



King William Association

Volume 9, No. 8

September 2013

## *A Not-So-Secret Society: The Freemasons of King William*

**W**hen many people hear the word “Freemasonry,” they immediately have fantastical thoughts of secret handshakes, hidden treasures, and plots

for world domination. Much of this mystique owes itself to movies such as National Treasure and The Da Vinci Code, which are peppered with Masonic myths. But as any good historian will tell you, myths are often based on a kernel of truth.

For example, Freemasons do indeed use secret gestures to recognize one another. What these gestures are, I can't tell you ... my partner, James Rodriguez — a 33° Scottish Rite Mason — dutifully does not divulge this kind of information to non-Masons (including me). However, he can divulge a lot of other Masonic factoids. That's because, despite a common misconception, Freemasonry is not a secret society. It does not hide its existence. Freemasons advertise their meetings publically and gather in buildings clearly marked as Masonic Lodges.

Two of these Lodges are within our beautiful neighbor-

hood. This brings me to a second kernel of truth behind Masonic myths: Freemasons do indeed have treasures, but they are not exactly hidden. Many Masonic Lodges, including the

ones in King William, are architectural and historical jewels.

The Masonic Lodge on City Street, for example, was the first Lodge in San Antonio to accept Hispanic members. This lodge was chartered in 1935 with the help of Nat M. Washer, a prominent San Antonio Mason of German heritage. Mr. Washer was Jewish and appreciated that Masons accepted members of different faiths, so he felt Masons should accept people of different eth-

nicities as well. This Lodge, which was originally the home of a Mason, is named in his honor.

The second Masonic building in King William, the Texas Masonic Lodge No. 8 on Washington Street, was constructed for the sole purpose of housing a Lodge. This building's architecture, like its much grander and older sister, San Antonio's Scottish Rite Cathedral, harkens back to classical Greek and Roman structures. Of real interest are the



Nat M. Washer Masonic Lodge on City Street

- continued on page 3

# MY PERSPECTIVE

by Deb Mueller, President

Every August my family goes to the beach for a week before the girls have to go back to school. As I walked along the Atlantic coast this year, I thought about King William, both my neighborhood and our Association. Perhaps it was related to the high and low tides, or what washed up on the shore. Perhaps it was erosion of shoreline with dune restoration efforts to preserve it, or sand castle creations washed away with the next tide. Perhaps it was the diversity of marine life we encountered, from periwinkles to sand dollars, from nesting turtles to varieties of crab (including horseshoe, hermit and ghost), and from pods of dolphins to a shark!

The four-foot shark was caught by an unsuspecting fisherman in a cast net at dusk right in front of us. He didn't want it, but wasn't sure how to get it out of his net. My brother-in-law sprang into action cutting the shark free from the net and hauling it by its tail back into the sea as most sharks must constantly move to breathe. This was no easy task but he was rewarded with both admiration and a hug from his 12-year-old son who watched the whole event wide-eyed and breathless. This event started our week, so for the rest of the vacation, entering the ocean was met with some tentative moments. In the end, we plunged right in and were rewarded with wave after wave of fun. There were a few injuries from skim boarding and boogie boarding, but all in all it was a great time.

As I reflect back on the past year, I have done my best to lead the King William Association. I think there are similarities to be found between my beach week and my King William year. I dug in the sand creating sand castles, rode the waves, experienced unusual wildlife, tried new things, and found beauty in shells cast on the shore, sharing all of these experiences with the KWA board and staff. It was challenging, educational and rewarding at times.

At the September General Meeting we will present the KWA Annual Report and elect a new Board of Directors. I encourage you to come to the meeting and learn what the KWA has been working on this past year. Jump in the water and participate - nothing really happens if you just sit on your beach chair!



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Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

**LAYOUT** Angela Martinez  
Masthead design by Roland Rodriguez  
Masthead concept by Cherise Bell

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

Editorial guidelines are available online at [kingwilliamassociation.org](http://kingwilliamassociation.org).

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# The Freemasons of King William

cont. from page 1



Texas Masonic Lodge No. 8 on Washington Street

windows above the entrance that are laden with Masonic symbols.

Have you ever been curious about the meaning of these symbols? They aren't as mysterious as Hollywood would have you imagine. You've probably seen these same symbols on government, educational and religious edifices. For example, the two columns shown represent columns from King Solomon's Temple. Freemasons often depict these columns because they consider the builders of King Solomon's Temple to be the original stonemasons, and thus the forefathers of today's Freemasons.

