

**Investing in Infrastructure to
Protect the Neighborhood
Burying Power Lines in King
William Historic District**

Today, standing across King William Street from The Steves Homestead provides a picture-perfect opportunity to capture an image of one of San Antonio's historic gems. Not long ago, this was not the case. Magazine editors were forced to airbrush out a tangled mess of wires and utility poles to obtain the right look.

As part of his restoration of the neighboring Nix Houses, Roy Pachecano paid to have the unsightly poles removed and the utilities buried at the intersection of King William and

Sheridan Streets. Pachecano's presentation on "greening up" the Nix Houses during the November 7 General Membership Meeting provided a natural transition to a report from the King William Association's Utility Conversion Committee. Tobin Walker, another member of the committee, presented a PowerPoint report identifying the current conditions the committee strives to address.

An over-abundance of overhead wires not only mars the views throughout the King William Historic District, but also creates a fire hazard threatening our historic homes. Most of the electrical and telephone infrastructure in the neighborhood dates from pre-air-conditioning and pre-internet days. As homes of today require more power, the existing electrical system is overtaxed.

Excess heat generated by the wires endangers the heritage trees shading the neighborhood and threatens the adjacent homes. City Public Service continually is forced to jerry-rig additional wiring and utilize expensive equipment to keep tree limbs away from the hot wires.



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The KWA Newsletter

OF THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION

KWA Newsletter

Volume 3, #11

December 2007

kingwilliamassociation.org

King William Home Tour 2007

Two More Tour Locations Added!

Tour Texas' First Historic District on December 1, 2007



Texas Lodge No. 8 AF & AM, 122 Washington

The King William Home Tour, an annual event showcasing the historic preservation and renovation of Texas' first historic district, will be held on **Saturday, December 1, 2007, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

This year's chairperson is Anne Alexander, who is organizing the tour to feature seven homes within easy walking distance of each other on Washington, King William, and Madison Streets:

- The Ogé House -
Inn on the Riverwalk,
209 Washington**
- Texas Lodge No. 8 AF & AM*,
122 Washington**
- The Jack Pancoast House
(Home of Anne Alexander),
232 Washington**
- Former Home of Elvira Ramirez,
322 Washington**
- The Joske House
(Home of Jessie Simpson & Bill Hoover),
241 King William**
- Home of Mary Ann Ohlenbusch,
243 Madison**
- The Nix House*,
434 King William**

**Newly added tour location*

Purchase Your Home Tour Tickets Soon!

Ticket prices are \$12 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. Advance tickets are available for purchase at the King William Association office, 1032 S. Alamo Street. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase on tour day at the main ticket booth located at The Ogé House, 209 Washington Street.

continued on page 2

Burying Power Lines in King William Historic District

continued from page 1



The resulting scarred trees then make the mass of wires even more intrusive in San Antonio's most picturesque neighborhood.

Street lighting mounted up high on telephone poles is obscured by the tree canopy, casting deep shadows on sidewalks and streets. Poles placed in the middle of sidewalks limit accessibility, forcing those in wheelchairs or pushing baby carriages to walk in the streets.

The Utility Conversion Committee outlined a proposal to eliminate these problems by burying the utilities throughout the entire historic district. The project as envisioned would:

- Remove unsightly poles and wires
- Upgrade the overloaded electrical system
- Eliminate a major fire hazard
- Facilitate the installation of fiber optic cable
- Protect the neighborhood's heritage trees
- Improve sidewalk accessibility
- Improve safety by installing lighting under the existing tree canopy
- Return the historic look to the neighborhood

To accomplish this project, the King William Association hopes to enlist City Public Service and area providers of phone and cable services as partners. In addition to the obvious value to the neighborhood, burying the utilities will save City Public Service the continuing expense of maintaining the failing existing system and trimming trees.

Authentic art, culture and history are key to the future success of San Antonio's visitor industry, according to Destination SA, the 2005 long-range strategic plan commissioned by the City of San Antonio. The King William Historic District fits the bill perfectly.

