



King William Association

Volume 12, No. 9

October 2016



photo: Susan Athené

Bonham Academy Robocats Program parent volunteers Dave Lopez and Catarina Velasquez-Gonzalez, with Robocats Elias Gonzalez (left), Joaquin Gonzalez (right). With the support of the KWA grant, they hope to include up to 100 children in the robotics program this year.

KWA Grants Awarded

Since the first year of the KWA Grants Program in 2000, a total of \$709,874 has been granted to organizations in the King William Area of San Antonio. Project have included art, music and theatre programs, at-risk student initiatives, technology upgrades, meaningful capital improvements, health and safety corrective measures, and literacy projects.

Using the proceeds from the Fair and in keeping with our mission, \$72,238 was awarded to 10 highly qualified organiza-

tions at the September General Membership Meeting. Each year in the spring we ask for grant applications, which are due in late June. The applicants face tough competition and a very comprehensive evaluation. This year a team of seven evaluators worked separately measuring each submission against a standard set of criteria. Next, the results were validated, and then the results delivered in rank order to the KWA Board of Directors for their consideration and approval.

Continued on page 3

National Night Out – October 4

National Night Out is Tuesday, October 4 and the King William neighborhood will gather at King William Park from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie for kids of all ages!

We are excited to have the Masonic Lodge #8 join us in putting together this annual gathering. Invitations have been extended and we are hoping to have various city/fire/police and community representatives come by.

We are also trying something new. Because the holidays are around the corner, KWA is supporting the San Antonio Food Bank by having a "peanut butter drive." This is the Food Bank's most requested item. They feed hundreds of children throughout San Antonio and Bexar County, so we ask that you consider bringing a jar of your favorite peanut butter with you to the NNO event, or drop

it off at the KWA office, and we will make sure it's delivered to the Food Bank.

So come on out and meet your neighbors, have a bite with friends and bring your favorite dish to share!

- Josephine Botello Garcia



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

President's Message

by Chris Price

It is a privilege to have been elected as president of the King William Association. I am looking forward to working with our Executive Director Cherise Bell and the newly-elected board to address the issues facing our neighborhood. Our board leadership for 2016-2017 is composed of Vice President Gretchen Kragh, Treasurer Charlotte Luongo, Secretary Patricia Duarte and Parliamentarian Brad Shaw.

We met in September to create an agenda and prioritize the issues we will be tackling this year. I will provide more details in the next newsletter. In the meantime, please feel free to contact the KWA office with any of your concerns. Again, I look forward to working with you all for a great year ahead!

Annual Yard Sale is Coming!

The annual King William Area yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 15. The KWA will place an advertisement in the Express-News (hard copy and online), and make a map of all the properties if the owner contacts the KWA office (227-8796 or info@ourkwa.org) stating they are having a yard sale that day.

It is the property owner's responsibility to get a Garage Sale Permit as required by the City code. According to the City Code Connections September/October 2016 newsletter:

- Permits can be obtained at participating HEB stores, online or at 1901 S. Alamo St.
- How to advertise for a garage sale? Here are the requirements:
 - Only two signs no bigger than 4 sq. ft., placed no closer than 5 ft. to the front or side, and must be on the property where the garage sale is taking place or they'll be considered illegal.
 - Signs on the City's right-of-way are illegal and considered abandoned. They can be picked up and discarded by any citizen or the City.
 - Place them two days before the sale and remove them by the expiration date on your permit.
 - Signs on utility poles, street or traffic signs are considered a misdemeanor, pursuable through Municipal Court.
- There are no refunds. If the date you choose is rained out, a replacement permit can be issued as long as you ask for it within a week from the initial permit's date of issuance. You'll have 30 days to use it; however, only one replacement permit will be issued per calendar year, per address.

- Cherise Bell



COORDINATORS Susan Athené,
Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

LAYOUT Angela Martinez
MASTHEAD DESIGN
Roland Rodriguez
MASTHEAD CONCEPT Cherise Bell

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 KWA. Editorial guidelines are available online at kingwilliamassociation.org.

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ourkwa.org
kwfair.org
kingwilliamculturalartsdistrict.com

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KWA Grants Awarded

Continued from page 1



photo: Susan Athené

KWA Grants Program Chair Charlotte Luongo with Nicholas Bradley and Roger Rodriguez from Brackenridge HS. KWA's grant will help support a brand new Eagles lacrosse program.

Here are our 2016-17 recipients. Congratulations to all!

- Blue Star Contemporary - \$10,000 for MOSAIC Program
- Bonham Academy PTA - \$15,000 for ArtSmart Program
- Bonham Academy - \$2,496 for Creative Spaces
- Bonham Robotics - \$5,101 for Robocats Afterschool Program
- Brackenridge HS - \$1,335 for Live Theater Performance
- Brackenridge HS - \$8,360 for Brack Lax (lacrosse program)
- Cannoli Fund - \$2,946 for Community Cat Carpool
- Jump Start - \$8,000 for Historias y Cuentos
- Page MS Band - \$4,000 for Pony Band Resources
- SAY Sí - \$15,000 for Middle & High School Programs

- Charlotte Luongo, Chair, KWA Grants Program

Meet the New KWA Board Members

Amanda Neale Strickland

As a lifelong San Antonio resident, I was raised in Castle Hills, but my parents often took my brother and me to the Beethoven, the Guenther House and on strolls to admire the stately mansions of King William Street. My appreciation for the unique charms of King William led me to move here ten years ago after landing a job as an assistant D.A.

