

stay in the loop

KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 10, No. 6

July 2014

Bygone Neighborhood Railroad Depots

The San Antonio and Aransas Pass railroad built a large wooden depot in 1884 at the intersection of S. Alamo and S. Flores, current site of the Salvation Army Store. On May 30, 1898, the depot was the scene of the departure of Teddy Roosevelt and his Roughriders as they headed for Cuba. In 1925, it was bought by the Southern Pacific and service to the old wooden depot ended. The SA&AP depot was demolished in 1939.

Somewhat later and still remembered fondly by many in the neighborhood was the old Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Depot, more commonly known as the Katy Depot. It was built in 1917 at the corner of S. Flores and Cesar Chavez Blvd., current site of La Quinta Inn & Suites.

The Katy began life in the late 1800's in Fort Riley, Kansas and built lines into Indian Territory, subsidized by the government's gift of land along such frontier routes. By 1873, the railroad reached the Texas border at what would become Denison, named after a railroad official.

San Antonio, meanwhile, a bustling town of about 30,000 people, was desperate to attract the most prestigious sign of real progress back then – passenger train service. Finally, after years of effort, on February 16, 1877 the first

passenger train arrived and half the city turned out for a huge parade kicking off a two-day celebration to mark the occasion. It was the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio railroad's Sunset Route that connected San Antonio to points east and west, linking El Paso with the Mexico Central route

to Mexico City and the Southern Pacific to Arizona and California.

By the time the Katy line reached San Antonio in 1900, the city was the commercial center of the vast South Texas region and the largest city in Texas. For a while, Katy trains shared the Southern Pacific depot on East Commerce, but the line was determined to make its presence known and

hired architect Frederick J. Sterner to design what became an outstanding example of the Spanish colonial revival style. His façade almost duplicated the two bell towers of Mission Conception. Behind the twin towers was a two-story waiting room with a 38 foot vaulted ceiling with elaborately carved oak beams, a tile floor, solid oak benches, extensive use of bronze, marble and other lavish trim. The overall effect was quite like that of a church, some saying all it needed was a pulpit or altar for services to be held in the waiting room.

The exterior featured terra cotta moldings, Spanish tile trim and carved stone door. The architect even ordered

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Fair Chair Thanks



Whether you actively volunteered or simply dealt with some of the inconveniences surrounding Fair Day, I want to say thanks for helping us, once again, showcase our neighborhood during Fiesta! Despite our event falling at the end of a newly-extended Fiesta schedule and contending with an afternoon Spurs playoff game, our Fair was a huge success and has continued to grow. This would not be possible if not for the hard work of our innumerable volunteers, sponsors and staff.

In particular, I would like to praise our Fair staff of Zet Baer, Carol Jackson, Monika Perez-Moad, Monty Baer, Syeira Budd and KWA Executive Director Cherise Bell. A very special thanks to Susan Rothman for all of her efforts during her time with us. Susan has been an instrumental part of the Fair for several years now, from working with sponsors throughout the year to coordinating all the radio traffic on Fair day, just to name a few things. She will be leaving us to spend more time with family—but, fear not, as she has already agreed to come back as a volunteer next year! We will miss you but are excited to welcome you back in your new role! If you see any of these folks around the neighborhood, please give them a big hug and thank you! This is by no means a complete list, as it takes the work of many individuals to pull this event off. If I forgot you, please forgive me and accept my most sincere thanks.

Though it may seem far off, we are already actively planning next year's fair. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how we can make things better, please let us know! And, perhaps more importantly, if you would like to volunteer to help, give us a call!

- Jeremy Nelson



COORDINATORS Susan Athené,
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.

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Vacant Building Registration Pilot Program

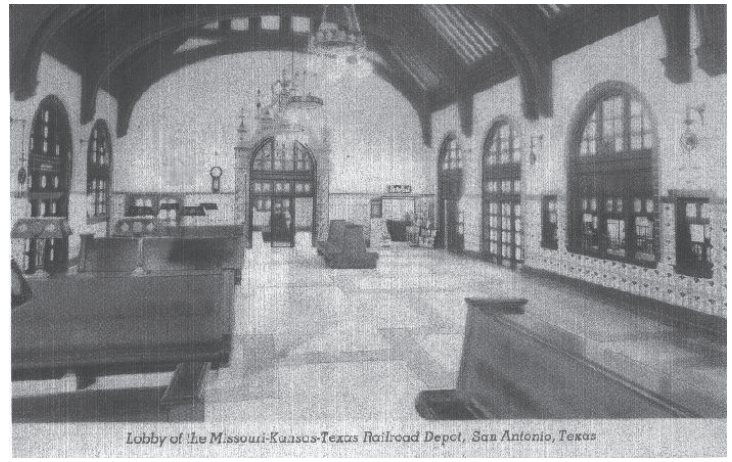
At the June General Membership meeting, Lori Houston, Director of Center City Development and Operations, and Shanon Miller, Director of the Office of Historic Preservation, gave a joint presentation on a new ordinance City staff is proposing the Vacant Building Registration Pilot Program.

