



stay in the loop

# KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 13, No. 4

May 2017

## Celebrating Preservation Month

*Preservation Month is a celebration of all things heritage in San Antonio. Our heritage and built environment has been shaped by many different cultures, ideas and traditions. Here are some of the exciting events happening this month for kids of all ages, sponsored by the Office of Historic Preservation:*

### Amazing Preservation Race - May 6

The Amazing Preservation Race returns, bringing teams of four together to compete in the ultimate urban adventure in Downtown San Antonio. This event is a great chance to see historic and often unvisited historic buildings in a whole new way and to compete for awesome prizes. Start, finish and a fun afterparty will be at the Maverick Plaza in La Villita. Registration for this event closes on May 1.



### Eastside Sacred Places - May 10

From their towering spires to colorful stained glass windows, the historic Eastside churches of San Antonio tell the story of communities built upon a strong foundation of faith. Many congregations trace their histories back over a century, and their houses of worship feature an impressive diversity of architectural styles. Join OHP for an evening exploring the traditions and religious heritage of the Eastside, beginning with a self-paced tour of four historic churches followed by a reception and keynote address in the Carver Community Cultural Center.

### Mini-Golf Extravaganza - May 12

Did you get engaged at Cool Crest? Maybe your first kiss was at Cool Crest? Did Ms. Metzger threaten to call your parents? Cool Crest is a nostalgic place for so many, making it the perfect place to throw a party! Join us for food, drinks, music, mini-golf, prizes and fun! Tickets are on sale now.



### Rehabarama - May 13

We are excited to introduce Rehabarama this year as a Preservation Month event. Rehabarama is designed to be a showcase of community building and preservation in action. Volunteers, local contractors, students and neighborhood leaders will join together to revitalize and restore an entire city block in the historic neighborhood of Denver Heights on the City's Eastside. The day closes with a fun block party at Pittman-Sullivan Park that is open to every one. The movie Cars will screen at sundown.

*continued on page 5*

# President's Report

by Chris Price

**W**ow! What a fabulous Fiesta and celebration of the 50th anniversary of the King William Association! I want to thank the staff and all the volunteers and sponsors for your hard work, dedication and support in putting on what I consider the premier Fiesta event, The King William Fair. I also want to thank the King William community for your support which has made the Fair possible for the past 50 years.

A great deal has changed in the neighborhood over the last 50 years and I have no doubt that change will continue. On our borders, there are more than 50 public and private projects in the works with more to be added if the May bond issue passes. The projects range from new hotels, apartments and office buildings to the San Pedro Creek renovation. Within King William, we seem to see change daily. New townhomes, new restaurants and new retail. From my viewpoint, all this change has resulted in a great vibe in the neighborhood. The reason it has worked is due to the passionate involvement of our community that has allowed us to be out in front of the development so that we can manage that inevitable change.

The KWA will continue this long history of involvement now and in years to come. On the horizon is the city's proposed parking pilot project and the city and state proposed short term rental regulations. In both cases, we are taking a proactive approach to assure that the adopted policies work for the neighborhood and ensure our continued vibrancy.

Please reach out to me and your board members to let us know how you feel about these issues any time. We look forward to hearing from you!



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 on-line at [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org).

KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION  
122 Madison St.  
San Antonio, TX 78204  
210-227-8786  
[info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org)

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

[ourkwa.org](http://ourkwa.org)  
[kwfair.org](http://kwfair.org)  
[kingwilliamculturalartsdistrict.com](http://kingwilliamculturalartsdistrict.com)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Cherise Bell  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Monika Perez-Moad  
FAIR MANAGER Zet Baer  
FAIR SUPERVISOR Syeira Budd  
FAIR COORDINATOR Noah Peterson  
FAIR ASSISTANT Carol Jackson

OFFICERS  
PRESIDENT Chris Price  
VICE PRESIDENT Gretchen Kragh  
TREASURER Christine Viña  
SECRETARY Ethel Pedraza  
PARLIAMENTARIAN Brad Shaw  
PAST PRESIDENT Harry Shafer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Shawn Campbell      Monika Maeckle  
Beth Davis              Connie Martinez  
Patricia Garcia        Betsy Schulz  
   Duarte              Amanda Strickland  
Shelley Galbraith     Bradley Toland  
Erich Landry

Advertising: Promote your business directly to your King William neighbors by advertising in this newsletter! Rates, sizes and details are on our website at [ourkwa.org](http://ourkwa.org) or call 227-8786, or email [info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org).

2017 King William Association

## Join us for the 61st season of Fiesta Noche Del Rio!

*A Latin American music and dance  
extravaganza at the Arneson River Theater*

**King William Night**  
**June 10 - 8:30 pm**

Discounted tickets for  
King William Residents: \$14  
Children 6 and under free

Proceeds benefit local  
San Antonio children's charities.  
Produced by the Alamo Kiwanis Club  
[fiestanochesa.com](http://fiestanochesa.com)



# City Lights

This is a tale of three houses, and the taxes their owners pay on them. I could write a column full of bitter recriminations about the regressive nature of taxes in my home state and town, and their destabilizing effect on neighborhoods and my own way of life, but I knew what I was getting into when I came back to Texas from the east coast (and the three income taxes I paid there, Federal, State of Pennsylvania, and City of Philadelphia).

