

stay in the loop

KWA newsletter

King William Association

Volume 11, No. 9

October 2015

National Night Out – KWA Fall Social **Tuesday, October 6** **7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Come on out and join your neighbors and friends on October 6 for fellowship and to strengthen community partnerships with crime prevention and safety programs.

Featured National Night Out activities:

- SAFD Station #7 will be offering fire safety information for Fire Safety month and tours of the fire truck, as well as free stickers for children.
- SAPD Downtown Bike Patrol will be giving Free Hugs!
- San Antonio Police Explorers Post #2459 will provide free fingerprinting for children.
- Visits from our SAFFE Officers and city and government representatives.
- HEBuddy will bring free goodies, courtesy of HEB McCreless Market.
- The Commander's House volunteers will provide activities for children.



National Night Out will also be observed at 219 Mission Street at Forcke. Main dish and beverages provided at both locations. Please bring a side dish to share. Stop by and visit with your neighbors at both locations!

Volunteers needed! Call the KWA office if you have time to help.

- Patricia Garcia Duarte (Patty), Social Program Chair
Ethel Pedraza, NNO Chair

King William Area 25th Annual Yard Sale **Saturday, October 17, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Don't forget to get your individual City permit! Call the KWA office by Monday, October 12 to get your yard sale listed on the map. KWA will post ads in newspaper and online social media. Lavaca neighborhood is also planning to have its neighborhood yard sale on the same day/time.

Donations Needed

This year KWA will have its own yard sale. Donations accepted at the KWA office after Wednesday, October 7. Drop off between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Special drop-off day will be Saturday, October 10, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Sorry, no clothing will be accepted.

For more info, call Yard Sale Co-Chairs Anne Alexander at 277-2775 and Patty Duarte at 264-3561, or the KWA office at 227-8786.

Beckmann Ranch and the Merry Knights of King William

Our consulting firm, Abasolo Archaeological Consultants, conducted an archaeological survey of the Madla Natural Area property in Grey Forest in 2011 and recorded a small board and batten historic structure that dates to the 19th century. Researching this structure and property led us back to King William.

The first settlement of the area, part of which is today the Madla Natural Area property near Helotes, was by John Conrad Beckmann (1815-1907). A German immigrant, Beckmann was a blacksmith and wrought-iron craftsman at the time that he and his wife (Regina Mueller) moved to San Antonio, with their first child, Heinrich. Their youngest child, Albert, became a well known architect and built the house at 222 E. Guenther St. The Beckmann Ranch was formed in 1852, when it was purchased from early San Antonio developers Thomas Devine and F. Giraud.

There is considerable information (and a fair amount of myth) surrounding the ranch, Indian raids, land transfers, deeds, buildings and the like. Presently, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library have archived the John Conrad Beckmann Papers, with further materials being added at the time of this report by David and Myrna Langford. Deeds dealing with lands associated with the Beckmann Ranch can be found at the Office of the County Clerk, along with many deeds involving John Conrad Beckmann's property acquisitions within San Antonio.

The Beckmann Ranch consisted of 320 acres of hills, canyons and farmlands, cut by Helotes Creek. At the time, the locality was known as "Canon de los Helotes" and had few settlers. It is reported that Beckmann promised his wife, Regina, that he would build her a "Swiss chalet" in light of homesickness for her native Switzerland. The reference to a "Swiss chalet" must have been a joke, because the first house built on the property was a house of sticks (Susan Beavin, personal communication, 2011). Presumably it was this house that was built in 1852-1853 and was later replaced by the board and batten structure. The Beckmanns lived in San Antonio and only occasionally visited their "country" property. They hired a "Mexican family" to be caretakers at the ranch. All members of that family were killed by "Indians" in 1853, at a time that the family was reportedly living in the "Swiss chalet" (Massey 2008: 43). This was one of several such raids in the area in that year.

The ranch was used by a variety of individuals for a variety of reasons up through the 1920s. One deed of note in the Office of the Bexar County Clerk, dated August 3, 1905, apparently involves the sale, for \$1.00, of 344 acres in the "Canon de Helotes." John A. Beckmann (second son) apparently sold this property back to his father, John C.