I hope that by being on the Board I can get to know the people in our wonderful community, and by doing so, learn what we can all do together to make it an even stronger and more vibrant place to live. If there are opportunities to make our neighborhood safer, I would like to work with the Board to explore how that can be achieved. I would also like to get more people interested in participating in volunteer activities that could benefit our neighborhood.

Erich Richard Landry

I visited King William and my grandparents' home on Presa as a child. It was in the Yturri family for generations. We moved back to King William in 2014 with our daughter, and enjoy our friendly neighbors and the river in all seasons. It provides a beautiful backdrop for my photography business. I enjoyed serving on the homeowner's association of my last neighborhood, and hope to contribute to preserving the unique character of King William. Trained in anthropology, my interests include travel, historical archaeology, urban gardening and photography.

Gretchen Garceau-Kragh

Gretchen and her husband John moved to King William in 2002. John was on active duty at Fort Sam at the time and when their 6 month wait for "post" housing turned into a 24 month wait, they decided to buy a home instead of living on Fort Sam. They were attracted to King William because of the uniqueness of the neighborhood, its diversity and walkability. This is Gretchen's second time on the KW board and plans to work with other board members on issues such as safety, transportation and infrastructure.

SAPD Central SAFFE Unit Contact Info

Main office: 207-7413

KW SAFFE Officers on patrol:

Officer Robert Esquivel
207-7413
Officer David McCall
207-7413

Newsletter Improvement Plan

Do you have a story to tell? A neighbor to praise? News to share? A general interest column to launch? Submissions and contributions to the KWA newsletter are welcome! Please send to info@ourkwa.org.

The Archaeology of Dogs

If you subscribe to Nextdoor King William you are well aware of the attachment this neighborhood has with dogs. Dogs come in all sizes, shapes, and even colors. The various breeds of dogs were the direct result of human selection. Dogs became status symbols for royalty and prized by hunters and herders. There are about 340 recognized breeds of dogs today and an infinite variety of mixes.

Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) have been part of our human history for at least 30,000-40,000 years, and possibly much longer, and were the first domesticated animals, before sheep, goats and cattle. Recent DNA studies show dogs are descended from the East Asia gray wolf, but the archaeological record is vague as to when and where that event happened in human history. Some scholars say domestication occurred in multiple areas of the Old World, in Eastern Eurasia and Western Eurasia.

Dogs accompanied the first Native American groups that entered the New World about 14,000 years ago, and spread throughout the North and South America following their human companions. Dogs contributed to human survival by increasing the odds of obtaining food through hunting and treeing. In some cases they were the food.

The archaeology of dogs can be traced by the presence of dog bones in archaeological sites. Differentiating dog bones from their close cousin the coyote (*Canis lupus*) can be problematic to the non-specialist, but a vertebrate paleontologist can make that distinction if critical bones are present. The earliest Native American dogs were small, about terrier size, but about 4,000 years ago larger dogs came with new migrants from Siberia. These larger "Old Yeller"-size animals expanded the role of dogs.

Dogs served several important purposes: As sentries, in hunting, as companionship, as food, the hair was used in weaving, and as beasts of burden.

The earliest dog remains found in the United States were at Danger

Cave in Utah and date about 11,000 years ago. Bones discovered at Hinds Cave in Val Verde County indicate that dogs were in Texas by 9,500 years ago. The importance of dogs to some of the Native American cultures is underscored by their treatment in death. Dogs often were given formal burial in cemeteries or places along with, or sometimes accompanying, their human handlers. Dog burials have been excavated from sites in the Eastern United States that date as early as 8,000 years ago, and have been found in east and central Texas archaeological sites that date within the last 2,500 years.

People select dogs on the basis of breed, size, or are simply attracted to its personality. Dogs have no concept of size. Take the fearless 10 to 15 pound Tahl Tan Bear dog, for example. That breed is used by Native Americans in western Canada to track and tree bears. Oscar, our male Pomeranian, knows no fear when he confronts large strays in the neighborhood.

Dogs have their wolf ancestor temperament with respect to territory. We all know how dogs love to mark their paths and often aggressively defend their territory or yard. Dogs talk to each other and to us too, but the barking we hear often occurs when dogs being walked pass another's territory or yard. Their barking is a warning to other dogs, but also alerts the owner that someone is near. Marking and barking are simply traits that have long been part of their species behavior.

- Harry J. Shafer, PhD



Did You Know?

The King William Fair will celebrate its 50th Fair in 2017! Our theme and focus for the Parade and Fair is a celebration of the past 50 years.

We are looking for neighbors who grew up in King William, especially those still involved in the neighborhood. We plan to honor those folks with an invitation to be our guests in the Parade.