All those income taxes were challenging to a then young Texan who thought lack of taxation was a birthright. Then he found out he could write off the local and state taxes on his Federal taxes, and all of a sudden the pain went away. Homeowners in states with income taxes pay substantially less in property taxes than we do here in the Lone Star State because their local governments don't have to squeeze blood out of the root vegetables that are their taxpayer base.

Lately, I've been talking to two friends, same age, same stage in their careers, all proud owners of lovely historic money pits. One house is an elegant brownstone in Park Slope Brooklyn, one of the most coveted urban neighborhoods on the planet. The other house is in leafy Haddonfield, New Jersey, just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. The third is my house on Adams Street.

The house in Park Slope was purchased in 1990 for a little over \$100,000; that was then. Now it's worth a few million dollars. My New York friend pays a third of what I pay in property taxes and my house, because it's in San Antonio, is worth considerably less than his.

My Haddonfield friend's house is worth about \$250,000 more than mine, and he pays about what I pay in property taxes, which he considers to be outrageous. What is the problem with Haddonfield? It has no industry, almost no commercial property, hardly any institutional property, so the sales tax-starved community has some of the highest property tax rates on the East Coast.

The only one of us who isn't selling a house right now is the New Yorker - his cost of living is negligible with his tiny loan long since paid off and a tax burden he pays out of any month's paycheck.



I can still pay my taxes, but they are 300% of what they were when I shooed the painters out and moved in a little over a decade ago. My Haddonfield friend is in the same position, although he makes a great deal more than the other two of us, but he's about to become an empty nester and can find more economical digs, which is only prudent.

I guess I've succumbed to the fate of a serial gentrifier in Texas. I find a wonderful dwelling and then am taxed out of it every decade or so. And I'm one of the fortunate - I have resources and can (and have) found another beautiful place to live.

For sale signs have sprouted in the neighborhood this spring like Rain Lilies after a storm. I take little comfort in acknowledging that I have so much company for my misery.

- Michael Guarino

**The great mystery will be there forever. It's not yours to solve.**

**barry lopez**  
born 1945

Barry Lopez was Moyers' special guest on the very last *Bill Moyers Journal* program.

[rodriguezportfolio.com](http://rodriguezportfolio.com)



# THE EAGLE'S WINNING SEASON

Brackenridge High School students rack up impressive accolades this spring!



Mariachi Aguila

Brack's Mariachi Aguila became the first mariachi group from SAISD to earn straight 1st divisions at the State UIL Mariachi Festival in March. They were the only San Antonio area school to earn superior ratings and the smallest group to compete. All their material was composed by their teacher and director John Nieto.

In April, 34 Eagle Battalion Cadets (Army Junior ROTC), under the direction of Senior Army Instructor Johnathan Ladson, Major, U.S. Army, Retired, traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to represent SAISD in the US Army JROTC National Drill Championships. There were 91 teams from across the United States, all vying for the top five positions in order to be recognized as National Champions.

The Brackenridge High School Golden Female Color Guard took first place honors – they are Number 1 in the country! Brackenridge had the only JROTC team in SAISD to be recognized as a National Champion at the 2017 meet. Members of the Golden Female Color Guard are Cadet Major Betsua Vera, Cadet Second Lieutenant Rheanna Simmons, Cadet First Lieutenant Christina Stuart and Cadet Command Sergeant Major Natalie Tijerina. Congratulations!



Brackenridge High School Golden Female Color Guard

All three Brackenridge High School Concert Bands competed at the UIL Region 11 Concert and Sight-reading Competition at Southwest High School in April. At this contest, the bands are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest and considered a "superior" performance. If a band receives a "1" in both categories, it is a "sweepstakes."

The Brackenridge Wind Ensemble was one of only a couple of ensembles that received a sweepstakes award. The Symphonic band was the ONLY second band to



Symphonic Band members



Wind Ensemble members

receive a sweepstakes award, and the concert band had higher ratings than almost every other third band in the region. The band program was also one of the only bands to have three groups getting a 1 rating at the UIL contest. Congratulations to the Mighty Eagle Band for its 2016-2017 UIL Sweepstakes Band achievement!

Brackenridge students also participated in the HEB High School Paella Challenge in March, hosted by Chef Johnny Hernandez at Mission County Park. Competing against 12 other area high schools, Brackenridge took First



Brackenridge High School Concert Band

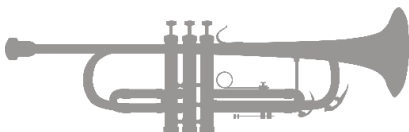


Brack Paella Challenge Team with Chef Johnny Hernandez (far right).

Place! Each student on the team received a chef's knife, custom made apron and a gift certificate to Ace Mart Restaurant Supply. As winners, the students, along with their Chef Instructor, will also be flown to New York where they will spend three days this summer exploring New York City and visiting the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park.

