



Walter Toxey & the Gazebo

A conversation with a former neighbor has revealed interesting facts about one of the neighborhood's most enduring icons – the gazebo in the King William Park.

Ninety-year-old Walter Toxey was recently in San Antonio to help his daughter, Anne Toxey and her husband, Patrick McMillan, celebrate the 100th birthday of their beautiful home at 218 Washington Street.

The Craftsman-style house was built in 1915 by Gustav and Annie Giesecke. In 1951, Walter and Eleanor Toxey, son Walter, Jr. and daughter Eleanor became the owners of the house. Soon after moving into the neighborhood, Walter, a young attorney, noticed the deteriorating 1890-era gazebo on the grounds of the U.S. Arsenal near the Commander's House. "I could see the bandstand through the trees just across the river," said Walter. "It was obviously uncared for and it had a definite lean to it as if one side was sinking into the ground. I talked to officials at the Arsenal and they agreed that it had fallen into neglect and was no longer being used and definitely needed to be saved."

"Next, I talked to Nellie Pancoast at 404 King William, who was president of the King William Area Conservation Association, and we both agreed that the bandstand would be ideally suited as a centerpiece for the King William Park."

Although the U. S. Arsenal officials decided

that they no longer wanted the gazebo, transferring ownership to the King William group proved to be very difficult. "As I was an attorney, I thought it would be a fairly simple matter but I had no idea what I was getting into," said Walter. "It took months of letter writing to first one government office then another before finally getting everyone to sign off on the move. I even had to appear a couple of times before some

sort of federal commissioner. Elsa Watson, Maria Pfeiffer's mother, who lived across the street, not only typed all my letters, but was a tremendous help with the project."

While the government was happy to have the gazebo moved from the arsenal grounds, they were not agreeable to financing it, so the King



Courtesy of the San Antonio Conservation Society Foundation

Gazebo in front of the Commander's House on the Arsenal grounds, a snowy day sometime before 1953 (photo not dated).

President's Report

by Harry Shafer

KWA Executive Director Cherise Bell and I constantly monitor the concerns posted by the King William neighbors on social media. We generally do not respond to these postings unless something critical needs to be corrected or conveyed. When a posting is made regarding a specific entity such as the city or VIA, we contact that public entity to address the specific concern.

The Parking and Transportation Committee has met on several occasions with the City staff (Lori Houston, Jim Mery, Terry Bellamy and others) as previously reported in the Newsletter. A direct outgrowth of these meetings was a parking and traffic study conducted by an independent contractor, paid for by the City. Jim Mery and his staff and the contractor met with Parking and Transportation Committee representatives, Cherise and me last November to discuss some preliminary findings. The committee will review the full report later this month.

All of us are concerned about security and enforcement in our neighborhood. In that regard Cherise and I met late last year with Deputy Police Chief Humphrey, SAFFE Officer McCall and his commander officer, and other patrolmen. We specifically discussed the issues of cars blocking driveways; illegally parked cars at corners that obstruct views crossing intersections; parking in front of fire hydrants; congestion on weekends and First Friday; burglaries; and the need for increased neighborhood patrols and enforcement. We also made the point that we, as a neighborhood association, would do our part to help by working with the police. Sometimes they are not aware of a problem unless it is reported to them.

Deputy Chief Humphrey was quite emphatic in assuring us that they will increase patrol of King William. The bike patrol now makes regular routes daily and nightly into King William, and more frequent presence of patrol cars has been noted. Regarding cars blocking driveways, anyone can call the infraction in and report it; the officer will ticket the car but only the property owner can request the car to be towed. We have noticed a significant increase in ticketed cars on weekends when congestion is at its worst at corners where cars block sidewalks and obstruct view. There will be times when you see cars illegally parked and no police around, but since we are not an incorporated entity, we do not have a standing police force to be present all of the time. We are encouraged by the increase in patrols.