Beckmann's Helotes cabin in 1907. Left to right: Mr. Martines, Albert Beckmann, Herman Schuchard and John C. Beckmann.

Photo provided by Susan Beavin.



COORDINATORS Susan Athené,
Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

LAYOUT Angela Martinez
MASTHEAD DESIGN
Roland Rodriguez
MASTHEAD CONCEPT Cherise Bell

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion(s) of the Board of Directors of the KWA. Editorial guidelines are available on-line at kingwilliamassociation.org.

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KWA 2015 Grant Awards

Since 2000, the first year of the KWA Grants program, a total of \$637,636 has been granted to organizations in the King William area. Project efforts include art, music and theatre programs, at-risk student initiatives, technology upgrades, meaningful capital improvements, health and safety corrective measures, and literacy projects.

With the proceeds from our annual King William Fair and in keeping with our mission, the KWA recently awarded \$67,410 to nine highly qualified organizations. Each year in the spring we ask for grant applications, which are due in late June. The applicants face tough competition and a very comprehensive evaluation. This year a team of nine evaluators worked separately measuring each submission against a standard set of criteria. The results were validated, and then delivered in rank order to the KWA Board of Directors for their consideration and adjustment.

Awards were presented to our 2015 grantees at the General Membership Meeting on September 2. Congratulations to all!

- Beth Davis
Chair, KWA Grants Program



Dolores Valles (center), and her daughter, accept the grant award for the ArtSmart project for Bonham Academy from Beth Davis, left.

Organizations, Awards and Projects

- Brackenridge HS Theater Dept. – \$9,635 for 21st Century Lighting
- Bonham Academy – \$2,500 for An Apple TV a Day Keeps Bobcat Minds Engaged
- Bonham Academy PTA – \$15,000 for ArtSmart
- Blue Star Contemporary Art – \$5,000 for Blue Star Capital Improvements
- Bonham Academy – \$ 6,820 for Bonham Black Box Theatre equipment
- SAY Sí – \$15,000 for Expansion & Growth: Middle & High School Students
- Jump-Start – \$6,000 for Historias y Cuentos - Stories & Tales at Bonham
- Page Middle School – \$4,995 for Pony Band Resources Equipment and Uniforms
- Cannoli Fund – \$2,460 for Community Cat Carpool

Board Approves 2016 KWA Budget

During the Strategic Planning meetings in 2014, members asked for more funding for programs and activities related to the KWA Charter. One metric or goal in the approved KWA Strategic Plan is “increase distribution of funds by 5%.” Your Board has exceeded that goal! As reported in Beth Davis’s article on the grant recipients this year, KWA awarded \$67,410 in grants – an almost 14% increase over last year’s distribution of \$59,200.

But wait – there’s more! The KWA Board-approved 2016 budget includes the following fund distributions:

- \$6,500 for the STAR program to fund exterior repairs for five houses in King William (as reported in the September newsletter)
- \$15,000 for the KWA Endowed Scholarship Fund at Alamo Community Colleges to provide scholarships for Brackenridge High School Seniors
- \$30,000 for sidewalk repairs
- \$4,000 to the City to assist in trimming the trees in Upper Mill Park
- \$2,500 for tree maintenance along S. Alamo Street right-of-way and the KWA/Lavaca tree beautification project

Finally, in 2016 the Board will investigate the possibilities of creating a “brick and mortar” program. The Fair, memberships and home tour make this funding possible. Thank you for your support of the KWA.

- Cherise Bell

Collecting Cochineal

I have been scraping white fuzz found on some of the cactus along E. Guenther Street to collect female cochineal bugs used in dyeing wool. This dyed wool is then used at Mission Espada to demonstrate weaving. It has been a fun and informative experience to take a bug and convert it to a dye bath that results in beautiful pinks, reds, purples and lavenders.

We are lucky to have so much information about ancient processes readily available through our library and the Internet. The two principal resources that I have used are *A Dyer's Manual*, by Jill Goodwin (Pelham Books, London, 1982) and *Cochineal: A Bright Red Animal Dye*, by LaVerne M. Dutton (1992 Master of Science Thesis, Environmental Archeology, Baylor University). If you have a cactus that is covered with white fuzz, let me know. I may want to collect some more bugs. I will be glad to share the detailed process how to collect and prepare the bugs for dyeing.