The historic district's bed-and-breakfasts enjoyed close to \$1.7-million in revenue in 2006, which in turn generated approximately \$200,000 in direct tax revenues for public entities. Property tax revenue from the historic homes in our neighborhood is among the highest in the city limits. Individual homeowners continue to pump millions of private dollars each year into the King William Historic District to restore and maintain some of the city's most historic gems, residences that lend their unique character to the rich fabric enticing visitors to stay just a little longer or return. All that remains is to

make it picture-perfect.

To fund the neighborhood's contribution to the project, the Utility Conversion Committee is requesting a portion of the proceeds from the King William Fair and will be soliciting contributions from residents, businesses, corporations and grant-making foundations. Additional committee members include Bill Cogburn, John Doski, Michael Guarino, Ed Haverlah, Eloy Rosales, J. Kit Walker and Steve Walker.

Gayle Spencer

King William Home Tour 2007

continued from page 1



The Nix House, 434 King William

Enjoy viewing a variety of architectural influences and hearing the stories of the houses – their beginnings and who built them, and something of the people who lived there throughout the years—for a house is but an empty shell without some tale of those who made it a home.

Proceeds from the King William Home Tour benefit the ACCD/Brackenridge High School college scholarship program, local schools, community art programs for children and young adults, and numerous community-wide infrastructure projects.

Home Tour Volunteers Still Needed

There's still time to sign up to help make this year's Home Tour a success! Volunteer just two hours of your time and receive free admission. Docents and ticket sellers are needed on tour day from 11 AM–1 PM, 1–3 PM, and 3–5 PM. Contact Anne Alexander at 277-2775 or annealexander@satx.rr.com.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Bill Cogburn wrote a wonderful article recently about the King William Park, including ideas for improving it. I would like to add another idea for an improvement that is badly needed—a dog run. Many of us in the neighborhood regularly meet in the street as we walk our four-legged friends, and we often mention how wonderful it would be to have a neighborhood dog run in which our pooches could romp, run, and wrestle off leash, safely and legally. I think it would be a hugely popular asset for the neighborhood. I urge the Board of Directors to consider adding a dog run to King William Park when any improvements to the park are being planned.

Laura Powell
310 Adams Street



Letter to KWA Members

Dear Members of the King William Association,

I want to personally thank the Association for approving the grant that was submitted by our band director, Mr. Jacob Deleon.

Our district is committed to improving lives through a quality education. Thomas Nelson Page Middle School has had a fabulous first nine weeks of the 2007-2008 academic school year. Your financial contribution has enhanced our school and especially the band program. Mr. Deleon is very passionate and committed to his program and students. The grant money is being used to take his program and students to even higher levels.

In closing, I again thank the Association for supporting our campus, and we look forward to maintaining the positive working relationship that we have developed.

Yours very respectfully,
Gary H.F. Pollock
Page Middle School Principal

Update from State Representative Mike Villarreal, Texas House District 123

To sign up to receive our e-newsletter or read more information on Representative Villarreal's work in your neighborhood, visit our website at www.leaderslisten.org.

New Workshop Series: Making Your State Work for You

Have you ever wondered what to do with old computers or other electronic equipment? Are you concerned about which products are hazardous in your home?

Join us for a discussion with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality staff to learn the answers, and receive useful information on recycling and environmental programs in your community.



When: Wednesday, December 5, 2007 , 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Beacon Hill Presbyterian Church, 1101 W. Woodlawn

More Information & RSVP: Contact Toni Serna, Outreach Coordinator for Representative Villarreal, at 734-8937, toni.serna@house.state.tx.us. This workshop is part of a series of events to provide neighborhood leaders with information about how state government can assist in your community. To learn about future workshops, visit www.leaderslisten.org.

