

What a Week! Dear neighbors,

May 10th marked the deadline for the House of Representatives to vote on House Bills in time for them to become law this legislative session. That meant a string of 16-hour days considering & debating hundreds of measures on the House Floor.

But those long days and sleepless nights were worth it after we scored a few key victories on education, child care, and programs to give working families a leg up. Here's a sample of our accomplishments that week:

Expanding Educational Opportunities:

I believe that we must do a better job of making sure all Texas children have the support and opportunities they need to succeed in school. Early education, such as pre-kindergarten, has proven to be particularly critical for ensuring that all children start school ready to learn on the same level as their peers, but many children who need this support are not enrolled. I'm pleased to report that I offered successful amendments to direct the Texas Education Agency to study ways to increase pre-kindergarten enrollment and to report on education disparities between economically disadvantaged students and their peers. I also helped to pass legislation to expand the Communities in Schools high school dropout prevention program.

Supporting Tax Rebates for Working Families:

The federal Earned Income and Child Tax Credits provide important economic boosts to hard-working families. These programs are often undermined when families don't know they qualify or pay high fees to private tax preparers. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers provide a great way to overcome these challenges, support these families, and boost the local economy. This week I passed an amendment to add VITA centers to the list of community initiatives eligible for funding from the state's new Renewing our Communities Account.

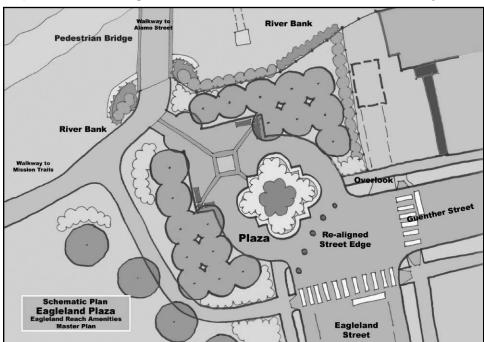
Taking a New Approach to Energy:

In the midst of global warming, increasing air pollution, rising energy costs and harmful dependence on foreign oil, it has become clear that we must develop policies to promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy. I believe the Texas government should take the lead in this effort by ensuring that new buildings constructed with government funds meet advanced energy standards. I was able to take an important

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Update on Neighborhood San Antonio River Projects



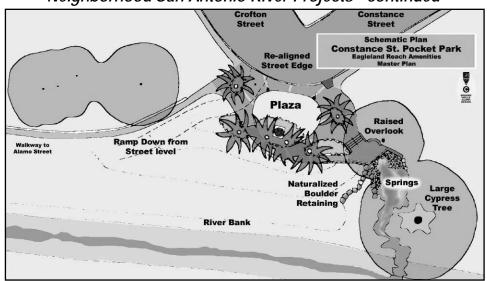
On May 14th, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) hosted a meeting of interested parties regarding the San Antonio River Improvement Project Amenities Masterplan portions that are contiguous with the King William neighborhood. The meeting involved representation from SARA (Jim Boenig and others), Bender Wells Clark Design (Larry Clark), Brackenridge High School Principal Linda Marsh and Kamal Elhabr, PE, Associate Superintendent, Facilities Services, SAISD, KWA River Development Subcommittee (Jose Garcia DeLara, Janet Williams) and City of San Antonio Public Works Department. The discussion focused on details of the two projects targeted to be most active in this next year: the Eagleland Plaza (part of the Mission Trails Project), and the Crofton-Constance Pocket Park (a project arising from the SARA Amenities Master Plan). Additional updates included the fact that the bonds approved on the May 12th public vote did not include the Alamo Street bridge improvements which were proposed in the Amenities Master Plan (wider sidewalks and an overlook). Although the EPA has approved the plan to resume development of the Hike and Bike Trail south of the Blue Star complex later this summer, work will not resume on the Big Tex site until further study and planning occur.

Eagleland Plaza

The funding for the improvements to the end of Eagleland St. at Guenther is included under Mission Trails Package IV funds and continues to move forward. The original Eagleland Plaza design has now been modified based on public input from the KWA and others, and no longer includes a traffic circle or any vehicular features. It is a small pedestrian plaza and river overlook. Bollards following the curve of the street separate the plaza from the roadway, but allow pedestrians and bicycles to enter. The brick-paver surfaced pedestrian plaza will feature a large quatrefoil-shaped planting bed, raised 16 inches and echoing the brickwork design at the intersection of Eagleland and S. St. Mary's Street. There will be a few narrow four foot-long benches in the plaza. Trees will be planted in a mulched bed on

continued on page 2

Neighborhood San Antonio River Projects - continued



either side of the brick plaza. Integral to the landscape design and plant choices are considerations for neighborhood scale, visual appeal, public safety, as well as the necessity that plantings must thrive in our climate without much water or complex maintenance requirements. Stormwater drainage has been studied and will be engineered around the plaza. This plaza leads to the planned pedestrian-only bridge, part of the Hike & Bike Trail project now under construction. It spans the river at the end of Eagleland and provides the link to travel north along the west riverbank to the Blue Star complex and the Riverwalk or south along the east riverbank to the Missions. The bridge should be in place in October, and underneath access will be blocked with low walls and plantings. This plan will offer a landscape buffer between the plaza and adjacent properties, and if possible, will provide for the new owners of the contiguous property an easement for their vehicle parking. This has been discussed with the City's Public Works Dept. and confirmation is being sought to confirm no underlying utilities exist. Brackenridge High School officials were very pleased with the Eagleland Plaza design.

Crofton-Constance Pocket Park

In April, as part of the San Antonio River Improvements Project budget, the City of San Antonio authorized \$100,000.00 for the design and construction of this pocket park project. This park is also designed entirely for pedestrians and will start with the rebuilding of a high curb to signify no vehicular access or parking is allowed. The exception is that removal of a bollard will allow a small maintenance vehicle to access the existing walkway to the river. A few additional palm trees will join those extant around a small grassy lawn, again drought and city-maintenance tolerant. New walkways will be brick pavers with decorative banding at intervals. The top portion of the riverbank will be reshaped to a gentler slope of mowed lawn, leaving the greater part of the bank to continue to be re-established with native grasses and wildflowers through the program currently underway. The existing overlook will be upgraded with small benches and railings, and by raising the viewing platform in order that people enjoying the view are easily visible. The small pond below will remain 'natural' with existing plantings. The cypress tree opening will be fitted with a permanent mesh barrier to prevent further access and inhabitation.

