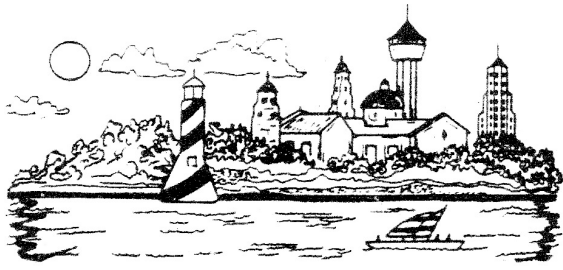


WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Keeping Woodlawn Wonderful

Published Bimonthly

May-June 2020

San Antonio, Texas

MAY MEETING CANCELLED; JUNE TO BE DECIDED LATER

WLCA's May 26th meeting has been cancelled. As of this writing, the City's stay home / work safe order will have expired effective May 19th. However, the order could possibly be renewed, or public facilities could continue to be closed and public gatherings barred. In addition, our meeting space, the Wi-Fi Room, is not conducive to six-foot distancing and it would be difficult to conduct a meeting wearing face masks.

We have looked at the possibility of holding a meeting online, as via Zoom. However, a third of our members do not use the internet. Relevant topics for a meeting would most likely concern the current COVID-19 pandemic. We are already receiving this information daily through the news media. We will decide next month if our June 30th meeting will take place and will notify our members as we did concerning our cancelled April meeting.

JULY 4th AT PARK PENDING

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently not permitting social events at its facilities. This could be taken to mean that the annual 4th of July celebration at Woodlawn Lake Park will not take place this year. However, we have yet to receive a confirmation one way or the other from the City or from the San Antonio Parks Foundation, sponsor of the event.

Should the event take place, it will be on Saturday, July 4th, from 11am to 9:30pm. Even if held, WLCA urges our members to avoid the park and view the fireworks from the safety of their homes. It will be impossible to monitor and enforce face mask and social distancing rules. The holiday is six weeks away. The pandemic might be ebbing by then, but the current indication is it is unlikely. Any large public gathering could cause a resurgence of the virus. It takes just one infected person to launch a new outbreak. Best to play it safe at least through the summer.

PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

The runoffs for the Joint Primary Election will take place on July 14th. Early voting is from June 29th to July 10th. You can vote at any Bexar County polling site and can vote in the runoff even if you did not vote on March 3rd.

"SHARE THE STREETS" PILOT PROJECT ON CINCINNATI

Being homebound and having limited recreation options during this pandemic has more people active outdoors. Trail and park use is up compared to the same period last year. This crowdedness makes it more difficult to navigate the six-foot distancing rule. Foot traffic in neighborhoods is even more problematic. The standard sidewalk width of 5 feet does not provide enough space for two people to walk side by side or to safely pass each other. Many pedestrians move to the street in order to maintain a healthy distance, leading to another danger. Although traffic volume is down, traffic speed has increased.

Because of the epidemic, vehicle traffic is at an unprecedented low, creating an opportunity for sharing street space. The Population Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) and ActivateSA have presented a program that will employ measures on city streets to provide more street space for people to walk, run, skate, and bike, as reduce motor vehicle speeds, prohibit through traffic, reduce lane widths and/or the number of traffic lanes, adjust traffic signals to favor pedestrians and slow vehicle speeds, and paint temporary bike lanes. Residents along these streets will not be adversely affected. Solid waste collections, bus service, street parking, and driveway access will continue as currently exists.

At least 130 cities have expanded access to bicycling and walking, including closing or narrowing vehicle lanes. PHAC and ActivateSA have identified three areas for such a pilot program in San Antonio. These are the Monte Vista neighborhood, W. Cesar Chavez from Elmendorf Lake to Lanier High School, and Cincinnati Avenue from Woodlawn Lake to St. Mary's University. On Cincinnati, the portions of the streets leading into it will be open to local traffic only. Gen. McMullen, Bandera, Wilson, and Josephine Tobin, the major north-south connectors, will remain open to motor traffic.