The program would apply to all vacant buildings in the central business district, local historic districts, and any individually designated historic landmark building. Owners of vacant buildings would be required to register their buildings with the City and meet minimum maintenance guidelines. For example, currently boarded up windows is acceptable under code compliance codes. With this new pilot program, boarded windows would no longer be acceptable and all windows would have to be repaired and have glass. Other requirements include, exterior wood and metal surfaces are protected by paint, property address is visible from the street, structurally members and foundations are structurally sound, and the property owner must carry insurance coverage on the building, just to name a few. The annual registration fees proposed are \$250 for residential buildings and \$750 for commercial buildings. Fines for non-compliance will be \$500 per violation.

In addition to the registration program, staff is recommending that the City proactively enforce "stabilization orders," work with the Bexar Appraisal District regarding methods used to calculate the value of vacant buildings, work with Intergovernmental Relations to reduce the amount of time tax foreclosures, establish a receivership program for tax foreclosed properties and establish an outreach educational program to help property owners of vacant buildings through the process.

If approved by City Council, the pilot program will begin January 1, 2015. For more information, contact the Office of Historic Preservation at 215-9274.

- Cherise Bell



Bygone Neighborhood Railroad Depots

cont. from page 1

some of the roof and trim tiles to be deliberately broken to give the new station an antique or historic flavor. It was the Katy Depot that twice welcomed Franklin D. Roosevelt to San Antonio.

Although the Katy railroad was one of the area's most popular lines, passenger service fell into serious decline in the 1960s, and the Katy was among the victims. The once plush Texas Special between San Antonio and St. Louis stopped service to San Antonio in 1964. Many wanted to save the depot, considered one of the finest examples of railway architecture in Texas, but it was not to be. The Katy depot was razed four years later. Only the carved stone doorway was saved and is now a large window decorating part of Los Patios shopping complex on the city's north side.

- Bill Cogburn

Sources: SAPL archives; San Antonio Express-News; March 25, 1984

San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad, by Hugh Hemphill, author of San Antonio On Wheels and The Railroads of San Antonio and South Central Texas

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Good News Travels Fast on TripAdvisor

The King William Historic District was awarded a 2014 Certificate of Excellence from the world's largest travel website. Traveler reviews posted on TripAdvisor are consistently outstanding, putting our beautiful neighborhood in the top 10% of rated venues around the world.

Posted comments include "beautiful mansions and eclectic businesses," "dog friendly...wonderful mix of folks," "peaceful riverwalk," and, most importantly, the advice to "wear comfortable shoes." Congratulations to all of the King William residents and businesses for so successfully putting out the Welcome Mat.

- Nora Peterson



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St. Joseph's Awards Scholarships to Area High School Students

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Benevolent Association (St. Joseph's Society) awarded eleven \$1,000 scholarships to students entering their freshman year at a San Antonio area Catholic high school at the Second Annual St. Joseph's Society Awards Banquet on June 8.

Funds for the scholarships were provided by St. Joseph's Society and Hope for the Future. St. Joseph's Society is one of the oldest Catholic men's organizations in the state and supports Catholic charities and Catholic education. Recipients of the non-renewing scholarships were chosen based upon criteria including grades, class attendance, extracurricular activities, community service, church service and family income.

In 2013, the initial year of the program, St. Joseph's Society awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships. This year, with the dollar for dollar matching grant from Hope for the Future, the program was expanded to eleven. The Society has over 120 members who volunteer to help raise funds. The main fundraising comes from participation in the King William Fair and from rental of the banquet hall. The Society hopes to raise additional funds to expand the program.