"Representative Mike Villarreal was one of only five members of the Texas House of Representatives who voted for the public interest 100% of the time"

Texas Public Interest Research Group

Standing Up for Seniors:

Representative Mike Villarreal recently signed a pledge to work across party lines to promote affordable health care for all Americans and to support programs to provide financial security for retirees. The pledge, circulated by the American Association of Retired Persons, is part of the organization's campaign to bring attention to these critical issues facing senior citizens.

Villarreal Receives High Marks for Consumer Protection and Good Governance:

Representative Mike Villarreal was one of only five members of the Texas House of Representatives who voted for the public interest 100% of the time this past legislative session according to the Texas Public Interest Research Group. The group expressed their thanks to Villarreal and others who voted to support legislation to protect consumers and promote good governance.



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Partners in Education: Page Middle School and UTSA

SAISD is committed to improving lives through a quality education. Thomas Nelson Page Middle School is entering its 81st year of public education. Our school continues to instill integrity, passion, and respect through setting high expectations, being student centered, and obtaining a commitment from faculty, staff, and community. Our organization is driven by an unrelenting determination to graduate all of our students and prepare them for success in higher education. Becoming partners with UTSA provides opportunities for Page students to understand that a 4-year college degree is attainable.

The Page family is pleased to announce that our school has been awarded a technology grant from UTSA titled "Creating Digital Stories to Promote Achievement in Mathematics and Science for Students with Learning Disabilities." This \$40,000 grant will provide Page students with flip videos, audio recorders, microphones, and digital cameras, along with a classroom set of laptops, interwrite tablets, and wireless projectors and classroom responders, which allow students to participate in a classroom discussion much like a Jeopardy game. Students will respond to a question or discussion by using this equipment, which records their answers and allows the teachers to facilitate learning through a collaborative environment. Creating this type of learning environment challenges students' critical thinking skills and provides opportunities for the students to actively participate and acquire knowledge at Page Middle School. Principal Gary H.F. Pollock is very enthusiastic and committed to increasing the technology experiences and learning opportunities for all Page Ponies.

Page Middle School is taking traditional storytelling to the next level while assisting students with special needs develop their writing skills. Students will create a digital story using the technology granted from UTSA. This is accomplished by developing, organizing, analyzing, and producing stories based from TEKS skills that demonstrate their acquisition of the learning process in the content areas of math, science, and language arts. Students will create a visual representation of a process or application, narrate



Page Campus

their story and present their digital story to a class. This type of approach to learning increases the level of their knowledge, applies real world context, and inculcates skills that can be used throughout their academic career. Exposing students to a variety of technology applications compliments and enhances their ability to realize their potential of a 4-year college degree is within their reach. SAISD's mission statement to graduate all of our students and prepare them for success in higher education will be amplified through this partnership in education with UTSA.

The partnerships in education that we have developed between UTSA, United Way, Presa Community Center, PTA at Page, as well as the King William Association, will continue to grow stronger and reinforces that the spirit of teamwork is paramount. These positive working relationships have already involved our community and, more importantly, have impacted the lives of Page students and families through a variety of learning opportunities that would not be possible if not for the generosity of our partners in education.

Diana Sultenfuss, Page Middle School Vice Principal

First Friday Art Walk is featuring a new artist: **IRINA BEZRUCHKO**

Pre-show Thursday December 6th

For more information visit www.Armonart.com or e-mail: armonart@aol.com ib282@aol.com

Located at: **Blue Star Art Complex**
1414 S. Alamo St. Suite 103
San Antonio, TX 78210

Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

For an easy lesson in tree trimming, go down S. St. Mary's Street and look at the two Monterrey Oak trees planted at the curb between Carolina and Playmoor Streets across from Brackenridge High School.

