October has been declared “Texas Archaeology Month” by the Texas Historical Commission to “celebrate the spirit of discovery.” Among the stated purposes of Texas Archaeology Month is to recognize the historic significance of the state’s archaeological sites. There will be many programs and events across the state that will highlight prehistory and early history of Texas. The Office of Historic Preservation and the South Texas Archaeological Association will be featuring an event that includes artifact identification and other activities at the Harris House at San José Mission on October 12.

But you do not have to go outside the neighborhood to experience archaeological history. A Spanish Colonial acequia system lies beneath King William. Acequias were aqueducts or ditches dug by the Spanish, usually with Indian labor, to move water through the early settlement and fields. There are several parts to this system that occur on both sides of the San Antonio River in the King William neighborhood. The greater acequia network was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the Society of Civil Engineers in 1968.

The map showing the various components of the acequia system (page 3) is based on the late Wayne Cox’s master map on file at the Office of Historic Preservation. Sections of Acequia Madre, which started at Madre Dam, now in Brackenridge Park, flowed down the valley east of the San Antonio River behind the

Archaeology Beneath Our Neighborhood

San Pedro acequia (Principal) at SAHA

National Night Out & Fall KWA Social - “Illuminating Evening”
Tuesday, October 1, 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
King William Park & Texas Masonic Lodge #8

Parade and opening flag ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m.
Don’t forget your luminous attire and glow-in-the-dark accessories and decorations! The SAPD helicopter will be taking aerial photos of our event and we want to be incandescent!

Come meet neighbors, local law enforcement and community leaders, play on Washington Street, enjoy refreshments and have fun.

Please bring a dish to share with friends and neighbors!
Thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me the new King William Association president. I look forward to working with the 2013-2014 Board of Directors, KWA members and businesses in our community. Much was accomplished in the previous administration, as we heard at our last general meeting from Deb Mueller, our past president. I would like to thank her, her board, committees and program managers for their many contributions. And, let us not forget our Executive Director and staff who represent us so professionally every day.

Recently, some of last year’s board members participated in a Core Capacity Assessment Tool (CCAT) exercise that presented us with opportunities for improvement in our core program development. But we also want to hear from you; therefore, we have organized a Member Input Meeting to be held this month on Tuesday the 15th at SAY Si. This meeting will support a KWA Strategic Plan to be developed over the next several months.

As we look in the mirror, I hope we see an organization striving to become an agent of change that balances our individual “wants” with the “objectives” of our charter. For that reason, we need more than just a talented group of directors doing the thinking – we need your participation. I don’t mean just raising issues; I mean actively participating on reaching balanced solutions that will serve the common good. Volunteering is not a science; you don’t have to be an expert in the area that interests you (see article this issue). The only requirement is your interest in improving our neighborhood. I encourage you to take ownership, get involved and add your voice in developing expected outcomes for our association.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you. Call our office tell them you are ready to be an active contributor toward the success of our Association.

Photography exhibit opening reception - Kevin Saunders is joined by members of the KWA Art Committee (from left), Susan Athené’, Anne Alexander, Sherry Hess and Molly Shafer, at the opening reception for his exhibit on September 5. Mr. Saunders’ photos are on display at the KWA office through October.
Alamo and down S. Alamo Street, eventually emptying into the San Antonio River across from Blue Star. A diversion ditch, or desague, fed off of this acequia along Wickes Street to the river at Eagleland.

Another important ditch, Pajalache or the Concepción acequia, followed the path that is now S. St Mary’s Street, beginning at La Villita and extending down to Roosevelt Park where it turns toward Mission Concepción.

The San Pedro acequia, one of the most important to the infant settlement of San Antonio de Bexár, tapped San Pedro Springs and was constructed about 1734-1738 on the high ground between San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River. It was to provide a source of fresh water to the Spanish presidio and the Villa of San Fernando de Bexár settled by the immigrant Canary Islanders, and to irrigate the fields of the villa, which were located on each side of the ditch south of the presidio.