Here is an abbreviated summary:

1. Collection: Locate a spineless cactus plant where some leaves are substantially covered with white fuzz. That protective fuzz covers a group of black bugs that are sucking the juices from the cactus, much like a tick sucking on you. Use water to gently wash the fuzz away, then scrape the black bugs off the leaf into a pan. It takes 177,000 bugs to make a pound of cochineal powder!



Ed Day, right, is assisted by neighbor Bryce Milligan in collecting cochineal from nopal on E. Guenther St.

2. Killing, drying and cleaning: Put the bugs in a large wire tea canister, about 3" in diameter, and put that canister in a boiling pot of rain water for 5 minutes to kill the bugs. Drain and store the purple

water to use in the dyeing process. Dry the bugs in open air for several days. The purpose is to dry out all of the moisture in the bug. If they are stored damp, it quickly forms a moldy mess. It still can be used but one loses control of the process. Once the bugs are dried, brush them back and forth over wire screen and collect all of the dust, which is combination of cochineal bug and the white nest. That dust is compromised, but can be used in the dye bath.



Bryce sprays the cochineal with water and Ed scrapes them off the nopal pads.

3. Making dye powder: I use 120 grit open sanding wire that allows me to ground powder to drop into a pan. I further grind it with a mortar and pestle. When I obtain 1/4 oz. or 10 grams of pure powder, I can then dye about 4 oz. of wool in a gallon of water. The controlled result is a strong red. I can then dye a second batch of wool in that same bath and obtain a light pink.

Now you know why the Spanish kept a monopoly on the process for 200 years and called it "red gold."

- Edward Day

Tip o' the hat to Belinda Molina! - Editor

**SAPD Central
SAFFE Unit Contact Info**
Main office: 207-7413

KW SAFFE Officers on patrol:

Officer Robert Esquivel Officer David McCall
Tel: 207-7413 Tel: 207-7413

Beckmann Ranch and the Merry Knights of King William

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Beckmann, with this deed. Obviously, a great deal of deed research would have to be done to follow all of the land sales involved the Beckmann Ranch; John C. Beckmann was about 90 years old at this time.



Beckmann's Helotes cabin as it stands today.

Beckmann Hill was a popular destination for hunting parties, and the ranch was used as a hunting retreat by the Beckmanns and their friends and relatives in the late 19th and well into the 20th century. Remnants of the board and batten hunting lodge or cabin used by the Beckmanns and the Beckmann boys' friends remains as shown by the graffiti still on the walls. It was also a popular hunting retreat for the members of the Merry Knights of King William.

The historic connection of the Beckmann historic cabin at the Madla Natural Area property to King William is related in the history of this interesting men's club compiled by Walter Berman and Kurt Beckmann, both former members of the club. The Merry Knights of King William was a secret society organized in 1909 by several King William neighborhood teenagers, Willard Berman, Arthur L. Bergstrom and Walter G. Giesecke (Bergstrom 1976). Joining them at that time were Percy W. Clarkson, Frederick W. Bolinger, Werner N. Beckmann, Albert Beckmann, Henry Pancoast, Harry Ankerson, George Henyan and Ernst F. Schuchard. By 1916 there were 29 members and by 1975 the list included 109 names of members and former members, many of them deceased by that time.

This organization's meeting place was a refurbished room in the carriage house behind 208 King William Street. The boys did all of the necessary work to convert the carriage house to a meeting room. World War I interrupted their activities. Following the war the organization became a men's club whose sole

purpose was "to have fun" (Beckmann 1976). The club, originally named the Mystic Knights of King William, became very prominent and popular in the neighborhood. They held an annual wild game dinner, often at Beckmann Hill near Grey Forest, the only time females were allowed to attend meetings.