If you are one of those people or you know a family member, neighbor or friend who grew up in the neighborhood, please contact us at 210-271-3247 or zet@kwfair.org.

- Zet Baer

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photo: Stephany Lopez

Lily and Roland Lopez,
Brackenridge House B&B owners.

Brackenridge House B&B Celebrates 30 Years

The Brackenridge House Bed & Breakfast is a prime example of historic restoration, preservation and neighborhood revitalization. This Greek revival mansion was originally built on Alamo Street circa 1903 for John T. Brackenridge. After a fire burned down a house located behind it in 1980, the two story home was “turned around and moved forward on rollers to occupy the Madison Street site,” according to the *San Antonio Light* on April 14, 1985.

Carolyn Cole bought the relocated structure in 1985 and completely renovated it. On October 10, 1986, Carolyn had an open house for Norton Brackenridge Bed & Breakfast Inn. Along with her manager, Francis Bochat, Carolyn provided “scrumptious” breakfasts with lots of homemade goodies. These two entrepreneurs shared their knowledge of King William and downtown San Antonio with guests who enjoyed their stay in the lovely old home and its historic environs.

According to the Inn’s website, “In 1995, the inn was sold to Colonel Bennie Blansett and his wife, Sue. They maintained a strong following and had an excellent reputation for 16 years.” They renamed the inn Brackenridge House.

Lily Lopez assisted Bennie and Sue in running the inn since 1999. She loved managing the inn so much that in 2009, Lily and her husband, Roland, purchased the inn from the Blansetts. Lily’s great cooking and warm, welcoming personality are perfect for being an innkeeper. Lily said, “I gain a lot of satisfaction in hosting guests from around the world. I love to share the beautiful Brackenridge House and our historic neighborhood with them. From local to out of town visitors, they all agree that staying at the inn is a memorable and pleasant experience, not only for our service and the inn’s unique décor, but also for its restoration, architecture and location in the King William Historic District.”

On your next stroll through the neighborhood, be sure to have a good look at Brackenridge House B&B at 230 Madison Street and appreciate its preserved history and current contribution to the King William neighborhood. Congratulations to Lily and Roland Lopez on the 30th Anniversary of the inn!

- Nora Peterson



KWA Concert in the Park

**Sunday, October 9
with
The Court Jesters**

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
King William Park**

Bring the whole family, chairs, blankets,
bug spray, snacks and beverages.

Free cupcakes and coffee
courtesy of
Dulce Coffee & Bakery Shop
for the first 100 attendees!



City Lights

I wasn't aware what a spectacle Halloween was in the King William Historic District was until I moved in. The first Halloween I spent in my house I was visited by more than 600 goblins of every conceivable shape and size, and ranging in age from infants (in costume) to slightly inebriated adults, toward the end of what turned out to be a very long evening. In subsequent years I'd buy what I thought was enough candy to appease a ghoulish army but found it was all gone before 8:00 p.m.

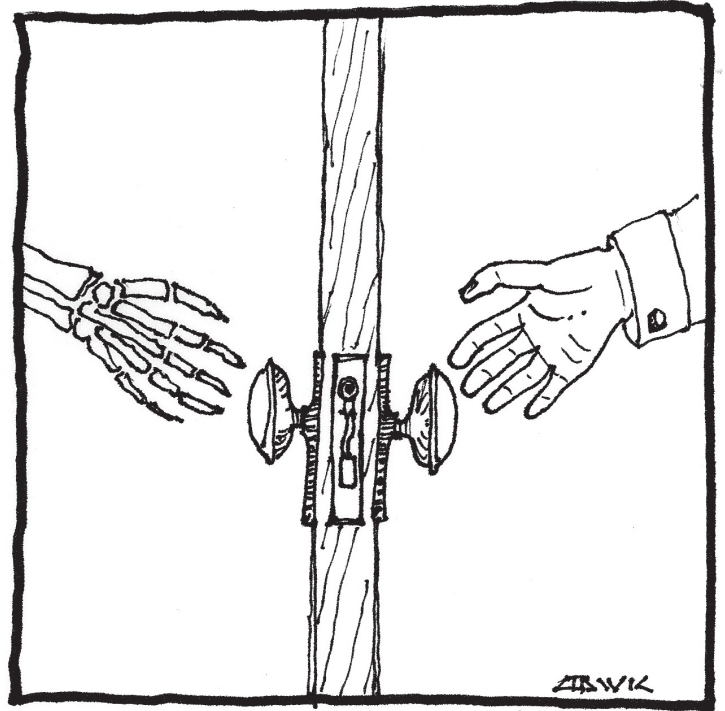
That didn't seem to discourage the invaders however, and the front gate kept swinging inward until the witching hour. I have mixed emotions about the neighborhood I love so much being viewed as the perfect backdrop for the fright holiday, but I have to admit that on a moonless night the spiky silhouettes of the towers on some of the houses do assume the form of crone's hats. And to complete the atmosphere, I have a resident owl who likes to survey his night's forays from a perch in the top of one of my pecan trees.