The 2014 St. Joseph's Society scholarship recipients are: Stephen Benavides and Angelica Rose Flores, Antonian College Preparatory; Daniel Guerra and James Leal, Central Catholic; Alejandra Gonzales, Holy Cross; Briana Caballero and Daniela Cardona, Incarnate Word; Emily Hoog and Karina Mazingo, Providence; Edward Zamora and Angela Zavala, St. Anthony.

- Larry Wedige,
Chairman, St. Joseph's Society
Scholarship Committee



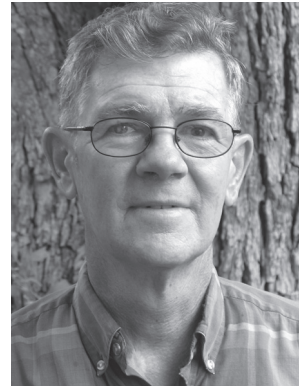
Brack Students Wins Art Award - Swellyn Silva, Brackenridge High School Senior, won the 35th Congressional District Art Award for the Annual Congressional High School Art Competition. Every year high school students compete to have their art chosen to be displayed at the U.S. Capital in Washington, D.C. This is the third year in a row a Brackenridge student has won this award. Swellyn's artwork, entitled "In the Light of Color," came out of a homework assignment to paint a self-portrait from a photograph to an oil on canvas.

Seen in the photo is Representative Lloyd Doggett, Brackenridge art teacher Theresa Ybanez, Swellyn, and her mother and sister at the award ceremony on June 2.



OUT IN THE GARDEN with Alan Cash

Summer is here and the warmer temperatures may have been the reason for the rain we had in May. Usually April is our wettest month, but almost ten inches fell in May. The rain caused the aquifer level to go up several inches, but we are still under Stage Two water use restrictions, so conserve as much as possible.



One way to reduce water use is to convert part of your garden to a xeric garden using drought tolerant plants. There are two more recent additions in the neighborhood. One is at 615 Cedar and the other is at 337 Wickes. Both use a variety of plants that provide color. A free list of drought tolerant plants is in the bulletin board on the on the front porch of the King William Assoc. office. Another way to reduce water usage is to reduce the amount of grass in your yard by installing a new patio. SAWS has a program that pays residential customers up to \$200 to help pay the cost of a new patio. The program runs through July 31st. For details call 704-7297, or go online to SAWS.org.

It seems that summer has just arrived but it is not too soon to think about planting fall vegetable gardens. Transplants should be available in early July, especially for tomatoes.

Hummingbirds are fun to watch from a window or as you sit on the porch or patio. Buy a feeder with several spouts because once it is discovered it should attract a crowd. The recipe for their food is 1/4 cup sugar to 1 cup warm water. Clean the feeder at least once a week.

Garden Note: Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. - Frank Lloyd Wright.

Boy Scouts Troop 10 News

Two Boy Scouts from Troop 10 and who attend Bonham Academy earned six Merit Badges in three months! The badges were awarded on May 20 to:

- Jared Duarte, for Athletics, Collections, Coin Collecting, Citizenship in the Community, Indian Lore and Orienteering
- Victor Romero, for Athletics, Coin Collecting, Indian Lore, Orienteering, Pets and Sustainability

These Scouts will complete their Tenderfoot Rank soon.

- Patricia Garcia Duarte, Cub Scouts Pack 765 Pack Trainer



Lucky's Dog-Walk Reviews

This month: Johnson Street Footbridge to Eagleland

This month we are heading south from the footbridge. From our starting point we walk on the west side of the river because for most of the way that's the only side accessible for walking.

At the start of our walk the San Antonio River Authority has some of the best grass rolling lawns in the neighborhood. A good roll on the grass will get this walk going, but there are very few other rolling spots on this walk.

Back when I was a pup, the boat ramp at the Guenther Street Bridge was the end of the Riverwalk. Now there is a new paved walk on the river. It curves under Guenther Street along the high wall at the flour mill to the Alamo Street Dam and Bridge. From the boat ramp to past the dam there are no trees, bushes or grass. It's a section of few smells and fewer places to leave a pee-mail. I suggest making quick tracks through there and sniff for landscaping below the dam.

After Alamo Street, the path angles uphill until it reaches street level at Blue Star. During the heat of summer, a night walk can be good exercise, an escape from the fierce sun, and along here is new path lighting for a safe walk after dark. More small lawns and a baggie dispenser are near the rear of the complex. Because the walk is wider here, there are lots of joggers and bicycles. Keep your ears up! Bicycles are quiet and joggers wear padded shoes. If they give a shout out, let them have the trail - it's safer for everyone.