Schuchard made red and grey shields and wooden swords for each knight. They wore robes similar to those of the Klu Klux Klan and held candlelight ceremonies and initiations (Bergstrom 1976). Secret societies and clubs were commonplace among boys and teens in the first part of the 20th century. There is no record of the club activity being racist and membership simply was composed of boys and young men in the King William neighborhood that was made up mostly of descendants of German immigrants (Kurt Beckmann 1976).

Beckmann (1976) also noted that they had their own handshake, secret recognition whistle and motto ("Every Progressive, Honest, and Friendly"). Their colors were scarlet and silver; the flower was red carnation. The activities of the members as boys were swimming and canoeing in the San Antonio River, swimming in the Oma Steves' natatorium (where the Conservation Society River House is today), top spinning, marble shooting, tennis, football and baseball. As men, they went camping, hiking, swimming and hunting, including at the Beckmann Ranch. The connection to the board and batten structure to the Merry Knights was their annual Founder's Day weekend and wild game dinner which was first held on Beckmann Hill (Bergstrom 1976).

The Merry Knights social group still exists and consists of male descendants of the former members, according to Judge Fred Shannon, a former member himself who had joined the club in 1975. Judge Shannon recalled that there were monthly meetings but no dues. The only "dues" was that three members would host a monthly dinner with drinks and card games, and this responsibility would be rotated; an annual banquet was also held and this was the only time that wives or women guests were invited to attend.

- Harry J. Shafer and Thomas R. Hester

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Susan Beavin for her assistance during all phases of this project. We also would like to thank Jennifer Nottingham for also assisting us during the survey. The oral history of the Merry Knights of King William provided by Judge Fred Shannon is also greatly appreciated. We thank Bill Cogburn for reading and commenting on the draft.

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Out in the Garden

with Alan Cash

As promised in the last newsletter edition, the following plants are suggested for those who do not have the time or inclination to spend much time outdoors. The list includes adapted (not native) evergreens that will give a year-round permanent appearance to a garden, and perennials that add color a good part of the growing season. All need little water once established. Always consider the mature size of a plant to prevent overcrowding.

Evergreens – These are generally not bothered by insects or disease. November is a good time to plant them.

- Pittosporium. Solid green or variegated. Will grow large but can be trimmed to almost any size. Will tolerate part shade.
- Compact nandina. Grows slowly to 4 or 5 feet tall. Small blooms turn to red berries in fall. Leaves change to fall colors as temperatures cool. Takes bright shade to full sun.
- Sago palm. Has a fern like appearance and grows slowly to about 4 feet high and wide. Tolerates a broad range of light.
- Mountain laurel. Grows slowly to a large shrub or small tree. Needs full or partial sun to produce very fragrant blue flowers in early spring.

Perennials – Cold hardy and come back year after year after being trimmed back to about 6 inches high in mid-February. Are generally free of insects and disease and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. To start, plant in early spring as plants become available.

- Thryallis. Grows to 4 to 5 feet tall and wide. Blooms yellow flowers from early summer to late fall. Takes full to partial sun.
- Esperanza. Blooms yellow or orange trumpet shaped flowers through the summer and fall. Grows 5 to 7 feet tall and wide. Needs half to full days sun.
- Mexican honeysuckle. A shrub that blooms orange flowers from late summer through fall on a shrub that grows 3 to 4 feet tall and wide. Needs half to full day's sun.
- Variegated ginger. Grown for its vivid lime and yellow foliage. Light needs range from bright shade to full sun.
- Firebush. Has orange flowers from mid summer to late fall. Grows up to 6 feet tall and wide in full to partial sun.

Fall is a good time to fertilize flowerbeds and lawns with an organic fertilizer that does not neces-

sarily have to be watered in immediately. Next, add mulch around shrubs and in flowers beds to a depth of 4 to 5 inches. In South Texas, roots continue to grow in the winter so water lawns about every three weeks if it does not rain (about 1/2 to 1 inch).

Put out water and birdseed to help birds make it through the winter. They help to control the harmful insect population in the garden.

From *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations*: Wrinkles should indicate where smiles have been.

Garden Note: If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. (Marcus Tullius Cicero)



The Romo Collection: An exhibition of works from the collection of Drs. Harriett and Ricardo Romo

SAY Sí will present a special exhibition of works from the collection of Drs. Harriett and Ricardo Romo by San Antonio artists Franco Mondini-Ruiz and Armando Sanchez.