Shortly after I moved in, I complained to my realtor that the house apparently didn't have a single ghost so I should have gotten some of my money back. Of course there are wide-eyed rumors about the unexplainable in some neighbor's houses, including one that seems to resent having its front parlor painted anything but the original owner's favorite shade of lavender. If the tint is changed, so I've been told, doors slam and stairs squeak and drains gurgle until the infraction is corrected.

Of course doors slam with drafts, all wooden stairs squeak, and antique plumbing has its own vocal qualities.

I might not need my refund, however. Over the years I've heard loud knocking at the kitchen door on the back porch. It always occurs at 3:00 a.m., but not on any particular day and not in any particular season. At first I just stayed in bed thinking "home invasion?" but curiosity eventually got the better of me. It always stops before I can get downstairs.

The house was a bed and breakfast when I bought it, and the former owners left the light on in the kitchen and installed a keypad lock on the back porch door for late returning guests; or possibly late arriving ones. I've



wondered if this was a guest who was late in every sense of the word. At any rate, his reservations have long since expired, as, apparently, has he. It's probably nothing more than an elderly water heater with a reflux problem, but I'm disinclined to answer the door.

All cultures have some tradition concerning the lingering presence of the departed. Not all of those traditions are fearful, like the playful images of Calaveras that emerge for the Dia de los Muertos. The dead live on in the memories of their families; one can be haunted by a memory instead of a wraith.

- Michael Guarino



shirley booth
1898 - 1992

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Texas Commission on the Arts Grants Awarded

King William Cultural Arts District

In September 2011 the Texas Commission on the Arts voted for a Cultural Arts District to be established in King William under the auspices of the King William Association, one of 29 in the state. The purpose of Cultural Arts Districts is to help stimulate economic development and revitalize communities. According to the TCA, these districts “can become focal points for generating businesses, attracting tourists, stimulating development and fostering civic pride.”

Success factors for cultural districts include:

- Clear signage in place so visitors and the community can recognize boundaries.
- User-friendly website with comprehensive information about the CAD available for the community and visitors.
- Strong amenities such as restaurants, lodging, recreation that bolster the community.

The King William Cultural Arts District (KWCAD) extends from Al Rendon’s photography studio and Jenny Garcia’s glassmaking studio on S. Alamo down to SAY Si. It also goes to west City Street, encompassing Villa Finale and the Steves Homestead.

After the KWCAD was designated by the TCA, a Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) was formed to guide various art projects and the award winning website. Members of this Committee are: Anne Alexander, Susan Athené, Sherry Hess, Ethel Pedraza, Nora Peterson and Jim Gillette, consultant. This Committee, with KWA Executive Director Cherise Bell, has applied in the past for small grants, and has been awarded funding for walking-tour brochures which have been very successful.

During the last legislative session, \$5 million in new funding for Cultural Arts Districts was secured. These funds are distributed through the TCA’s Cultural Tourism Program.

The KWCAD applied for a grant in June for a wayfinding signage project to guide community members and visitors, and was notified in September that \$18,315 was awarded. The grant funds are matched with funds from the KWA. Jenny McChesney, local graphic designer/artist, has designed the signage, and Jim Bailey, local architect, has assisted the CAC with strategic information.

Here are some comments about the KWCAD’s grant application from the panel of judges:

- The request for wayfinding signage was straight-

Continued on page 13

Blue Star Contemporary

Blue Star Contemporary is delighted to share with our neighbors in King William the exciting news that we were recently awarded \$87,522 from the Texas Commission on the Arts’ Cultural District Project grant program. This special initiative, separate from its programmatic grants, specifically supports the growth of cultural tourists to the state’s cultural districts. As an institution within the King William Cultural Arts District, Blue Star Contemporary was eligible to apply.

Last year, Blue Star’s board and staff convened to develop our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, an ambitious guide that includes modernizing and making accessible our facilities and infrastructure, consistent branding as Blue Star Contemporary, and serving as a leader in San Antonio’s visual arts community with global recognition. As you may have noticed, we are in the middle of capital renovations — the first major facelift in Blue Star’s 30-year history. The renovations include a wider, accessible entrance (see image page 13) and the creation of a permanent education resource room. To complement the renovations, two local creative firms are helping to propel us into the future with consistent, creative brand design that reflects our mission and programs.

The TCA’s grant will support these goals. In addition to the branding and storytelling projects, it will underwrite a major print and online advertising campaign focused on outreach to cultural tourists, drawing them to share in Blue Star Contemporary’s dynamic exhibitions and public programs and the King William Cultural Arts District’s energy and vibrancy. We are partnering with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to stretch our grant dollars and reach an even larger audience than we could on our own. Cultural tourists stay longer, and spend more, than other types of tourists; as much of the government funding for the arts is generated through Hotel Occupancy Taxes, the TCA’s investment with Blue Star Contemporary to reach cultural tourists will also positively impact our peer arts and culture nonprofits.

While this is a one-year grant, many of our efforts will serve Blue Star Contemporary and the KWCAD for years to come – especially with the increased promotions around the World Heritage Site-designated Missions, the KWA’s upcoming 50th anniversary, and the City of San Antonio’s Tricentennial celebrations. Our recently relaunched website includes extensive search engine optimization and content migration, so it can serve as the home of 30 years of archival material and our best advertising resource.