Near the back of Blue Star is a gravel path that leads down to the river and a set of limestone blocks. They will take you across the river and on a paved walk up to the Palm Park at Crofton and Constance. This is the only section of river with a walk on the east side until south of Eagleland. If you need a shorter walk, this is a good way across and out.

The wide path past Blue Star stays at street level as you trot past the human benches and the large shaded picnic pavilion. At the short silos, a wall drops down from the walk and there is fencing all along the Big Tex Grain property. Not many dog-friendly spots along this section, but just before the Eagleland footbridge is a long stretch of grass. This footbridge is at the high school and is a good place to head home from.

You will smell a lot of critters on this more wild section of the river. We've seen turtles sunning on the rocks, and lots of fishes in the water. I once watched a red tail hawk eating a rat on the riverbank.

Because this walk has fewer grassy spaces, no dog water fountain, one baggie dispenser and only one side of the river for walking, it gets two paws up. But improvements are coming, so keep sniffing.

We'll smell you on the trail,
Lucky Bradley



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Lace Curtains



When I bought my house, all of its many windows were fitted with lace curtains. The whole house was re-plastered and re-painted before I moved in, and during that time all the curtains were stored in the basement. I had thought I'd replace them with new translucent roman shades, but my moving van was scheduled to arrive and it seemed expedient to re-hang the curtains and wait to replace them later. Eight years have passed and they are still in the windows. I've come to love the way they filter the light without blocking views of the green canopies of the trees and the fantastic ridge line of my neighbor's crested and turreted home.

As the sun tracks across the southern exposure of the house, the patterns in the curtains stipple the walls and floors and surfaces of table tops. In the pallor of winter the light through them becomes so diffuse it hardly produces shadows.

Lace curtains had important functional purposes, despite their frivolous intricacy. Before the invention of window screens they were a deterrent to birds and insects flying into open windows at ballistic speeds. They helped trap and filter dust raised on summer streets, and they prevented wandering eyes from casual and unwelcome glances from the sidewalk.

Despite having arrived in the U.S. in the 18th century, my mother's family still identified themselves by their Celtic origins, and always referred to themselves as "Lace Curtain Irish," meaning that they were comfortably middle class. My mother's childhood photographs are often posed beside towering windows cascading with yards of lace.

The only things she had in common with my Italian grandmother were her Catholicism, and a fondness for lace. Both of them were from generations who wouldn't enter a church without covering their heads, always with lace mantillas, often of extravagant lengths. In the summer, women at mass in my hometown cathedral carried lace fans. Their rhythmic fanning sounded like the slight flapping of dove's wings as they roost in my trees in the evening. It was a sound that was equally calming.

I've seen meters and meters of lace curtains in family houses in Italy, and have always been struck by the kind of mysterious veil they throw over ordinary domestic life. Something so insubstantial and so impenetrable at the same time.

My favorite scene in the elegiac novel, *Il Gattopardo* (the Leopard), and the gorgeous film that was made of it, opens with long lace curtains sweeping the marble floors of a Sicilian villa. The curtains move in and out of French doors, as if the house was breathing.

- Michael Guarino



Stories Seldom Told 2014: No Need to Whisper

An Artistic Study of Socially Prohibited Subjects by SAY Sí's Creative Youth

In our adolescence, we are given a set of subjects we should never mention. We are told which words are appropriate to say and which we should avoid. On July 11, SAY Sí's young artists will share with the public their artistic examination of these "taboo" topics with their exhibition, "Stories Seldom Told: No Need to Whisper."

Every year, the "Stories Seldom Told" exhibition series reflects issues that are rarely spoken about, with a focus on people who are often silenced. Students vote on an exhibition theme of their choice, researching topics that would subjectively challenge them and their audiences.

"This show applies a megaphone to our students' artistic voices for the social issues they find relevant," says Program Coordinator, Nicole Amri. "They become experts on these topics, creating artwork that will inform and change their community in an impactful way."

With the theme "No Need to Whisper," students sought to place their focus on issues that were not solely "seldom told," but on those stories that were completely forbidden from being told. They wanted to better understand the social parameters of complex taboo topics such as suicide, body image, violence against women, sexual identity, gender identity and religious extremism.



According to Amri, students are so troubled by societal expectations placed on them that they yearn to question what people consider "normal" to begin with.