In the center, you can see Jacob's ladder with three rungs representing faith, hope and charity — virtues Masons believe are needed for moral and intellectual progress. Above the ladder is a triangle, which is a common symbol of deity (including for Christians ... think of the father, son and Holy Spirit).

If you'd like to learn more about Freemasonry, visit the Scottish Rite Library and Museum (308 Avenue E, Mon-Fri, 10 am-3 pm). Alternatively, you can stop by our house and interrogate James (entry fee: a bottle of your favorite beverage).

– Charlotte Luongo

## Antidote for Home Tour Withdrawal

There will be no King William Home Tour this year. Lest you feel deprived, I want you to know that the Monte Vista Home Tour will be October 26 from 10:00 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 on Tour day.

Monte Vista is the largest historical district in the State of Texas, and offers a fine range of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture. The organizers are looking for volunteer docents, who, of course, don't have to pay, get to see great houses, meet new people and are invited to an "after" party at someone's beautiful house. They heard that I might know a few well-trained docents and asked me to get the word out. More information is available at [montevista-sa.org](http://montevista-sa.org), or contact [ecparkerarch@yahoo.com](mailto:ecparkerarch@yahoo.com).

- Anne Alexander

## Architectural Words

**Imbrication:** *The weather-tight covering formed by overlapping rows of plain or end-modified tiles or shingles thereby producing distinctive surface patterns.*

From the *Old-House Dictionary*, by Steven J. Phillips



Imbrication is often seen in Victorian-style houses, and the "modified" shingles are identified by the end shape of the shingle. For example, look at the shingles in the gable end roof of the photo above. Starting from the top then going down, there are five different rows of shingles types: square, diamond, octagonal, fish scale and square again. Overall, Phillips has identified nine types of imbrication styles.

### KWA Membership Directory

It's not too late to renew your membership to be included in the 2013-2014 KWA Directory!  
Deadline is September 30.

### Parade Survey

Please offer your feedback on the length of the King William Fair Parade.

Go to the link below and answer one question only. It will take just a few minutes.

Your opinion counts!

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# Bonham Welcomes Principal Will Webber

**B**onham Academy students and staff are gearing up for the year with a new captain at the helm: principal William Webber. He started his career in New Braunfels as a middle school social studies teacher and went on to obtain his educational leadership degree from Trinity University. He has worked as a technology specialist, assistant principal, principal of various elementary and pre-K centers in Hays ISD, and is now ready to lead the Bonham Bobcats. "It has always been my dream to lead a dual language school," says Mr. Webber, who himself is bilingual, having learned Spanish from his father who was a Spanish teacher.

"Parents are kids' first teachers, and they are natural teachers for their children," Mr. Webber reflected. He hopes to use the parent enthusiasm at Bonham by getting more "hands in the classroom" to help teachers and to strengthen the parent-teacher partnership for the benefit of all students. He also welcomes other adults in the neighborhood who might like to get involved at Bonham. With the aim of strengthening the mentor program, he encourages interested adults to come to the school for a few hours a week and help make a difference in the life of a child.

Mr. Webber considers Bonham an integral part of our community. "They're all tied together: business, church, social organizations, school," he says. "But the school is the cornerstone of it all." The heart of this are the relationships of the people who belong to the school, and building on these relationships - between parents and teachers, among staff, and within the community - is one of his primary goals for Bonham this year. "Our theme this year is 'Juntos Podemos - Together We Can,'" he said, smiling. He also has instructional goals for teachers, empha-



Principal William Webber

sizing literacy across the curriculum and quality instruction where students are actively engaged in their learning. "I like to watch how kids think and solve problems," he says. "And I like to analyze lessons with teachers to see what works and why it works. It's different for everybody, and that reflective practice makes for good teaching."

Of course, Bonham is not without its challenges, and this year those are centered around the construction plans for the school. "Our number one challenge has got to be dealing with our limited space," he confirmed. "Sharing space, our outdoor space, and the portables." All components of the new building have been agreed upon and the addition will contain a black box theatre, an art room, computer and science labs, and classrooms for the middle school students. "All renovations and additions are scheduled to be completed by December 2015."