We are grateful to the Texas Commission on the Arts for this funding opportunity, our legislators for supporting the arts, and to the KWCAD for its support of the nonprofits in the community. The support of the King William Association, including through its grant program,

Continued on page 13



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Holiday Home Tour & Fair to Kick-off KWA 50th Anniversary

Mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss this very special event on Saturday, December 3. The KWA is kicking off its 50th anniversary - 1967-2017 - with a holiday tour of five homes on King William Street.

In a nod to previous years when the Home Tour and Fair shared the same day, we will also host a Fair in King William Park. There will be no entry fee for the Fair, and food, drink and art will be available for purchase. But wait - there's more! A special medal, a collectable holiday ornament and t-shirt are being designed to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.

Watch next month's newsletter for information on pre-sale and day-of-event Home Tour tickets.

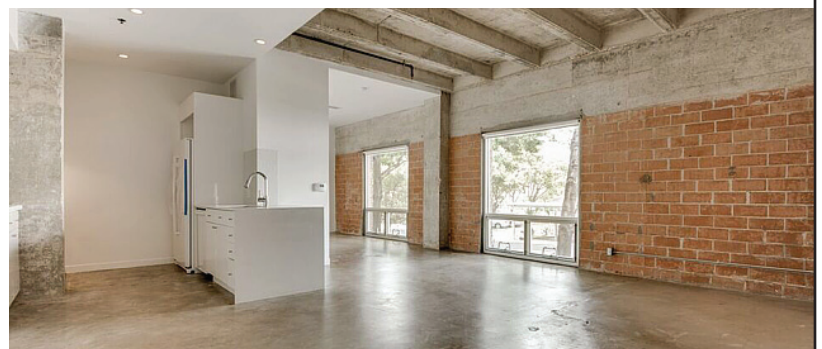


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Garden St. School

News



The Magic of Autumn is here. The nights are longer and the mornings are dark. Please be extra careful the mornings these days, when it is still dark while children make their way to school. Be mindful of crosswalks and school zones. Hang up and drive – cell phone use is not allowed in vehicles in school zones.

When my son was in second grade, one of his classmates was hit by a truck on the way home after school. The boy could not remember his name nor his parents' names, but he knew his teacher's name! That was how the first responders were able to notify his parents. While this was terrible for the child and his family, thankfully, the child suffered no permanent injuries. However, the event was a terrible experience for the driver of the truck as well. You do not want to be the person who hits a child with your vehicle.

Now we are celebrating the beginning of autumn, preparing for the Fall Festival, which will be on November 4 this year, and Dia de los Muertos. Our Monarch Gardens continue to serve as a way station for butterflies going to Mexico for the winter. We hold Open House for parents to visit the teachers and examine the work their children have been doing in class. Kinder through Second Grades had their Open House on September 22; Third through Eighth Grades' will be October 11.

The sewer lines under S. St. Mary's Street will be upgraded this fall. Work will initially be on St. Mary's between Pereida and Alamo streets, eventually extending to Cesar Chavez. By late October, construction will have begun and St. Mary's may be reduced to one southbound lane. In order to assist with drop off and pickup of children before and after school, we encourage parents to use the car loading area on Cedar Street. This provides a safe and more efficient way to get our students safely to and from school. Contact your child's teacher for information on how to sign your child up for this. Please do not park and leave your car in the loading zone during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times! We hope the construction will not take long, but be especially careful during this time as some drivers may not be expecting the change in front of our school.

Thank you for your support of our neighborhood school.

- Principle Will Webber



Documenting style - That young woman who just took a picture of your house could be just another tourist, but look more closely - she is Isabel Howard, the KWA intern helping to document the architectural style of our homes. She will be working in the neighborhood in October and November gathering information which will be included in our revision of Mary Burkholder's classic book, *The King William Area*.

Isabel is a 5th-generation Texan and a lover of history. She received her undergraduate degree in History of Art and Architecture at Middlebury College in Vermont, and is now glad to be back in Texas. She served as a historic parks consultant for the Alamo Plaza and Travis Park plans for the City of San Antonio, and is now in the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation Program at UTSA.

- Jessie Simpson

SAISD Bond & TRE Elections November 8

SAISD has called for a \$450 million bond and a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) to raise the school district's tax rate by 13 cents. Voters residing within the district's boundaries will be asked to consider the two separate ballot propositions in November to provide funding toward extensive school building renovations, upgrades for 21st-century classrooms and programs for expanded learning opportunities outside the normal school day.

The bond would fund renovations at 13 schools, replacing aging infrastructure systems that in most cases are more than 40 years old, upgrading science labs and expanding other classroom spaces to the recommended state guidelines. The increased operating revenue generated from the TRE would assist the district in providing technology and other classroom enhancements district wide to meet today's educational standards. The TRE also would provide additional funds for teacher compensation for afterschool and summer programs.

For more information, call 554-2230 or visit www.saisd.net/bondTRE201

Tradition Continues at Conjunto Heritage Taller

King William Cultural Arts District Member Spotlight – An occasional feature highlighting some of the organizations and artists in our neighborhood.