Member of the Brack Paella Challenge Team are Adriana Gonzalez; Shydelle Lopez; Angela Martinez; Adam Silva; Allyson Rodriguez and Dayona Feggins; Chef Jennifer Placette, Instructor. Way to soar, Eagles!

- Letie Wawrzyniak



# Preservation Month

*continued from page 1*

## Discovering the Spanish Colonial Powder House - May 15

OHP and the San Antonio Public Library will be offering a presentation on an exciting archaeological discovery. Through crowd-research, archival map and record analysis, a ground penetrating radar survey, and archaeological investigations, OHP has confirmed the location of the Spanish Colonial Watch Tower and Powder House. Join us to retrace the archaeological discovery of this site!



## Amazing Preservation Race (for Kids!) - May 20

Preservation Month is a great opportunity for kids to get involved in recognizing and celebrating our heritage. Families are invited to discover, explore and investigate the many hidden treasures and historic architecture of the San Antonio Zoo at this event - a competitive, architectural scavenger hunt designed for elementary school-aged kids with games, prizes and giveaways. Make sure to sign yourself up in advance...kid's admission to the zoo is free!

## Mission Possible Bus Tour - May 20

Exploring the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site is easier than ever with VIA's VIVA Route 40. From 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., the Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio will have a tour guide on each VIA bus providing information along the route.

San Antonio has one of the richest and most diverse histories in the country, and there is much to discover about our city's heritage. At the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation, our mission is to protect our historic and cultural resources so that future generations may enjoy them and to inform and educate our citizens on the wealth of historic resources that can be found in our own backyard. Visit our web site at [www.SAPreservation.com](http://www.SAPreservation.com) for a full listing of Preservation Month Events.

- Cory Edwards, Senior Management Analyst  
 COSA Office of Historic Preservation

# Garden St. School News

Bonham Academy students have been taking on new challenges. In February, the Bonham Robocats participated in the qualifying round of the First Lego League Robotics Competition for the first time ever. This group of 4th and 5th graders competed against 4th-8th graders from 12 schools across South Texas (most were middle schools). The competition involved 4 parts: Core Values (poster presentation); Animal-human interaction project (identify a problem, come up with a solution and present it); Robot Design; and Robot competition.



The fantastic Bonham Robocats team celebrates with Coach Dave Lopez.

The rookie Robocats took home 1st place in the Robot Competition and 2nd place overall to earn a coveted spot in the Alamo West Division Regional Championship! Though they didn't pass to the finals, they gained great experience and, most importantly, had fun. Thanks to the generous support of the King William Association, Alamo Street Eat Bar and many other sponsors, and especially the parent volunteer coaches, the Bonham Robotics program each year includes nearly 200 students. The Robocats Competition Team will extend into middle school next year.



Bobcats from 2nd through 5th grades studied for weeks in preparation for SAISD's annual UIL competition. In February, 52 students competed in such topics as chess, maps, graphs and charts, number sense, music memory, oral reading and writing in English and Spanish, storytelling, art history, and more. Bonham took 2nd place in the district overall, and took top honors in many topics - an impressive achievement for our only 400-student elementary grades!

Bonham Theater continues to shine. Stunning the audience with a spellbinding performance of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, the thespians took 1st place at the Middle School UIL competition. An emotional performance that the students portrayed with empathy and compassion, by all accounts there was not a dry eye in the house. The stage, lighting and sound effects completed the scenes,

making for an outstanding production. Best Actress was awarded to Bonham 8th grader Iris Bernal, and 7th grader Andrew Treviño took home Best Actor Award. The Bonham Thespians will be performing *Charlotte's Web* with actors from 3rd through 8th grades on May 23 and 24 in the Black Box Theater.



Bonham Academy theater students took first place at the middle school UIL competition. Drama teacher Holly Clifford, far right, and art teacher Monico Vitela, far left, helped them to achieve this honor.

For the first time ever, Bonham Middle School competed in SAISD athletics. In addition to cross-country, basketball, volley ball and soccer, the year is ending with Track and Field, coached by Jason Siptak and Catherine Scott. At the recent Academy



Bonham boys track team

Sports League Meet, Bonham boys and girls took 2nd place in the 4x400M relay. Eight students will be competing in Regionals: Nyomi Rafael (2400M & 4x400M relay); Debranae Turner (200M & 100M hurdles); Alexa Villareal (4x400M relay); Zercovia White (4x400M relay); Leanna Deanna (4x400M relay); Joseph Montez (4x400M relay); Matthew Miller (4x400M relay & high jump); Ollin Culbert Mendoza (4x400M relay); Benjamin Welchman (4x400M relay); and Justo Ocanas (discus). We wish them luck and congratulate them on their hard work!

To help fund these and other programs, the Friends of Bonham will be hosting its Annual Cocktail Party & Silent Auction on Saturday, May 13, at the King William Manor. Please join us! See [friendsofbonham.org](http://friendsofbonham.org) for more information and tickets.

- Cherise Rohr-Allegrini



Bonham girls track team

## EPIcenter Neighbors program is FREE for 78204 and 78210 ZIP Codes

**A**s we wrote in the November 2016 edition of the KWA newsletter, the Mission Road Power Plant is being transformed into a new energy innovation hub called EPIcenter ([epicenterus.org](http://epicenterus.org)).