Questions and Comments

All questions and comments are welcomed and encouraged, since this is the time to address any further concerns or otherwise hear from people about the projects. Please email, mail or drop your questions and comments off at the KWA office to the attention of the River Projects Committee.

Janet Williams

Mike's Update continued

step in this direction by passing an amendment requiring school districts to develop a plan for tracking and reducing energy consumption in schools.

Telling the Truth about the Lottery:

Without fail, every time I have a town hall meeting or go somewhere to talk about education, a constituent will ask me, "Where did the money from the Lottery go?" It's a great question, because the lotto continues to be touted as a source of revenue for education, while we struggle as a state to fund our schools. The truth is that the revenue from the lottery has not provided new education funding. Instead it was used to supplant general revenue - money from other sources that the state would have devoted to education anyway. This week, I passed a measure to prohibit the Lottery Commission from falsely advertising that the purchase of lottery tickets increase education funding.

Affordable, Accessible Child Care:

The House of Representatives also approved my legislation to make it easier for small businesses to offer on-site child care to their employees. For more information or to sign up to receive my E-newsletter visit http://new.leaderslisten.org

Thanks for all of your support and encouragement. These are small, but significant victories that give us the fuel to keep fighting for a better Texas.

-Mike

Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, Texas House of Representatives

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center Docent Training

The Mitchell Lake Audubon Center invites you to become a Mitchell Lake Docent. They are seeking individuals that are enthusiastic and energetic about nature; and, most importantly, wish to instill this appreciation through education. The Docent Orientation Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 7, from 2-4 p.m. Orientation will provide information about the Mitchell Lake Docent Program and provide an opportunity to meet staff and see the site! Cost is \$15 per person. Refreshments will be provided. The Docent Training Program will be held each Saturday morning from July 28 – September 22.

The Mitchell Lake Audubon Center is located at 10750 Pleasanton Road (Exit 46 from I-410 Loop). For more information and to sign up, contact the Visitor's Center at 628-1639. Visit MLAC online at www.mitchelllakeaudubon.org.

FAIR*VIEW:



The credit for a successful Fair 2007 goes to our many generous volunteers and corporate supporters, to our family-friendly guests, and to our patient neighbors. To all of you, I say "thank you!"

Our financial sponsors included Alhambra, Book Club, Capital One Bank, Coke-a-Cola, GLI Distributing, Grande Communications, Half-Price Book Stores, Halo Distributing, and Valero Energy Corporation.

Several corporations provided invaluable volunteer assistance, including AT&T, City Public Service, Kinetic Concepts Inc., Rackspace, SegCity, Starbucks, and Valero Energy Corporation. Likewise, some of our own grant recipients provided key volunteer support, including ACCD, Bonham Elementary School, Page Middle School, and SAY Sí.

Many neighbors and friends helped to produce the Fair and make it a reality. I'm indebted to the folks who said, "Let me help you with this small thing." All those small things added up! I'm especially grateful for a core group who covered multiple jobs for me: Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn, Dick Davis, Brad Shaw, and Kit Walker.

Thanks to Syeira Budd, Raul Baeza, Angela Martinez, Nate Manfred, the Brackenridge High School football team, Choice Staffing, and Promotional Management Group, all of whom provided excellent service.

Generous gifts in kind were provided by our neighbors: the A.M. Cano Family, H-E-B, Curtis Johnson (of CD Exchange), the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the San Antonio River Authority, the San Antonio Conservation Society, SAILS, SAISD, St. Benedict's of SA, Ltd., and many individual property owners who wish to remain anonymous.

On a personal note, thanks to my husband and cats for their patience and support and to my employer, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., for allowing me this opportunity.







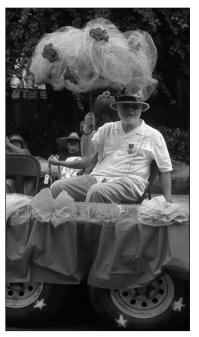




A special THANK YOU to Fair 2007 Chair

Rose Kanusky for her enthusiasm, leadership, and the countless hours she spent making this year's Fair a stellar success!

We couldn't have done it without you, Rose!





Thanks to Fair Photographer Henry Rayburn for capturing the spirit of the Fair on film!

RIVER REPORT: Springtime Wildflower Extravaganza

Spring along the river has been a joy to behold! Thanks to the abundant rainfall, the wild-flower seeds that were planted last September have been providing a brilliant show of color along the riverbanks between the South Alamo Street Bridge and Eagleland Street.

An ever-changing array of flowers greets the visitor who walks down to the water's edge.



April brought ruby-hued Red Phlox, the magical sky-blue Texas Bluebonnets, and delicate Pink Evening Primroses. By May, the hot yellows and reds of Indian Blankets intermingled with the soft lavender shades of Lemon Mint offered a different palette to delight the eye. The dazzling yellows of Sunflowers, Coreopsis and Blackeyed Susans will be next as May rolls into June.

The native wildflowers and grasses, that are taking hold along the river, provide protection from erosion and create a habitat for wild life; butterflies, water birds, turtles and many other species are thriving in the area. We, as residents of King William can enjoy Nature's ongoing spectacle by taking a walk through the lush grasses and wildflowers that are becoming part of our neighborhood's unique riverscape.

Once this year's crop of flowers goes to seed, we can expect an annual springtime repetition of this fabulous color show. Just remember to be considerate of the plantings by not picking, trampling or mowing the

blooms. (As part of an overall restoration plan, a number of invasive non-native species, like Johnson Grass and Blood Weed a.k.a. Giant Ragweed, will be eradicated during the coming months.)

If you are interested in learning more about which wildflowers and native grasses have been planted, there is a listing sheet available at the King William Office. There are also several free catalogues, with color illustrations, that will help in identifying plants.

In case you're wondering how Mother Nature got a helping hand right here in our own backvard, read on.

The wildflowers and grasses were planted by an environmental restoration company, Neiman Environments Inc. as part of the Army Corps of Engineers' River Ecosystem Restoration Project which aims to restore the river channel to a more natural state. The work is part of a multifaceted plan that includes the Army Corps of Engineers, the San Antonio River Authority, Bexar County, and the City of San Antonio's Mission Trails Project. City, county, state and federal funds are all providing financial support for this ambitious endeavor that will serve as model for future Mission Reach activities.

