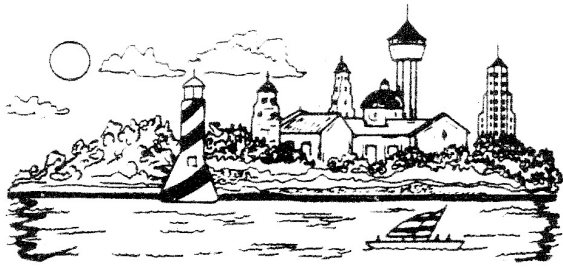


# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

*Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful*

Published Bimonthly

November–December 2019

San Antonio, Texas

### STATE SENATOR MENÉNDEZ VISITS ON DEC 3rd

José Menéndez, District 26 State Senator, will be the presenter at our December 3rd meeting. Senator Menéndez began his public service career in 1997 when he was elected to the San Antonio City Council District 6 office. He was then elected to serve as State Representative for House District 124 in 2000, and has served as State Senator since 2015. He is a 1987 graduate of Central Catholic High School. He holds Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration and in Latin American Studies from Southern Baptist University.

Since being elected as a state legislator, Senator Menéndez has passed into law over 400 bills that have benefited children, seniors, veterans, and Texas families. He is also a strong advocate for job growth, community, and business development.

In the recently adjourned 86th legislative session, Senator Menéndez served on the Administration, Business & Commerce, Higher Education, Intergovernmental Relations, and Veterans Affairs & Border Security Senate Committees. This past session, his successes included 41 laws that he either authored or sponsored. This legislation focuses on the needs of his constituents, and covers a range of topics such as healthcare, education, property tax reform, child welfare, protecting the environment, veteran benefits, and senior citizen concerns. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus.

#### STATE SENATOR'S HOLIDAY PARTY

Senator Menéndez invites all residents to the Senate District 26 Holiday Party. It will be on Saturday, December 7th, from 5 to 7 pm, at St. Luke's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 4603 Manitou Drive. Donations of an unwrapped gift in support of Elf Louise will be accepted. RSVP by calling 210-733-6604 or by email at [district26.menendez@senate.texas.gov](mailto:district26.menendez@senate.texas.gov).

#### NOVEMBER MEETING IN DECEMBER

WLCA normally meets on the last Tuesday of the month. However, when this falls during Thanksgiving week, our November meeting attendance is low. As we otherwise do not meet in December, we delay our November meeting one week.

### LOW WATER USE IN WINTER

*Courtesy of GardenStyleSA*

Your monthly SAWS bill includes a charge for sewer service. You actually have a say on what the charge will be for the year. SAWS uses your average winter water use from mid-November to mid-March each year to calculate your monthly sewer charge for the following year.

It pays to pay attention to your water consumption during this period. If you are irrigating, draining and refilling a pool or spa, or have a bad leak during these three months, you will see this higher consumption reflected in your metered domestic water use, and it will affect the calculation of your monthly sewer charge for the coming year.

Another reason not to water your yard is that as long as soil temperatures are below 70 degrees, warm season turf grasses will not produce green shoots that require mowing or irrigation. Only the roots of grasses, trees, and shrubs are active in the winter and generally survive on the sporadic rainfall that this area receives. What will turn green because of irrigation are the germinating winter weeds like dandelions and henbit, along with cool-season weedy grasses such as ryegrass and fescue.

If you repair a leak during this period, call SAWS at 210-704-SAWS (7297) so that an adjustment can be made for the leak (leak repair receipts must be provided). No other water uses during the winter averaging period are eligible for adjustments.

#### VITAL RECORDS DOWNTOWN

The Vital Records Division of the Office of the City Clerk maintains records of births, deaths, and fetal deaths that occur in the County of Bexar. Birth records are available from 1897, death records from 1873, and fetal death records from 1952. That Office of the City Clerk has access to birth certificate abstracts through the Texas Vital Statistics Remote Birth Access system for those born in this state but in a different county. The Office is located at 719 S. Santa Rosa.

**Renew Membership – page 3**

**Holiday Safety – page 3**

**Seasonal Events – 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.....702-733-0839  
Vicki Wright.....286-7222  
JD Morales.....885-7146

## GARDEN LESSONS & PLANS

On November 16th, members and volunteers added plantings to the Centennial Garden and spread more mulch. Many flowers are now in bloom and we are seeing bluebonnet seedlings breaking through the ground. Each year brings us a season unlike the previous and we try to learn from these experiences. We began this year with a proliferation of bluebonnets. A warm winter followed by a damp spring also resulted in an abundance of weeds. We were slow in getting to these, many going to seed before we removed them. We then faced a long hot and dry summer. We expected our native, drought tolerant plants to survive these conditions, but lost a few. In planning for next year, we will attack weeds early in their growth cycles. We are looking at ways to irrigate the garden should it become necessary. We want to add some finishing touches, as seating area, better defined boundaries, and some additional plants.