This historic, empty building in your neighborhood (307 Mission Road) will soon undergo a massive, multi-million dollar renovation. In a few years, it will come alive with scientists, entrepreneurs, researchers, students, and community events focusing on and celebrating the new energy industry.

EPIcenter Neighbors is a forum for feedback from residents and property owners in the immediate area and for EPIcenter to share information about what's happening. Can you imagine special speakers? EPIcenter updates? Maybe even movies on the plaza?

Every address in the 78204 and 78210 ZIP codes should have received a postcard inviting registrations.

Sign up online at [epicenterus.org/connect](http://epicenterus.org/connect) and look for the Neighbors section. Or contact Jill Vassar at (210) 904-2682 or [jhvassar@epicenterus.org](mailto:jhvassar@epicenterus.org) to sign up directly. It's FREE!

- Kimberly Britton, CEO  
Jill Vassar, Director of Development and Partnerships  
EPIcenter

## Neldon W. Milstead 1936-2017

**O**ur good friend and neighbor Neldon W. Milstead, 80, passed away on March 8 in Louisville, Kentucky. Neldon was a Texas Tech graduate and was born on the High Plains in Dawson County. He and Beth Shaw Milstead lived in the yellow stucco house on Madison for nearly 20 years. Neldon was the kind of neighbor one always seeks. He was helpful in every request, gentle and thoughtful.

The neighborhood got to know Neldon as he walked Buster, his Pomeranian. We shared funny stories about our Pomeranians. Neldon took Buster, brother to our poms, Emmy and Oscar, on his walks where he met and talked to many of neighbors. One of our fondest memories was our participation with Neldon, Beth, and Buster, along with Neil and Fernando and Biggens, in two King William Fair parades behind the banner "Pomeranians on Parade."

Like other men from west Texas, Neldon was a man of few words. We never heard him speak ill of others. He was a kind, good man, and we miss him.

- Harry & Molly Shafer

# Pilot Parking Program

This article is going to press between the City's public meetings on April 6 and 13, 2017, when the City provided updates to its proposed parking pilot. Changes are anticipated between the meetings, as well as after. Be sure to check KWA's website for the latest details and a map of the pilot area (which is much smaller than the confines of either King William or Lavaca). Comments about the revised proposal should be submitted to KWA or me no later than May 13.

Parking on the commercial corridor (Alamo, Presa and St. Mary's) will be limited to three-hour parking. The pilot area will be roughly two blocks off each street in the commercial corridor.

For wide streets (those over 27 feet) in the pilot area, one side of the street will be restricted to residential parking by permit. The other side of the street will be open parking for residents and guests.

On narrow streets (those under 27 feet) in the pilot area, one side of the street will be restricted to residential parking by permit. The other side of the street will be no parking to provide an adequate passing lane for emergency vehicles. This restriction also complies with City Code § 19172(a).

The side of the street chosen for permit parking will typically be the side without fire hydrants. Some streets do not have fire hydrants, and the residential side will be identified at a later time.

Permits will not be required, as residents can park on the open side of the streets in the pilot area. If permits are desired, they will be available for \$10 each, up to four per residential lot. The parking director will make individualized decisions for the subdivided lots, although the goal is to issue two permits per unit.

Additional enforcement will accompany the pilot, but the details have not yet been confirmed. As originally planned, the funding source for additional enforcement was the elimination of the special events barricade system in Lavaca. That system, however, will continue for six months to allow for additional study. The pilot is scheduled to last one year and be evaluated with public input at that time.

- Rose Kanusky

## Kids in the 'Hood



Photo: Angela Martinez

**SOUTHTOWN SCRAMBLE:** More than 30 Southtown teens and tweens gathered on April 16 for the Third Annual Southtown Scramble, where they were challenged to find and photograph a list of 100 items in 59 minutes. The cash prize was split between three teams who each found 99 items.



Photo: KWAKs - King William Area Kids Facebook

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** Southtown kids gathered for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, April 15 at Villa Finale. Over 1,000 eggs were hidden.



# Carlos de la Vega Hernandez

1927-2017

Carlos de la Vega Hernandez was surrounded by his family as he went to be with the Lord on February 28, 2017 at the age of 90. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Mary Louise Elizondo Hernandez; nine adult children: Carlos, Jr. (Olivia), Mary Helen Mansbach (Joseph), John Henry, Lupe Torres (Gil), Anthony, Michael (Laura), Sylvia Saucedo (Jose) Martin, and Lisa White; three sisters, 21 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Carlos de la Vega Hernandez and his wife Mary Louise

Carlos de la Vega Hernandez was born in 1927 in San Antonio to Albert and Rachel Hernandez. He was the fifth of nine children. He grew up in the Lavaca neighborhood at 218 Camargo Street. He went to school at the original Burnet Elementary (torn down for Hemisfair) and attended Page Middle School. He and his siblings were products of the Depression Era and part of America's greatest generation. His early life was difficult, but those hardships helped shape this wonderful man. Beginning at age 13, Dad worked at Joe Friday's Grocery store (on Victoria Street) and as an automotive mechanic assistant at Plaza Body Works (at Alamo and Nueva). At age 15, the most beloved woman in his life, his precious mother, died. Due to the ever-increasing demand to help support his family, Carlos left school after the eighth grade.