Bill Neiman, owner and oversight manager of Neiman Environments Inc. pointed out to me that this project is one that shares the visions of many. He wondered whether or not all those involved could achieve their goals simultaneously and compat-

ibly. For example, the vision for Army Corps of Engineers is that of a restored ecosystem. At the same time, San Antonio needs a flood plain that can handle river overflow on occasions of heavy rains. The city also wants a low maintenance zone as a part of the Mission Trails Project. And we, the residents of the King William neighborhood, are looking forward to a natural park-like setting that is accessible for all to enjoy.

That's a whole lot of visions rolled into one small area. The question remains as to whether or not one little stretch of the San Antonio River can be so many things to be so many people. Meanwhile, the flora and fauna are doing very well, thank you.



Let's all see if we can all help this wondrous part of our environment to survive by learning more about it, enjoying its beauty, and most importantly by respecting and protecting it.

Barbara Jackson

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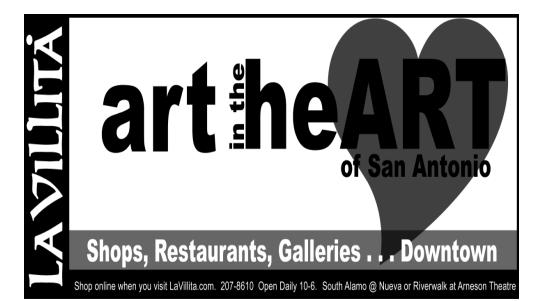
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AIA

American Institute of Architecture Tours King William

King William spread the welcome mat for architects from all over America during the first week of May as twelve KWA members led walking tours of our historic neighborhood. Approximately four hundred and twenty AIA conventioneers and guests went home thinking King William must be one of the friendliest neighborhoods in the country.

The KWA Tourism Management Committee thanks Mary Ann Ohlenbusch, Joyce Richter, Gates and Joan Whitely, Donna Simon, Bob and Joan Carabin, Johnny Heidelberg, Anne Alexander, Jessie Simpson and Maria Pfeiffer for their time, energy and enthusiasm.

These generous neighbors and KWA members did their homework and were ready to relate San Antonio, Texas and King William history while discussing builders, dates and architects of many neighborhood homes.

Jessie Simpson and Gates and Joan Whitely graciously invited the architects into their homes for impromptu tours of the interiors. Those lucky visitors were impressed with both the houses and the hospitality.

The neighbor-guides answered questions about history, houses and life in a historic neighborhood in the center of a large city: Is it a safe place to live? Is it a good financial investment? Are taxes high? How does the City help or hinder preservation?

The walking tours were limited in scope by time allotted by convention planners but neighbor-guides urged the architects to visit the wider King William Historic District and neighboring Lavaca Historic District in their free time.

The architects recognized some ongoing projects (the old hospital building) and some houses "ripe for restoration" but expressed general admiration for the neighborhood, comparing King William very favorably with historic districts in Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans and other cities.

They were impressed with the neighborhood's clean streets, especially when told that just three days before, those same streets were crowded with some eighty thousand people, five entertainment stages and two hundred food, drink and craft booths.

You Must Be an Old-Timer If You Remember

...in the mid 1930's when there was an ice cream parlor on the corner of S. Presa and Callahan Streets where Sandy's Beauty Salon is now. They had many flavors to choose from and we felt it was such a treat for our dad to take us there and treat us to an ice cream cone of any flavor of our choice.

Julie Medina

...when parking problems in the neighborhood were caused, not by First Friday but by the Food Stamp Office housed on S. Alamo. Back then, everyone eligible for the program had to get in line once or twice a month, missing work for the day, to receive their allotment. This one office served the whole city.

...if you remember when Walter just had one house.

Carolene Zehner

...the big flood of 1921. When the water finally began to subside, our whole family, with my baby brother Joe in the baby carriage, walked along the river all the way downtown to see the damage. There was all kinds of debris floating down the river; furniture, lumber, even a piano bouncing along in the water. Bridges were crumpled. Houston Street was several feet under water. On the way back, we stopped at our grandparent's house on North Street, which is now a part of Hemisfair Park. They lived next door to Riebe's Mortuary where flood victims were lined up on the porch.

Selma Nuessle



...the house at 322 Washington Street began its life in 1901 on the near north side at the SW corner of E. Elmira and Lexington Streets as a two story, gabled yellow brick Victorian. In the 1940's, Worthy Wolff operated his restaurant and night club in the house. In 1951, to make way for the Pan Am Expressway, the brick was removed and the structure was cut into four sections and moved to Washington Street. At the new location, it was reassembled, stuccoed over and given a Mediterranean look. If you've walked by the house lately, you will see that it has gone through yet another transformation - back to its Victorian look of a hundred years ago.

Bill Cogburn

In response to April's "Old Timer" feature:

Bill Cogburn's story about the burning of the Maurer-Fry Houses on Madison brought back the vivid memory of being awakened to screaming sirens and a flaming sky. The awareness of what was burning was immediate - we had all feared that those houses would be lost.

I made it to my porch just as Eddie Polk came rushing thru the front gate. I'm recalling that he had a mop in his hand but maybe I made that up. Our house's first major improvement, a new cedar shingle roof, had just been completed.

Eddie, at the time, was the only insurance man in town willing to insure our "wreck". He was sweating his decision to insure us and willing to climb up and douse sparks to protect his business and, in the process, our house. What a unique neighborhood it was.

Jessie Simpson

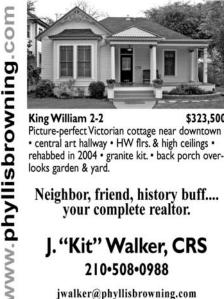
Compiled by Bill Cogburn

StoneMetal Press Offering Kids Summer Classes

Sign up now for kids summer art classes at the StoneMetal Press Printmaking Center. Papermaking for Kids, on Wednesday, July 11, 12 noon - 4 p.m. for ages 6-12, and Printmaking Fun, Wednesday, July 18, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for ages 4-7. Tuition including materials for the Printmaking Fun class is \$29 and Papermaking for Kids is \$32.

Youth over 12 years are eligible for most adult classes with approval. Visit www.stonemetal-press.com or call 227-0312 for more information and to register.