The sounds of accordion and the traditional conjunto guitar, the bajo sexto, meet the visitor walking up to the front door of the offices. Opening the door one sees a group of players in a circle – older men, young children – sitting and practicing riffs and runs. A mature gentleman rises from a chair and holds out his hand, Rodolfo Lopez, co-founder of the Conjunto Heritage Taller. “Taller” means workshop, like a studio where one works at his craft.

Lopez bought a bajo sexto (“bajo”) at age 50, although he had never played any instrument in his life. Through a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts he became a resident artist of the bajo at the Teatro de Artes de Juan Seguin in Seguin, Texas. While there, he founded their conjunto program. From there he migrated to the conjunto program at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, where he began taking lessons. In 2002 he and Carol Rodriguez founded the Conjunto Heritage Taller, bringing traditional conjunto music to the Southtown area of San Antonio.

The pair received their first funds from SPARTS, Southtown Preserves the Arts (founded by Penelope Boyer to serve Victoria Courts). They met in a small space owned by Taco Haven where Bite is now. Santiago Jimenez, Jr. (Flaco’s brother) was their first instructor, along with Bene Medina. Periodically, the Taller would lose instructors as they went out on the road to play. Lorenzo Martinez, a child prodigy on the accordion, is their current instructor. Robert Casillas, who started the accordion at age eight, is the group’s bajo instructor.

The Taller teaches accordion and bajo to students of all ages. Currently, they have 20 children in their accordion classes and two in the bajo classes, which meet Saturdays and Tuesdays. Justin Perez, 16-year-old accordion student says, “It was fate that brought me to the Taller one year ago.” His friend José had been learning the accordion at the Taller for some time. Justin and his father took José to Justin’s grandmother’s grave so he could play for her. Afterwards, they dropped José off for his lessons at the Taller and decided to go inside and look

around. Justin was already a fan of Tejano music, thanks to his father. Watching the other teens in classes he could see a way to play similar music and he was hooked. With the Taller he has performed for the Texas Folklife Festival, the International Accordion Festival held and the King William Fair.



Conjunto Heritage Taller founder Rodolfo Lopez and student Justin Perez performing together. Photo courtesy Conjunto Heritage Taller

The Conjunto Heritage Taller will be showcasing its home-grown talent during their 13th Annual Tardeada on Saturday, October 15, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m., in Maverick Plaza at La Villita. The evening will kick off with current students showcasing their accordion skills in the traditional conjunto style accompanied by the bajo. Then Jesse Borrego with Conjunto Los Borregos will take the stage. CHT All-Stars follow, former students who have gone on to perform professionally. The evening will be capped by living legend Flaco Jimenez. Food trucks, craft vendors, family

activities and more will round out the affair. Admission is \$10 pre-sale and \$12 at the door, free for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased online at Tardeada.brownpapertickets.com or at the Taller studios 411 Barrera St., corner of Labor and Lavaca.

- Sherry Hess

S
T
C

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FIRST & THIRD SATURDAYS, AUGUST-DECEMBER
Yanaguana Garden at Hemisfair

FREE EVENT!

Join us select Saturdays at 8:30pm August-December for family-friendly films, from contemporary hits to classic throwbacks. Live music and drinks start at 7:30pm. Come early to have fun before the show starts!

Liberty Flour Mill

In the August King William Newsletter, I wrote an article about Arthur William Guenther and his wife Elise who made the Wulff house at 107 King William Street their home where their family members lived for almost 50 years. The September Newsletter had an article about Gustav Giesecke and his wife Annie, who built their house at 218 Washington Street where their family members lived from 1915 to 1950. In 1894, these two King William neighborhood gentlemen joined into a partnership to build and operate the Liberty Flour Mill.

By 1890, C. H. Guenther and Sons Flour Mill located at the foot of King William Street had been operating successfully for thirty years. During those years, the Laux mill near the Travis Street crossing, the Alamo Mill on the Museum Reach and even the old Nat Lewis Mill at Navarro Street (revived in 1880 under new ownership and with a steam engine) had all gone out of business. The Guenther Flour Mill had virtually no competition left in San Antonio. The possibility of a competitor emerging from within the family must have been the farthest thing from Carl Hilmer Guenther's mind.

The mill owner's second son, 38 year old Arthur William Guenther, however, decided to break away from the family business by selling his Guenther stock to his older brother, Fritz, to start his own mill in partnership with his brother-in-law, 29 year old Gustav Giesecke. Giesecke was married to the former Annie Groos, younger sister of Arthur's wife, Elise. With the defection of Arthur Guenther, the mill bearing the name C. H. Guenther and Sons was renamed C. H. Guenther and Son.

The Liberty Mill began operation in mid-1894, powered by a steam engine. This innovation meant a river location was no longer needed since the new mill did not require a water wheel. The new mill was located about two miles north of C. H. Guenther's mill, next to the International & Great Northern railroad.