There is no date yet set for the pilot program to begin. The WLCA and the University Park Neighborhood Association presidents have been involved in planning for this area and we will keep our members informed. Should the pilot programs prove successful, "Share the Streets" could be extended to other city streets nominated by their neighborhoods.

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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CLEAR WEEDS AT THE GARDEN

Weather permitting, we will have a garden day on Saturday, May 23rd, from 8:30 to 11:30 am. The plan is to remove as many of the invasive plants possible. Several of our desired plants are growing and blooming, but are difficult to see because of the proliferation of weeds.

Recent and expected rains should make it possible to pull the weeds out by the root. We will observe safe social distancing. Each volunteer should have a face mask, hat, and gloves. You can also bring a garden tool for digging and water for drinking. Our experts will point out the plants to be removed and those to be left in place. Please let us know if you can help out.

CATTLE EGRETS FINALE

Efforts to discourage cattle egret roosting at both Elmendorf Lake Park and Woodlawn Lake Park are considered to have been successful. Egrets appear to have relocated generally southwest of Kelly Field. This is a positive development as this flight path does not interfere with military flight operations. While cattle egrets appear to still be foraging at a nearby landfill, their flight path does not now interfere with flight operations. Current surveys indicate that a small number of egret species may attempt to return to the parks. Observations will continue for the next several weeks at both parks as well as at other locations where these birds are found. These will focus on determining any new locations where egrets may be nesting. If birds return, discouragement activities will resume in accordance with federal and state wildlife laws.

WLCA Birthdays

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

Bezaleel Chincanchan, Kimberly Garcia, Enrique Mendoza, Charles Oisten, Emily Stone

June: flower - rose; birthstone - pearl

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

SPACE, SPOKES, STOP

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

Our Newsletter, again, is limited to two pages. With no meetings to announce and guest speakers to introduce, there is lesser need for our four-page edition. We will return to that format when we resume our regular monthly meetings.

As indicated in the "Share the Streets" article (page 1), the foot path at Woodlawn Lake Park is drawing many walkers and runners. The trail is ten feet wide, so it's easy to keep a six foot distance from other walkers and runners if you travel on the far right and pass on the far left. Most seem to be doing this. Others, especially runners, tend to travel in the center. This is fine if no one else is around, but violates the six foot distance if the trail is being shared. Also, if traveling as a pair or group (which you should do only if members of the same household), move to single file if being passed, passing, or confronting others until the other party has cleared your area. Cooperation and courtesy will keep our park enjoyable and healthy.

The coronavirus epidemic has also led to an increase in the use of bicycles. Bicycles, skateboards, and other fast wheels are not permitted on our park's foot path. Bike lanes in our streets often are blocked by parked cars or end abruptly before an intersection. Making use of Cincinnati Avenue in a "Share the Streets" pilot program (page 1) will give bicyclists and skaters a safe place to travel. If the program is successful, we can look at other streets in our area that could be used for sharing. WLCA has long asked for a bicycle path using the streets that border our park. We have yet to see any ripple of movement towards that goal from our City leaders and professionals. The epidemic will change many of our daily routines. Perhaps a safe bicycle lane around the park will finally be one of these changes.

Growing up in Los Angeles we called them "Hollywood stops." I came to Texas and heard them called "California stops." Yet I see this daily in San Antonio. This is the practice of rolling past a stop sign into an intersection. Texas Transportation Code Sec. 544.010 says (a) Unless directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic-control signal, the operator of a vehicle...approaching an intersection with a stop sign shall stop as provided by Subsection (c) [stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; if no crosswalk, at a clearly marked stop line; if no stop line, at the place nearest the intersecting roadway where the operator has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway]. Sec. 541.401 of the Code defines "stop" or "stopping" as (10) (A) when required, to completely cease movement. Thus, a car's wheels have to stop rolling before entering the intersection at a stop sign. Please drive safely.

Scheduled 2020 WLCA Meetings

Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sept 29, Oct 27, Dec 1

All at 6:30 pm; Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room