

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

January-February 2020

San Antonio, Texas

IMPROVED 311 SYSTEM PRESENTED ON JAN 28th

Paula X. Stallcup, Senior Manager over the 311 Call Center, will speak at our January 28th meeting. Last July 30th she gave us an overview of the City's 311 system. She told us that 311 was being improved and that she would like to return once the new system was in place.

Paula 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. She 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 telephone number can reduce the number of non-emergency calls to 911 allowing emergency personnel to focus on critical and urgent calls. The Call Center provides service 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day..

ALMAGUER PROGRESS REPORT

Work on the Woodlawn Lake Recreation Center is advancing. The City has received the 100% construction documents from the architect and has started preparing for solicitation (bid) in February or early March. Bidding will be through a competitive sealed proposal (CSP) process that allows the City to select the contractor on other factors as well as price. All the bond building projects are being solicited this way. CSP allows for the elimination of poor performing contractors who may have the lowest "bid" cost and build better quality projects for the same overall cost. However, the CSP process does take longer than the traditional low bid process which explains the late construction start date. The latest possible dates for those tasks to occur are: advertise – March 17, 2020; construction/demolition start – October 18, 2020; construction complete – April 10, 2022.

LITTLE HOUSE IN YOUR YARD TOPIC OF FEB 25th MEETING

Our February 25th meeting will focus on auxiliary dwelling units, or ADUs, that homeowners can construct in their yards. Presenting the topic for the Development Services Department will be either Catherine Hernandez, Land Development Administrator, or Kristie Flores, Planning Manager.

An ADU is a smaller, independent residential dwelling unit located on the same lot as a stand-alone (detached) single-family home. ADUs go by many different names throughout the U.S., including accessory apartments, secondary suites, granny flats and "casitas." They have the potential to increase housing affordability (both for homeowners and tenants), create a wider range of housing options within the community, enable seniors to stay near family as they age, and facilitate better use of the existing housing fabric in established neighborhoods.

San Antonio has adopted ADUs, labelled "Accessory Dwellings," in its City Code, Sec. 35-371. The provision "requires the city to permit carefully controlled accessory housing in single-family residential zoning districts." This topic should be of interest to homeowners looking to house parents or other family, earn rental income, or downsize without selling their home. With most of WLCA homes within a historic or neighborhood conservation district, we will hear whether these have any affect on ADUs.

REPORT GRAFFITI

Call 311 to report graffiti on City property or infrastructure. Call 911 to report graffiti in action. For non-city property, call:

AT&T: 800-246-8464

Spectrum: 210-244-0500

Clear Channel: 210-227-3451

TxDOT: 210-623-4431

CPS Energy: 210-353-2222

Union Pacific: 888-877-7267

Grande Comm: 210-320-4600

VIA Metro: 210-363-2020

SAWS: 210-704-SAWS (7297)

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WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....	485-6168
wlca@att.net	
Vice President: Sally Avila.....	734-2093
Secretary: Ester Soto	
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Board Members:	
Marcy Gutierrez.....	313-8296
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JD Morales.....	885-7146

GARDEN IN THE PARK & AT HOME

On January 11th, thirteen law students from St. Mary's University removed dead growth and spread mulch at the Centennial Garden. We have had a mild winter, but a couple of overnight freezes have dried out several plants. We expect these plants to sprout new shoots in the spring. A crop of bluebonnets is beginning to show in a large part of the area.

We began our work on the garden four years ago, in January 2016. We would like to complete what we then envisioned. Our plan for this year is to fill in the unplanted parts of the garden for a full and colorful display of South Texas native plants. Let us know if you want to be notified of our garden work days.

A great deal of information and advice is available to gardeners and landscapers at gardenstylesa.com. It has such features as how much, if any, we should be watering; what gardening tasks we should be doing this time of year; and what plants do well here. In dealing with plants, it allows you to search by types (tree, shrub, etc.); water, sun, and soil requirements; flower color; whether native; and wildlife it attracts. You can read about natural weed and bug control. You get timely tips and can submit questions. You learn of community events relating to nature and gardens and of available water saver coupons and rebates. There are also how-to videos and a link to SAWS water conservation programs. You can also sign up to receive weekly newsletters. The information is free.

WLCA Birthdays

January: flower - carnation; birthstone - garnet

Charles Bartlett, Stella Castillo, Andries Coetzee, Ben Garza, Marcy Gutierrez, Gustavo Lange, Todd Minshall, Luis Perez Sr, Ernest Rubio, Rosalinda Rubio, Kevin Sethi, Edna Smith, Gloria Valenzuela

February: flower - violet; birthstone - amethyst

Beth Coetzee, Peyton Coker, Mary Ann Contreras, Darlyne Cox, Minnie Garcia, Sylvia Reyna, Maria Rodriguez, Maria Sandoval

BIRDS, BUGS, BLASTS

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

There are "Noise Advisory" signs posted around Woodlawn Lake Park. They deal with a mitigation plan to remove cattle egrets from the lake by use of "noise discouragement activities" to occur at dusk and dawn. Two of our Newsletters last year described city and federal efforts to relocate cattle egrets from Elmendorf Lake Park. The March-April edition described the need for the program and the manner in which it would be implemented. The September-October issue talked about the phases of the program that was about to begin. In that article, we stated our concern that the egrets not find a new home at Woodlawn Lake.

The Express-News of January 20th updates the Elmendorf project. It mentions the hope of US Department of Agriculture workers that the egrets move to Mitchell Lake Audubon Center 11 miles away. Apparently some of the birds have found our lake to be more convenient. We were informed in December that mitigation activities were planned for our lake that month and possibly again in January until birds have relocated. I asked what the collateral damage would be to other wildlife. Ducks and other fowl reside at the park that are not threats to aircraft and are not a nuisance to residents. Yet, the efforts against the cattle egrets are bound to adversely affect these innocent creatures. I was told that discouragement activities are only meant to make the area undesirable for birds that are causing the threat and have the potential to affect wildlife at the park for a short period of time. I wonder, then, how effective these measures will be in permanently removing the egrets since all birds should similarly respond.

