

# WLCA NEWSLETTER



## Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Published Bimonthly

January-February 2015

San Antonio, Texas

### **CPS ENERGY INTRODUCES SMART GRID ON JAN 27th**

CPS Energy will introduce its Smart Grid Initiative at our WLCA meeting of January 27th. This is a major upgrade to our electrical grid, allowing the utility to keep pace with 21st century demands.

The Smart Grid will be made up of three main components: a communications network consisting of communications devices installed on utility poles, street lights, communications towers and substations; an advanced distribution management system, which allows for remote management of the grid's performance; and smart meters, which will be installed on homes and businesses and will communicate wirelessly to CPS Energy through the communications network.

This investment will support increased electric and gas reliability, boost efficiency and reduce costs, better integrate renewable sources of power into the grid, reduce emissions, increase our privacy, and give us the first ever daily look at the energy we buy instead of waiting for a monthly bill. CPS Energy is now beginning to install automated digital meters on homes in our area. We will learn on what to expect and how to prepare.

The presenter will be Ken Gunn, with over 25 years of experience in assisting customers. He will cover the installation process and timeline; how the new meters will work; benefits to customers, such as improved reliability, accuracy, and privacy; benefits to CPS Energy, including increased efficiency and reduced environmental impacts; and will address any questions we may have regarding security or privacy.

CPS Energy is the nation's largest municipally owned energy utility providing both gas and electric service. It was acquired by the City from the San Antonio Public Service Company in 1942. It was known as the City Public Service Board of San Antonio until its name was changed to CPS Energy in 2005. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprised of four members, each representing a geographic quadrant of the City. The mayor serves as an ex-officio member. The day-to-day operations are carried out by the Senior Executive Team and staff under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer.

### **HOME BURGLARY, PROBATION TOPICS AT FEB 24th MEETING**

Our WLCA meeting on February 24th will feature discussions on two areas in criminal law. The first is a probation program to help college students who have been arrested. The second is on factors that make our homes targets for burglary. Robert Saucedo, retired Bexar County Adult Probation Officer, will be the presenter. We thank our SAPD SAFFE Officer Marcos Serda for his help in arranging for this presentation.

Mr. Saucedo has begun a free service for college students called "Pre-Sentence Assistance Services." This is a pre-trial diversion process that assists college students who get arrested for offenses as DUI, theft, or minor drug possession, the opportunity to have their offenses reduced or dismissed, or to qualify for early probation release. This helps to avoid or minimize the impact an arrest might have on the student's academic standing, finances, and future employment.

The service is administered by a group consisting of retired probation officers, former prosecutors, legal advisors, educational program providers, and counselors. They help students through the judicial process from the moment contacted by the arrestee to the day of sentencing. The service is still fairly new and, thus far, has been a success.

Mr. Saucedo will also be accompanied by two individuals for a presentation on "What's Yours is Mine." The two have actually committed home burglaries and are now on probation for their crimes. They will share what they look for in targeting homes, when they look, methods of entry, and much more. We last had such a program in 2011. At the time we learned such things as what items are preferred by burglars, how they walk through a neighborhood undetected, and how easily they enter our cars. We look forward to learning more on keeping ourselves safe and our property secure.

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**Seeling Channel Phase II – page 4**

## WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President:* Alejandro Soto.....485-6168

[wlca@att.net](mailto:wlca@att.net)

*Vice President:* Gerard Bustos.....279-8729

*Secretary:* Ester Soto

*Treasurer:* Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839

*Board Members:*

Fred Ayers.....737-1228

Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296

JoAnn Hernandez.....733-0839

Elia Reyna.....833-7419

## NEW BOARD

WLCA's new Executive Board was elected on December 2nd and took office on January 1st. They will lead the association for the next two years.

Alejandro Soto, a solo practice attorney, begins his seventh term as president. Gerard Bustos, an audio recording engineer as well as a video producer at UTSA, begins his second term as vice president. Ester Soto, retired federal service personnel staffer, returns as secretary. Ashley Hernandez, office manager for a non-profit organization, moves up from a board position she held for two terms to become treasurer.

There are four elected board positions. Fred Ayers, retiree from the US Postal Service, begins his second term. Marcy Gutierrez, art teacher and department chair at Jefferson High School, also begins her second term. JoAnn Hernandez, a registered nurse and a community resident for over 50 years, joins the board for her first term. Elia Reyna, retired from Kelly Air Force Base and long active in the Jefferson Neighborhood Association where she is currently vice president, also joins the board.

Board members can be reached at the numbers shown above.

