

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

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San Antonio, Texas

AREA SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE AT JAN 28th MEETING

Ed Garza, President of the Board of Trustees of the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), will be the featured speaker at our January 28th meeting. We have asked Ed to bring us up to date on the on-going and planned construction activity at our area schools. These schools include Jefferson High School, Longfellow Middle School, the Young Women's Leadership Academy, Woodlawn Academy, and Fenwick and Madison Elementary Schools. The construction is the result of a \$515 million bond package for SAISD that the voters approved on November 2, 2010.

SAISD serves over 54,000 students within a 79 square mile area. It is the third largest public school district in Bexar County and the 13th largest of the State's 1,057 districts. It contains 83 campuses of various grade mixtures from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The bond projects focus on safety and security, technology, playgrounds, athletic track resurfacing and lighting, renovations, middle school career exploration labs, transportation efficiency, and Alamo Stadium & Convocation Center.

Ed was elected to the SAISD Board as the District 7 Trustee in 2009. He became Board President at the start of 2012. He was our District 7 City Councilman from 1997 to 2001 and our Mayor from 2001 to 2005. He is a graduate of Jefferson High School and has a BS in Landscape Architecture and an MS in Urban Planning from Texas A&M University. His wife Anna Laura is an elementary school teacher with SAISD. Ed and Anna Laura reside in our neighborhood and are long-time WLCA members.

PARK CARS "RIGHT"

Texas Transportation Code Section 543.30B (a) says: An operator who stops or parks on a two-way roadway shall do so with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle parallel to and within 18 inches of the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway. In other words, park your car in the direction of traffic. City Parking Enforcement is ticketing violators. The fine for parking facing traffic is \$35 [Municipal Code Sec. 19-38 (7)].

WLCA MEETING PLACE MOVING Meetings to Start Earlier

After ten years at The Salvation Army Citadel Campus, WLCA meetings will move to the Woodlawn Lake Community Room, next to the Gym. Also, meetings will begin one-half hour earlier, at 6:30 pm. This marks a return of WLCA to the Park.

For many years our meetings were held at the Park Island House. With increasing meeting attendance, the Island House became too crowded. In addition, parking became a problem, especially during summer when we competed with other park visitors for area spaces. As we built a community relationship with The Salvation Army, the area commander invited us to use their facilities at the Citadel Campus for our meetings. With changes now taking place at the Citadel, we felt that it was time to find a new location.

The Community Room is the former Woodlawn Library. It is in the same building as the Gym and is in the shadow of the Josephine Tobin Drive arch that greets visitors to the Park. It was renovated a little over a year ago with fiber optic lines to support public accessible wi-fi. The room received new furniture, carpeting, lighting, and paint. It also features a health kiosk where citizens can receive health assessment information including heart rate, weight, Body Mass Index (BMI), and blood pressure. It is open to the public at hours posted at the City website.

With ample parking across Alexander Drive, the new meeting place will be accessible to more members. It will also provide a better listening experience for attendees. The new time will be safer during the dark winter season and will allow for earlier adjournment and return home. It will also enable City officials who must attend more than one meeting in the evening to devote sufficient time to WLCA. We will test the new meeting place and time for their convenience and benefit to our members.

Dist 1 Councilman Bernal on Feb 25th (p. 3)

This Year's Agenda - see page 2

Dist 7 Councilman Report - see page 3

On & Off Fred Studio Tour - see page 4

WLCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alejandro Soto.....485-6168
wlca@att.net
Vice President: Gerard Bustos.....737-0998
Secretary: Ester Soto
Treasurer: Maria Luisa Reyna.....771-7174
Board Members:
Ashley Hernandez.....733-0839
Cathy Fernandez.....607-7516
Marcy Gutierrez.....313-8296
Fred Ayers.....737-1228

AREA CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

W. WOODLAWN REOPENS SOON. This year will see the completion of the Seeling Channel project at the Park and the opening of a new vehicle bridge and a new pedestrian bridge. This should bring peace and quiet back to our neighborhood, along with increased safety and an attractive new W. Woodlawn entrance to the Park. W. Woodlawn from N. Josephine Tobin to Kampmann will reopen by February 1st and the detour of traffic from this area will end. Construction on the new bridges from the Park and on W. Woodlawn over the Seeling Channel will continue until the first of April. At that time, the new bridges will open and all of the sections of W. Woodlawn that had been closed will be open. Work will then begin on the reconstruction of the Wilson bridge. Phase 1 of the Seeling Channel project from the Park to Mistletoe, funded by the 2007 City Bond, should be completed by year's end (see page 3). Phase 2 (2012 Bond) will then carry the channel improvements to St. Cloud.

WALMART AT LAST. The construction at the old Bandera Center continues. A new Family Dollar is now being built at the west side of the site. Work will take about five months. When completed, the current Family Dollar store will be demolished and construction of the new Walmart store will begin.