Also featured is a collection of works created from The Serie Project. 100% of artwork sales will benefit SAY Sí student scholarships.

Opens Friday, October 2 – 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Full details at saysi.org.

Architectural Advisory Committee – Here to Help

Living in an historic district comes with responsibilities. Any changes to the exterior of a property must have a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) or the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC). This does not take the place of required permits, but allows one to proceed towards the permitting process. Work done without a COA is subject to a \$500 application fee and a Stop-Work order may be issued.

Let your Internet browser search San Antonio Historic Guidelines and you will find a very well-prepared site giving the guidelines for alterations to fences, walls, landscape design, residential streetscapes, sidewalks, driveways and parking. The guidelines are illustrated with photos of “This” and “Not This.” If you are not a computer user you can find a hard copy at most of our nearby public library branches and at the KWA office. A number of “Not This” landscapes have appeared recently in the neighborhood.

The KWA Architectural Advisory Committee exists to help guide neighbors through the permitting process. They can tell you if a plan meets the guidelines and can suggest alternate approaches if needed. Before you plan any alterations to your property, please call the office and ask to have your plan placed on the agenda. The committee meets twice a month and is here to help you.

- Anne Alexander

Garden St. School News

We have lots of “save the dates” to share with you this month:

Mark your calendar for Bonham Academy’s Fall Festival! A tradition for many years, this event will take place October 30 from 4:00-6:00 p.m., and will include a Haunted House in the black box theater, food, beverages, games, face painting and entertainment from the Bobcat Band and Folclorico dancers. All proceeds benefit our students and teachers. After a year without the Fall Festival, we are all excited to see its return on the new sward behind the Middle School building.

On October 8, Bonham’s English Language Arts Reading Department will host its first ever Open Mic Night where students will share their poetry, creative writing and musical talents. Students, staff, parents and community members are welcome at this new quarterly event. We look forward to hearing original works, but also “words of inspiration” from published poets, writers and storytellers.

Our Open House and Book Fair will be on October 13. October 23 marks the end of the first nine week grading period and will be an Early Release Day, scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Report cards will be sent home the following week.

Our new black box theatre is a major part of our own Arts Fall Season, with “Lil’ Dry Town in the Middle of Nowhere” nearing its full production. The show will be performed October 22 and 23 at 6:30 p.m. Please arrive early, as the doors must be closed during the performance.

Our Fall Band Concert follows shortly after that production, and is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m.

In sports, we have students currently competing in football and cross-country. In the winter and spring, students have the opportunity to compete for the Page Ponies against SAISD Middle Schools, as



well as middle schools throughout the state at invitational meets. Along with football and cross-country, Bonham also encourages 7th and 8th grade students to compete in golf, tennis, basketball, volleyball, soccer and track and field. Bonham is always represented well by our students and it is always fun to hear conversations about the sports as they build toward their championship tournaments each season.

Construction Update: After eight years, two portable buildings that had been placed off of Cedar Street were removed to make way for final landscaping and playground relocation. These classrooms had been the home of the middle school core academic subjects for as long as the school has been an Academy. New fences have been added to the front of the property along S. St. Mary’s, adding to aesthetics as well as safety. One portable will remain through the fall while final upgrades to infrastructure of classrooms in the original building continues.

If you haven’t visited in a while, come in and see the new foyer and main entrance on the Cedar Street parking lot end of the building, where we now have a reception area for visitors and guests.

Please stop by and support your neighborhood school. We look forward to seeing you! Go Bobcats!

- Principal William Webber

2015 – Year of the Volunteer

I have discovered that volunteers are a shy group when it comes to putting their names in print. In this article I name individuals who are currently serving on various committees, often for many years, which keep the King William Association running. In no particular order and please forgive me if I forget to name you.