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King William Association June 2007 Page 7

What's Happening: KWA Neighborhood Calendar

June 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Monday	rucsuay	Wednesday	muladay	1 ———— Church Theatre: First Friday Art Walk Gemini Ink: FF Reading SAY Sí: Senior Exhibit SouthTown Cafe: Destination Dinner	2	3
4	5 Blue Star Brew: Crimson Jazz Orchestra	6 KWA's ACCD Brackenridge Scholarship Awards	7 ************ Slab Cinema	8 ———— Church Theatre: * * * * * * Jump-Start: Finding	Lying In State — — — Love In Wartime * * * * * * Southtown Market Days Southtown Artwalk	10
11	Blue Star Brew: River City Big Band	13 KWA July Newsletter Deadline	14 Slab Cinema	15 ———— Church Theatre:		17
18	Blue Star Brew: SA Jazz Orchestra	20 KWA Board Meeting	21 Slab Cinema	22 ———— Church Theatre:	23 Lying In State — — —	24 Stories Galore
KWA Newsletter Mail Prep	26 Blue Star Brew: Prime Time Jazz Orchestra	27 Jump-Start: W-I-P	28 Slab Cinema	29	30	

Beethoven Maennerchor

Gartenkonzert 6/15, 5pm-12am 422 Pereida, 222-1521, beethovenmaennerchor.com

Blue Star Brewing Co.

Tuesdays Big Band Jazz, 8-10pm 1414 S. Alamo, 212-5506, bluestarbrewing.com

Church Bistro and Theatre

Call or visit web site for performance times 1150 S. Alamo, 271-7791 churchbistroandtheatre.com

Gemini Ink

First Friday Reading 6/1, 6:30-8pm 513 S. Presa, 734-9673 geminiink.org

Jump-Start Performance Co.

Call or visit web site for performance times 108 Blue Star, 227-JUMP jump-start.org

SAY Sí Central

Senior Exhibit 6/1, 6-9pm 1518 S. Alamo, 212-8666, saysi.org

Slab Cinema

Thursdays Outdoor Cinema Series, 9pm La Tuna Slab, 100 Probandt, slabcinema.com

SouthTown Cafe

First Friday Dinner 6/1, 5:30-9pm 1127 S. St. Mary's, 224-9811, southtowncafe.com

Southtown Market Days

Saturday 6/9, 9am-3pm Milagros, 725 S. Presa, 212-4344

Southtown Artwalk

Saturday 6/9, 2-4pm 476-8801, southtownartwalk.com

Stories Galore

Sunday 6/24, 5-7pm Commander's House, 645 S. Main, 673-4467

King William Association

Monday-Friday, 10am-2pm 1032 S. Alamo, SA TX 78210 227-8786 (phone), 227-8030 (fax) king.william@sbcglobal.net www.kingwilliamassociation.org kwfair@sbcglobal.net www.kwfair.org

6/6 **ACCD Brackenridge Scholarship Award** Ceremony, 6:30pm at ACCD, 201 W. Sheridan

6/13 July Newsletter Deadline, 12pm

6/20

Board Meeting, 7pm at KWA Office

6/25 July Newsletter Mail Prep, 6pm at KWA Office

Looking Ahead...

7/3 **Summer Social**

7/18 Aug. Newsletter Deadline

7/18 **Board Meeting**

7/30 Aug. Newsletter Mail Prep



327 Cedar awarded \$3,250 for porch restoration

KW Neighbors Receive SACS Grants

Twelve King William residents received grants from the San Antonio Conservation Society in its first-ever targeted-neighborhood Spring Grant Program. These grants are in addition to those received by several KW neighbors in the fall of 2006.

With the targeted-neighborhood program SACS hopes to make a real impact, on not just a single house but on an entire neighborhood. They also hope to encourage owner-occupied single family homes and discourage neglected rental properties.

Successful recipients attended SACS sponsored workshops in March at Bonham Elementary School where they met with SACS staff and City code compliance and preservation staff. SACS approved contractors were also available for consultation, although use of a particular contractor was not a grant requirement.

Grants are intended to encourage exterior restoration which the home owner might otherwise be unable to make. None of the grants covered the entire cost of the work.

Grant recipients announced on May 18, 2007 are:

- James and Kristen Breaux, 227 Claudia, built in 1906. \$2,700 for window restoration.
 - Francisco Amaro, 221 Claudia, built in 1900,
- \$2,000 for porch and step restoration and roof repair.
 - Hector Aleman, 222 Claudia, built in 1910,
- \$3,000 for columns, windows and screen door restoration.
 - Elizabeth Turquand, 123 Fir Street, built in 1905,
- \$3,450 for porch and stair restoration.
- Andrew and Sara Sherwood, 308 Cedar, built in 1911, \$3,000 for columns and porch restoration.
 - · Alan Cash, 327 Cedar, built in 1910,
- \$3,250 for porch restoration.
- Alan Tarver and Melissa Federspill, 511 Cedar, built in 1920, \$4,000 for new roof.
 - Dan and Jen Stanford, 221 Pereida, built in 1904,
- \$2,880 for window restoration.
 - Mary Nethery, 318 Pereida, built in 1887,
- ,495 for exterior restoration.
- Mel Laracey and Marian Aitches, 215 Mission, built in 1907, \$2,000 for roof painting and gutters.
 - Kathleen Tottenham, 226 Mission, built in 1900,
- \$3,000 for exterior restoration.
 - Joseph and Mary Helen Mansbach, 318 Mission,

\$1,000 for columns, porch beams, skirting and exterior trim repairs.

Roselyn Cogburn

SACS Membership

Membership in San Antonio Conservation Society

is not a grant require-Only one of the recipients listed, Alan Cash, is an SACS member.

SACS welcomes all who wish to become associate members and considering the impact SACS has on our neighborhood and our city, I recommend joining.



The requirements for associate membership are:

- 1) interest in the purposes of the Society (i.e. preservation of historic Texas buildings, objects, places and customs).
- 2) Fill out membership application form and return with dues to SACS.

Dues are \$25.00/year.