NOVEMBER MEETING DATE

We have learned that a November meeting during Thanksgiving week will not be well attended. When the November meeting follows Thanksgiving there is no problem. But in 2013, they fell in the same week and will do so again this year. This year's final meeting is especially important because it includes the election of a new Executive Board. That being the case, we are considering moving the November meeting into early December. We could also hold our Christmas holiday party on that same meeting night following a short business session. Give us your thoughts; we will decide and let you know.

Next Meeting: January 28th, 6:30 pm

Woodlawn Lake Community Room, at the Park Gym Bldg
Other meetings in 2014: Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, Jun 24,
Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30, Oct 28, Nov 25 (tentative, see above)

ANNUAL AGENDA & ACTIVITY

Alejandro Soto, WLCA President

At the start of each year we try to anticipate our course for the next twelve months. Being a neighborhood association is more than monthly meetings and newsletters to keep ourselves informed. It is about taking actions to preserve our community and to make it better. Some of this is by speaking out and some is by engaging in a group activity. Although not a requirement of membership, we hope that WLCA members step forward when needed and lend a hand the best they can.

There are City-wide events in which the public participates. The first of the year is Basura Bash in February. There are clean-ups nearby along the Alazan and Martinez Creeks. Last year we chose not to participate in April's Earth Day event at our Park. If we decide to be a part of this year's event, we will need members to help organize and work at our booth. For the Fourth of July celebration at the Park, we get involved in preparatory work involving police patrol, trash and recyclable collection, traffic, and parking. National Night Out is in October and we encourage members to organize block parties in their respective areas.

There are WLCA events. We conduct a spring membership drive by hand carrying special edition newsletters door to door. We ask for volunteers to help in getting our message out to the community. This is our way of telling the public about WLCA and recruiting new members. Also, we raise funds solely through the collection of membership dues, so this annual drive is important and central to our continuing function. We attempt to sponsor activities that benefit our Park and our community. In the past, we have held Park clean-ups and bandit sign removals, and have participated in graffiti wipeouts. We have also been active in extending the historic district and setting up neighborhood conservation districts in our area. We hold an annual social event for all of our members. In the past, this has been a Christmas party, but we are considering other options.

On page 3, District 7 Councilman Medina reports on changes in our Park and neighborhood. WLCA advocated for many of these changes, as a pedestrian-only bridge, a park curfew, more all-way stops, and lower speed limits. We are currently heading a petition drive to make our City parks smoke free (WLCA Newsletters Mar-Apr 2013 & May-Jun 2013) to benefit public health and the environment of our parks. The City of San Marcos recently enacted such an ordinance, as have other cities nationwide. We ask members to help circulate the petitions in their areas, among their groups, and at events they might attend.

Much of our work is as individuals, watching for and reporting code violations, suspicious activity, and infrastructure problems. Through our meetings and our newsletters, we let members know of community issues and reportable items. We participate in public hearings to insure that our community develops in a way respectful of its character and mindful of our interests as residents and homeowners. Let's keep up our good work.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association—Membership 2014

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership type: _____ Individual [\$5.00 per year] _____ Family/Household [\$10.00 per year]
(please check) _____ School; _____ Non-Profit; or _____ Business [each \$10.00 per year]

Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association

CLIP
OR
COPY

TIME TO RENEW your WLCA membership for 2014. If your personal information has not changed, just send your payment annotated "2014 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 with your dues to our next WLCA meeting. If the address page of this Newsletter shows that you have paid for 2014, or if you get an email saying that you have paid, disregard this reminder.

DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN DIEGO BERNAL ON FEB 25th

Diego Bernal, City Councilman for District 1, will be the featured speaker at our February 25th meeting. District 1 encompasses the southeast corner of WLCA's geographic area, from Zarzamora west to Glenmore and from Cincinnati south to Culebra. This includes such features as Little Flower Basilica, the Casting Pond, and Nelson Elementary School. District 1 also takes in downtown and the Laddie III detention pond project area. We have asked the Councilman to bring us up to date on developments in these areas and in legislation he has sponsored.

Diego is a graduate of Arnold Elementary, Tafolla Middle, and Jefferson High Schools. He attended the University of Michigan where he earned his bachelors, Masters in Social Work, and law degrees. He spend six years as a civil rights attorney with the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) in San Antonio. His current practice now focuses on children and families, using his background in both law and social work. He was first elected to City Council in June 2011. He was re-elected without opposition in 2013.