## CODE CALLS ON SATURDAY

Code Enforcement now has a Saturday Hotline. It is answered by code enforcement officers and is open each Saturday, excluding holidays, from 8 am to 4 pm. You can call 210-207-CODE (2633) to report the most common weekend violations directly to a code officer for quicker resolution. These violations include working without proper permits, illegal garage sales (page 4), bandit signs, front yard parking, and right-of-way obstructions. For violations observed outside of these Saturday hours, you can call 311 or 210-207-6000.

## WLCA Birthdays

*November: flower - chrysanthemum; birthstone - topaz*

Fred Ayers, Carol Chincanchan, Roxanne Galindo, Beatriz Garcia, Eleanor Garza, Aleida Gomez, Luis Leal, Ester Soto

*December: flower - narcissus; birthstone - turquoise*

Kenneth Beanland, Antoinette Cadena, Jesse Castillo, Carole Franki, Rufino Hernandez, Eugene Herrera, Anna Perales, Raymond Reyna, Woodrow Taylor

## RECAP, REASON, RENEW

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

A look back at the passing year reflects WLCA involvement and successes in how our area is shaped. We participated in documenting a history of Woodlawn Lake and also in looking at ways to protect the views and other important cultural aspects of the park. The 2017 City Parks Bond gave us opportunities to improve the park. We considered plans for a new Woodlawn Lake Recreation Center to replace the existing Berta Almaguer Dance Studio. Demolition and construction will start soon. We again participated in the City's Earth Day event in April. We hosted Fourth of July event sponsors and key players at our June meeting to discuss plans and concerns as they affect our community. Our Centennial Garden was the site of the City's official National Public Lands Day event. We worked with SAPD officers to control traffic speed around the park.

We also focused outside of our boundaries. The Pot O'Gold Sweepstakes Lounge at 833 Cincinnati was closed for good after we discussed the problem with SAPD officers at our April meeting. The site had been raided and closed late last year because of gambling, but had reopened pending legal proceedings. In April, City Council voted to prohibit smoking in all city parks. This successfully ended a campaign that WLCA had begun in 2013.

This year, as in the previous four, we are doing something for children of our community who might not otherwise have a good Christmas. We are concentrating our efforts on gifts that keep on giving in form of experiences or educational opportunities. Dr. Carol Chincanchan has identified four families, with children ranging in age from 4 months to 16 years. Justin Holley is coordinating the project. Last year he was able to obtain contributions from the Witte Museum, the San Antonio Zoo, and The DoSeum. We also pay for gifts from our WLCA funds.

Our activities center on preserving and protecting our park and our community. We do not always agree among ourselves on how to best accomplish our goals, or even if our goals are the right ones. However, we do share ideas. Our members are free to speak for themselves at our meetings and before city boards and other bodies, even when their views are not the consensus of the membership. It is the free exchange of ideas that enables us to see all sides of an issue and to come up with the best plans for our community.

Our membership is half of what it was five years ago. Despite the loss of members, we continue to do good work in representing the community and our members remain dedicated to "keeping Woodlawn wonderful." A large membership from all parts of our community gives us continuity of purpose and strength of numbers when dealing with the City and our elected officials. We would like to rebuild our membership to prior levels. A start is by asking our current members to renew for next year (page 3).

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

## Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2020

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

**TIME TO RENEW** your WLCA membership for 2020. If your member information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2020 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 2020, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, please disregard this reminder.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

*John Garcia, SAFFE Officer*

The San Antonio Police Department gives these tips to keep us from becoming victims during the holiday season.

#### Home Burglaries and Vehicle Burglaries

- Always lock your residential doors even when you are home.
- Make sure you recognize the person knocking on your door before you open it.
- Use doorbell cameras and other digital cameras to help secure your residence.
- Create a safe network with your neighbors to assist in safeguarding your residence while you are traveling for the holidays.
- While traveling use timers for lights and radios to give the appearance your home is occupied. Ensure your home security system is updated and in working condition.
- Stop mail service while you are traveling.
- Do not post information on social media about your travels or destinations until you have returned home.
- Contact your local police department and request patrol-bys for your residence while you are traveling.
- Always lock your vehicle when the vehicle will be unattended.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.

• Be aware of items in your vehicle. Leaving packages or valuables on the seat of your car creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave property in your car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight before you arrive at your destination.