Another example of KWA responding to a neighborhood concern occurred when VIA Blue route bus idled on the 800 block of S. Main. Cherise contacted VIA to learn more about the idling busses and air pollution concern. She and I met with Leroy Alloway and Sarah Sanchez on December 8 to see what could be done. Mr. Alloway informed us that the Blue route was an experiment that might become permanent. The busses are hybrid, and natural gas busses are coming soon. He agreed to move the idling locations to north of downtown (Avenue A and Grayson). Busses may continue to stop on Main, however.

These are some examples of the activities that the KWA addresses weekly, sometimes daily. When neighborhood problems come to our attention, we do our best to address them with the appropriate agencies. Our intent is to work with the City, VIA or CPS to resolve issues as they come to our attention.



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2016 - Year of Sustainability

Each year I select a theme for my newsletter articles. In 2015 the theme was volunteers. This year I have chosen "Sustainability" because of: HDRC cases regarding xeriscape and solar panels; zoning cases and surrounding infill development projects which affect parking availability; and finally historic preservation.

"Conceptually, sustainable development emerged as a result of significant concerns about the unintended social, environmental, and economic consequences of rapid population growth, economic growth, and consumption of natural resources."* One factor which has influenced the topic of sustainability is the built environment which in turn has created the Green Building Council, LEED certification, Energy STAR ratings, plus products such as solar panels, water saving toilets, respectively meant to reduce carbon emissions and, reduce water usage.

As a historic district we are actively engaged in the sustainability movement. The "greenest" and most "sustainable" building is one that is already built. Interestingly enough a report by the Preservation Green Lab for the National Trust of Historic Preservation discovered that older buildings may already be performing better than modern structures. "Yet myriad examples exist of retrofits of older buildings that have achieved substantial energy savings. What is more, national data on building energy performance indicates that some existing buildings, particularly those from the early 20th-century, perform as well as, or better than, modern-day buildings. For example, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) demonstrates that commercial buildings constructed before 1920 use less energy, per square foot, than buildings from any other decade."

Go historic!

- Cherise Bell

*"History of Sustainability." National Research Council. *Sustainability and the U.S. EPA*. Washington, DC: The National Academies

Bragging Rights

The King William Association (KWA) Charter was filed with the State of Texas in 1967. One of the purposes of the Association was to "foster and promote the cooperation and support of individuals, business groups, and governmental units in developing tourist attractions in the general area and in strengthening the economic and cultural life of the surrounding area."

Throughout the years KWA has worked with the City regarding tour buses, bed and breakfast businesses, building design, infill development, park improvements and parking. We have worked with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) regarding river improvements. We have worked with business owners regarding parking and noise abatement. The end result of a particular issue may not be exactly what one had hoped for, but overall the community efforts have made the King William area a great place to live and visit.

In the November 17, 2015 edition of National Geographic's Intelligent Travel online magazine, "Urban Insider" Annie Fitzsimmons presents "7 Reasons to Visit San Antonio Now."* Here are her top five:

1. The River Walk Expansion (Mission Trail)
2. UNESCO Recognition
3. Miro at the McNay (event ended)
4. Culinary Explosion - Here Fitzsimmons extols the "Southtown neighborhood" and Hot Joy and Feast restaurants specifically. (Note: We have over 24 restaurants in Southtown with more coming in 2016.)
5. Blue Star Bliss – The author states "if you have time and energy to spare, venture across the river to admire the grand houses of San Antonio's King William Historic District..."

I think having a national magazine mentioning directly and indirectly our community is a testament to past and current neighbors who have worked hard to make the King William area the successful and vibrant urban village it is today.

- Cherise Bell

*intelligenttravel.nationalgeographic.com/2015/11/17/7-reasons-to-visit-san-antonio-texas-now-afitz/

City Lights

Time to throw out the lingering pile of Christmas gift catalogs that have flooded the mailbox and formed a seismically challenged tower on the end of the kitchen counter.