As the villa and commercial activity grew in and around San Fernando and the main plaza, pollution of the ditch became a major problem, not the least of which was a tannery north of the presidio and the butchered and discarded human remains of two Comanches killed in the Council House massacre. The polluted acequia water was the source of severe cholera epidemics in 1849 and again in 1866. Problems with pollution and maintenance led to the abandonment of the ditch, which was officially closed in 1912, although it had ceased to function as a source of water by the mid 1880s. A segment of this ditch is exposed at the SAHA offices on S. Flores Street. Also, the Commander’s House on S. Main Avenue has preserved a segment of this acequia by using the acequia as a planter that can still be seen today.

San Antonio has the longest continuous cultural history of any city in the state. One might be surprised as to what history and prehistory lies beneath our streets, yards and houses, but that is yet another story.

- Harry Shafer, PhD
SARA’s Goals - Measuring Up

On July 1, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) kicked off a new fiscal year and annual goals aimed at sustaining and enriching life in the San Antonio River Watershed. One key area SARA is focused on is expanding our role in the implementation of sustainable land use and stormwater management practices in the San Antonio metropolitan area.

When rain falls on impervious ground cover, the water picks up and carries pollutants such as oil, gas, fertilizers, animal waste (and bacteria), Styrofoam cups, plastic bags, bottles and others that end up in our creeks and rivers. To combat these types of pollutants in urban areas, SARA is working towards expanding its role in the promotion of sustainable land use techniques, such as Low Impact Development (LID) and stormwater best management practices (BMP).

LID, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, is an approach to land development that works to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. Examples include preserving natural landscape features, minimizing impervious cover, collecting stormwater in rain barrels or gardens and using permeable pavements. By managing stormwater at its source, LID helps protect streams from high water velocities that can scour and erode the streams and from pollutants.

Stormwater BMPs are practices aimed at managing stormwater runoff and its impacts. For example, curbs and gutters typically direct stormwater flow to storm drains or directly into creeks at high velocities and with no means for filtering or screening pollutants. A BMP for curbs and gutters would include channeling stormwater through curb cuts into bioswales or rain gardens, areas that slow down the stormwater and filter out pollutants naturally.

If you would like more information on LID or stormwater BMPs, visit www.sara-tx.org.

- Rudy Farias

Remembering Robbye Hogg

Robbye Hogg died on August 28 at age 94. Many King William neighbors will remember Robbye and John who, for about thirty years, lived across the street from the King William Park in the big house with the columns next door to the SA Art Museum. They bought the house in 1978 soon after Colonel Hogg retired from the army. After John died in 1999, Robbye stayed on in the house until four or five years ago when her health began to decline.

During John’s army career, the Hoggs lived in five different countries. In a 2003 interview, Robbye recalled what she said was perhaps the most interesting experience of her life.

“In the late 1960’s, John was commissioned to sight, chart and inspect a communication corridor which ran from Karachi, Pakistan, winding through Iran and ending in Ankara, Turkey – over 6,000 miles. We loaded a truck with supplies – food, water and medicine. John and I, with our Belgian Shepherd guard dog, Rob Roy, and driver, Abdul Khan, embarked upon a journey that would take us eight months to complete. In order to attract as little attention as possible, we wore native garb, me in my burka. This was both for our safety and also respect for their customs.

“When we came to an oasis, we would stop for food, water and to refresh, but otherwise, we lived out of that truck. Sometimes we’d happen onto a railroad with a water tank and we would stand under the spout, pull the lever and take a shower. On cold nights with zero humidity, it was a fast freeze.

“We occasionally saw caravans and I’d watch them as they settled in for the night. It was like watching a well-rehearsed ballet. The camels would flutter down from the backs of the camels. Everyone, even the children had their duties. Tents were erected; fires were set and lit for cooking, rugs spread on the ground for eating and sleeping. After they ate, they gathered around for music and storytelling.