Surely, the wait will be worth it. "The history and importance of Bonham to our community cannot be understated," he said. "Bonham has been a large part of this community for over 100 years, and has continued to operate as a school all that time. Its architecture and purpose are icons of our community."

- Dina Toland

## King William Scholarships Awarded

The King William Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce the Brackenridge High School students who have been awarded 2013 King William Association Scholarships. This award will assist the students through four semesters.

Nancy Delgado – St. Phillips College, Psychology

Jaime Fraga, Jr. – San Antonio College, Criminal Justice

Miguel Velazco – St. Phillips College, Psychology

Keren Hernandez – St. Phillips College, Dental Hygiene

The students will be formally recognized during the September 4th KWA general membership meeting. Invited are the recipients, their parents and family members. Also attending will be the volunteer mentors who will support and be a resource for the students as they enter this exciting and challenging endeavor. A huge thanks to the mentors: Cherise Allegrini, Ryan Cox, Aimee Holleman, Jennifer Hussey, Karen Krajcer, Nathan Morey, David Murphy, Kara Myers and Penny Wiederhold.

- Jennifer Morey

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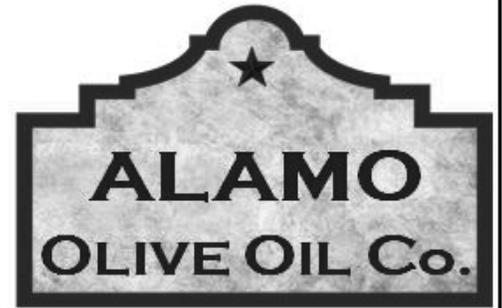
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### Newsletter Improvement Plan

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](mailto:info@ourkwa.org).

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# Mini Murals Moving Ahead

S an Anto Cultural Arts (SACA) approached the King William Association in January with a request to install ten “mini murals” measuring eight feet by eight feet around the neighborhood. In the spring, SACA conducted a community meeting to discuss what subjects the neighborhood would like to see in the murals. Based on community input, SACA students got to work creating some designs. At the June KWA general meeting, John Medina, Public Art Program Manager, presented their ideas.



SACA students with one of the preliminary mural designs

KWA staff and Molly Shafer, KWA Public Arts Committee Chair, reviewed potential locations for the murals. Two main considerations were kept in mind during the process: First, the buildings should not be “contributing” buildings to the historic district; and second, the building should have a history of being tagged with graffiti. Potential locations were presented to SACA. Mr. Medina and his students have checked out the locations, and will contact the property owners to gain permission for installation. After permission is granted, the KWA Architectural Advisory Committee will review the locations. Finally, each mural will be presented before the City’s Historic Design and Review Commission for approval. So far, two murals have been completed and are ready for installation once an approved location is determined.

- Cherise Bell

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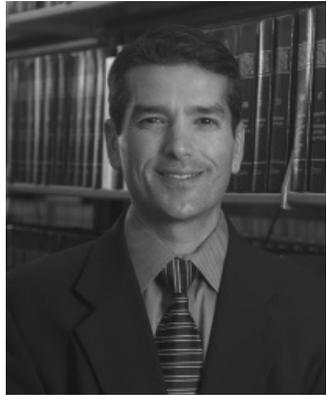
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# State Representative Mike Villarreal House District 123 Information For Homeowners

My constituents tell me they are willing to pay property taxes because they want police and fire protection, educated children and other essential public infrastructure and services. But,



they also tell me they expect to be treated fairly. When they believe the appraisal district overstates their property value or assesses

their property differently than a neighbor with similar property, they lose faith in government and begin to question the tax system's existence. This is why I authored and passed into law House Bill 585.

House Bill 585 will help boost public confidence by empowering taxpayers who feel they are being treated unfairly. It provides greater oversight of appraisal review boards (ARBs), which are the citizen panels that consider appeals from homeowners protesting their property values before they choose to go to court. Under the new law, it will be more difficult for ARBs to ignore state laws or consider improper evidence against a homeowner. ARB members will meet higher training standards and can be removed for bias or misconduct. In Bexar County and other large counties, the local administrative law judge will appoint ARB members, giving them more independence from the chief appraiser and local government officials.

Ordinary citizens will be able to see some simple but meaningful

reforms. For example, homeowners will be able to postpone hearings if they are left to wait more than two hours, and the scheduling system will be more user-friendly.