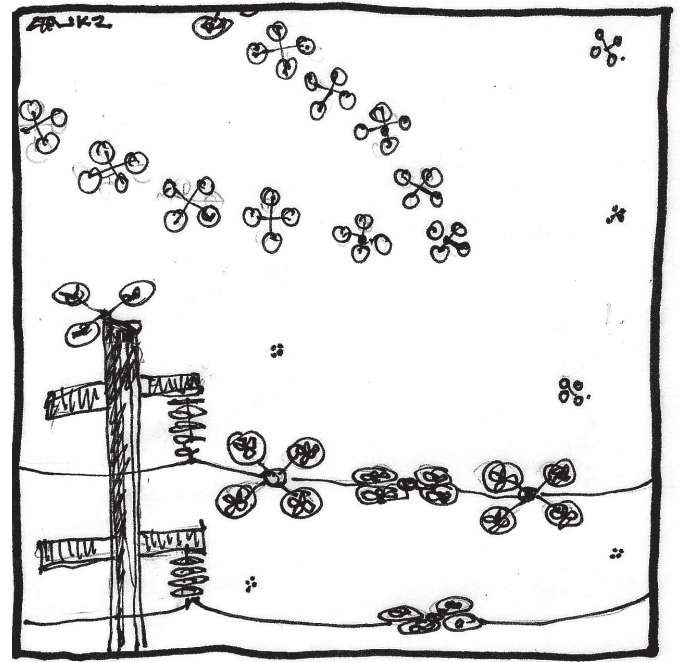
Among the oddities ranging from Star Wars everything to portable wine chillers (home or office!), the most conspicuous item was a mistletoe drone. A tiny quadcopter with a dangling sprig of romance-inducing parasite. The catalog offered the happy opportunity to buy them by the half dozen to spark up that magic moment at midnight on New Year's Eve. Imagine a squadron hovering in perfect, steady, semi-silent formation above your tipsy guests.

I decided to mull over the question of whether this was a brilliant innovation or further evidence of the decline of the West while taking in a blazing winter sunset on my second floor back porch. Just at the moment of the sun's disappearance below the tree line, a low buzzing attracted my attention. Too cold for cicadas, what the...and then it appeared between the inky tangle of the silhouettes of the pecan trees. A black drone about 18 inches in diameter. It had running lights, red at port and green at starboard, and it hovered about twenty feet away from the railings, perfectly still in the calm, cold air.

It apparently became bored with my astonished gaping at it and circled around the trees to depart for places unknown.

Obviously the Christmas haul from some adolescent up the block.

One of my students has already treated me to the spectacle of the use of this new tool. I had given a problem involving a large block of derelict historic buildings along the River Walk, partly as a challenge to see how the students would go about measuring places they had no easy access to and for which they had no maps, plans, or other documents. They were working in teams and I checked up on them periodically



during the week we were taking for the measuring exercise.

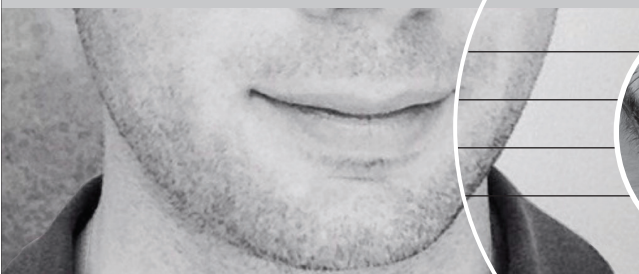
I came upon one of the more enterprising of them and found him gazing heavenward with a remote control in his hands. Then the buzzing. I was afraid to look up for confirmation, but there it was, a nice shiny little ship with a camera suspended from its, um, thorax.

The earthbound pilot grinned and said, "Dad gave it to me for my birthday! Ain't it the bomb?" I must admit the first time I saw one I imagined it as a miniature munitions delivery device. Where will it end? Well, at the recent high-tech confab in Las Vegas, a Chinese company unveiled a drone two-seater, big enough to take one's voyeurism directly to the treetops, instead of viewed on a screen.

- Michael Guarino

Smile in the mirror.

Do that every morning and you'll start to see a big difference in your life.



yoko ono
born 1933



Nonprofit Organizations at the Fair

In addition to being the primary fundraising event for the King William Association, the King William Fair provides a large umbrella that benefits other local nonprofit organizations of various sizes and purposes. Again this year, the Fair will also support two unique international groups with local ties: Friendship Bridge and Rancheritas Rug Hook Project.