## WLCA Birthdays

*January: flower - carnation; birthstone - garnet*

Gerard Bustos, Gilbert Campos, Stella Castillo, Patti Garcia, Janice Clayton, Eleanor Garza, Consuelo Gonzales, Norma Gonzales, Katherine Guerra, Marcy Gutierrez, Eloy Lozano, Micy Holbrook, Helen Lozano, Todd Minshall, José Rodriguez Jr, Virginia Saenz, José Suarez, Ralph Wolf

*February: flower - violet; birthstone - amethyst*

Cabral Balreira, Alejandrina Collado, Mary Ann Contreras, Darlyne Cox, Luciana Cristadoro, Jane Dunnewold, Minnie Garcia, Teresa Longoria, Corrine Marin, Mary Jane Marin, Mike Muñoz, Sylvia Reyna, Maria Rodriguez, Janet Zadeh, Maria Sandoval, Lydia Torres-Tucker

## BLASTS, BUTTS, BELTWAY

*Alejandro Soto, WLCA President*

The start of the new year sounded and smelled like a war zone. Fireworks and small bombs had been going off all evening. At midnight the big attack hit and lasted for almost an hour. Enforcing the fireworks ban must be a low priority for the City. The SAPD and SAFD had to have heard the noise and seen "the rockets red glare," but did not come to check it out. The explosions actually began before Christmas and increased in frequency as the year came to an end. SAFD has a fireworks hotline, but it was open only from 6pm to midnight New Years' Eve. At all other times, we had to rely on 311 and hope that there would be some type of official response. Some people must have enough money to burn and blow up. But it bothers their neighbors, scares the dogs, and just might result in a fire or injury. The City banned fireworks for a reason. I hope it takes enforcement more seriously in coming July 4th and New Year's Day celebrations.

As of January 1st, the City of El Paso has banned smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes at all city-owned facilities, including parks. Advocates there say that the change is especially important for children. Cigarette litter was also a problem they cited. Two years ago, volunteers planted a flag by each cigarette butt they found at a popular park. Within ten minutes, they had flagged 500 cigarette butts. The crew repeated the effort at a second park to similar results.

The City of San Marcos banned smoking at its parks over a year ago. WLCA has been asking for smoke-free parks in San Antonio for the past two years (March-April 2013 Newsletter). We point to three main problems--the polluting of the public's air, cigarette butt litter, and unhealthy models for children. Smoking is prohibited in covered areas, as pavilions, and in playgrounds. The justification for these prohibitions easily apply to our entire public spaces. Our petitions for smoke-free parks have over 300 signatures. They have been collected mainly at the last Earth Day and at some neighborhood association meetings. We hope to gather 500 signatures. Please let us know if you can help.

As reported in our last Newsletter, the reconstruction of the Park trail has begun. A large segment of the beltway around the Lake is now closed and fenced off. Runners and walkers are moving onto the street where the trail is no longer available. Passing cars, however, continue to exceed the posted speed and roll through stop signs. We have asked for more police patrolling, especially during morning and early evening hours. We recommend that those using the trail make turnabouts rather than use the streets. At the northern end of the Park, they can move from the new pedestrian bridge to the new car bridge sidewalk and reverse course. They can also reverse course at the lake spillway. We have been able to get the bridge over the spillway designated "no parking" to allow those on foot to make a u-turn at that point.

## Woodlawn Lake Community Association--Membership 2015

Name: _____		DOB Mo & Day: _____	
Name: _____		DOB Mo & Day: _____	
Address: _____		Zip: _____	
Phone: _____		E-mail: _____	
Membership type: (please check)	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$5 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household (\$10 per year) <input type="checkbox"/> School, <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit, or <input type="checkbox"/> 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 2015. If your member information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2015 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 2015, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, please disregard this reminder.

### SOME RULES ON GARAGE SALES

A garage 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 garage sales in residential areas. A yard sale is the same as a garage sale, subject to the same rules.

The seller must obtain a permit and display it in plain view at the time of the sale. The sale must be between the hours of 9 am and 6 pm on no more than two consecutive days. There is a limit of one sale per quarter each year. A fourth sale permit is free on proof of three prior permits within the year. A garage sale rain check can be obtained in case of inclement weather.

Items to be sold must be property that is owned, used, and maintained by an individual or members of his or her residence and acquired in the normal course of living in or maintaining the residence. The sale must be of at least five items. These cannot include glue, aerosol paints, guns, ammunition, or live animals. Also, food items cannot be sold without a food sales permit from the City Health Department. Items cannot be displayed or exhibited on the public right-of-way (i.e. sidewalk or alley).