Concerts in the Park: Ethel Pedraza and past Chair Janis de Lara

Cultural Arts Committee: Molly Shafer, Susan Athené, Sherry Hess, Ethel Pedraza, Nora Peterson and Anne Alexander

Socials: Patty Duarte and Bradley Toland

Newsletter Committee: Susan Athené, Alan Cash and Bill Cogburn

Newsletter Labeling Team: Gretchen Haynes, Mary Ann Ohlenbusch, Nora Peterson, Anne Alexander and Carmen Van Meter

Publicity Committee: Nora Peterson

Ad Hoc Parking & Transportation Committee: Rose Kanusky (Chair), Christine Viña, Tom Hogg and Lavaca Neighbors Jeff McPherson, Miles Donnelly and Al Rendon

Architectural Advisory Committee: Mickey Conrad (Chair), Pat Conroy, Anne Alexander, Maria Pfeiffer, Christine Viña and Gary Woods; past Chair Jack Kent

Finance Committee: Beth Davis, Alan Cash, Deb Mueller, Chris Price, Joe Van Meter and Brad Shaw

Sidewalk Committee: Fred Pfeiffer

Pedro Huizar Park Ad Hoc Committee: Curtis Johnson (Chair), Sherry Hess and Ethel Pedraza

Membership Committee: Annice Hill (Chair) and Jessie Simpson

Graffiti Committee: Nadine Johnson

KWA/Lavaca Tree Beautification: Alan Cash and Mary Ann Ohlenbusch

King William Fair Volunteers - too numerous to mention! I will highlight them another time.

A big thank you to all our volunteers! Your years of dedication are important assets to the Association.

Cherise Bell

Dog Days of Summer

I am a walker. I walk every day in the neighborhood and on the river walk. I admit I am not a dog owner, having been bit by a dog when I was 18 years old I have a respect and yes, fear of dogs. I like dogs, but I stand clear of striking distance. With all the new apartments there are more people walking. More people means more dog walking also. I like the interaction of greeting people and their dogs when I walk.

Having your dogs on a leash is the law. Picking up poop after your dog is also the law. To all my neighbors I ask for your courtesy, please leash your dog and clean up after your dog. On Labor Day I witnessed a dog attack another dog. Both dogs were leashed but for whatever reason, the one dog attacked. This event was traumatizing for all involved including the mom and son whose dog initiated the attack. They were stunned.

I am not an animal expert, but I know that my morning walk is more pleasant when I do not have to step around poop. My walks are better when I am not afraid that a dog will run up to me and I worry if I will get bit. I am not the only person who is concerned about unleashed dogs and increased poop on the sidewalks. So please keep your dog leashed, at heel, and clean up after your pet so we can all enjoy our walks - human and dogs alike.

- Miguel Huerta

**SCOOP YOUR
PET POOP, S.A.!**

Walk your dog for exercise – pick up
their poop for the environment!

Beckman Ranch *continued from page 5*

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15th Annual Downtown's BEST Awards

KWA wins its fourth Centro BEST award. Since 2012, KWA has won an award every year from Centro's BEST award. This year KWA submitted a nomination to Centro BEST in the category of BEST Downtown Neighborhood.

BEST Wild Card category was won by Alamo Beer Company which is owned and operated by neighbor and KWA member Eugene Simor. Alamo Beer Company made their debut at the KW Fair in 2015 and will be back in 2016. Congratulations!

- Cherise Bell



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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

Graffiti Abatement Program

The Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) is working on some new initiatives. Would you like to get active in our program?

Reporting Graffiti is easy!

Any writing, etching or scrawling without permission, is considered graffiti and is illegal. Getting it cleaned up is key to preventing more! Report graffiti on City owned or private property via phone to 311, online at sanantonio.gov, or download the 311 app. If you spot vulgar graffiti, please report this as soon as possible. Cusswords, lewd drawings, etc., will be removed promptly. If graffiti is on non-City owned property, such as bus stops, utility poles, highway signs, etc., you will need to contact that agency directly, or you can call our hotline at 207-BUFF (2833).

If you see someone committing the crime of graffiti vandalism, report it immediately to 207-SAPD

(7273), with a detailed description of the offender.

Volunteer Workshop

Learn the history of the graffiti program and how to properly report and remove unsightly graffiti in your neighborhood using free supplies provided at the workshop. Held the last Thursday and Saturday mornings of each month. For more information contact: lisa.mckenzie@sanantonio.gov or 207-5430.