Among the local nonprofits that earn funds from their participation at the Fair are our neighbors at St. Joseph's and Texas Masonic Lodge No. 8, in addition to the Mission Trail Rotary Club that runs our special Kids Kingdom in Upper Mill Park. There are also a number of nonprofits, including the Edgewood Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Church of Reconciliation and Celebration Circle, that bring their delicious treats to the Fair as food vendors.

In the Art & Craft area, there are several of our local schools, including Bonham Academy, Page Middle School, Brackenridge High School and San Antonio College, that participate by exhibiting student art, allowing the students to experience the process of marketing their work. We also have the Hermann Sons Polkateers and Conjunto Heritage Taller providing entertainment on our stages.

A well-known phrase during Fiesta season is "Party with a Cause." The King William Fair provides a special opportunity for these organizations to raise funds, and often the funds raised are used to provide student scholarships.

We'd like to share a little more information about the international organizations that exhibit their work at the Fair. Friendship Bridge empowers impoverished Guatemalan women to create a better future for themselves, their children and their communities through microfinance and education. Their work is primarily with indigenous populations in rural areas where the rate of poverty is the highest, and the women involved are determined to create a change.



Guatemalan Huipile Purse

Friendship Bridge provides microcredit, non-formal education and health services to women entrepreneurs that empower them holistically. The fruits of their Artisan Access Program are brought to our Fair.



Mexican Hook Rug

The Rancheritas Rug Hook Project is located in the small village of Agustin Gonzales, in the central Mexican highlands near San Miguel de Allende. The people of the area are subsistence farmers who grow corn, beans and squash. Fifteen multi-talented women create rugs from 100% wool that has been donated by rug hookers in the U.S. They are the only rug hookers in Mexico, and have been practicing the craft for 20 years.

Their subject matter is the life around them: mountains, cactus, cows, horses, burros, flowers, a small house, a church, ducks, rabbits, chickens, roosters or fish. The proceeds from selling these art pieces help to pay for additional food, children's schooling, doctor visits and other family needs. Many of the women are the sole support of their families. HGTV recently filmed an episode that featured Las Rancheritas; look for it to air later in the spring.

Please join us in visiting and supporting these nonprofit organizations while you are strolling through the neighborhood on Fair day, knowing that the energy generated by our Fiesta event ripples out in various directions touching many lives, in other communities and even other countries.

- Zet Baer, KW Fair Manager

Old KWA Office Has New Tenant



Matt West and Natalie Nation Matthews

Matt West was looking to expand his business into downtown. When the opportunity to open a second location for his visual communications company, FASTSIGNS, presented itself in the King William District, Matt felt that providing a gallery space and studio for an artist-in-residence

was a perfect fit for his company and the community.

Artist Natalie Nation Matthews has been studying photography and design for over 15 years, balancing work in her home studio with an active family life. "Signs have always been a cultural reference point for communities, but they also can stand alone as works of art," he said. "I feel like this collaboration with Natalie will showcase this idea for an audience that may not be expecting it."

Matt said he has always been drawn to Natalie's unique ability to release the subject's true nature and display that depth in a way that speaks to a wide audience. "Her subjects are exposed and available to the viewer immediately," he said. "Everyone may have a different take on what they are seeing in the image, but it always originates from within the subject. That's a trait that doesn't exist in all photography."

"I value people and the world we share," said Natalie. "Everyone has a something to say. Often unspoken communication carries the greater impact. I have pursued a career in photography because it offers a chance to pause to honor these moments."

The studio is located at 1032 S. Alamo. The gallery will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public. More about Natalie Nation Matthews is at her website or she can be reached at info@nationmatthews.com.

- Cherise Bell

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Out in the Garden

with Alan Cash

Happy Valentine's Day. It is a day to remember that special someone in our lives. It is also the day to begin work in the garden. That includes trimming, fertilizing, and mulching. Plants trimmed after Valentine's will usually not put out new growth until after the last frost, about the first week of March. Wait until late in the month when the soil begins to warm to plant annuals. New perennials can be planted as they become available in nurseries.