WLCA Birthdays

January: flower - carnation; birthstone - garnet

Ralph Banda, Gerard Bustos, Gilbert Campos, Stella Castillo, Janice Clayton, Marcy Gutierrez, Patti Garcia, Edward Garza, Consuelo Gonzales, Katherine Guerra, Eloy Lozano, Luis Perez

February: flower - violet; birthstone - amethyst

Cabral Balreira, Mary Ann Contreras, Darlyne Cox, Luciana Cristadoro, Jane Dunnewold, Minnie Garcia, Jonathan Hamm, Teresa Longoria, Mary Jane Marin, Allie Melancon, Marguerite Nemky, Maria Rodriguez, Maria Sandoval, Leonela Silvas, Lydia Torres-Tucker, Rebecca Vecera, Janet Zadeh

DISTRICT 7 LOCAL UPDATE

Cris Medina, City Councilman District 7

The noise of construction in the Woodlawn Lake Area continues to be heard. While these construction crews may cause some inconvenience, it is a sign that infrastructure investments are being made in your neighborhood. I have fought long and hard, side-by-side with you to secure this funding and I am happy to see the work underway. The estimated completion is in December of this year. There will be aesthetic improvements to the park, as well as a new pedestrian-only bridge on the foot path to improve safety for those who use the trail. We appreciate your patience as we continue to enhance our park and community.

Public safety continues to be my number one priority at City Hall. As a result of working closely with your neighborhood leadership and residents, we were able to put into effect a curfew at Woodlawn Lake Park, which has made it safer. Because Woodlawn Lake is such a treasured gem for the entire city, we have seen an increase in visitors to the park. As part of my initiative to increase pedestrian safety in high use areas, I have included the perimeter of Woodlawn Lake in a pilot program to reduce speed limits from 30 to 25 miles per hour. Currently city staff is gathering vehicular data on these streets and in the next two months will begin installing and enforcing the new speed limit. From my conversations with many of you, I have also requested for Public Works to evaluate the feasibility of installing an all-way stop at the intersection of W. Ashby Place and S. Josephine Tobin Drive.

In February, we will resume the popular "Movies at the Park" located near the Island House. This is a great opportunity for residents to enjoy the park at night in a family-friendly atmosphere. If you have a suggestion for a movie, let us know. Also, there are sponsorships available if you or your organization is interested in being a part of this unique and popular neighborhood event.

**Woodlawn Lake
Community Association**

P.O. Box 28374
San Antonio TX 78228



A check mark here shows that you have paid your 2014 dues. Thank you.

ON & OFF FRED ROAD STUDIO TOUR

Kellen Kee McIntyre, PhD, Executive Director, Bihl Haus Arts

The annual On & Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour returns for its seventh year. It has a whole new look--new logo, new website, new catalog design. It also has more participating artists, more studios to visit, more art, more street banners. It is set to explode with color, beauty, flash theater, poetry and music.

Artists in our neighborhood will open their home studios, cooperatives, and pop-up storefronts on February 22nd, from 11 am to 6 pm, and 23rd, from noon to 5 pm. From reclaimed former neighborhood grocery stores to intimate backyard sanctuaries, the studios on the tour provide the environments in which area artists create a variety of hand-made artworks, such as metal works, large ceramic sculptures, jewelry, fashion and fiberart, one-of-a-kind light fixtures, art photography, hand-crafted furniture and paintings in various styles. Demonstrations, hospitality, and opportunities to purchase art directly from the artist are all part of the On & Off Fred experience.

The tour weekend kicks off Friday evening, February 21st, 6-9 pm, with the On & Off Fred Autograph Party at Bihl Haus Arts, 2803 Fredericksburg Rd. On exhibit will be works by each of the 80+ featured visual artists, who will be on hand to autograph your copy of the tour catalog. Lavish hors d'oeuvres, wine, live music, and the opportunity to mingle with the artists, event sponsors, and community leaders, fill the evening.

Admission for two is free to all events with the purchase of the tour catalog, available in online and printed versions. Printed catalogs (\$10 in advance, includes online version) will be available starting February 1st at Big Grass (637 W. Hildebrand), Brand New 2nd Hand Boutique (702 Fredericksburg Rd), and Vee's Salon (1022 Donaldson), or by mail from the website (\$15). They will also be available during the tour for \$15 at Bihl Haus. The online catalog (\$5) will be available soon. Check Fred's new website at www.onandofffred.org and follow Fred on Facebook and Twitter. Real-time tweets during the tour will alert you to happenings and special events, like flash performances, art demos, readings, and more!

The 7th Annual Tour is made possible with the support of the City of San Antonio Department of Culture and Creative Development, and Council Districts 1 and 7. Special thanks to the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake CDC and Darryl Mix and to Fred's Amigos for their amazing support. On & Off is presented by Bihl Haus Arts (www.bihlhausarts.org) located at Primrose at Monticello Park Apartments. For more information call (210) 383-9723, or email bihlhaus@gmail.com.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen York died on December 9, 2013, at the age of 92. Her husband of 70 years, Leo, passed away 15 months earlier. Mr. and Mrs. York had been WLCA members for several years.