#### Holiday Shopping

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not become distracted by smartphones or other electronics while walking. This may affect your ability to be vigilant of your environment.
- Have your keys in your hand as you approach your parked vehicle.
- If you have to shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Be aware of individuals watching you at ATM's withdrawing cash. Individuals will follow you, wait for you to leave your

vehicle unattended in order to burglarize your vehicle for the cash. You may also be victimized if you're carrying the cash, otherwise known as "bank jugging."

#### Online Shopping

- Don't allow your packages to stay at the front of your residence for long periods of time.
  - If possible stay at home to accept delivery.
  - If necessary provide delivery instructions when completing your order.
  - Have your packages delivered to an alternate location.
  - Ship your packages to stores.
  - Insure your packages.
  - Sign up for online status alerts.
  - Talk to your neighbors.
  - Track your packages and be aware of delivery dates.
  - Be aware of the status of all your orders.
  - Don't use websites you don't trust.
  - Check your bank account for any suspicious activity.
  - Monitor your security cameras.
  - Use strong account passwords.
  - Don't use public wifi.
  - Consider using an extra email account for shipments.
- These safety tips should be followed at all times. Have a safe holiday season.

**Next WLCA Meeting: Dec. 3rd at 6:30 pm**  
 Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg  
 Following Meeting: Jan.28, 2020

**DISTRICT 7 TREE LIGHTING**  
 Thursday, December 5th; 5:30 – 7 pm  
 Woodlawn Lake Park by the Island House

Woodlawn Lake  
Community Association  
PO Box 28374  
San Antonio TX 78228



\_\_\_\_\_ A check mark here shows that you  
have paid your 2020 dues. Thank you.

## SELLING FROM YOUR HOME

A garage (or yard or estate) sale under City ordinance is a means by which personal property can be sold to the public in a residential area. The City regulates the practice to protect residential areas from permanent encroachment of commercial uses, to protect the aesthetic qualities of neighborhoods, and to ensure the harmonious and orderly operation of these sales in residential areas.

The seller must obtain a permit and display it in plain view at the time of the sale. Permits are \$16 and can be purchased online or in person at Development Services (One Stop), 1901 S. Alamo. There is a limit of one sale per quarter each year. A fourth sale permit is free on proof of three prior permits at the same residence within the year.

The seller can display up to three signs announcing the sale, each no larger than six square feet in area. Two of the signs, with city-issued decals, can be placed off the premises. They can be posted two days before the sale and must be removed when the permit expires. Signs without decals are not allowed on city right-of-way and can be removed and discarded without notice. Signs, even with decals, cannot be attached to utility poles, street or traffic signs, or streetlight standards.

Violation of these rules are subject to a fine of up to \$50 for the first two convictions, not to exceed \$500 for each thereafter.

## Local Holiday Activities

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

Nov 22 - Dec 31: Zoo Lights; Sun-F 12n-9pm, Sat 10am-9pm  
Nov 23 - Jan 6: Light the Way, Univ of the Incarnate Word  
Nov 29: Tree Lighting, Travis Park, 3pm - lighting at 6:20pm  
Nov 29: Ford Holiday Parade, Riverwalk, 6-9pm  
Nov 29-Jan 13: Holiday Lights on Riverwalk, 6pm-6:30am  
Nov 29 & 30 (10am-6pm) Dec 1 (12n-6pm): International Peace Market, Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, 922 San Pedro  
Nov 30: Fantasyland at Milam Park, 11am-7pm  
Dec 5, 12, 19 (Thursdays): Pearl Holiday Market, 4-8pm  
Dec 6 -22 (Fri, Sat, Sun): Riverwalk Luminarias, at dusk  
Dec 7: River of Lights Kickoff, Museum Reach, 6-9pm  
Dec 7-8: Nerdtacular Comic Con, Wonderland, 10am-6pm  
Dec 8: Deck the Paws, Botanical Garden, 9am-5pm  
Dec 13-14: Holly Daze Rock!, Arneson River Theatre, 6:30pm  
Dec 13-15: Holiday Artisan Show, Riverwalk, 11am-11pm  
Dec 14: La Gran Tamalada, Market Square, 12n-6pm  
Dec 14: Super Fun Saturday, Yanaguana Garden, 11am-1pm  
Dec 15: La Gran Posada, Little Flower Basilica, 6-8pm  
Dec 15: Carols by Candlelight, La Villita, 6pm  
Dec 18: Posada at Pearl, 6:30-9pm  
Dec 21: Hecho a Mano Outdoor Mkt, Guadalupe Plaza, 12n-6pm  
Dec 22: Chanukah on the River, Arneson Theatre, 3pm  
Dec 31: Celebrate SA!, Hemisfair Park, 6pm-12:15am  
Jan 5: Three Kings Day, San Fernando Cathedral Hall, 1-4pm