Plants that can be trimmed now include shrub roses, which can be cut back by about half. Especially cut out dead wood and stems growing toward the center of the plant. This allows air circulation within the plant and can prevent diseases. Wait to trim climbing roses until after their spring bloom, as they bloom on old wood and to trim now will delay flowering.

Even if they did not freeze down, perennials should be trimmed now to encourage new growth and to keep them in bounds. These include, fire-bush, pride of Barbados, plumbago, Mexican firecracker and shrimp. Cut them back to about 6 inches high.

Evergreen shrubs can be trimmed as needed to shape. However do not trim mountain laurel until after it blooms. As with climbing roses, they bloom on old wood. Nandina are a special case. As stems mature, foliage at the lower part of the plant thins out. Cut about one fourth of the tallest stems down to about 3 to 4 inches from the ground. New growth will come out and fill in the lower areas.

Remember not to commit "crepe murder" by topping off the limbs of crepe myrtles! This causes weak limbs and misshapen plants. Cut out only limbs necessary to shape. If plants are getting too large for their location, consider moving or replacing them. The KWA office has a free list of 50 crepe myrtles based on size, bloom color and disease resistance.

Lawns, shrubs and flowerbeds can be fertilized now to get them ready for spring growth. Organic fertilizers are best and can be found at most local independently owned nurseries. Continue application throughout the year at 3 to 4 month intervals.

Within just a few weeks of the delivery of this newsletter, early spring blooming plants will put on their show. One I look forward to each year is the burst of white flowers of the Mexican Plum tree. The most spectacular is the large specimen at the side drive gate at the Steves Homestead at 509 King William Street. Make a point to see it and perhaps to put one or more in your garden. It is drought tolerant and a good understory tree for gardens with large mature trees as found in older neighborhoods. It should do well planted at the outer edge of the canopy of trees such as pecans since both lose their leaves in the winter providing adequate light for the plum's spring bloom. The tree bears small fruit with a large seed, and is generally left for the birds squirrels and other wildlife.

Here is more *Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations*: "To be good is to be noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble."

Garden Note: A garden...a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.



Parking & Transportation Committee Report

The City has hired a consultant to address some of the parking and transportation issues in King William and Lavaca. The consultant has measured the street widths in King William and Lavaca. The consultant has also determined that the width of a typical parking space on the street is 9 feet wide. This measurement includes 8 feet for the vehicle's width and only 12 inches between the vehicle and the curb.

Do you park on the street? If so, do you hug the curb? Do you complain when you think a car is too far from the curb?

The Texas Transportation Code (section 545.303) requires drivers to park "within 18 inches" of the curb or the edge of the roadway. The City can issue a fine of \$35 for failing to comply. This 18-inch space is actually quite a distance. In historic districts, where the streets are narrow, if all drivers parked 18 inches away from the curb, the streets would become even more narrow and congested.

- Rose Kanusky
KWA/LNA Parking & Transportation Committee

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**KW SAFFE Officers
on patrol:**

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

The Urban Farm Stand – A Unique Shopping Experience

The Southtown area has many shops and restaurants that make it what seems to me anyway, like a small town within a big city. The Urban Farm Stand, at 1423 S. Presa, between the King William and Lavaca neighborhoods, is one of those shops. It is a year-round, indoor farmers market operated by Karen Haynes and Patti Hinkley. It opened December 11, 2015. As would be expected, the shop has a wide variety of organic and locally produced items.

A popular saying these days is to “buy local.” So that is what I do where ever possible. My first experience with the Urban Farm Stand was well before it opened. Karen’s mother, Gretchen, is my next door neighbor, and I got to sample many of her jams, jellies and relishes as she prepared to open shop. All were very good.