Benefits of associate membership are:

- 1) Invitation to the SACS Christmas party at the Steves Homestead; see the grand old house in all its holiday splendor
- 2) Free admission to tour Steves Homestead and Yturri-Edmonds Home.
- 3) Invitation to attend general meetings; hear interesting programs on San Antonio history and preservation
- 4) Receive SACS yearbook, listing members and historic properties
 - 5) Receive SACS newsletter
 - 6) Serve on committees which interest you
- 7) Use the SACS research library; friendly staff will
 - 8) Buy NIOSA tickets at discount
- 9) Know YOU are helping to preserve the history of YOUR city and YOUR neighborhood.

Stop by SACS headquarters, The Wulff House, 107 King William Street, to pick up a membership application form; or apply on-line at www.saconservation.org; or telephone 224-6163 to ask for a form to be mailed to you---or call me (Roselyn Cogburn, 228-9711). I'll bring an application to your house.

SACS has been a member of the King William Association for many years. It is high time more of us joined them.

SA Conservation Society Logo cut paper design by Kathleen Trenchard, cut-it-out.org

Donation to the King William Scholarship Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Ed Day in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cogburn.





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FOOD NOTES: Chocolate as Health Food?

That may be something of a stretch, but there are healthy properties present in chocolate products, like flavonoids, which may benefit the heart and arteries. Cocoa butter, used in making chocolate doesn't raise cholesterol levels. Additionally, chocolate does not contain trans fat.

Some people take their chocolate seriously, just like others do coffee or wine, going for cacao content of seventy percent or more, or checking labels to see if the beans came from a certain region rather than being a blend. These maniacal chocolate lovers are in open revolt against changes being considered by the FDA.

Current regulations require the use of cocoa fat (butter) for a product to be labeled "chocolate." If it's called something like "chocolately" it uses less expensive vegetable fat instead. The Washington Post reports the FDA would do away with that rule to allow vegetable fat. Hard core chocolate types object. Petitions are flying.

Here at the Café we labor with the real stuff to make sure we can always offer you a special treat, like rich bars and cakes, but in your busy life at home you might want to address your need for a chocolate fix with something like this simple little shortcake.

In food processor mix ½ cup all purpose flour, 2 TBS cocoa powder, 2 TBS sugar, 1/4 tsp baking soda, 1 1/2 tsp salt. Add and process 2 TBS unsalted butter until it looks like coarse meal. Add 4 TBS heavy cream and pulse until dough forms. Divide dough in two parts. Put on heavily greased baking sheet and bake in middle of 425 degree oven for 12 minutes (check with tester). Slice each in middle horizontally. Top at will, with ice cream, whipped topping, fruit, icing, etc. Enjoy.

Diane Smith, Jan Bonugli chef/co-owner~SouthTown Café

Congratulations to Laura Powell and John Hartman, proud parents of

Kathryn Elliot Hartman

born April 24, 2007, 9 lbs 1 oz

June Stories Galore to Feature Lucinda Wise

Stories Galore, a free story-swap hosted by Elder Stone for experienced and beginning storytellers and listeners, continues on **Sunday**, **June 24**, **from 5:00–7:00 p.m**. at the Commander's House, 645 S. Main. Stories must be suitable for families with children and must not be derogatory to any race or belief.

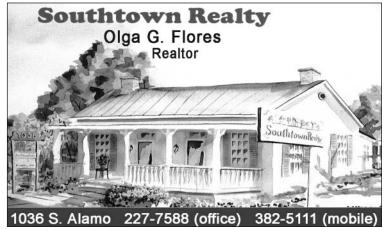
This month's "Stellar Teller", a person of some renown as a talespinner, is Lucinda Wise of Austin, Texas. Lucinda started telling stories when she was a teenager to folks on front porches. Don't miss this "one-of-a-kind" lady!For more information, call Elder Stone at 673-4467.

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Alamo Methodist Church -- Then and Now

In 1908, trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church-South signed a contract to pay Joseph and Julia Courand \$3,000 for the two lots at the corner of S. Alamo and Wickes. The Courands, who owned Courand Grain Co., lived next to those two lots in their impressive mansion at the corner of Adams and S. Alamo. By 1912, the newly formed congregation had accumulated enough money to build a new church building. In 1913, the church was dedicated and given the name, Alamo Methodist Church. Beverely Spillman designed the building, a fine example of mission style architecture popular in South Texas at that time.

For over fifty years, the little church played an important role in the spiritual life of King William residents but by the late 1960's the membership had declined to the point that the church could no longer be sustained and the congregation finally disbanded. After sitting vacant for several years suffering abuse from vandals and vagrants, the church building was purchased in 1976 by Bill and Marcia Larsen who transformed it into a restaurant

and theatre. In 2005, the building went through yet another extensive renovation by the new owner and King William neighbor, Paul Alan Boskind. It is currently operated as The Church Bistro & Theatre.

Shelby and Mollie Sorrells and their daughters, Pat and Teresa, lived in the house behind the church on Wickes for several years. The cottage was originally the church parsonage but had ceased to be used for that purpose. "When we first moved in, we had a lot of late night visitors," said Pat Sorrells Patrick. "People would ask for food, money, a place to stay -- couples wanting to get married."

"I have great memories from those days," said Pat. "We were teenagers in the early 60's when the MYF produced a live Christmas pageant in front of the church that was a traffic stopper. The nativity story was broadcast from the balcony towers. Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds and wise men all processed across the lawn in a thirty minute show that was really quite beautiful. Beth Ricks was Mary and



THEN: Alamo Methodist Church

Buddy Cleveland was Joseph. Grover Cleveland, George Ricks and Mary Inez Wagner (because she was tall) doubled first as shepherds then as wise men. I was the angel who appeared to the shepherds."

"One year, we had a Good Friday pageant in the sanctuary. It drew crowds not only from the congregation but from the entire neighborhood as well. People were in tears as they watched a bruised and bleeding Jesus (Grover Cleveland),



NOW: Church Bistro & Theatre

carry the cross down the aisle, stumbling and falling while being whipped by Roman soldiers."

"In the summer, our watermelon festival was a popular neighborhood event. About two feet of ice was put in the outside doorway of the half basement and the melons were nestled in it; 25 cents a slice as I recall. We also had games including a watermelon seed spitting contest. The

neighborhood children had a great time sliding on cardboard boxes down those long curving concrete banisters on the outdoor stairs.