- Lisa McKenzie, Neighborhood Services Coordinator/Graffiti Development Services Department, City of San Antonio

Volunteers needed!

Volunteers needed for King William area – we need help removing graffiti and stickers. Adopt a block! Contact the KWA office at 227-8786 or info@ourkwa.org.

New Archaeology Research in San Antonio

Kay Hindes, City Archaeologist, will deliver a presentation on “New Archaeology Research in San Antonio.” Last October, Kay made a presentation on the Spanish Colonial Acequia System to a packed audience. Don’t miss her next informative presentation about the latest efforts in archaeological research in San Antonio. This FREE event is sponsored by the KWA Cultural Arts Committee.

October 15 - KWA Office - 6:00-7:30 p.m. Limited seating, pre-registration requested. Call 227-878 to RSVP.

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Archeology in King William

The San Pedro Acequia, also known as the Principal Acequia, was first constructed in 1719. Commonly known as a ditch, the acequia was likely the first of its kind constructed in San Antonio. Acequias were primarily irrigation ditches and, as time progressed, were later used for drinking water and as storm drains. The San Pedro Acequia ran from the waters of present-day San Pedro Springs Park to the San Antonio River, just south of the Blue Star National Register Historic District.

Portions of the San Pedro Acequia are still visible today, namely along S. Flores Street on the Commander's House and San Antonio Housing Authority properties.

The area around SAHA has provided archaeologists with several examples of construction types. Adjacent to the historic plaque on S. Flores Street, excavations have revealed some of the most diverse construction methods throughout the acequia's entirety, including dirt-lined, stone-lined and wood-lined sections. Each of these is representative of a different time period when the San Pedro Acequia was modified, cleaned or reconstructed.

Celebrate Archeology Month by visiting these historic remnants of San Antonio's acequia system.

- *Matthew T. Elverson, M.A., R.P.A.*
CoSA Assistant City Archaeologist

City Lights

Many of my friends know that in my vanished youth I worked as the architect for archaeological excavations in southern Italy and Turkey. The Turkish job offer was a bolt out of the blue from Harvard's Fogg Museum. For a century the museum has supported work at Sardis, about 95 kilometers inland from the Aegean coast.

Prior to my departure I received a package containing various supplies with instructions to include them in my baggage. The one package that concerned me was a kilo bag of crystallized restoration glue. It looked exactly like a bag of crack cocaine.

I called the excavation director who reassured me that everyone had a package of the glue, unavailable in Turkey, and that we'd all have letters from the U.S. Consul in Izmir explaining our work and the supplies that supported it. When it came, I put the letter in my passport cover knowing that a single twenty-something with a backpack full of crack probably wouldn't fair very well at customs. And I didn't.

Jet-lagged and stubbly, I certainly looked the part of a spoiled American college kid with a recreational pharmaceutical habit. Not surprisingly, once my backpack was opened I was hustled into a small room full of very large Turkish policemen. I pulled out the letter and handed it to the most senior looking of them. Unfortunately nobody spoke English. I tried Italian which at least one of them could manage. An English speaker finally joined them, read the letter, and waived me to release, after what I can only describe as an extremely personal close inspection.

Later in the season I went to Ephesus on a free weekend and hiked miles of that magnificent collection of classical ruins. I was staying at a wonderful little inn with a courtyard café with a fountain. At the end of the day I was sitting at the rim of the basin when the innkeeper handed me a Roman coin. Is gift! He grinned. I said I couldn't possibly accept it (really, a guy on a dig with a hot coin in his hands?) Is gift! He repeated. You can't violate a host's generosity in Turkey without creating very deep offense. What to do?

I looked at the coin and saw that it was a late period bronze, not very valuable, maybe worth six or seven dollars. I was already in some dossier for the airport incident, how could I leave the country with a hot coin, probably washed out of the site I'd just visited? I looked at the dark water in the fountain basin, made a wish to Poseidon, and tossed it backward over my shoulder.