The seller can display up to two signs announcing the sale, each no larger than four square feet in area, on the premises, during the time of sale. The signs must be on the sale operator's private property, not closer than five feet to the front or side property lines. They cannot be attached to utility poles, streetlight standards, or other public facilities. The signs must be removed at the expiration of the garage sale permit.

We see these rules violated just about every weekend. Violations should be reported to 311 (207-6000).

### WLCA ON-LINE

WLCA communicates via the internet. You can find information and updates, including our by-laws, finance rules, and past Newsletters (2 years), at [neighborhoodlink.com](http://neighborhoodlink.com). You need to enter a zip code (78201 or 78228) and find our listing. We also post updates on facebook. Find us at [facebook.com/pages...](https://facebook.com/pages...) and give us a "like."

Nextdoor.com has neighbor-to-neighbor communications and now includes contact with SAPD for a virtual neighborhood watch. Unfortunately, the Jefferson-Woodlawn Lake area is drawn much too small, going from Zarzamora to Wilson, and the alley between Donaldson and Gramercy to W. Woodlawn. Perhaps the area could be enlarged, or additional neighborhoods could be identified around the lake and west of Wilson.

You can email us at [wlca@att.net](mailto:wlca@att.net). If you received this Newsletter in your mailbox, we do not have an email address for you. By having your email address, we can also send you updates between our meetings and Newsletters. We also save on printing and postage costs. If you would like to be on our email list, let us know at which addresses you would like to receive the emails. If you do not have email, we will continue to send our Newsletter via the US mail.

#### MARGUERITE NEMKY

Marguerite Nemky passed away on November 21, 2014, at the age of 92. She and husband Harold, who passed away in 2008, had resided in our community since their marriage in 1950 and were long-time WLCA members

#### Next WLCA Meeting: Jan. 27th at 6:30 pm

Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room @ Gym Bldg

Other 2015 meetings: Feb 24, Mar 31, Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 29, Oct 27, Dec 1, Party TBA

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



## **A Historic Marker? BANDERA STAGE ROAD**

Fredericksburg, Blanco, Bandera, and Culebra Roads were the original trade routes through our area. Carts, wagons, stage coaches, and horses traveled this high ground on the way to the City of San Antonio. Stage and mail lines made the 12 hour trip from the town of Bandera south past Guilbeau Ranch through Leon Valley on what is now Bandera Road. Approaching the City, it became necessary to turn east along the northern boundary of Sam Maverick's fenced pasture, being the current Woodlawn Avenue, to the present Elmendorf Street. At Elmendorf, the route again turned south to enter San Antonio proper on Sixteenth Street. This route was called the Bandera Stage Road.

Sam Maverick and David Alexander had bought the lands within the Alazan Creek watershed during the 1850's. Maverick owned the land south of Woodlawn that would become Woodlawn Lake Park and the West End development. Alexander owned the land north of Woodlawn that would become the Woodlawn Park developments. Maverick also owned land surrounding Alexander's land extending to Fredericksburg Road.

We would like to see a historic marker to memorialize the route and the early development of our community. A fitting site would be on W. Woodlawn just inside our Park, perhaps near a pedestrian walkway or a bus stop. Let us know what you think.

<input type="checkbox"/> A check mark here shows that you have paid your 2015 dues. Thank you.
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## **SEELING CHANNEL PROJECT PHASE II**

The first phase of the Seeling Channel improvements, begun in December 2012, is expected to be completed in about two months. The remaining work is placement of a new bridge on Wilson and the last of channel reconstruction and storm drains between W. Woodlawn and W. Mistletoe. That will lead to the second phase of the project, funded by the 2012 City Bond.

Phase II will continue channel reconstruction from Wilson to Morning Glory. The bond proposal carried the project to St. Cloud, but cost estimates have shortened the scope of the work. The channel will be widened to 50 to 65 feet, deepened, squared, and relined with concrete. This will increase the channel's water capacity, greatly reducing flooding around the Seeling Channel area. As part of the project, certain streets will be reconstructed. These are W. Mistletoe (Wilson to Emory), Manor (W. Magnolia to W. Mulberry), and W. Mulberry (Manor to Morning Glory). The bridges at W. Huisache and Morning Glory will be replaced with slab spans with safety railing and 4' sidewalks, resembling the W. Woodlawn bridge installed in phase 1. The City will acquire right-of-way along the north side of the channel. It will also relocate property fences where it is necessary.

Construction will begin in April or May of this year. It should be completed in about 20 months, weather permitting. We will keep our members informed as work progresses.