Carolene Zehner's parents, Caroll Schmidt and Jullienne Perkins, were married in the Alamo Methodist Church parsonage on April 24, 1943. "They celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary last month during Fiesta", said Carolene. minister, Reverend Parrish officiated while his wife played the organ. Both my parents were from San Antonio, but my father was in the Army Air Corps, stationed in Liberal. Kansas at the time, so he flew into Kelly aboard a transport plane. My mother's friends from her childhood were

scheduled to arrive in San Antonio by train to take part in the wedding but when they didn't show up, another couple had to be called at the last minute to stand in. After the ceremony, they learned that their first choices for the wedding party were still on the train heading for San Antonio and also aboard that same train was President Roosevelt! The reason for the delay was because they stopped the train at every

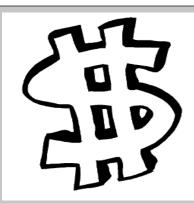
bridge crossing so the bridge trusses could be checked for explosives.

"My parents attended Alamo Methodist Church while they were dating as it was a short walk from the rooming house where my mother lived – now Mike Casey's house on South Alamo. After the war, they continued their membership while living on Elmira St."

Teresa Sorrells Comeaux remembers her wedding as being the very last one to be held in the church. "It was June 20, 1970 and the Reverend Don Hubley officiated."

One of the most dramatic features of the church is the beautiful stained glass windows.

One of the large windows in the front is inscribed "In memory of our mother, Mary F. Swearingen." Yet another memorializes Martha Wood White and Martha W. Bradshaw. If any neighbors recognize these names, please contact the newsletter staff so the information can become yet another interesting addition to the history of the church.



Update on Property Appraisals for 2007

It's time again to discuss property appraisals for the King William District. Unfortunately, this article doesn't have a happy ending, with most of the 'hood likely upset with their 2007 appraisal. On a positive note it was an excellent year for former KW residents who sold their properties in 2006! And 2007 will not be the end of our grief on appraisals, because King William remains a very desirable downtown housing market. This demand leads to increasing prices on home sales, which in turn leads to progressive gentrification of older neighborhoods.

In spite of what everyone reads about a nationwide slowdown, the overall San Antonio housing market remains strong, and sales prices of KW homes continue to soar. To put it in perspective, data for King William home sales documents a 27% increase in price, per square foot over the last 3 years. To be blunt, some King William homes have sold for more than 200% above Appraisal District valuations.

Specifically, there have been at least 55 home sales in KW subdivisions in the last 2 ½ years. Some sales in the section south of South Alamo sold for 136%, 141%, 241%, and 245% above the appraised values. These sale prices become fair market value, and are subjected to the Ratio Test, mandated by the Texas Comptroller. With the Ratio test, if the district appraisal value is not within 5% of the actual sales price, (I just cited 245%?!) the entire neighborhood valuations must be significantly adjusted, or school district funding is threatened.

More troubling is the trend to pay premium dollar for KW properties, well above the appraised value, then significantly renovate, or simply tear down. One example known by the Appraisal District is a home in poor condition, which was appraised at \$34,960 in 2006. The property was purchased for \$135,000, with subsequent request for demolition of the

house. That would make this 'land only' property cost \$15.65/sq ft. (Presently at about \$2/sq ft)

The Appraisal District's response is exactly what one would expect from the This year has sigabove paragraphs. nificant increases throughout the district in both land and improvement components. In 2003, there was a major upheaval in land valuations for the area north of South Alamo, attempting to establish a \$14.50/sq ft valuation. Following a major stink and independent survey, the land valuation for this section was set at \$9.50/sq ft, where it remains today. The sections south of South Alamo and the Arsenal section had no changes in land value until 2007. In the area south of South Alamo, 100% of the properties saw land valuation increases, with a median land increase of 72%, to arrive at a new valuation of \$7/sq ft. Arsenal saw similar 100% increases in land appraisals, with a 32% increase to \$4.41/sq ft.

Looking at the overall appraisals in KW, for the area north of South Alamo, 109 properties saw a median increase in overall valuation of 11.7%, with the range of value changes from 0% to 38% increase. The areas south of South Alamo saw median overall valuation increases of 40%, while the Arsenal section saw overall valuation increases of 56%.

There is some good news for our KW senior citizens. As of 2006, 92% of the tax bill is frozen at the property's 2005 appraised value, (or earlier for some components) with only 8% of the yearly tax bill impacted by these wildly increasing appraisals. (The 8% goes to the SA River Authority and the Bexar Hospital district) This means a nearly frozen tax bill in spite of appraisal increases, and this does not create a lien on the property or problems of inheritance.

In spite of this break on taxes for seniors, we must all remain active. We must contact our state legislators and insist on the mandatory sales disclosure bill. Commercial properties continue to benefit from expensive lawsuits the Appraisal district cannot sustain, and thereby 'reduce' the fair market value of their properties. They will then pay less in taxes. Commercial properties should be forced to pay their fair share of property taxes. And we must continue to individually protest the valuations in any manner that makes sense. Unless action is taken. we have no reason to complain. And we must hope this supercharged market for historic homes will cool off. Quickly.

John Doski

Bonham Elementary School Charter Proposal Approved Dear Friends, Neighbors and Supporters of Bonham Elementary.

We did it! The SAISD School Board unanimously approved the Bonham Charter and Pre-K-8th Academy! The greatest

thing was that several of the school board members wanted the district to expand the Dual-Language program to schools throughout the district!



We want

to congratulate the Bonham Charter Committee for an outstanding job, with special recognition to Bonham's Principal, Mrs. Dora Espiritu and her staff of excellent educators, for their vision, tenacity and leadership throughout the Charter proposal process and for pioneering a nationally-recognized, model dual language program which SAISD is now promoting as their "Crown Jewel"!!!

This outstanding accomplishment could not have been achieved without the passionate leadership of Helen Ballew, Parent Activist Extraordinaire, and Juliet Ray, Curriculum and Instructional Coordinator (and soon to be PhD!) who have devoted countless hours of work in crafting the charter proposal, educating parents on the process, and advocating to the community and school board members on the benefits of both the in-district charter school and the Pre-K-8 Academy.

We feel so privileged to have such an excellent school in our neighborhood that is supported so strongly by its parents, friends, neighbors, and neighborhood associations. A huge thanks to you all for all your contributions!