The trees looked almost alike until a couple of weeks ago. The tree in the top picture is the one at S. St. Mary's and Carolina and the bottom picture is the tree at Playmoor Street. These two trees are examples of how to properly trim and not trim a tree. The tree at the Carolina corner is trimmed up from the bottom to keep branches out of the traffic and sidewalk. Trimming from the bottom promotes upward growth so the tree will mature into a shapely shade tree. The tree at the Playmoor corner has been "topped," resulting in the center crown being cut away. The Playmoor tree was cut by someone who may have had good intentions, but it will now have to be carefully tended for the next few years if it is to have any chance of developing into a beautiful tree. Like many of the trees along S. St. Mary's, these two are part of the Mission Trails National Parkway development and are monitored by members of the volunteer neighborhood group who planted them. If anyone has a concern about how the trees along S. St. Mary's are being maintained, please call the King William Association office at 227-8786 to voice your concern so that the volunteers can take any action that may be needed.

As the holidays approach many of us will buy or be given a potted poinsettia plant. This traditional plant can give us many weeks of enjoyment if properly selected and cared for. The red ends of the stems are not flowers but red leaves. The poinsettia flowers are the cluster of small yellow buds in the center of these leaves. Select a plant where these flower buds are just beginning to open. Here are a few tips to keep the plant healthy. Put it in a bright window but not direct light. Be sure it is not



correct

incorrect

directly in a draft under a central heat vent and keep it moist but not wet. If the pot is also in a decorative container that does not have a hole in the bottom be sure to pour out any excess water after each watering. As the plant ages, leaves will begin to fall and you may want to plant it outside where it has a southern exposure. The plants may live but do not be surprised if they do not. It does not always work. Remember that poinsettias mature to a large size so select the location carefully.

Notice what others have in their gardens that look good this time of year. A sprinkling of evergreen trees and shrubs can prevent your garden from looking desolate during the winter months.

Plants that freeze and will be replaced in spring can be disposed of at anytime. However, perennials that will come back from the roots should not be trimmed until after Valentine's Day. Also wait until after Valentine's Day to trim trees and shrubs. Roses can be cut back by about half at the same time except that climbing roses should not be trimmed until after they bloom in the spring.

We are nearing the end of 2007 and hopefully we all have many good things from the past year to be thankful for. I am thankful to the many friends and neighbors who have asked for my gardening advice and who so trustingly took it. I enjoy passing along what I have learned, many times by trial and error. I hope you all have a happy holiday season.

Garden Note: The love of gardening is a seed that is planted but never dies.

Donation to KWA's ACCD Scholarship Fund

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father of Naomi Shihab Nye

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December 2007 - January 2008

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You Must Be an Old-Timer If You Remember...

Compiled by Bill Cogburn

...Mission Street, when it was just a dusty dirt road with horses hitched to wagons passing up and down. That's the way I remember it when I was growing up.

When our father bought our house at 422 Mission Street in 1908, it only had four rooms, two on either side of the hall. My sister and I were both born in this house; Mildred in 1911 then me in 1916. Our father eventually enlarged the house by adding a kitchen, bath and another bedroom but we still had the outhouse out back for many years. The only heat in the winter was from a big iron stove in the kitchen. I remember always having electricity but we kept the kerosene lamps out on the tables for years because electric service wasn't very dependable.

Eddie and Elfreida Basse lived across the street. Eddie and his brother had a hardware store on Military Plaza across from City Hall.

Selma Nuessle

...how O'Neil Ford loved his old vintage cars. One Sunday afternoon on our way home from church, we passed by O'Neil's office on King William Street and there he was, polishing his 1923 Bentley. I'm nuts about vintage cars so I stopped to admire it. O'Neil held up the keys to the car and said, "Here, take it for a spin."

I was so taken aback that I declined and I've kicked myself ever since for not taking that Bentley around the block.

Richard Garza

...in the 1980's when the old Reilly House that was at 230 Madison Street burned to the ground, taking with it six elderly tenants. In the late 80's, the house directly behind on South Alamo was turned around and moved to the vacant site on Madison to become the Brackenridge House B&B. When the house faced South Alamo, it could best be described as a flop house with residents sleeping on the porch and the front yard strewn with beer and whisky bottles.

Alan Cash

...when Walter Mathis would drive around the neighborhood checking out the condition of the lawns. If your grass was getting a bit overgrown, he'd stop and tell you to take care of it.