For background for this article, Patti took me around the shop, describing the items offered and their source. I was amazed at the range of products. Of course there are fresh fruits and vegetables. But there are also eggs from a small family farm south of town, bread from Broadway Daily Bread,

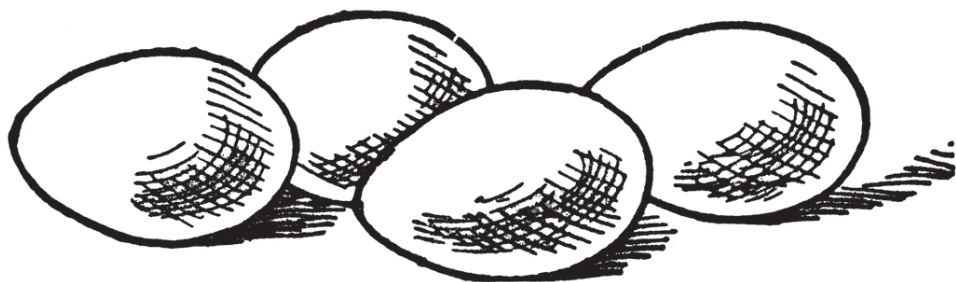
dairy products from McGregor, Texas, sauces and pastas from a family-owned San Antonio company, honey from Pearsall, and goat cheese from Blanco. I was surprised to learn that some of the fruits and vegetables were from surrounding neighborhood gardens.

The shop also has non-consumable-type goods. These include “trade goods” such as colorful African woven market baskets, tablecloths and cutting boards from around the world. There is also an eclectic collection of cookbooks, magazines and other books related to market gardening and the theme of “buy local.”

These are only some of the items offered in the shop. As I started out, the Urban Farm Stand is definitely one of the things that make Southtown a destination. Shop hours are currently 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Take time to visit – I think it will be a pleasant experience. And for many readers of this newsletter, you can walk there.

- Alan Cash



WE NEED YOU!

Newsletter Improvement Plan

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Exploring Essential Oils



Essential oils are most recognized for their stimulating and calming aromas. However, what is less known is their ability to assist in natural immune support, mental clarity and emotional relief. Much research has been established to support the efficacy of essential oils but still many people are not aware or educated about the potential of these plant-based oils when used safely and properly.

What are essential oils?

Essential oils are volatile liquids that are distilled from plants and have been used for thousands of years for their therapeutic and health benefits. The chemical compounds in essential oils come from distilling or extracting the different parts of plants, including the flowers, leaves, bark, roots, resin and peels. They contain very concentrated properties of the plant they are derived from. Small amounts can be very beneficial.

What are the benefits of essential oils?

These natural oils embody the regenerating, protective, and immune strengthening properties of plants. These constituents are small enough to penetrate through cellular membranes, allowing faster absorption and quicker results. Essential oils promote the balance of free radicals and antioxidants, support healthy immune response and naturally cleanse the body systems.

What enables essential oils to provide such valuable benefits?

The benefits depend greatly on the oil's diversity of chemical constituents, with some oils having hundreds of these chemical

constituents within a single drop of oil. These constituents have been shown to assist in detoxification, promote healthy cellular functions and optimal inflammatory response.

How do essential oils benefit emotional stress?

Odors and emotions are processed in the limbic system, which is located in the brain and is responsible for processing emotion, memory and smell. This is why odor-evoked memories are emotionally powerful. Also present in the limbic system is the amygdala, which plays a major role in memory, decision-making, and emotional reactions. One way to stimulate this gland is through the sense of smell. Therefore, essential oils can assist in managing focus, supporting brain function and releasing emotional stress.

Essential oils help promote emotional, physical and spiritual healing. This article is meant to educate briefly on the vast amount of information, scientific research and safe usages of essential oils. It is important to properly educate yourself about the uses of essential oils, which can have amazing results when used correctly.

- Stacie Orsagh

Stacie Orsagh is a wife, mother, daughter, yoga teacher and wellness advocate. Complimentary Essential Oils 101 classes are offered at 6:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month at Southtown Yoga Loft. Call (210) 264-6587 for more information.

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Bonham Academy Garden Begins to Take Shape

What do science, art, PE and fresh foods all have in common? School gardens! A large effort by the Bonham Academy Gardening Committee, led by Middle School Science teacher Jason Siptak and supported through funds from the PTA and Friends of Bonham, has taken off. A November workday to build garden beds was followed-up on January 9 when 30 students and 15 parents moved 17 yards of soil into 13 rectangular cedar beds.