> Sincerely, Nancy & Chris Price

Brackenridge High School Receives College Board 2007 Inspiration Award

Congratulations to Brackenridge High School for winning the 2007 Inspiration Award from the College Board! The award is one of three nationwide given to the most-improved high schools. The College Board noted that Brackenridge had five students accepted to Notre Dame last year, more than any other high school in Texas, and nearly 70 percent of its seniors are accepted to colleges and universities. The award includes a \$25,000 check for college preparation programs.

King William Association June 2007 Page 13

Meet the Board.

Olin Strauss, KWA Board Member since 2006

What brought you to the King William neighborhood?

The short answer is the historical charm of the neighborhood. The longer answer is that Erin and I had always thought that we might move from Jourdanton to San Antonio upon my retirement. We looked at neighborhoods all over the city and finally decided that we would move to King William or not make the move at all.

When I retired as an active District Judge in 2003, I took Senior status and continued to hear cases by assignment. The great majority of my work is done in the Bexar County Courthouse. Erin and I continued to look for a home in King William driving through the neighborhood every chance we could get. One morning she drove to San Antonio with me, and, as always, we drove through the neighborhood on the way to the Courthouse. She picked me up for lunch, and, of course, we drove through King William again. It was then that we noticed a "For Sale" sign in front of the yard of 334 King William. It hadn't been there that morning and we later learned that it had



only been up for fifteen minutes! We called the realtor immediately, looked at the house that evening after court and had a contract on it the next day.

King William is truly an historical urban village in downtown San Antonio, and we knew that we would love living here. Our first three years have proved us correct. We are as excited about living here as we were the first day we moved in. Most importantly, two of our five children and five of our sixteen grandchildren live in San Antonio, too...and I must admit, being able to walk to work along the River is unbelievable.

I would also like to add that the River House behind the Steve's Homestead was the location of our fraternity parties in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Dr. Bill Crane, political science professor at St. Mary's University for many years, lived in the Carriage House at 222 King William. It was here that he held his famous "Beer and Bull Sessions". The students would gather with Dr. Crane along with various politicians and discuss the issues of the day.

What's the biggest issue facing the neighborhood that you want to address as a Board member?

I think that a continuing and obvious challenge facing the King William neighborhood is striking the delicate balance between maintaining a peaceful living environment while living in a beautiful, unique, historical and vibrant tourist attraction. It would be quite difficult to verbalize what the proper balance should be because the issue is not always clear-cut. I think that we need to strive to achieve what is best for our neighborhood and for our city. I have found out that people in King William are not bashful about expressing their opinions and we need an ongoing dialogue where these matters are openly discussed by all concerned.

What book have you recently enjoyed that you would recommend to others? What is your all-time favorite movie?

My favorite all-time book is *The Magic Journey* by John Nichols. My favorite all-time movie is *Inherit the Wind*.)

What's your favorite local hangout?

Local hangouts: El Mirador, Tito's and Madhatters

Bar: Joe Blue's Porch: my front porch

Shady spot: the swing under the big oak tree in my front yard

If you were in the Federal Witness Protection Program and had to relocate to any other city in the world, where would you go?

I would go to Rockport, Texas, or Guanajuato, Mexico.

What's your favorite holiday?

My favorite holiday is Christmas.

Do you canoe?

We have a kayak.

Letter to the Editor

Editor,

This is our letter of concern. In The Newsletter of the King William Association, Fair Chair Rose Kanusky referred to the neighborhood east of Alamo Street as "the Baja." To say Kanusky is ignorant of the concerns of the older residents of this neighborhood would be untrue.

During a Hike and Bike trail meeting, sometime in August of 2005, Mr. Jim Johnson was explaining his use of the term to Ms. Garza and myself, Ms. Kanusky was standing at his side. We informed both that we found the term offensive because of the racial history the term has for the area's Hispanic population. They, on the other hand, agreed that the Spanish word means lower, but when they explained that it was used as a geographical term. We asked why they didn't refer to our neighborhood as East King William, they did not answer.

The Hispanics who have lived and fought against the many efforts to suppress minorities in San Antonio recognize the "cute terms" used to describe mixed neighborhoods. Many newly arrived neighbors may not be aware of the examples of discrimination which have historically been found in San Antonio prior to 1968.* Discrimination existed in business opportunities, there were few Hispanic owned businesses north of Hildebrand Street. Discrimination existed in city employment, there were height requirements for police officers because according to the chief of police "everyone knew there weren't many tall Mexicans.' Discrimination existed in education, I attended Brackenridge High School with the exception of the Spanish teacher, there were no minority teachers-no African American teachers and no Hispanic American teachers. Also, only the exceptional of the very brilliant Hispanic students were granted scholarships, some minority schools had none.

When this term "Baja" is used by people outside of the Hispanic community most modern Hispanics, who never have experienced discrimination, will often smile and think nothing of the term. However, for us "baby boomers" who fought the fight to change the laws and traditions, the term conjures those negative memories. We ask the Newsletter not to use the term, "Baja King William," in referring to our neighborhood-the South St. Mary's/South Alamo Historic District.

Thank You.

Ms. Ellen Garza, President Mission Field Neighborhood Association Santiago Escobedo, 2nd. Vice President

*In 1968 the city of San Antonio broke away from the Old South and its traditions, and with the entire world watching, the city changed its Jim Crow laws and allowed Blacks and Whites to use the same facilities during HemisFair.

Out in the Garden with Alan Cash



Spring is a favorite time of the year, but always seems too short. If you put new plants in last fall and trimmed established ones around Valentine's as suggested, I hope your labor was well rewarded.

The temperature is increasing each day and it is about time to sit back and let summer take its course. Find time to sit under a shade tree with a cool drink and enjoy a summer breeze.

We have had several inches of rain recently and if you have drought tolerant

plants that do not look too good, be patient. As it gets warmer and drier they should bounce back. For some plants too much of a good thing is not so good.

The aquifer level is above normal, but do not forget to conserve water. The year-round restrictions not to water lawns between 10 AM and 8 PM still apply. Check automatic sprinkler systems to be sure they are operating properly. It is best for them to come on once every two weeks, applying about three quarters to an inch of water. Deeper watering less often helps plant roots grow deeper and become more drought tolerant later in the summer.