- *Michael Guarino*

Texas Archeology Month Events

Kick-Off

Friday, October 2 - 2:30 - 5:00 p.m - FREE
115 Plaza de Armas

Currents in Texas Archaeology Symposium
Speakers: Dr. Nesta Anderson and
Clint McKenzie

Friday, October 9 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - FREE
Witte Museum

Archaeology Day at Mission San José
Friday, October 17 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. -
FREE
Mission San José

Bonham Academy Robotics Club Off to a Good Start in 2015!

Last year I asked the Bonham community via Facebook if there might be interest in starting an after-school robotics club. "I'm an electrical engineer at the Southwest Research Institute and I work in the Space Sciences division," I said. "Perhaps this is a way I can give back to the community". Whoa! I got so many "comments" and "likes," you'd think I'd posted a video of kittens and puppies playing with a talking baby! Who knew, "Nerd" is the new "Cool" (that's what I tell myself, anyway)!

One of those comments led me to discover that Bonham had formed a LEGO® robotics club in 2013 for K-3rd grade and was in possession of a few robotics kits. Unfortunately, as so often happens with volunteer programs, the club did not continue the following year. After some research and coordination with the Bonham administration, I felt ready to restart the LEGO robotics club. We sent home registration forms with all the students in grades K-3rd. To our delight we received 130 applications to join the club; however, we only had 18 spots available. Later, by alternating weeks, we were able to add another 18 spots, but that still left about 100 students out.

This year, determined to include more students, we started a fundraising campaign. To date we have raised just over \$3,200 via the crowdfunding platform GoFundMe, local merchant contributions and the PTA. These funds have allowed us to purchase the necessary kits to expand the K-3 program from 36 to 80 students and add a curriculum for ten 4th and 5th graders. We would like to expand the program even further.

What are we doing in robotics club? We are using LEGO Robotic kits to introduce the engineering design process, robotics, programming and sensors in a hands-on, fun and engaging way. While we hope to spark an interest in science, technology,



Bonham Academy first graders enjoying the Robotics Club.

engineering and math (STEM), we are primarily trying to foster essential work skills such as collaboration, problem solving, creative thinking and project management.

How can you help?

- Neighborhood volunteers welcome! Help coach the students - a technical background is not necessary.
- Help identify grants or other funding opportunities.
- Make a personal donation at our GoFundMe account at www.gofundme.com/ysb9zg8 or to Friends of Bonham on behalf of the Robotics Club.

Thank you for your support of Bonham Academy!

- Dave Lopez

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Parking & Transportation Committee Update



In August, at the request of the City, the joint KWA/LNA parking and transit committee presented its concerns to the City staff, City consultant, area developers and a few others interested in urban traffic issues. Jim Mery, deputy director of the Center City Development Office, is continuing to refine our requested

scope of work for a parking/transportation study, and we hope to receive a definitive answer from him within the month. We also received favorable coverage of our transit issues in "Local Community News."

- Rose Kanusky



Southtown Scramble - 7 Wonders of the World

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in September, 39 neighborhood kids ages 10-15 took on an exceedingly challenging scavenger hunt using clues and solving puzzles to find posters of the 7 Wonders of the World hidden throughout the neighborhood along the river. Clues were hidden in mummies at Villa Finale (Great Pyramid), in snakes on Medusa's Head at the O'Henry (Johnson St.) Bridge, in bottles of sand next to Blue Star (the Colosseum), and even in art on the back of one King William resident's shirt. A great time was had, even while team-building and collaboration skills were honed.

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October Calendar

- 1 William Mealy Mission Paintings Collection Exhibit Reception – KWA Office – 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- 6 National Night Out/KWA Fall Social - KWA Office and corner of Mission & Forcke – 7:00–9:00 p.m.
- 8 Friends and Neighbors Reception for The Romo Collection – SAY Si – 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- 13 Deadline for November KWA Newsletter
- 15 New Archaeology Research in San Antonio – KWA Office – 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 17 King William/Lavaca Neighborhood Yard Sale – 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- 18 Acoustic World concert – Upper Mill Park – 5:30 p.m.
- 21 KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Piano Music Ambassadors concert – KWA Office – 5:30 p.m.