Another provision allows the taxpayer to be compensated for court costs: (1) if a taxpayer overpaid their tax bill and the county refuses to give them their money back; or (2) if a non-profit granted a property tax exemption by the state is not recognized by the county as tax exempt. It's sad that we even need a law for this.

Some local officials worry that these reforms will result in lower tax revenue. But my belief is that local officials should not be able to manipulate property values because they want more money but are unwilling to raise tax rates.

New office location: Our office recently moved to 922 S. Alamo. Feel free to come visit, and please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of service to you!

- Mike

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# Did You Know?

The King William Association Charter was submitted to the State of Texas on July 28, 1967. The purpose of a charter is to proclaim an organization's purpose and intent. Seven purposes are listed in the King William Charter. This article is about the seventh and last purpose.

*7. In support of these purposes, the corporation shall solicit and receive funds and real personal, or mixed property and interests therein by gift, transfer, devise or bequest, and invest such funds and property, subject to such limitations, if any, as may be expressed in any instrument evidencing such gift, transfer, desire or bequest.*

Cash donations through memberships, the home tour and the King William Fair are the predominant ways the King William Association receives funding. Real property donations have included the Big Pig located on S. Presa Street and the Caroline Shelton watercolor drawings.

Since the King William Association is a nonprofit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Donations can go to the general fund or to specific programs such as the scholarship program, historic preservation fund or community/cultural fund, targeting an activity or program important to the donor. Association Treasurer Joe VanMeter suggests designating KWA as a beneficiary in estate planning. Donations to a nonprofit organization can reduce estate taxes paid to the Internal Revenue Service.

- Cherise Bell

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# OUT IN THE GARDEN

## with Alan Cash

This summer's weather has been challenging, even brutal in regards to gardening. Temperatures of 100 degrees plus have been common and rainfall scarce.

From June 1 through this writing in mid August, only 6 and 5/8 inches have fallen in the King William/Lavaca neighborhoods. About half of that was in the first part of June. If nothing else, we should have learned what plants are better adapted to our warmer and dryer climate. Take notes for next year.



I have mentioned many times the importance of mulching trees, shrubs and flower beds. Plants that were mulched have come through the summer better than those that were not. If you have pot plants such as impatiens, periwinkles and begonias that have gotten tall and leggy, trim them back by about half. They should bush out and bloom again as cooler fall temperatures arrive.

Even with regular watering many yards that have bermuda grass have turned brown because of the higher temperatures. This is normal, but bermuda is one plant that is "hard as nails" and will green out again next spring.

October is normally one of our wettest months in San Antonio. Now is a good time to plan for new trees and shrubs to plant this fall in October and November. Also if you do not fertilize regularly, October is the most important time to fertilize lawns. Grass roots continue to grow through the winter even if sod above ground is dormant. Healthy roots will help the lawn to come back more quickly next spring.

*Garden Note: Gardening is one of the oldest, and richest of our folk arts.*

## New Businesses at Blue Star

New art businesses have opened at the Blue Star Arts Complex this summer!

Mockingbird Handprints, located in the Bldg. B, opposite Stella just off the breezeway, is owned and operated by artists Jane Bishop and Paula Cox. Jane is a textile and fiber artist who dyes and prints on fabric. The finished pieces are used in a variety of ways, including upholstered furniture, clothing and pillows. Customers can purchase fabric that has been developed at the shop or order from samples in the store. You can also bring in your own furniture pieces and work with Jane to create a new look. Jane also collects vintage linens and embroidered pieces to dye and work her magic, using a variety of pieces to create one-of-a-kind items.

Paula Cox is a print and paper maker. The shop features a new line of letterpress cards through her Red Sparrow Press. She also works with fabric, printing directly on it with her linoleum cut-out plates and using the pieces in pillows and furniture. Paula's artwork is on display in the gallery area of the store. Both artists are creating their own wallpaper designs, displayed in the shop.

Mockingbird Handprints is currently showing the work of other San Antonio artists, including Diana Kersey, Jennifer Datchuk, Rainey, Kathleen Trenchard, and Ed and Susan Malcik.

Other new businesses that have recently opened include Hello Studio and Zollie Glass, located behind Mockingbird Handprints off the breezeway in Bldg. B. Cinnabar Gallery and Robert Hughes will be opening soon. Don't forget that the studio artists of Blue Star are open in their upstairs galleries for first Fridays. And Blue Star favorite San Angel Folk Art always has something new and fabulous to see! Come by and visit all of us!

