We see them so often in San Antonio that we may forget to notice them, or at least to note how extraordinary they are: intricate light fixtures of perforated metal, on the Riverwalk, in our stores and banks, in some of our finest homes. The delicate patterns that these fixtures project on our walls and walkways are part of the sensual world of our city, as natural to us as the flicker of luminarias or the shadows of papel picado. But they are the work of a few inspired men and women, living and working here in our neighborhood – part of a tradition that, fortunately, is set to persevere.

Isaac Maxwell was one of several architects who were early pioneers in King William when it was still an edgy and decaying place. He started his career with E. B. Flowers in the 1960s, just across the street from O’Neil Ford’s offices at King William and Guenther. In Flowers’ office Maxwell worked beside a friend from architecture school, William McDonald, with whom he shared a passion for handcrafted wood and metal fixtures to complement the buildings they designed. Self-taught, and initially making the lamps and metal-clad doors themselves, they were part of an even older tradition. In a 1982 interview in Texas Homes magazine, both men acknowledged their debt to Lynn Ford – the brilliant craftsman, brother of architect O’Neil, whose own works in wood, metal, and ceramic were key elements of the Fords’ regionalist modernism.

They acknowledged the debt but also their differences, from Ford and from each other. Maxwell’s metal work was the most ornate of the three, requiring hundreds of precise strokes of hammer and awl. (Isaac was quick to point out that Lynn Ford drilled his holes, but Maxwell punched.) This level of handwork, combined with Maxwell’s perfectionism, carried a cost. As his architectural practice grew, the demand for metalwork outpaced the time to complete it. It was at that point that he hired a craftsman then in his 20s, Gregorio “Goyo” Rebollar, to lead this part of the business. In an historic storefront on South Alamo at Mission Street, Rebollar led a crew of craftsmen in realizing Isaac’s designs.

Isaac Maxwell died in 1998 at age 59. His wife, Judith Maxwell (also an architect) and Goyo kept the metal shop going at the South Alamo location, guided by a generous archive of Isaac’s drawings (they had long since developed a method for transferring these designs to metal, copying the original drawings full-scale to paper templates that could be attached to the metal and punched through). It was Judith’s wish to pass the business to Rebollar, which transition was catalyzed – as things in King William often are – by the redoubtable Mike Casey, who had been the Maxwells’ close friend since he moved to the neighborhood in the 1970s. In 2014, with Rebollar now full partner, Isaac Maxwell Metal relocated to 1135 South St. Mary’s.

Continued on page 3
President's Report  
by Harry Shafer

This being my last post as president, I want to highlight some of the accomplishments this past year on big ticket items that affect our neighborhood. The efforts of the King William-Lavaca Parking and Transportation Committee chaired by Rose Kanusky have born fruit. Our meetings with the City Manager’s staff, City Center Development Office, and Transportation and Capital Improvements Department resulted in the city hiring an outside consultant, Amy Avery of Kimley-Horn Engineers, to make a thorough study of the parking and transportation issues in King William and Lavaca. We combined the two neighborhoods because we share the same parking issues and are impacted by events in each other’s neighborhoods. The consultant’s study has taken a year to complete, and has not been released, but a draft summary was presented at our committee meeting. The City will be implementing some of the recommendations as early as October. These new parking and transportation changes will be explained in forthcoming public meetings offered by the city.

With the growth of Southtown and the burgeoning commercial corridors of S. Alamo and S. St. Mary’s Streets, more new businesses will become a reality. The KWA has made efforts to negotiate with new businesses on zoning issues and create parking options for their patrons. This effort for parking options has worked well with Steve Mahoney at Francis Bogside and Andrew Goodman, who is creating a new restaurant at the old fire house on S. Alamo. Steve negotiated alternative parking at 721 S. St. Mary’s, and Andrew negotiated an agreement with SAISD and the owner of a private lot. I appointed an ad hoc committee composed of Monika Maeckle and Cherise Bell to meet with the owners of new businesses early in the process to negotiate parking and zoning issues in an effort to make their businesses more neighborhood-friendly.

As we all know, the City spent two years improving the drainage and sidewalks along Pereida Street from S. Alamo to Probandt. The now-dissolved Southtown Chamber Board created a TIRZ (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone) with the City to make improvements on S. Alamo Street. The drawings were completed, but only part of the plan was implemented, and those were not according the design schematics (e.g., the controversial planter bump-outs). Cherise Bell and I have been in discussion with the City for some time to complete this project. Our pleas have now been heard. Assistant City Manager Lori Houston met with us in August and outlined a $1.3 million project to extend along S. Alamo from Cesar Chavez to Pereida. This project will include sidewalk replacement and bike lanes that will extend to Blue Star. S. Alamo Street is a major corridor in the Mission Reach and is included in VIA’s VIVA cultural corridor route from Blue Star to the McNay Art Museum.