"For our students, there is no 'normal,' and they wanted a platform where they could challenge fundamental ideas of normalcy," says Amri.

And the students are doing just that.

Junior visual arts student Sabina Vasquez says, "This show has allowed us to express new

ideas and dive into the world of the unknown. At school we're told not to talk about certain things. Here at SAY Sí, students are able to create art that expresses things that may not be normal now but can be normal in the future."

- Stephen Guzman

Stories Seldom Told 2014: No Need to Whisper An Artistic Study of Socially Prohibited Subjects by SAY Sí's Creative Youth

Opens Friday July 11, 2014
7-10 p.m.

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Parade Numbers

This year's KW Parade had 70 entries. That number however, requires a small explanation. For organizational purposes, we count as separate entries the different banner carriers at the beginning, and at the end. But the Parade team feels like that was a good number, manageable, diverse and interesting. From kick-off to the end crossing the finish line, this year the Parade lasted 1 hour and 50 minutes, a good time. We started a half hour early at 9:30 to get in and out of The Zone more quickly, permitting more sales time for the vendors. The Parade was in The Zone just over an hour.

Part of the philosophy of the Parade is that it is "local," so we try and include as many entries from the 'hood and contiguous neighborhoods as we can. While we strive for fairly broad diversity, we want to include as many schools and kid entries as possible. This year we had 21 entries from schools or kid-focused organizations. We had 22 entries from the 'hood and contiguous neighborhoods. And this year we noticed a new demographic growth – entries from organizations that are not just non-profits, but whose mission is bringing health awareness, like the American Diabetes Association, the San Antonio Children's Hospital, San Antonio Dental Hygienists, Smile Kings Orthodontics, PeriOperative RN/OR Nurses, Mustache Your Way (prostate health).

The King William Parade has started working on next year's parade. Guess what? It will be the best one ever!

- Sue Duffy

2014 King William Parade Award Winners

Last year the Parade reinstated its practice of giving awards. We ask a group of people who watch the whole Parade (and have nothing to do with the organization thereof) to assume the “Awards Team” responsibility. This group comprises “The End” of the Parade, Doris and Bennie Regner, their adult kids, Travis and Rachel, their grandson Memphis, and a couple of their friends. The categories are somewhat similar each year, but the criterion is always “The Best.”

We are proud to announce the 2014 King William Parade winners:

Best in Show #25 Build San Antonio Green

Best Kid's Entry #7 Children's Hospital of San Antonio

Best Visuals #35 Magik Theatre

Most Original #47 Heart of Texas Skaters/Sugar Skulls

Best Live Music #25 Build San Antonio Green

Best in the 'Hood #60 Mission Trail Bike Riders San Antonio

Best Vehicle #3 Blue Star Brewery

Thanks so much to the winners and to all of the Parade participants who work so hard to create their fantastic entries, practice their entertainment, their marching skills, then get up at o’dark thirty to line-up, all for free and out of the goodness of their entertaining hearts to make a spectacular parade, a parade that is unique in San Antonio, to share their talent, enthusiasm and special creativity.

- Sue Duffy



Project updates

Blue Star Phase 2 (Big Tex) had its groundbreaking ceremony on May 30 to kick off the construction portion of the project, which will include 336 apartments, wrapped around a parking garage, and 8,000 square feet of retail space. Currently the developer is looking to divide the retail space into two units, a restaurant and a coffee shop. The project should be completed by spring 2016.

Across the street at Probandt and Cevallos Streets, “The Slab” received zoning for a 190-unit apartment complex, wrapped around a tenant parking garage. This project is not zoned with any “overlay zoning” so there will not be a public process regarding the design.

Across from the SAHA offices, at the Corner of S. Flores and Guadalupe Streets, behind the small commercial building, the property just received a zoning change to allow for multi-family housing to be constructed. According to the developer, the units will look similar to the row houses located at 1117 S. Presa Street.

Finally, all the construction for the railroad silent crossing has been completed and the City has submitted an application to the Federal Railroad Administration and Union Pacific Railroad for approval. This will take an estimated six months for the entities to review. I was reminded by city staff that once the silence crossings are approved, if a train engineer feels there is a danger on or adjacent to the railroad tracks, the engineer still has the legal right to blow his horn.