“Out of respect, I never ventured too close – certainly never took a picture. That would steal their soul away. We stopped at consulates along the route and when we arrived in Shiraz, we were greeted with the sad news that Robert Kennedy had been assassinated. Also in Shiraz, we saw the birthplace of Omar Khayyam, whom, I was surprised to learn, was honored there more as a mathematician than a poet.

“I was told that I was the second Western woman to make that particular journey. The first was an Englishwoman in the late 1800’s.”

For many years, Robbye took an active part in neighborhood activities, serving more than once on the King William Association board. She always took part in the Fall Home Tours. Robbye was spirited, outspoken and opinionated and never left you wondering what she thought.

- Bill Cogburn
Muertitos Fest 2013 – A Day of the Dead Family Celebration
October 31 – November 2, 2013

Celebrating Día de los Muertos, SAY Sí’s 7th Annual Muertitos Fest provides a comprehensive perspective of this significant cultural holiday and will feature local artists, folk art exhibits, altars to honor the deceased, family art workshops, food booths, artisan stalls, live music and dance performances.

Thursday Opening Night Gala, Thursday, October 31

A spirited celebration featuring iconic apparitions. Feast on Mexican regional delicacies and enjoy live music as you preview the student artisan work and altars. Play Lotería (Mexican bingo) with local celebrity callers and be the first to purchase our specialty folk art and artisan vendors traditional crafts. The evening concludes with traditional music in the SAY Sí black box theatre.

Muertitos Fest First Friday, November 1

The festivities continue with Día de los Muertos First Friday celebration. Enjoy the exhibits, altars, festive food and artisan booths. Participate in a traditional procession and hands-on art activities. Be entertained with live musical and dance performances on two stages throughout the evening.

Muertitos Fest Family Day, Saturday, November 2

A special day just for families! Get hands-on with various family folk art workshops and shop for treasures from one-of-a-kind artist vendors. Visit the Scholastic Literacy Caravan and enjoy a special family program of music and performances in the black box theatre.

For more information please visit saysi.org or call (210) 212-8666.
If you have been to the San Antonio Botanical Garden, you entered through a large stone building. That is the Sullivan Carriage House that originally stood on Broadway just a few blocks north of Houston St. It was dismantled stone by stone and rebuilt at the Garden to prevent its loss to development.

King William also has its own stone barn that was originally built elsewhere. At the rear of the San Antonio Conservation Society, at 107 King William St., is the Stuemke Barn built by August C. Stuemke downtown at the corner of Houston and N. Flores Sts. about 155 years ago. It had been part of the first San Antonio lumberyard, which Mr. Stuemke owned. In 1982 it also was rescued and moved stone by stone and rebuilt. At the time it was one of the last early industrial buildings left downtown.

Moving the barn was a joint project of the Conservation Society and Frost Bank. The bank financed the dismantling and reconstruction of the barn that is now used as a meeting space and for other functions. The pictures show the barn as it was on Houston St. in 1982 and now at its new home.

Many thanks to the SACS for the use of its files providing the details for this article and for saving another part of San Antonio history, which it does so well.

- Alan Cash

The barn today. Photo by Alan Cash.
Did You Know?

Did you know that placing an advertisement on utility poles regarding “lost pets,” “yard sales,” or “buy ugly houses,” etc., is illegal per city ordinance? These signs are called “bandit signs” and are considered to advertise “off-premise” activities or goods.

San Antonio ordinances Chapter 28-6, definitions states: “Bandit sign shall mean any sign posted on a utility pole, street sign or other street furniture or a sign posted in violation of this chapter in the public right-of-way having six (6) square feet or less of advertising area and made of vinyl, paper, cloth or fabric, polyboard, correplas, corrugated plastic, poster board, plastic core, cardboard or plywood including signs with wood or wire framing, posts or stakes. No sign owned or placed by the city, the state, or a public utility shall be considered a bandit sign.”