Dad joined the Army at the age of 18. He loved being in the Army - he liked the discipline and respect required of him. He married Mary Louise Elizondo in 1950. While he was stationed in Japan, Mom kept the family together and the household running here in San Antonio. Dad knew he couldn't do it without Mom's love and support. Dad would say that Mom always had the harder job - she took care of him and their children. He retired from the Army after 22 years serving our country as a Medic. Dad also worked in Transportation in the Admissions office at the State Hospital and retired after 22 years. Other than when the Army took him away from San Antonio for a few years, he lived his entire life in the Lavaca and King William area. After living on St. Mary's, Stieren and Mission Streets, Mom and Dad settled on Adams Street, where they lived for 52 years.

Carlos was a devoted husband, dad, grandpa and great-grandpa. A great provider, hard worker, loving and loyal person, he leaves behind a strong legacy of love. Some of our best memories are of when the stores were closed on Sunday, and we would all get in the station wagon and Dad would take us on a Sunday drive through Brackenridge Park. We would get excited when he would drive through the low water cross-

ing, we would stick our heads out the windows (this was, of course, before seat belts), and enjoy the wind and splash of water. During the Christmas season, he would drive us through Ft. Sam Houston to see the Christmas decorations and to Joske's downtown to see the Big Santa Claus and the Christmas scenes in the windows.

He enjoyed exercising, bowling, tennis, playing cards and reading the newspaper, driving Mom around wherever she needed to go. In addition to teaching us how to ride a bike or drive a car, he taught us to be responsible by example. He always ensured he paid all his debts, and was always on time to his job - he wouldn't miss work unless it was absolutely necessary.

Carlos Hernandez was very proud of his wife and all his children for putting their love in action and stepping up so he was able to remain at home. He greatly appreciated his children's sacrifice and compassion given in taking care of him and his beloved wife. He also appreciated his neighbors who looked out for each other throughout the years, such as the Garcia, Martinez, Nino, Hodge, Garza, Contreras, Lopez, Bonacini and Hogg families.

A quiet devoted family man, he loved sitting on the porch drinking coffee, reading his newspaper, talking to family and neighbors, and relaxing. "Ahh....the simple life," that's what made Dad happy. Dad we love you, rest in peace, be assured your wife, our mom, will be taken care of, and God Bless you! Thank you Mom, for always loving, praying and taking care of Dad!

A funeral mass was conducted on March 15 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Dad was laid to rest at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Carlos will be greatly missed (especially that great smile), but never forgotten.

- Mary Helen Mansbach

# Our Neighbor Michael Casillas, King Antonio XCV



Mike Casillas

For the past 95 years, the Texas Cavaliers have selected one of their members to serve as King Antonio to reign over the San Antonio celebration known as Fiesta. In keeping with this tradition, the Cavaliers selected King William neighbor Dr. Michael “Mike” Casillas as King Antonio XCV. Mike’s mission as King Antonio has been to spread the message that an act of kindness is the greatest gift you can give or receive. Kindness really does start with one — one person, one act, one place, one city, one county, and one movement with one goal in mind: To make our world a kinder place one act at a time. And with Mike’s mission in mind, every single one of us can play a part in this by being good to another person. That is what makes a difference in our world. He visited many schools and numerous charity events, plus the multitude of official Fiesta events during his 2017 reign.

Mike’s San Antonio roots date back eight generations to a member of Governor Martin de Alcorn’s expedition, which founded San Antonio on May 5, 1718. In addition, he has multiple Canary Islander ancestors who established the first municipal government in San Antonio in 1731. Mike’s proud heritage and his commitment to and love for his city were clear when he served as the first Hispanic King Antonio.

Mike was born in San Antonio to Albert and Margaret Casillas. He graduated from Central Catholic High School, attended UTSA, and received a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Mike became a partner in San Antonio Surgical Arts, where he has been practicing oral surgery for 22 years. Mike married his high school sweetheart, Jessica Treviño; the couple has two sons, Julian and Matthew. Jessica grew up in the King William neighborhood as part of the El Mirador Treviño family.

Elected to the organization in 2003, Mike has performed multiple roles: served as a board member of the Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation; coordinated the activities of the River Parade as Parade Marshal in 2013; led the 600-strong Texas Cavalier membership as Commander, while serving on the Executive Committee of the Fiesta Commission in 2015-2016. His commitment and successful performance in these key roles ultimately led to his election as King Antonio XCV.

Thanks, Mike, for serving our city so well! *Viva King Antonio!*

- Zet Baer



A full service hospital helping your pet live a happy and healthy life.