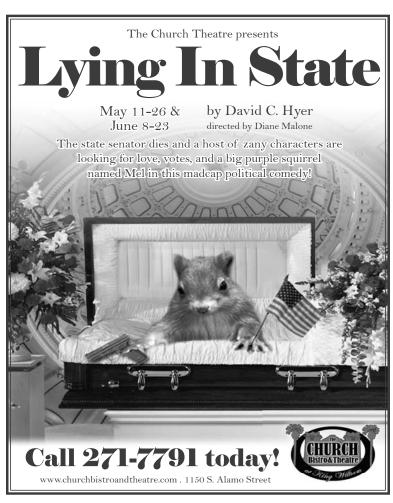
A good landscape plant to think about adding to your garden is the Sago Palm. It does well in pots or the ground, and in sun or shade. If planted in a pot, the pot should be at least 16 inches in diameter and height. Large plastic pots are cheaper and work just as well. The Sago has few pests and does not need much water once established. It does not grow as we normally expect from palms. It grows slow reaching only 3 to 4 feet tall and wide over several years. It normally puts out new growth in late spring and sometimes later in the year. It is evergreen and looks more like a large fern from a distance. Look for them in 2 to 3 gallon containers at the nursery to get the best buy. Add some compost to the hole or pot when planting to raise the iron content of the soil. Good examples of the Sago Palm are inside the front fence at 324 Adams St. These plants are several years old.

And yet another pitch for the versatile plant--the crepe myrtle. They are great if you want color in your garden but just do not want to get too involved in the outdoors. They are beginning to bloom and will last through a good part of the summer. The first to bloom is usually the tall white Natchez. Some were planted by the King William Association several years ago along S. Alamo St. between Cedar St. and the river. The blooms are fragrant and the trees will reach around 25 feet tall. Miami also blooms early and is pink. Some are along the Mission St. side of the parking lot at Mission St. and Forcke. Miami will grow to about 20 feet tall. There are dozens of varieties of crepe myrtles from which to choose and many people plant them at this time of year because they can see the color of the plant purchased. Besides color, be sure to consider plant height and mildew resistance. A free list with characteristics of several popular varieties is available in the box at the bottom of the bulletin board on the porch of the King William Association office at 1032 S. Alamo. There are crepe myrtles ranging from 2 feet to 40 feet tall. And the rule is that the shorter the plant, the longer it will take to reach its mature height.

Remember as temperatures rise to change the sugar water in hummingbird feeders every week. If not changed, the water will "sour" and the birds will stay away. Thanks to the suggestion of a neighbor, I found that cleaning the feeder with mild bleach water and rinsing it well before refilling helps. The recipe for the sugar water is one fourth cup sugar to one cup water. The sugar will dissolve easier in warm water. Let it cool before putting it in the feeder. Adding color to the water is not necessary.

Feed potted plants regularly, about once a week, with a watersoluble fertilizer with a 6-12-06 or similar formula.

Garden Note: If you garden your life is not busy. It is full.





Beer / Wine Coolers

1032 S. Presa San Antonio. TX The Torres Family (210) 533-2171



Basura Bash Wrap-Up

Thank you to the following people who came out on March 24:

- KW Neighbors Ed, Candace, Martin, Andy D., Marley, Barbara, Richard C., Robin, Scott, Mason, and Sawyer
- Brackenridge InterAct Club and Environmental Club Sponsors: Andy, Richard W., Michael
 - 5 students from Brackenridge High School

We had such a great group that we wiped out the graffiti & cleaned up all the trash in only 2 hours. We collected 40 bags of trash and completely painted over the big culvert below the Palm Park at the intersection of Crofton & Constance.

Robin Raquet

King William Neighborhood Crime Statistics* Top 10 Call-in Reports

March 2007 Nature of Call

# OI Oalis	
Burglary of Vehicle	12
Disturbance	10
Burglary	10
Traffic Violation	8
Ordinance Violation	7
Assault	7
Theft	5
Injury SK PR	4
Vehicle Theft	3
Criminal Mischief	3

* This is an excerpt from the SAPD on-line list of calls by neighborhood compiled by KWA member Molly Shafer.



Important Police Numbers

Please call and report crimes, suspicious behaviors, ongoing problems, ordinance violations (such as panhandling, etc.).

Consider entering these numbers into your speed dial or cellular phone book.

Officer Doyle is the KW area SAFFE officer. Officer Strothman is assigned to Lavaca but will respond to KW area calls following Erik Doyle's shift.

Emergency: 911
Non Emergency: 207-SAPD (7273)
SAFFE Officer Doyle's Pager:
603-9435 (M-F, 7am-3pm)
SAFFE Officer Strothman's Pager:
603-9433 (M-F, noon-8pm)

Code violations and patch through to police: 311

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

Report tour bus violations to SAPD: 207-7482

King William Association Membership 2006-07

(if 06-07 appears on your mailing label, your membership is current)

Name
Addt'l Listing
Street
State Zip
Phone
E-mail
Children (under 21, list name & month/
year of birth)

□New Member □Renewal

Membership Levels

□Individual (\$10) □Associate (\$10) □Family (\$15) □Friend (\$25) □Patron (\$50) □Benefactor (\$100) □Sustaining (\$250) □Business - ALL CAPS directory listing (\$50)

KWA is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization. Membership at any level is tax deductible.

Please mail this completed form with your payment to:

King William Association 1032 S. Alamo San Antonio, TX 78210

Thank you for supporting the KWA!

MISSION STATEMENT

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

(approved 3/19/97)

DECLARACION DE LA MISION

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

(aprobado 3/19/97)

2007 KWA Adv. rates

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



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Office Hours

10:00 am TO 2:00 pm, Mon-Fri Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the King William Association

King William Association's ACCD Brackenridge Scholarship Award Ceremony Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. ACCD District Office, 201 W. Sheridan

Join us as we celebrate the Brackenridge Class of 2007 ACCD Scholarship Recipients! Light refreshments will be served. This special event is scheduled in place of the general membership meeting.

The scholarship fund was established in 1986 by Dr. Ralph Wells and the KWA. Additional funding comes from donations from KW friends and residents, as well as annual support from the KWA.

GET INVOLVED! 2007-08 Nominating Committee Members and Board of Directors Needed

Please volunteer to help us shape a small piece of the future for our wonderfully unique neighborhood! Nominating Committee volunteers are needed to help identify neighbors that are interested in serving on the KWA Board of Directors.

Board of Directors candidates are placed on the ballot to be elected for a one-year term (September '07 – August '08) and are eligible to serve for three consecutive terms. Contact the KWA office for more information and to get involved!