Furthermore, bandit signs are considered to be “abandoned trash;” see Section 28-153 Bandit Signs:

Bandit signs are hereby declared to be abandoned trash at the time of posting and may be removed and discarded without notice notwithstanding any conflicting regulation or requirement within this chapter.

Any citizen removing a bandit sign or other sign in the public right-of-way shall do so at his or her own risk, and neither the city nor any public utility exercising control of the right-of-way, pole or fixture shall be liable for damage, loss or injury due to such independent acts.

Why is this important information to know? First, it is against the law. Second, it creates visual clutter and eventually trash in our neighborhood. Finally, bandit signs are considered “off-premises” and are illegal in historic districts; Section 28-141 (b) historic districts: “It shall be unlawful to erect an off-premises sign in an historic district.”

Next time you want to advertise a lost pet or yard sales, try reaching a broader audience by using such websites as Nextdoor or Facebook.

- Cherise Bell

Welcome 2014 Fair Chair, Jeremy Nelson

Growing up as a nomad, Jeremy moved to King William with his wife, Alexis, after several years in New Orleans. As Mark Twain noted, San Antonio is one of the four unique cities in the United States, and so Jeremy and Alexis sought an area of the city that showcased this spirit. Their search landed them in our historic neighborhood. After moving in Jeremy stopped in at the office to pay his membership dues, and right then and there Susan Rothman, Fair Coordinator, enrolled him in volunteering for the Fair. The rest, as they say, is history! Jeremy has served alongside Jack Kent as Environmental Manager, bravely handling trash and recycling for the past two King William Fairs.

Jeremy is an avid coffee enthusiast, serving as a certified sensory judge for the Specialty Coffee Association of America. Unfortunately, as it turns out, drinking and judging coffee actually has a negative cash flow, so, to pay the bills, Jeremy serves as the science advisor to the Department of Defense Hearing Center of Excellence. He is also an adjunct research faculty member in the Research Imaging Institute at the UT Health Science Center. He has a wide research background, ranging from designing displays for remotely piloted vehicles to using noninvasive brain stimulation to enhance cognitive function in humans. Jeremy can sometimes be seen running around the neighborhood wearing a respirator and carrying strange objects like punching bags or flipping a tire (all in the interest of science, of course).

We welcome him as the 2014 King William Fair Chair!

- Zet Baer

Jeremy Nelson also tames triceratops in his spare time.
23rd Annual King William Area Yard Sale
Saturday, October 19, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Calling all participants and shoppers! Our annual neighborhood yard sale day is a treasure hunter’s paradise.

Here’s how to participate in this year’s sale:
1. Call 227-8786 or e-mail info@ourkwa.org by Monday, October 14 to register. Please include your name, address and phone number in your message. We will include your sale location on the map. Please let us know if you change your mind so that we can remove you from the list!
2. You must obtain your own garage sale permit. This can be done at the City of San Antonio Development & Business Service Center (1901 S. Alamo) or H-E-B.

Newspaper and online advertisements will announce the sale. The map of sale locations will be available online at www.kingwilliamassociation.org and at the KWA office by Wednesday, October 16.

Remember to sign up by Monday, October 14 to assure your listing on the map!

Artists living in the Southtown area are invited to apply to exhibit their work at the KWA office. Exhibits run for two months. Email info@ourkwa.org or drop by the office for an application.

Bonham Academy
Fall Festival
Friday, November 1
3:30-6:30 p.m.
Food, Fun, Games, Crafts & Haunted House
Everyone welcome!

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OUT IN THE GARDEN
with Alan Cash

Now that fall is in full swing, it is time to slow down, clean up the garden and enjoy a bit of a rest until spring. Throw out potted plants that barely survived the hot summer and stack the pots in the garage. If not done recently, fertilize shrubs and lawns with a good organic fertilizer and mulch everything in sight. Even in the fall and winter months lawns should be watered about every three weeks because grass roots continue to grow in our warm climate.