After about two years, the two competing mills called a truce and formed a two-year partnership calling themselves the C. H. Guenther Milling Company with shared expenses and profits. Carl Hilmer Guenther continued as president, first son, Fritz Guenther was vice-president, Arthur Guenther was superintendent-in-charge of production and Gustav Giesecke was secretary in charge of the office and workers, sharing responsibility for product pricing with vice president, Fritz Guenther.

In December 1897, 40 year old Fritz Guenther died at his home at 250 Washington Street after several months' illness. He left a wife and two daughters, ages three and eight; a third child, a fifteen months old son, having died five months earlier. Fritz's widow, Helena, assumed her husband's place as vice president of the C. H. Guenther Milling Company. When the trial partnership expired nine months later, all parties agreed not to renew it. Sadly, a peaceful co-existence was not to be.

Both mills had been sharing the same brand names, but when the partnership ended, C. H. Guenther and Son reverted to their previous brands. The upstart mill, how-



Liberty Flour Mill. Photo courtesy COSA Office of Historic Preservation.

ever, did not take back the Liberty Mill name but rather, dropped the "C. H.," calling their mill operation simply Guenther Milling Company. After several months of contentious wrangling, including an exchange of lawsuits over branding, the two mills finally reached an uneasy truce. C. H. Guenther and Son, while keeping its corporate name, began promoting its operation as Pioneer Flour Mill.

In 1912, Arthur Guenther left the Guenther Milling Company to become vice president of the bank owned by his wife's family, Groos National Bank. He held that position until his death in 1931 at age 72.

The Guenther Milling Company, under the leadership of Arthur Guenther's successor, Gustav Giesecke, reverted to their original name, Liberty Mill. For the next 21 years, Giesecke continued as president of the mill until his retirement in 1933. He died at his home at 218 Washington Street in 1936 at age 70.

The mill continued to operate under the Liberty Mill name until the late 1950s. For several years thereafter, the mill operated off and on in various capacities and under various names, the last being Pro-Plus Mill, the name that still appears on the towering grain elevator. Remnants of the abandoned, derelict mill can still be seen in the 1300 block of Martin Street, between the Bexar County Detention Center and Haven for Hope.

In response to requests for demolition from the current owner and developers, the Historic and Design Review Commission found the old mill on the near west side to be worthy of landmark designation. Their determination could stop demolition. "Preservationists believe the plant, like other old industrial sites, could be turned into apartment lofts or other modern facilities," they said.

- Bill Cogburn

Source: *C. H. Guenther & Son at 150 years: The Legacy of a Texas Milling Pioneer* by Lewis F. Fisher; SAPL Texana Room; Scott Huddleson, *SA Express-News*

Over Taxed, Over Assessed

During the past decade, King William has witnessed how the property taxation applied to residential owners is overwhelmingly disproportionate to other properties such as commercial, institutional, industrial, amusement, and other uses. This has frustrated many King William homeowners. And the fly in the ointment: we continue to receive unfair taxation assessments, which were never properly adjusted during the housing collapse from 2008-2012. The Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD) is not a mirror to the housing market, despite the proclamations they claim.

Why have assessed/appraised values fallen out of sync with the average homeowner? Short answer: Texas is a non-income tax state. It needs property taxation to generate the majority of its revenues. Taxing authorities use the open, imperfect, Multiple-Listing-Service (MLS) to extract sales data – even if actual sales did not occur. Under the Texas Taxpayer Bill of Rights, we have a right to fair and equitable treatment. All KWA neighbors should recognize BCAD's formulaic approach does not fit in the same way a suburban home is assessed/appraised. BCAD assumes the data is elastic and applicable everywhere; a "one-size-fits-all." Yet, when was the last time you saw a King William home look the same as its neighbor?

Forty-seven states of the Union let go of the property-tax-revenue model citing unfair and unconstitutional safeguards in those states. According to Chris Kahn of Bankrate: "[a]together, states with no income tax tend to place a disproportionately high tax burden on the poor. Five of the no-income-tax states - Florida, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Tennessee - are ranked in ITEP's "Terrible 10" list for unfair taxing. Texas is stuck in a par-

tisan debate over the efficacy of the its property tax code.

Not correcting a tax assessment is like routinely avoiding your doctor for your annual physical, then being shocked to learn from your physician when a dour prognosis is announced. Homeowners should protest annually and factor this in as part of living in a no-income-tax state. The advice of local CPA Michael Berlanga is straightforward: "[t]his burden reaches beyond the boundaries of the King William Historic District." Berlanga, who has studied patterns of abuse, affirms that the method of Texas property taxation needs to be overhauled. It appears the system is rigged against homeowners, unless you are lucky to have a lawyer on retainer in perpetuity.

As we enter another election cycle with significant outcomes at stake, each King William resident is encouraged, if not obligated, to protest property tax assessments as your sacred duty. Echoing the esteemed U.S. Federal Judge Learned Hand, "[a]nyone may arrange his affairs so that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which best pays the treasury."