As spring approaches we anticipate pests attracted to the warmer weather and new growth. The quick remedy often is to broadcast pesticides indiscriminately. Unfortunately, this method kills desirable insects as well as the undesirable. Many insecticides fall under the category of neonicotinoids ("neonics"). Neonics use, along with the use of certain herbicides, is linked to catastrophic bee declines nationwide. Monarch butterflies, also, have declined by more than 97% in the West in the last 20 years.

It is best to control insects by keeping our properties clean of trash and overgrowth, clearing standing water, and employing selective insect eradication. The Parks Department, for instance, does not use chemical sprays but relies on mosquito dunks when needed. Certain plants deter unwanted insects while others attract those that we desire. We employ these methods at the Centennial Garden (left column) as a means for a healthy ecology.

Our May-June 2019 Newsletter described the harmful effects of fireworks on animals. Fireworks also affect people, including veterans with PTSD, children, and the elderly. Plus, they are dangerous. It is disturbing that we learn that SAPD has issued no citations for illegal fireworks use. Neighborhoods are safer and more crime-free when the law and codes are respected and enforced. I hope that SAPD reevaluates its practice in this area.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2020

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

PLEASE 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.

JOINT PRIMARY ELECTION

The Joint Primary Election is Tuesday, March 3rd. The last day to register for this election is February 3rd. Early voting is from February 18th to 28th (18-21: 8am-6pm; 22: 8am-8pm; 23: 12n-6pm; 24-28: 8am-8pm). If a runoff is needed, it will be on May 26th. Election day voting can be at any county precinct polling site. A picture i.d. (or acceptable substitute) is required.

Early voting locations closest to our community are:

Bexar County Elections Department, 1103 S. Frio Street

Bexar County Justice Center, 300 Dolorosa Street

Las Palmas Library, 515 Castroville Road

Leon Valley Conference Center, 6421 Evers Road

Memorial Library, 3222 Culebra Road

Northside Activity Center, 7001 Culebra Road

San Antonio College Victory Center, 1819 N. Main Avenue

Wonderland Mall, 4522 Fredericksburg Road

THE ELECTION & LOCAL ISSUES

WLCA does not endorse nor give preference to any candidate for public office. We give all candidates who visit our meeting two minutes to speak. They can pass out campaign material and speak to members individually before and after the meeting.

WLCA members can express their views and preferences on public issues but cannot make it appear that their opinions are those of WLCA or use such inferences that would lead an outsider to construe the personal view to be that of WLCA.

Next WLCA Meeting: Jan. 28th at 6:30 pm

Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg

Other 2020 meetings: Feb 25, Mar 31, Apr 28, May 26, Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27, Dec 1

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In April we will distribute the Spring Membership Drive edition of our newsletter to all residents within WLCA's boundaries. Each year, before the City's Earth Day event at our Park, we tell our community about WLCA as a way to recruit new members. We rely on volunteers and are hoping to get a group willing to do the door-to-door delivery. We will consider paying a service to do the job for us at a moderate cost. Please let us know if you are aware of a group or service that could do this work or if you are willing to help us out with this project.

HOLIDAY GIFT PROJECT

For the fifth year WLCA chose to do something for children who might not otherwise have a good holiday. Justin Holley was able to obtain donations from local civic and business groups. We were able to fill eight gift bags with gift cards from local venues. Dr. Carol Chincanchan provided the names of four families. The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club provided another four.

We thank Justin and Carol for their devotion and efforts in this annual project. We know that it makes a big difference to our local families.

BASURA BASH

The 2020 Annual Basura Bash is on Saturday, February 15th. Volunteers will collect trash from the banks of San Antonio area waterways. Registration and breakfast will be from 8 to 9 am (this may vary with the site). Cleanup activity will be from 9 am to 12 noon at various parks and other areas along our waterways. The cleanup sites are listed online at basurabash.org. There are no cleanup sites within the WLCA community, the closest being at Martínez Creek and Alazán Creek. All volunteers must complete a liability form to participate in Basura Bash. In addition to the website, information is available by calling 210-858-8520.

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



2020 CENSUS TO BEGIN

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for us and our community. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Every home will have received the invitation by April 1st, which is observed nationwide as Census Day. You should respond for your home in one of three ways, either online, by phone, or by mail, and tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

Census takers will visit homes in April to conduct quality check interviews. From May through July they will visit homes that have not responded to help make sure everyone is counted. The best way to avoid a visit from a census taker is to fill out the questionnaire as soon as you receive it. The 2020 Census is not the only activity the Census Bureau has this year. You may see Census Bureau employees out collecting responses for other surveys, such as the American Community Survey.

<input type="checkbox"/> A check mark here shows that you have paid your 2020 dues. Thank you.
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If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, make sure that they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. Census workers may also carry Census Bureau bags and other equipment with the Census Bureau logo.

If you still have questions about their identity, you can contact the Dallas Regional Census Center at 972-510-1800 to speak with a Census Bureau representative. The September-October 2019 WLCA Newsletter has an article on avoiding frauds and scams related to the 2020 Census.

The Census Bureau is bound by law to keep your information confidential. It cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home.

It benefits us, our community, and our local agencies to have every resident counted, whether young or old, citizen or alien (documented or not), employed, a student, in the military, hospitalized, incarcerated, or a transient. For questions concerning the census, you can call 800-923-8282 or email ask.census.gov.