Bill Cogburn

...when Don Lee checked your tires, washed your windshield and filled your car with gas at the Gulf Station at the corner of King William and South St. Mary's Street.

Carolene Zehner



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King William Neighborhood Crime Statistics

First Friday Report for November 2, 2007

Case No.**Offense****Street****Notes**

70848829	Traffic Violation	200 blk. Pereida	Vehicle blocking driveway
70849143	Wanted person	1300 blk. Alamo	Wanted Person
70849322	Assault	1200 blk. Alamo	Grabbing people's body parts
70849372	Disturbance	400 blk. Pereida	Loud music
70849503	Accident/minor	Mission/Pereida	Traffic back-up
70849081	Narcotics	200 blk. King Wm.	Less than 2g

Other Notes

150 Parking tickets were issued by the SAPD on First Friday, November 2, 2007.
 Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission made 3 arrests on First Friday, October 5, 2007.

This list was compiled by KWA member Molly Shafer and SAFFE Officer Erik Doyle from San Antonio Police Department reports.

October – December '07 monthly SAPD statistics and December '07 – January '08 First Friday reports will be published in our February '08 newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the King William Association is to preserve and maintain the residential nature and historic characteristics of the King William Neighborhood and the diversity of its people; to intercede on behalf of the neighborhood with issues affecting the community by all civic avenues available including advocating for residential status with city; to improve quality of life by building community, promoting cultural endeavors, and providing scholarships and growth opportunities for deserving recipients. (approved 3/19/97)

DECLARACION DE LA MISION

La misión de la Asociación King William es preservar y mantener la naturaleza residencial y las características históricas del vecindario, así como la diversidad de sus residentes; interceder a favor del vecindario en asuntos que afectan a la comunidad por todos los medios disponibles incluyendo abogar con la Cuidad para conservar el estatus residencial del zona; mejorar el nivel de vida mediante el desarrollo de la comunidad, promoviendo actividades culturales y proporcionando becas y oportunidades de superación a quienes lo ameriten. (aprobado 3/19/97)

2007 KWA Adv. rates

1/12 page \$40; 1/8 page \$60; 1/4 page \$80; 1/3 page \$120; 1/2 page \$160 Full page \$320

KWA Membership 2007-08

(if 07-08 appears on your mailing label,
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Important Police Numbers

Please call and report crimes, suspicious behaviors, ongoing problems, ordinance violations (such as panhandling, etc.). Consider entering these numbers into your speed dial or cellular phone book. Officer Doyle is the KW area SAFFE officer. Officer Strothman is assigned to Lavaca but will respond to KW area calls following Erik Doyle's shift.

Emergency: 911

Non Emergency: 207-SAPD (7273)

SAFFE Officer Doyle's Pager:
 603-9435 (M-F, 7am-3pm)

SAFFE Officer Strothman's Pager:
 603-9433 (M-F, noon-8pm)

Code violations and patch through
 to police: 311

SAFFE Office: 207-7413
 (M-F, 7am-8pm)

Report tour bus violations to SAPD:
 207-7482

San Antonio Police Department
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KW Home Tour 2007
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Two more locations added!
See pages 1 & 2 for more details.

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The King William Newsletter

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Office Hours
Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the King William Association.

KWA Holiday Social

Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.

River House at 509 King William (located behind the Steves Homestead)

Good food, great company, and holiday cheer – plan to attend the KWA Holiday Social Potluck!

We will also enjoy a special presentation from Willa McDonald and Sidney Fowler about their experiences in the People to People program. The KWA helped support Willa and Sidney's People to People trip to Canada this past summer.



Tina Garza & Gloria Wrigglesworth,
Holiday Social '06

Please bring a main course/side/salad/dessert to share.
Beverages, plates, cutlery, etc. provided by KWA.



Happy Holidays!

The KWA office will be closed from 12/22/07 to 1/6/08

No January Newsletter
No January General Membership Meeting