- Paula Cox

**If you haven't found it yet, keep looking.** **Don't settle.**



## National Night Out 2013 - Illuminating Evening

This year is the 30th anniversary of National Night Out, and the King William neighborhood will be celebrating with a fun theme, “Illuminate.” Our goal is to make our event “luminous” with glowing elements so that it will be visible to the folks in the SAPD helicopter who will be taking photos. Last year we placed first in City Council District 1, so this year we encourage everyone to come out and help us compete for the highest Overall City Ranking. Please join your friends and neighbors on Tuesday, October 1, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at King William Park and the Texas Lodge #8 AF & AM.

Suggested event attire is “Illuminated Fashions!” Not only will you stand out in the aerial photo and be a beacon of fashion in the crowd, it will also help you stay safe while walking or riding your bike. Here are just a few bright ideas: glowing or reflective gloves, bike gear and vests, LED wire costumes - anything that glows in the dark!

Come meet visitors from our law enforcement, Fire Station #7, mascots, Shiner Clowns, Shiner Burn Victims van, the SA Police Explorers Post #2449, Southtown Lions Club (with free vision screening), Otra Vez Biking and Adventure Club, H-E-B and more! Artists James Hetherington, Jacinto Guevara and Matthew Eric Mendez are just a few who will have art on display. The Kids Zone will be on Washington Street for children and adults to safely play games and ride on their cycles, skateboards or scooters. The opening flag ceremony will be by our Cub Scouts Pack 765 from Bonham Academy, led by the Masons.

NNO Poster Contest - Winning posters will creatively convey the theme of “Illumination,” and also incorporate the architectural uniqueness of our neighborhood.

NNO Illuminated Wheels Contest - Entries will be judged on the most “Illuminated” wheels, including cycles, scooters, skateboards and push wagons. You can sign up for contests during the event.

This event will also be the KWA’s fall social. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share! Refreshments will also be provided by Texas Lodge #8.

- Patricia A. Garcia Duarte, KW NNO Chair

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# Mission Reach Grand Opening Celebration

The grand opening of the last section of the San Antonio River Improvements Project along the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project will take place on October 5. The celebration will include an official ribbon-cutting ceremony with representatives from Bexar County, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), and all the private and public entities involved in the Mission Reach segment of the San Antonio River Improvements Project.

The community will be invited to walk, bike or play along the Mission Reach as part of the celebration. Participants can enjoy music at one of the stages between Padre Park and Mission San Juan, or stop by one of the multiple education sites, including the fishing clinic on the boardwalk at Davis Lake, or the San Antonio River Foundation's Confluence Critter station at the Padre Park pavilion. Paddling enthusiasts will also be able to participate in the first Mission Reach Flotilla. Paddlers can bring their kayaks or canoes to float several miles. Local food trucks and entertainment will round out the afternoon, with the celebration concluding at Mission County Park.

Once complete, the Mission Reach project will have transformed an eight-mile stretch of the San Antonio River into a quality riparian woodland ecosystem. The project is primarily funded by Bexar County, with additional funding from the City of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the San Antonio River Foundation. SARA oversees construction on the project and will oversee operations, maintenance and concessions when the project is complete.

Wildlife viewing along the Mission Reach is undoubtedly a growing recreational activity as wildlife habitat becomes more suitable and various native, and some non-native, species return to the river. This provides an opportunity for the public to learn more about these important species while recreating along the Mission Reach. Ultimately, local residents and visitors alike will be able to become good stewards of the watershed by learning how to "share the trail" not only with other humans, but also with other species of wildlife.

For more information about the Mission Reach Grand Opening, go to [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org).

- Gloria Rivera Rodriguez, SARA

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# 2013 KWA Grants Awarded

Since 2001, the King William Association has awarded over \$570,000 to organizations through our grant program. Recipients include scholarships, art, music and theatre programs, at-risk student initiatives, technology upgrades and literacy projects.

Using the proceeds from our annual Fair, and in keeping with our mission, the Association recently awarded nearly \$56,000 to eight deserving organizations in the King William area. Each year in the early spring we ask for application submissions, which are due in late May. The applicants faced tough competition and a comprehensive evaluation. This year a team of eight reviewers worked separately measuring each submission against a standard set of criteria. Next the results were validated, and then delivered in rank order to the KWA Board of Directors.