- Roy R. Pachecano, AIA

Roy R. Pachecano is a long-time King William resident. His short biography can be found at: arch.columbia.edu/faculty/503-roy-r-pachecano

References:

1. The author, since tracking utility power outages affecting King William from 2005 - present, has logged blackout events occurring 2.5 x per annum with brownout events occurring over 4x per annum. CPS tracking data will likely show more, not less, as the author has only tracked events affecting his street/block.
2. King William property tax assessments increased during 2008-2012 at a time when property values declined, were foreclosed, or plateaued - leaving a distinct 'high-water mark' in the aftermath of the Great Recession, triggered by the housing collapse. King William property rates did not recede even as residential markets declined.
3. Texas Taxpayer Bill of Rights can be found online at: comptroller.texas.gov/about/bill-of-rights.php
4. Texas Property Tax methodology places burden on homeowners. "Property Taxes: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly," 2013 by Charles E. Gilliland, Research Economist, Texas A&M University Real Estate Research Center.
5. "States with No Income Tax: Better or Worse?" by Chris Kahn, Bankrate. "ITEP" is The Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy. Read Kahn's article at: bankrate.com/finance/taxes/state-with-no-income-tax-better-or-worse-1.aspx#ixzz4lq3rOjTK
6. IBID, Kahn
7. Joel Nihlean, "Appraisal Woes," March 2016, county.org/magazine/features/Pages/2016%20March/Appraisal-Woes.aspx
8. Billings Learned Hand, was a United States judge and judicial philosopher; served on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York and later the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Judge Hand has been quoted more often by scholars and by the Supreme Court of the United States than any other lower-court judge.



photo: Susan Athené

Paintings on exhibit - An opening reception for local artist Jesus Toro Martinez was held on September 1 at the KWA office. Titled "Westi Lost in the Park," this series of paintings, described by the artist as "Whimsical notes of the dogs that carried on in the park," was recently shown at the Latino Art Museum in Los Angeles. The paintings will be on display through November 30.

Out in the Garden

with Alan Cash

Last month I wrote about a visit I made to the Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard. I have since discovered an olive tree growing nearby with olives on it. The tree is growing in the vacant lot in the 1600 block of S. Presa at Jacob Street. The owner of the lot happens to be a King William neighbor and told me that any newsletter reader was welcome to go by and pick as many olives as they like. I found out during my tour of Sandy Oaks Orchard that you do not just pick an olive and eat it. Olives contain a bitter tasting compound and must be "cured" to make them palatable. I did a little internet research and found that at "Olives-Safe Methods for Home Pickling" there are directions for the curing process. If you are adventurous give it a try.

We are approaching fall and there are things to do to get ready for winter. One is to mulch around trees, shrubs and perennials to protect their roots from cold. Yes, after two fairly mild winters we may have a typical winter season. Also, add enough mulch to flower beds to maintain a depth of 4 to 5 inches. As trees lose their leaves, shred them with a mower or put the leaves in bags and crush them. They are a good source of "homemade" mulch and should not be bagged for the landfill.

Fall and early winter is the best time to plant trees and shrubs. Check your favorite nursery for sales. A free list of adaptive plants for our area and crepe myrtles is in the folder to the right of the door to the KWA office. If you are looking for a large tree, I recommend cedar elm or Monterrey oak. Both grow at a moderate rate and have few problems. Cedar elms lose their leaves in winter and the Monterrey oak is evergreen, although it does lose some leaves in early spring as it puts on new growth.

Older neighborhoods have an abundance of pecan trees planted over decades by homeowners and squirrels. Because of good rains this year there promises to be a bumper crop. A good place to have pecans cracked

so you can easily pick them is Brookes Pecans at 3515 Sunbelt off Austin Highway (828-0161). They have been in business many years. They ask that you bring the pecans in paper bags.



Garden Note: It seems those who grow things are happier than other folks.

From *Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations*: "There are many sorts of good books, but good ones are the sort for the young to read."



KWCAD Grant

Continued from page 7

forward and well-constructed. The budget was clear and articulated well; evaluators were happy to learn about this project.

- Evaluators appreciated that the Association has hired an artist to create the signs.
- Panel also noted the good work of SAY Si students on the audiovisual material; this is a good use of resources in the cultural district.
- The audiovisual material did a good job of showing the evaluators why King William is a designated cultural district.
- Evaluators were excited for the city of San Antonio on getting the UNESCO designation; it is smart that the cultural district is taking advantage of this development.

In addition, KWA Board Member Jessie Simpson and E.D. Cherise Bell applied for a grant to update Mary Burkholder's book *The King William Area*. TCA awarded \$1,000 for this purpose.

*- Molly Shafer, Chair
KWA Cultural Arts Committee*

Blue Star Contemporary

Continued from page 7

helps us leverage support from other grantmakers. We truly couldn't do this without you.

We are eager to celebrate our grand reopening this fall, and look forward to another 30 years of inspiring, nurturing and innovating through contemporary art with you.

*- Elaine Leahy, Development Manager
Blue Star Contemporary*





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October Calendar

- 4 National Night Out – King William Park –
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- 9 The Court Jesters – King William Park –
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Deadline for November newsletter
- 15 King William Neighborhood Yard Sale
- 15 Conjunto Heritage Taller 13th Annual Tardeada –
La Villita Maverick Plaza – 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.
- 19 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.