The effort to rebuild the school gardens has included multiple groups. Bonham Girl Scout Troop 2600 has adopted two concrete planters that will be decorated and filled with vegetables. Building gardens provide an opportunity for students to learn how food grows, observe pollinator plant interactions, understand waste-stream management, all while drawing upon their sense of style and design to create and attractive space. Meanwhile, who needs Crossfit when you are moving 17 yards of soil?



photo: Dina Toland

Bonham students tackle the massive mound of soil delivered for new garden beds.



photo: Sylvia Lozano

Parents and students move loads of soil into the garden beds built in November.

With the help of art teacher Monico Vitela, Bonham students will design benches between the beds, which will be used to store gardening tools, and developing a colorful pollinator butterfly wall to attract butterflies. In addition to these storage benches, the Garden Committee is seeking resources to obtain additional benches that can be placed throughout the playground for teachers and staff while students are enjoying recess.

We know how our neighbors in King William love to garden, and the Garden Committee is always happy to receive input from the community to help develop, build and teach a new generation of gardeners. If you'd like to support the Bonham Gardens, contact Mr. Siptak at jsiptak@saisd.net.

- Cherise Rohr-Allegrini

22nd Annual Basura Bash Saturday, February 20

The 2015 Basura Bash Waterways Cleanup was a huge success! Over 2,100 volunteers cleaned up 45 tons of trash, and collected 159 tires and almost one ton of metal for recycling!

Come help clean the river, creeks and waterways this year! Go to basurabash.org and get more information about the event, volunteering, and how you can help your community and waterways.



S. Flores HEB

The new downtown HEB grocery store opened on December 2, 2015, at the corner of S. Flores St. and Caesar Chavez Blvd., with fanfare and speeches by Mayor Taylor, store officers and other dignitaries. If you have not been there yet I encourage you to go. At first, I was a Doubting Thomas because of its small size compared to other local stores. But I was pleasantly surprised. It is unique, and when you only need a few things it is nice to be able to walk to the grocery.

I consider myself as typical a shopper as any, and this article is to tell of my experience shopping there for the first time, on the first day it was open to the public. I took my typical grocery list and spent about an hour looking to see how much of it was available and what else the store had to offer.

That is where being pleasantly surprised comes in. I found most of the items on my list, although not always the national brand I usually buy at larger stores. But I imagine Central Market green beans are just as good. About the only thing I will not be buying at the new store is bath tissue. The

rolls available are too large to fit in my 1917 Craftsman holders.

Whether or not you drink beer, ale or wine, browsing through those aisles is an adventure. The names of some brands are amusing if not downright hilarious. I'm not sure if it was an ale or beer, but one label showed the bottle contents were named Lawnmower. Although I'd never heard of it, several neighbors have since told me they have. Across the store on the tea shelf was Skinny Girl Green Tea.

Further along I found what I consider a good selection of meats, fresh produce and dairy products, but the selection of frozen foods was limited. There are some offerings of prepared foods that require minimum preparation. For example, there are "meals for two" in bags that you also find in larger stores.

And last, if not most important, the store carries the exact food my finicky cat eats.

You cannot expect to find everything on your list in a smaller store, but hopefully enough so you do not have to make as many trips afield as you were before its opening. And you may also come to call it "My HEB," as I do.

- Alan Cash

The Gazebo

Continued from page 1

William Area Conservation Association raised the money to have it moved and installed in the park. Most everyone was delighted to have this new addition to the park; everyone that is, except the neighborhood boys who had been using the park, for their baseball field.

In 1954, dedication of the gazebo was conducted by the Merry Knights of King William, a club started by neighborhood teenage boys in 1909, but evolving over the years into a men's club. One of the founding members, Willard Berman, donated, in the name of the Merry Knights, an impressive solid brass eagle weather vane to mount on top of the gazebo. Werner Beckmann, another Merry Knight, delivered a touching dedicatory oration.

Unfortunately, the brass weather vane disappeared after a short time. Mr. Berman graciously replaced it with a duplicate only to have the second one stolen. The gazebo went without a top decoration for years until some inventive neighbors came up with the clever idea of using a round copper toilet float attached to a rod. Once installed and looking at it from the ground, it appeared as if it had been especially designed for just such a purpose. It remained the gazebo's crown until a major restoration and rededication in 1987 when the weather vane you see today was installed.