- Cherise Bell

SAPD Central SAFFE

Unit Contact Info

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KW Officers on patrol:

Officer Robert Esquivel
Office: 207-7413

Officer David McCall
Tel: 207-7413

Journey to King William – A Time Traveler's Memoir

The mid-1970s, I was an idealistic college student who revered history, antiques and the quiet magnificence of historic homes. Since my childhood, my family had often driven through the King William neighborhood to admire its stately mansions and pay tribute to the gingerbread-laced Victorian homes and cozy Craftsman bungalows that populated the landscape of a bygone era. Though many houses were in various states of disrepair, they all stood proud - undaunted by 20th century progress. These homes fascinated me and instilled in me an appreciation for their timeless beauty.



The history from the KWA files on 338 Madison says that the home was built circa 1900 in the Neo-Classical style with oak floors inlaid with walnut. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Berman were the original owners. In 1928-29 the house was converted to a nursing home, and in the 1970s the house was restored back to a single-family residence.

When my father - who perused the Sunday edition of the San Antonio Light from its opening headline to the final word on the final page - would spy an ad for a King William home that was up for sale, he would declare an impromptu family jaunt to the familiar surrounds for a first-hand look-see, whereupon my family would pile into our Plymouth which would transport us back in time.

On one such occasion circa the mid-70s, the striking, Corinthian-columned residence at 338 Madison Street was listed for the (then) princely sum of \$92,000. From St. Mary's, Dad made a left turn onto Madison, and within the span of a minute, there she stood before us - a bit weathered and careworn, but none-the-less, a magnificent vision to behold. We were excited at having the opportunity to get an "insider's" view.

When we entered the house, the talkative realtor was chatting up an interested couple, so, relieved to be left alone, we proceeded to explore the spacious interior. The grande dame was bare of furnishings, but her good bones were in full view. Fine, solid woodwork could be admired at every glance. The balustrade that framed the staircase reflected the artistry of a skilled European-trained craftsman's handiwork.

Upon our departure, each member of my family quietly fantasized that we were leaving "our" residence; we would often engage in such day-dreaming when visions of an open house danced in our heads.

Fast-forward to the present... For over a decade, I have been the proud owner of a wonderful home in the King William neighborhood. So sometimes, a time traveler's dream does come true.

- Travis M.



Bike Rodeo Winners - Kate and Liana Hartman, 1st and 3rd place winners in the San Antonio City-Wide Bike Rodeo, Girls Kinder through First Grade group, May 31 at the Convention Center. They were invited to participate in the City-Wide contest after winning first place in their grade levels at Bonham Academy. The annual event is sponsored by the SAPD and the San Antonio Area Optimist Clubs to promote bicycle safety and riding skills.

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 contribu-
tions to the KWA newsletter
are welcome! Please send to
info@ourkwa.org.



KWA Helping Here - The SAPD Explorers conducted a bicycle academy. This is rigorous training! Out of 16 Police Explorers who participated, only four graduated. One student, Central Post Police Explorer Andrew Guerrero, was helped by his practice time on one of the bicycles donated by the King William Association.

Above are the 2014 Explorer Bike School graduates, Andrew Guerrero is far left. Way to go Andrew!
 - Patty Duarte

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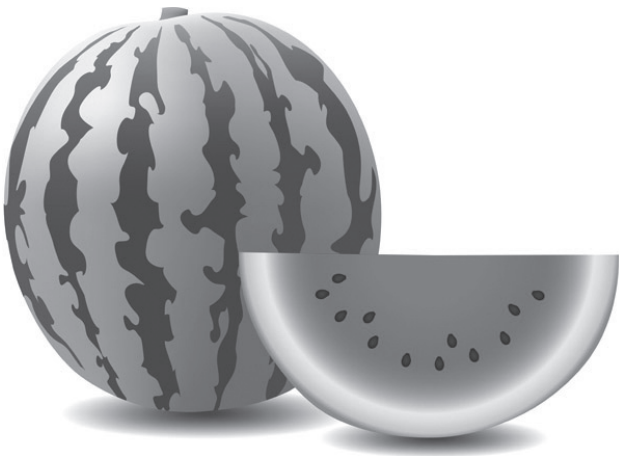


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July Calendar

- 4 KWA Summer Social - Upper Mill Park - 11:30 a.m.
Everyone welcome! Please bring a dish to share with friends and neighbors.
- 8 Deadline for submissions for August newsletter
- 13 River concert - Austin Piazzolla Quintet -
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- 16 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