If there’s a need in your garden, November and December are the best months to plant trees. For a large tree, cedar elms and Monterey Oaks are good choices. Cedar elms loose their leaves in winter, and Monterey Oaks are evergreen, although older leaves are shed in March as new growth appears. Crepe myrtles are good picks for smaller trees and where you want flowers a good part of the summer. Basham’s Party Pink and Natchez are nice selections that grow 20 to 25 feet tall. Basham’s has light lavender flowers and Natchez’s are white.

There’s less natural food for birds during the dormant winter months, so put out one or more feeders for them, along with a source of fresh water. There are various types of seeds available for different birds, but using just the small black sunflower seeds attracts a good variety. Having birds in your garden is entertaining, and they help to control insect pests. I have not used any insecticides in my garden in years thanks to our feathered friends.

Garden Note: Art is the imitation of nature.

Landscaping in Historic Districts – Part 1

You don’t have to choose between water efficient or historically appropriate landscape. On September 7, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the San Antonio Water System and Villa Finale joined to present “Historic Landscapes Can Be Water Efficient.” In addition to freebies, composting tips and a plant sale, Charles Bartlett spoke at the River House and led a walking tour to gently critique neighborhood yards and offer helpful tips for water conservation that also promote historic preservation.

Charles is president of Green Haven Industries, Inc., a 38-year-old landscape design firm. He is also a past president of Gardening Volunteers of South Texas. Trained as a botanist, Charles credits his love of landscape to his grandmother, a self-taught gardener. Some of his suggestions are summarized here. (All errors are those of the scrivener, not Charles.)

Historically appropriate front yards focus on the house, with plantings that frame the structure rather than obscure it. When planning and planting, consider the mature size of the plant. You have more flexibility in locations not visible from the street.

Replace up to 50% of lawn surface with planting beds. Turf grass is a modern invention, after all. Charles prefers plants that are evergreen, low maintenance, bloom most of the year, and are disease resistant. If you must have St. Augustine grass (which originated in swamps), consider planting it in dappled shade with a drip irrigation system.

Gravel drives and paving strips are more historically accurate than concrete driveways. Decomposed granite will ruin wooden floors; choose 3/8 inch granite instead. It can be used along foundations and beneath iron fences to prolong their lives.

Buy from local nurseries or plant sales hosted by local garden clubs for the best selection of native plants. Check out the free 9th Annual Fall Wildlife Festival & Plant Sale on October 19 at Mitchell Lake.

Landscape changes require a certificate of appropriateness from the City. In November 2012, the City of San Antonio and Office of Historic Preservation adopted new historic design guidelines that address landscape features, among other things. You can get a hard copy for $20 at the One-Stop Development Services Center at 1901 S. Alamo, or you can download a copy at www.SanAntonio.gov/historic.

- Rose Kanusky

Newsletter
Improvement Plan

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

There are four special places in King William that, if you stand in just the right spot, you can listen to poets, artists, musicians, authors and other storytellers whisper secrets in your ear. These are places you’ve probably passed by hundreds of times: Arsenal Street Bridge, The Friendly Spot, the Madison Apartments and Madhatters.

Have you heard any of these mysterious voices yet? Probably not – unless you have a very active imagination or you’ve already become a fan of wabiStory, a smartphone app that allows you to listen to recordings by selected authors, artists and musicians when you are standing in a specific location.

wabiStory was founded by Ben Judson, a local writer, designer and web developer. The app’s name, wabiStory, comes from the Japanese term, wabi-sabi. What is wabi-sabi, you might be wondering? It’s probably best if I leave this definition to Leonard Koren, author of Wabi-Sabi: For Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers, who wrote, “Wabi-sabi is the quintessential Japanese aesthetic. It is a beauty of things imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete. It is a beauty of things modest and humble. It is a beauty of things unconventional…”

That is what Judson is trying to capture: The beauty of our imperfect, incomplete, unconventional city. In July of this year, Judson won a $1,000 grant from Awesome SA in order to help wabiStory continue to grow. In addition to the King William recordings, wabiStory currently has 15 other recordings across the city of San Antonio.