Southeast

Animal Hospital

210-534-4300

3608 S. Gevers @ Fair Ave. 78210

[southeastanimalhospital.com](http://southeastanimalhospital.com)

**SAPD**

**Non-Emergency**

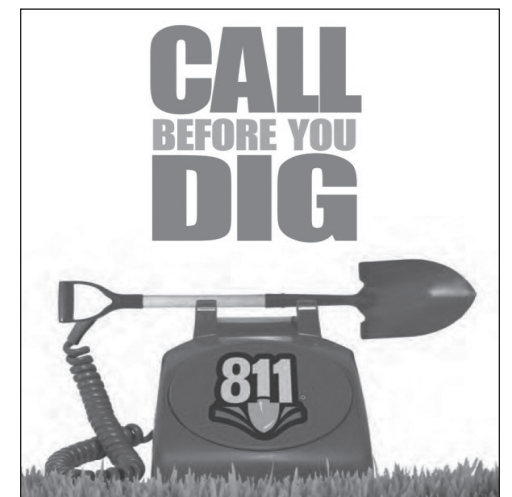
210-207-7273

**KW SAFE Officer**

**on patrol:**

**Officer David McCall**

**Tel: 210-207-7413**



# Old News

*This article is inspired by past issues of the King Association newsletter, beginning in November 1967. Its purpose is to inform newer neighbors and remind those who have been here awhile of how the King William Area has evolved through the years.*

*References and comments are from those issues containing "news" items that seem, to this writer, to show the development of the King William neighborhood or merely to show how some things are unique to an historic district. The series starts with comments taken from the November 1967 newsletter about the first King William Association meeting held in October 1967. Articles will continue, but will not in every issue of the newsletter.*

**MAY 1968** - After meetings among members of the City Council, the KWA and the San Antonio Conservation Society, the King William area was designated as an Historic District. Then Mayor Walter McAllister asked the KWA to nominate persons for membership to the new Review Board for Historic Districts. Five of the 9 members were selected from those nominated.

**MARCH 1969** - This issue included 3 important matters of concern to the King William neighborhood. One was that plans were proceeding for the new Post Office to be built where the San Antonio Housing Authority and O. P. Schnabel apartments are now, between S. Main Avenue and S. Flores Street. Four blocks of homes had been razed for the site. Thanks to efforts and negotiations between the Federal government, the Housing Authority, the San Antonio Independent School District, and the King William Association, a compromise was reached to locate the Post Office away from the residential area to a site east of the airport.

A second matter was the possibility of a freeway passing along Durango Street (now César Chávez Blvd) and La Villita. Members of the KWA organized a protest and began meetings with officials to change the proposed route. The freeway was not built.

A third matter concerned a request from the San Antonio River Authority to the KWA about the Johnson Street bridge, which had been removed when the river was re-channelized and widened for flood control.

The so-called "O. Henry Bridge" had originally crossed the river on Commerce Street near S. Alamo and was relocated to the King William neighborhood when the present Commerce Street bridge was built. An arched iron bridge much like the Arsenal Street bridge but older and more decorative, it was named after the author who had lived in San Antonio for a while. He reportedly watched the river from the bridge to get ideas for his writings.

Members voted to request a pedestrian rather than a vehicular bridge and that ironwork from the "O. Henry Bridge" be replaced on the new span. The present pedestrian bridge was finally built in 1983-4, by which time much of the ironwork had been scrapped. The two spires on the east end of the pedestrian bridge are from the historic bridge.

- Alan Cash

## Out in the Garden with Alan Cash

There is a new and interesting garden in the neighborhood. At river level just below the San Antonio River Authority building, at 100 E. Guenther, is what is called a Monarch Waystation. It is a garden designed to provide nectar and shelter to monarch butterflies as they migrate through North America. A sign near the walkway says it is "certified" and



that San Antonio is a Monarch Champion City. Go by on your next walk along the river. For more information and how you can create one in your own garden, go to [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org).

**Garden Tip:** If you are a container gardener and grow plants in pots, they will do better if fertilized about every two weeks with an organic liquid fertilizer. Medina and Lady Bug are two good brands to look for.

Here are two websites where you can find a wealth of information about plants and their characteristics:

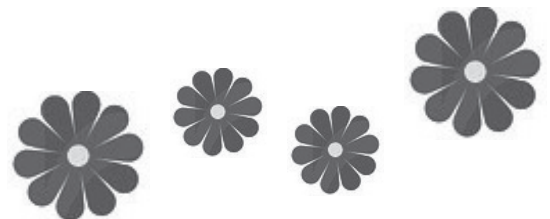
- [Dirtdoctor.com](http://Dirtdoctor.com) (Howard Garrett) - go to Library Topics

- [austintexas.gov/department/grow-green/plant-guide](http://austintexas.gov/department/grow-green/plant-guide) - Texas watershed native and adapted plant guide

Both sites list plants alphabetically.

*Garden Note: In the garden, no two days are the same.*

From *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations*: Education consists mainly in what we have unlearned.



# Saving King William

**D**o you remember how close we came to losing one of our most precious structures? Steve and Debra Walker spent many months and many dollars completely restoring the Harnisch House at 523 King William from roof to basement. On Saturday, August 14, 1999, just before 10:00 p.m., several fire trucks screamed through the neighborhood and converged at the corner of King William and East Guenther.