The gazebo has become something of a local landmark and symbol of the spirit of King William for residents and visitors alike.

- Bill Cogburn



Committed to Water Quality - SARA Awarded Grant for Guenther Building Retrofits

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recently awarded the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) a nonpoint pollution source grant from federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funds administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant will allow SARA to inspire actions for healthy creeks and rivers by constructing stormwater treatment retrofits at its main office at 100 E. Guenther.

Stormwater runoff is rainfall that flows off the land and into storm drains rather than soaking into the ground. In the San Antonio River Watershed most stormwater runoff is not treated before it is carried directly to our creeks and rivers, and as a result, it is the most significant contributor to water quality degradation. Common stormwater pollutants include oils, pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria, heavy metals, gasoline and sediment. Segments of the San Antonio River and its tributaries are considered impaired for water quality due to these stormwater pollutants, particularly bacteria.

SARA's expert scientists and engineers know that sustainable development is necessary to generate improvements in the health of the San Antonio River Watershed. Therefore, SARA is promoting best management practices (BMPs), such as Low Impact Development (LID), for reducing stormwater runoff. LID is designed to treat the runoff from small storm events on-site and to limit runoff in larger storms. LID

controls pollution by reducing the volume of runoff as well as by filtering and treating it.

The stormwater retrofits being implemented at SARA's main office are a way for SARA to lead by example and to use this as a case study of LID retrofits in highly urbanized areas. The retrofits include five cisterns, seven rain gardens and 22 permeable pavement parking stalls. SARA representatives met with the King William Association in December. Based on feedback, some adjustments have been made to the design. The City's Historic Design and Review Commission reviewed the case on January 20, 2016.

SARA will submit more information, including images of the retrofits, to the KWA prior to construction beginning later this summer. An open house will be held when the retrofits are completed so KWA members can see the LID BMPs firsthand and learn how they function. SARA is confident the retrofits will improve stormwater runoff while enhancing and complementing the existing aesthetic and design of the King William Historic District.

To learn more about LID, visit SARA's website at www.sara-tx.org.

- Michelle E. Garza, Stormwater Analyst and Aarin Teague, Ph.D., P.E. Watershed Engineer

The contents of this article do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency.



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"Elsewhere" here - Neighbors Matthew Rose (center) and Lewis Sussman (far left) and their band YesBodyElse celebrated the release of their CD "Elsewhere" at the Brick at the Blue Star Arts Complex on January 15 with an appreciative crowd. The band performed selections from the CD, joined by singer Rachel Laven, bassist Dale Johnson and esteemed guitarist Joe Reyes.

Captivating Neighbors Recognized

In its end of the year issue, the San Antonio Current published its first-ever "People Issue" featuring 20 folks selected for doing captivating work in the Alamo City.

We are delighted that "The 20 Most Captivating People in San Antonio This Year" list includes three of our neighbors: Naomi Shihab Nye, poet and author, and Angela and Rick Martinez, owners and operators of Slab Cinema.

For the full story and to see the wonderful photo portraits by Josh Huskins, go to

sacurrent.com/san-antonia/the-people-issue/Content?oid=2494692



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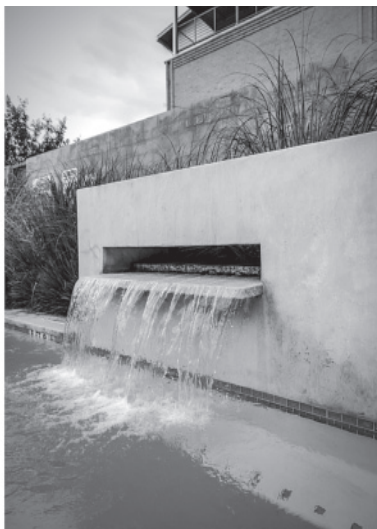
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Basura Bash
Saturday, February 20
See page 10 for details.

February Calendar

- 3 General Membership Meeting - KWA Office - 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 President's Day - KWA Office open
- 17 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Basura Bash