One important move to improve the KWA’s financial holdings was made this year with the creation of the Investment Committee. With interest rates for our bank accounts yielding virtually nothing, the Board approved the investment of $350,000 in an investment account. Thus far, with only about two months of this investment, the yield has been over $12,000. The income from these funds will be used to further our charter and strategic plan commitments.

All in all, it has been a good year for the KWA. The Fair staff put together the best and most successful fair ever. Our volunteer committees have done an outstanding job, and remind us that while we do have an office and Fair staff, the KWA is still largely a volunteer organization. I appreciate the efforts that all have made.
KWA Board Election – 2016-2017

The election of King William Association Board members for 2016-2017 will take place on September 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the general membership meeting at the KWA office (122 Madison Street). The election is for a term of one year.

The following names will be on the ballot:

**President Elect – Chris Price**, 331 Adams Street

**New Candidates**
- **Shawn Campbell**, 524 King William Street
- **Gretchen Kragh**, 315 Adams Street
- **Erich Landry**, 119 Daniel Street
- **Monika Maeckle**, 310 E. Arsenal Street
- **Connie Martinez**, 128 City Street
- **Betsy Schultz**, 618 E. Guenther Street
- **Brad Shaw**, 133 Wickes Street
- **Amanda Strickland**, 220 Pereida Street

**Returning Candidates**
- **Beth Davis**, 202 Wickes Street
- **Patty Duarte**, 232 Claudia Street
- **Josephine Garcia**, 210 W. Johnson Street
- **Charlotte Luongo**, 802 S. Main Avenue
- **Ethel Pedraza**, 607 Mission Street
- **Bradley Toland**, 720 E. Guenther Street
- **Christine Vina**, 114 Camp Street

Each person who is a current member of the King William Association (as of September 1, 2016) will be asked to vote for 15 or fewer candidates. The top 15 vote-getters will be elected to the 2016-2017 Board of Directors. Harry Shafer will serve on the Board as Immediate Past President.

- Jessie Simpson

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**Did You Know?**

The National Park Service (NPS) celebrated its 100th birthday on August 25, 1916. President Wilson signed the bill to create this federal bureau in the Department of the Interior. One purpose of the NPS is to “conserve the scenery of the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” (nps.gov/aboutus/history)

When the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was created 50 years later, the NPS became responsible for the administration of the National Register of Historic Places. The NHRP will celebrate its 50th birthday on October 15. “The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community, state, or the nation.” (nps.gov/aboutus/history)

Three National Register Historic Districts are located within the boundaries of the King William Association: the U.S. San Antonio Arsenal listed in 1969, King William listed in 1972, and S. Alamo-S. St. Mary’s Streets listed in 1984.

- Cherise Bell

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**Isaac Maxwell Metal**

The new location is in a small blue bungalow, part of an artists’ compound that includes gallery Sala Diaz and has been home to generations of artists and students.

Today Rebollar’s crew is a family matter, including his grandson Abel Gonzales and son-in-law Jacob Reza; daughter Judith helps in the office.

Recently retired from his law practice and partner with Rebollar in Isaac Maxwell Metal, Casey devotes himself to business development. He speaks happily of recent commissions and queries from contractors and architects across South Texas. There are plans, he says, for Maxwell’s original drawings to be permanently housed at UTSA – maintaining the archive as resource and inspiration for future architects and designers, even as the tradition lives on in the hands of Goyo Rebollar and his descendants.

- Jack Kent
Noise Restriction
Added to S. Alamo St.
Developments

Every five years the City reviews its Unified Development Code (UDC) and reviews input from staff and citizens. KWA requested adding a noise restriction to commercial properties similar to the “no alcohol” restriction. After review by many commissions, City Council approved adding NR as part of the UDC update.

Two zoning cases went before City Council on August 4: 1009 S. Alamo and 1811 S. Alamo, using the NR (noise restriction) to prohibit any outdoor amplified noise.

The KWA Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC), staff and neighbors worked with Eric Schlater, property owner of 1009 S. Alamo, regarding the zoning and redevelopment of this property. In the end, eight parking spaces and NR were added to the rear of the property. Music will still be allowed on the front facing S. Alamo.

Staff and neighbors met with David Adelman on the redevelopment of his properties at 1811 S. Alamo and 1302 S Flores. Adelman proposed to rezone the property from industrial use to commercial use, to include a bar (IDZ C2 with a bar). Mr. Adelman did not want to restrict noise as he thought the City’s noise ordinance would take care of any noise problems. At the City Council meeting five neighbors and I spoke requesting the City add the noise restriction (NR) to these properties to prohibit outdoor amplified noise. District 1 Councilman Treviño made a motion to approve the new zoning with the addition of the noise restriction.

KWA Board, staff and committees continue to work towards a better quality of life in the King William area as stated in the KWA Charter. Having neighbors involved and speaking at City hearings is an important part of the process. Please help the KWA help you. Volunteer to be on committees, speak at City meetings, or write letters, as there is strength in numbers.

- Cherise Bell

Parking / Transportation Committee Report

The KWA and LNA joint Parking/Transportation Committee met with the City’s staff and consultant in July to discuss the ongoing review of our transit issues. The City is working closely with the consultant to identify best practices for permit parking and to further identify funding sources for solutions. Another meeting was expected in late August or early September.