The Walkers were spending the weekend at their ranch when they got an urgent phone call. They turned on their TV to the 10 o'clock news to see their house engulfed in flames.

SAFD pumped water out of the river for hours until the firemen were satisfied that the fire was completely extinguished. Early the next morning the City Building Code Supervisor visited the burned hulk and declared it a total loss, using alarming words such as condemnation, dangerous structure and worst of all, demolition.

Neighborhood architects, the Conservation Society and King William neighbors came together as one force to say "SAVE THIS HOUSE!" The Walkers had architects and building experts thoroughly inspect the remains. Due to construction methods used in the late 19th century, the three-course brick walls and sturdy stone foundations were declared to be structurally sound.

The same construction team who had previously restored the house returned to perform an extraordinary job of restoration, including replicating damaged parts of the intricate porch details. It's a new house inside, but the late Victorian Style exterior looks exactly as it did when it was built in 1884, the design attributed to architect Albert Beckmann.

Never underestimate the power of a group of dedicated people who are passionate about a cause - in this case, saving our history.

- Bill Cogburn



Photo courtesy Debra Walker

523 King William, in 1999.



Photo: Bill Cogburn

523 King William, today.

## Southtown Businesses Recognized as San Antonio's Best



**M**any neighborhood businesses were recognized in the *San Antonio Current's* Best of 2017 issue in April. Aren't we lucky to have such a plethora of "Bests"!

### Staff Picks

**South Alamomode Panini & Gelato Company**, Best Ice Cream  
**Battalion**, Best New Restaurant  
**Station Café**, Best Sandwiches  
**Hot Joy**, Best Wings  
**Pig Liquors**, Best Liquor Store  
**Sexology**, Best Adult Store  
**Southtown Vinyl**, Best Record Store  
**SAY Sí**, Best Non-profit  
**El Mirador**, Best Patio

**Hemisfair Park**, Best Place to Watch a Movie Outside

### Reader's Choice

**Frank**, Best Hot Dog  
**Rosario's**, Best Salsa  
**Southtown Yoga Loft**  
Best Yoga Studio  
**Yanaguana Garden**  
Best Playground  
**El Mirador**, Best Patio

# Short Term Rentals: Are They Really New?

The City of San Antonio is crafting a new ordinance to address short term rentals (STRs) like Airbnb, HomeAway and FlipKey. The issues raised by STRs are not new to KWA. Today, opponents of STRs are concerned about neighborhood safety and stability. Proponents of STRs cite property rights and economics. These are the same topics that arose in the 1990s when the City struggled to address those who wanted no B&Bs in neighborhoods and those who wanted no regulation of B&Bs.

Under the original B&B ordinance of 1989, a B&B could be operated in a residential zoning district if an owner-operator obtained a special use permit from City Council. Enforcement of the owner-occupier requirement, however, was virtually nonexistent, relying on neighborhood reporting.

A dispute arose in 1990 between the KWA and the owner of a B&B who was violating the owner-occupier requirement. By 1992, the high number of B&Bs without resident owners prompted KWA's president, Ed Day, to write the Zoning Commission to request enforcement. KWA's concerns about B&Bs went public in 1993 when Rick and Kristen Casey opposed the special use application for a B&B in the 300 block of Adams.

City Council denied the permit, but told KWA to find a compromise between those who opposed B&Bs on the basis of neighborhood character and those who favored B&Bs on the basis of economics and property rights. While B&Bs existed throughout the City, KW was — as it is now — the neighborhood most heavily impacted by tourism. At that time, there were several suspected non-authorized B&Bs in King William and 23 authorized B&Bs, with four appearing on one block.

To explore the B&B issues, KWA created a balanced ad hoc committee, including neighbors in favor of B&B expansion, those in favor of the status quo, and several specialists from outside King William: Lowell Denton (urban planning), Ann McGlone (historic preservation), Tess Giolima (neighborhood dynamics), Bob Ashcroft

(property law), and Anna Cervantes (economics/real estate value).

The committee held over 60 public meetings over the next few years which were well attended. Topics included noise, trash, signage, on-street parking, property values and security issues springing from the inability to recognize guests from intruders. In July 1996, KWA's committee forwarded its report to the Zoning Commission with suggested amendments to the B&B ordinance.

The proposed changes were hotly debated at a public hearing before the Zoning Commission in November 1997. The Commission referred the amendments to its own subcommittee which met throughout 1998 with various stakeholders appointed by City Council to represent each district (myself included). This subcommittee developed additional recommendations, which the Zoning Commission adopted on March 16, 1999, following a public hearing.

In April 1999, City Council considered the Zoning Commission's recommendations at another emotionally charged meeting. Council postponed the item for 30 days to allow the Planning Department to host another public meeting. On May 6, 1999, after nine years of KWA involvement, City Council approved amendments to the B&B ordinance.