Grants were presented to our 2013 awardees at the general membership meeting on August 7. Congratulations to all!

See reports and more from our previous year's awardees on the KWA website.

- Beth Davis

SAY Sí	Program Expansion & Growth Support:	
	Middle & High School Programs	\$15,000.00
Jump-Start Performance Co.	Historias y Cuentos at Bonham Academy	\$10,000.00
Bonham Academy PTA	ArtSmart	\$15,000.00
Communities in Schools	Page Middle School Partners Program	\$1,500.00
Brackenridge High School Fine Arts Dept.	Pon La Mesa	\$4,000.00
The Classic Theatre of San Antonio	Educator Night at the Classic	\$3,000.00
Page Middle School	Pony Band Resource Project	\$3,100.00
Page Middle School	Choir Improvement Project	\$4,350.00
Total Awarded		\$55,950.00



**Brackenridge High School Fine Arts Department receives grant:** The KWA funds will support community and department collaborations to investigate and reflect on obesity and diabetes. In collaboration with artist José Chapa (photo, right) and his artwork/installation, Pon La Mesa, the project will lead to a campus-wide awareness campaign on this important health issue. According to Terry Ybañez (photo, left), Fine Arts Department Chair, students participating in this project will create a variety of items and products stretching across disciplines including poetry, art, cooking, theater, informational pamphlets and public service announcements, all with the goal of educating the public and the student body.



Exciting youth soccer has finally come to Central San Antonio!

Fall Registration ends September 15. Open to kids ages 4 - 14.

For more information visit [centralsa.org](http://centralsa.org)

## Calling Neighborhood Artists!

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](mailto:info@ourkwa.org) or drop by the office for an application.



## SAPD Central SAFFE Unit Contact Info

Main office: 207-7413

KW Officers on patrol:

**Officer Ron Strothman #0706**

Tel: 207-5176

**Officer Gilberto Santos #1028**

Office: 207-7413

Cell: 844-1246

# Historic District Neighborhood Landscape Workshop & Tour

Saturday, September 7 - King William Street  
*Free!*



## *Coffee & Compost*

9:00 a.m.-12 noon

**Villa Finale Museum & Gardens**  
**401 King William**

Gardening & Landscape Information  
Plant Sale

## *Historic Landscapes Can Be Water Efficient*

**Charles Bartlett**

Landscape Designer, Green Haven Industries  
10:00 a.m.

**Steves Homestead River House**  
**509 King William**



**Guided walking tour will follow presentation.**  
*Self-guided tour information also available.*



[GardeningVolunteers.org](http://GardeningVolunteers.org)

(210) 251-8101



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San Antonio, Texas 78210

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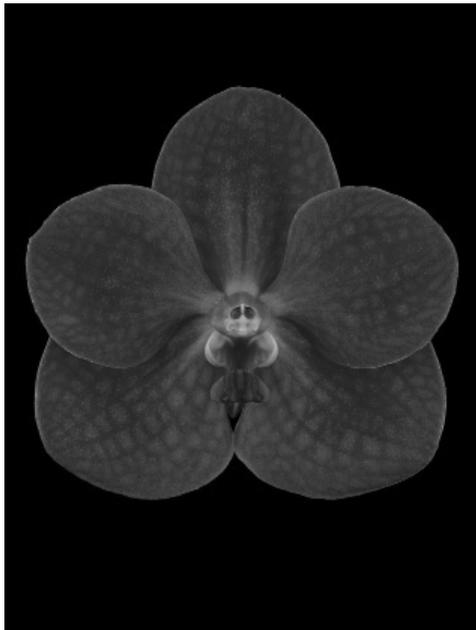
**POSTMASTER**

Please deliver by September 1, 2013.

**District 1 Graffiti Wipeout Day**

**September 21, 2013**

Volunteers needed for the King William Area!  
Contact Cherise at 227-8786 or  
director@ourkwa.org



Photographs by Kevin Saunders on display  
at the KWA office through October

## Calendar

### September

- 4 KWA General Meeting - SAY Sí  
- 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Opening reception for Kevin Saunders photography  
exhibit - KWA office - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 10 Deadline for submissions for October newsletter
- 18 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 21 District 1 Graffiti Wipeout Day

### October

- 1 National Night Out - King William Park  
- 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 19 King William Neighborhood Garage Sale  
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.