana Sandoval will host the District 7 Back to School Bash. It will take place on Saturday, August 17th, from 9 am to 12 noon at the Gilbert Garza Community Center, 1450 Mira Vista. In addition to school supplies, there will be vouchers for free haircuts, low-cost immunizations, bike raffles, and food. All of the kids' favorite mascots will be there to entertain. There is no need to sign up or register. The office is accepting donations that can be dropped off at 4414 Centerview #160. Items needed are backpacks, spiral notebooks (subject wide rule), composition notebooks, #2 pencils, black and blue pens, glue sticks, scissors, and more. For information or to volunteer, please contact the District 7 office at 210-207-0870.

LOCAL CONTACTS

US Senate

John Cornyn, 600 Navarro, 224-7485

Ted Cruz, 9901 IH 10 #950, 340-2885

US Representative (Congress):

20--Joaquin Castro, Fed Bldg, 727 C'Chávez #124, 348-8216

35--Lloyd Doggett, 217 W Travis, 704-1080

State Senate:

26--José Menendez, Wonderland Mall A-22, 733-6604

State Representative:

116--Trey Martinez Fischer (no SA office), 512-463-0616

City Council:

1--Roberto Treviño, City Hall 207-7279

Constituent Office, 1310 Vance Jackson, 207-0900

7--Ana Sandoval, City Hall 207-7044

Field Office, 4414 Centerview #160, 207-0870

SAFFE Officer, John Garcia, (cell) 218-6546

SAPD Non-Emergency, 207-SAPD (7273)

CPS Help Line, 353-4357

Next WLCA Meeting: Jul 30th at 6:30 pm

Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg

Other meetings in 2019: Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 29, Dec 3

PARKING APP

Downtown San Antonio visitors can use a new mobile app, SAPark, to pay for parking at on-street and off-street pay stations. The SAPark app can be used for more than 2,500 on-street and off-street parking spaces in downtown San Antonio. To use SAPark, drivers can download the app, create an account with payment information and easily start a parking session. In addition to paying for parking, users can monitor their parking sessions, extend sessions remotely, and view parking history and receipts. Users can download the free SAPark app from the iTunes App Store or Google Play Store and manage their parking online at sapark.sanantonio.gov (which contains a how-to video).

BAT LOCO BASH

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Bat Conservation International (BCI), and the San Antonio River Foundation are hosting the 7th Annual Bat Loco Bash on Tuesday, August 6th, near the Camden Street bridge on the Museum Reach segment of the San Antonio River Walk.

The free, family-friendly event is part of the Museum Reach 10th Anniversary celebration and will include a bat parade, educational booths, food trucks, live music, bat friends and a Batmobile™ replica. The public is invited to attend as SARA staff and partners will lead the talk about the bat colony that currently resides under I-35 while sharing information related to the San Antonio River and the Museum Reach. Wildlife experts from TPWD and BCI will provide bat education and explain the important role bats have in the South Texas ecosystem.

SMOKING VEHICLES

You can report vehicles that smoke excessively via the Smoking Vehicle Program, sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). If you see a car, truck or bus anywhere in Texas with dirty smoke coming from its exhaust for more than 10 consecutive seconds, report the license number (Texas only), date, time, and city where you saw it online or by calling 1-800-453-SMOG (7664).

The TCEQ will notify the owner of the problem and will provide information regarding how car maintenance will improve the vehicle's performance. State law under Section 547.605 of the Texas Transportation Code prohibits motor vehicles with excessive visible smoke emissions from operating on Texas roadways. Law enforcement authorities statewide may issue citations, punishable by a fine of not more than \$350.

UPCOMING EVENTS

State Senator Menendez Legislative Update

July 27, 10 am - 12 noon, Central Library, 600 Soledad

11th Annual Historic Homeowner Fair

Sept 21, Pearl Stable, 307 Pearl Parkway

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



NEW LIFE FOR LERMA'S

Lerma's Nite Club is at 1602 N. Zarzamora, just outside of WLCA's boundaries, south of Culebra near the Basilica of the Little Flower. Closed since July 2010, it was the longest running live conjunto music venue and is a registered local and national landmark. The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center is the current owner and has been working to get the building up and running as a vibrant cultural space. On July 15th a groundbreaking ceremony took place in front of the building. This will start selective demolition of the building leading into construction. It will be used as cultural arts center and community space and will have a significant impact on the community once open.

The Esperanza Peace and Justice Center is a 32-year nonprofit expanding its cultural and social justice community programming into West End, one of the oldest neighborhoods in San Antonio. This neighborhood is one of the few places in the city where the African-American and Mexican-American communities have lived together. The Esperanza plans to offer future cultural programming around the jazz scene that thrived in the neighborhood, the Chicano jazz and Chicano blues fusion, along with the American folk music sounds of conjunto music.

The San Antonio City Council and the Bexar County Commissioners have each donated \$500,000 and have each publicly supported the Esperanza's efforts to rehabilitate a unique and authentic part of San Antonio's cultural and historic fabric.

SUMMER DOG CARE

Summer requires extra care to keep dogs safe in the San Antonio sun. Bring lots of water on walks, watch for the signs of your dog overheating, and never leave a dog in the car. Surfaces, as asphalt or a truck bed, will be much hotter than our air temperature. Check the pavement for heat before taking your dog on a walk by placing your hand or a bare foot on the surface for 10 seconds. If it is too hot for you to keep your hand or foot on it, then it is too hot for your pet. It is best to stay on grassy surfaces and avoid bare ground. Also, avoid the hottest parts of the day. Walk early in the morning or late in the evening after the pavement has cooled down. Take your dog to a veterinarian immediately if it shows any signs of distress, pain, or injury.

DOWNTOWN SCOOTERS

On May 30, City Council voted to prohibit scooters riding on sidewalks effective July 1. Scooter riding is also prohibited in Alamo Plaza, the River Walk, and city parks and trails. In addition, scooter riders must be 16 or older, only one person per vehicle is allowed, scooter riders must always yield to pedestrians, and riders must park scooters neatly and out of walkways. As scooters have become increasingly popular, the City of San Antonio is committed to striking a balance between innovative transportation options and providing safe, accessible sidewalks and streets. For more information, and instructional videos, please visit www.sanantonio.gov/scooters.