Significantly, the amended ordinance grandfathered the prior non-conforming uses. And while the ordinance abandoned the need for a special use permit to operate a B&B in a residential district, the ordinance included two key features to protect neighborhoods: density restrictions and owner occupancy. Food service was not even addressed; by that time, many B&Bs had stopped serving a traditional breakfast. Instead, a B&B was broadly defined as any "establishment which supplies temporary accommodations to overnight guests for a fee."

Under this definition, STRs are not legal unless they satisfy the B&B ordinance, yet many do not. As with B&Bs, STRs have proliferated because enforcement is nonexistent and pits neighbor against neighbor.

In the 1990s, B&Bs were represented by local trade associations. Now, STRs are represented by national corporations lobbying in their favor at all levels of government. Many of the economic drivers from the 1990s are still in play: the need for property owners to pay their bills and the City's need to promote tourism. Many of the social issues surrounding security, property values and destabilization of the neighborhood are likewise still in play.

For example, if there is noise or trouble in a STR where the owner is absent, how do we know who is responsible or who we can turn to for help? Will the proliferation of STRs adversely impact property values? Will absentee landlords help residents with the hard work of keeping KW a great place to live? Will a property manager treat the neighborhood the same way as a neighbor? All questions previously asked and answered.

The City's proposed STR ordinance defines a short term rental as "all or a portion of a one-family or two-family house," and it allows homes to be converted into businesses without full-time occupants, much less owner-occupants. There are no density restrictions. The proposed ordinance effectively guts the B&B ordinance. If history repeats itself, then the residential fabric of the neighborhood will be threatened by the lack of owner-occupiers and by the transformation of single family dwellings into commercial enterprises once called B&Bs but now called STRs.

- Rose Kanusky

Sources: City Code § 35-3311 as amended, KWA Archives (Central Library), *San Antonio Express-News*



# THE 1010

SOUTH FLORES

## COMMUNITY AMENITIES

- One Bedrooms Available
- Washer/Dyer Included
  - Set Utilities
  - Balconies
- Exercise Facilities
- Swimming Pool
- Oversized Tubs

## SHOPS & RESTAURANTS ON-SITE

- Kung Fu Kitchen (Coming Soon)
- Whip Stitch Bakery
- South Crown Barber
- South Town Vinyl
- Her Story Boutique
  - GloSkin Salon
  - Gallery 20/20

BRING IN THIS AD AND  
WE WILL WAIVE YOUR  
APPLICATION FEE!

1010SouthFlores.com  
210.277.1010



(210) 212-5506 • sara@bluestarbrewing.com

# Celebrating Historic Preservation

The National Historic Preservation Act was adopted by the US Congress in 1966. This legislation enabled Federal and State governments to create ordinances to protect historic resources. In 1967, 50 years ago, the King William Association members set out to create a historic district. City Council designated the King William area as a local historic district in 1968 and Mayor McAllister asked the KWA to nominate 10-12 people for the Review Board. By 1971 King William was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1983 we listed another portion of the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places. The press release from Texas Historical Commission stated, "The South Alamo Street-South St. Mary's Street Historic District can be read as a physical chronicle of San Antonio's urban and architectural history. The concentration of contributing structures, the cohesiveness of the architectural fabric, and the long period of continuous occupation distinguish this area. In comparison with other neighborhoods which were developed contemporaneously, this district remains perhaps the most intact."

In celebrating our 50th year and Preservation Month, we should take a moment to think about how we can ensure that our houses and neighborhood continue to exist for another 50 or 100 more years. We can help our homes retain their fine craftsmanship by following the Secretary of Interior Standards of "repairing rather than replacing". The wood in our houses is old growth, which makes the wood less susceptible to termites, critters and weather. However, making sure exterior wood is painted, window and doorframes are caulked, skirting is intact to keep animals away from foundation piers, and application of pest control, are actions that help protect your house from deterioration. Weather-tight roofs are important to any structure. Make sure to inspect your roof for damage annually. Clean gutters and downspouts regularly to prevent water damage.

Our actions, or lack thereof, make an impact not only upon our house but on the historic district. Take time to celebrate Preservation Month this May by doing some spring cleaning and showering some loving care on your house.

- Cherise Bell

# Partying Like It's 1967 - the KWA Turns 50!

Neighbors, families and friends came together on on March 26 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the King William Association. Food, friendship, music, cake, a piñata and a beautiful afternoon made for a memorable event.

Photos: Susan Athené





122 Madison St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78204

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SAN ANTONIO,  
TEXAS  
PERMIT N°. 3321



King William Association Free Concert Series  
Presents Cinco de Mayo Celebration

### **Mariachi Damas de Jalisco**

*San Antonio's premier all-women Mariachi group!*

**Sunday, May 7**  
King William Park  
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

*Please bring your neighbors, friends, chairs,  
blankets, cool drinks, snacks and bug spray.*

## **May Calendar**

- 3 General Membership Meeting – KWA Office - 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Cinco de Mayo Celebration – Mariachi Damas de Jalisco – King William Park
- 13 Friends of Bonham Annual Cocktail Party & Silent Auction - King William Manor – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Mother's Day
- 17 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 23-24 Charlotte's Web – Bonham Academy Black Box Theater – 6:30 p.m.
- 29 Memorial Day – Office closed