Judson is always looking for contributors to make more recordings. The primary intent of each recording is to enrich people’s experience of a particular location in the city. If you are interested in contributing, contact Judson at ben@wabistory.org.

If you are simply interested in listening, you can download the app for free in Apple’s App Store. A version for Android will be available soon, as well.

- Charlotte Luongo
Architectural Advisory Committee

The City of San Antonio preserves its unique cultural heritage by setting aside certain areas as historic districts. The King William Historic District is one of those areas. By ordinance, every resident or business within an historic district must have approval from the San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation before any construction, renovation, or alteration of a property occurs. This includes painting, landscaping (tree removal too!), fences and signs. While simple repairs may be approved administratively by OHP, many projects require review by the Historic and Design Review Committee (HDRC), an advisory commission appointed by City elected officials. OHP/HDRC approval is a mandatory first step in obtaining City building permits.

The KWA established the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) in 2007 for two purposes: to assist homeowners, residents and businesses by reviewing individual projects before presenting their application to the HDRC, and to provide citizen input on applications pending HDRC review. AAC members are appointed by the KWA president, and include neighbors with experience in architecture, design or art history as well as board representatives. The AAC is available to provide guidance in avoiding unnecessary delays in the historic review process, to share its members’ combined experience with similar projects, and to offer tips on how to proceed on a project.

The AAC will review your project with you before you submit it for review. We recommend that you bring as much visual information about the project as possible, including photos of the site, plans, sketches, elevations, perspectives and whatever is applicable to determining its visual implications on the neighborhood.

The AAC also wishes to share its collective knowledge concerning the architectural integrity of King William. Our goal is to guide, educate and enhance the understanding of residents and businesses about best practices for adapting our rich historic fabric to modern use.

The AAC meets at 6:30 p.m. on the Mondays prior to HDRC meetings (usually the first and third weeks of each month). Contact the KWA office to schedule an appointment.

For more information about the historic review process, visit www.sanantonio.gov/historic/formsapps.asp.

- Jack Kent, Jr.

Brackenridge High School students receive scholarships: At the September Annual Meeting we were introduced to many of the college scholarship recipients from Brackenridge. The students expressed heartfelt gratitude to our organization for giving them this support. Funds for scholarships come from Fair proceeds and interest earned on the KWA endowment at the Alamo Colleges Foundation. Direct donations to the endowed scholarship can be made online at www.alamo.edu/foundation. Simply choose Option 2 when you proceed and list the King William Association Scholarship as the designation for your donation.

The Alamo Colleges Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and your direct donation is tax-deductible. As the endowment grows, self-generation of earnings provide scholarships for students. Sometimes a small thing you do can mean everything in another person’s life. Please consider making a contribution today!

- Deb Mueller

Invest in King William – Volunteer

The King William Association is a nonprofit organization with a small staff that cannot accomplish all that needs to be done. Plus, the KWA works on issues that can impact you. There are plenty of opportunities to invest your time and energy as a volunteer.

The committees listed in the current by-laws for which members are needed are: Membership, Finance, Planning, Fair, Community Concerns, Home Tour, Tourism Management, Newsletter and Publicity. Committees that facilitate programs are: Graffiti Wipeout, Public Arts, Sidewalk and Socials. Neighborhood Watch Block Captains are also needed. Contact Patty Duarte at mspatty73@yahoo.com for more information.

You can refer to your KWA directory, call the office at 227-8786, or email director@ourkwa.org for an explanation about a committee’s activities. Together, let us invest in keeping King William the best place to live and work!
October Calendar

1   National Night Out & KWA Fall Social
    - King William Park - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
15  Member Input Meeting - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
    - SAY Si Theater
15  Deadline for submissions for November newsletter
16  KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
19  King William Neighborhood Garage Sale
    - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.