- Rose Kanusky, Committee Chair

KWA Concerts
in the Park

Fall Series begins
Sunday, September 18
with
Rudi and the Rudiments

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Upper Mill Park
Washington at Beauregard

Bring your chairs or blankets, drinks, snacks and bug spray. Free paletas for the first 100 attendees!
HEMISFAIR PRESENTS:
SOUTH TOWN CINEMA
FIRST & THIRD SATURDAYS, AUGUST-DECEMBER
Yanaguana Garden at Hemisfair

FREE EVENT!

SEPTEMBER 3
Breaking Away
brought to you by Slab Cinema

SEPTEMBER 17
School of Rock
brought to you by Southtown Vinyl

SEPTEMBER 18
Guardians of the Galaxy
brought to you by Garrison Retreats

SEPTEMBER 19
The Three Amigos
brought to you by Alamo Beer

OCTOBER 1
Zootopia
brought to you by Frank's

OCTOBER 3
Ratatouille
brought to you by La Frite

OCTOBER 11
It's a Wonderful Life
brought to you by Hemisfair

NUESTRA HISTORIA – OUR HISTORY:
SPAIN IN BEXAR COUNTY
Free. Tuesday, Sept. 6 – Sunday Sept. 11
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Monday.
Presidio Gallery, 126 E. Nueva Street

SAN PEDRO CREEK GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY & OPERA
Free. Thursday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Fox Tech High School Athletic Fields,
701 N. Flores

RESTORED BY LIGHT
Free. Friday, Sept. 9
6:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Mission San Jose, 6701 San Jose Drive

TOUR DE LAS MISIONES
Saturday, Sept. 10, 8:00 a.m.
Mission Park Pavilion, 6030 Padre Drive

MISSION 5K
Saturday, Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m.
Mission Park Pavilion, 6030 Padre Drive

MISSION PACHANGA EVENING
CELEBRATION
Free. Saturday, Sept. 10
11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Mission Park Pavilion, 6030 Padre Drive

CELEBRATORY MASS
Free. Sunday, Sept. 11, various times
San Antonio Spanish Missions:
Nuestra Señora de la Purisma Concepcion –
10:00 a.m., Noon
San José y San Miguel de Aguayo – Noon
San Juan Capistrano – 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
San Francisco de la Espada – 10:00 a.m.

worldheritagefestival.org

First Friday
at Urban Farm Stand

Sept. 2
5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
1423 S. Presa St.

Featuring Chef Stephen Paproki of
Texas Black Gold, the specialty roasted
garlic producer. He will demonstrate
making gourmet ice cream with his
ingredients. Happy Gut Foods producers will
offer samples of their kimchee and pestos. Live
music, open mike and food truck. Wide selection
of bargain books on sale, including art, cooking,
gardens, travel, health, mind and body.

Hemisfair
Where San Antonio Meets
434 South Alamo Street • hemisfair.org • @hemisfair
September is only technically the beginning of fall in Texas, since rain and temperatures will not catch up with the calendar until much closer to Halloween than to Labor Day. From my back porch the newly mowed lawn looks more like a field of straw. I’d half expected to see the three figures from Millet’s painting “The Gleaners” picking their way across the tawny stubble looking for left-behind grain.

There are urban gleaners too, and they are always with us. Every time the City allows us to haul out the useless, broken or forgotten objects in our basements and attics and put them at the curb for mass collection, these late-harvest gatherers appear seemingly out of nowhere. I’ve had the experience, between trips between cellar and curb, of finding the first deposit picked over or entirely missing before I can put another load on top of it.

A glance down the street reveals a convoy of battered pick-up trucks and sedans with trunks lashed with twine to accommodate the booty within. I’m often amazed by the occult economy this represents; where are all the rags, broken mop handles, bottomless chairs and crushed lamp-shades going, if not to the dump?

Monday mornings at dawn another set of gatherers appears, peering into the giant blue bins that hold a week’s collection of recyclable items, glass jars, metal cans, newspaper, cardboard and landscape-choking plastic bags. These often disappear too, piled into shopping carts and toy wagons bound for reclamation at pennies to the pound.

My father told me that he found my grandfather late one night engaged in a strange ritual at the kitchen table. He was carefully, almost tenderly, wrapping up his razor blades in layers of newsprint, along with cans with jagged edges and glass contains that would be broken in the ash can in the alley behind their house. My father asked what he was doing and my grandfather’s wordless reply was to motion to follow him to the alley. Grandfather put the bundles gently in the galvanized metal can and pointed down the alley where Depression-era homeless men were rummaging for anything of value. “I don’t want them to hurt themselves…” was the explanation, and an epiphany for my father.

On one of the occasions when I was acting as tour guide for a group of University of Texas architecture students, an aspiring Chinese city planner asked me what the very large brown bins were that she saw at everyone’s curbside. “They are for trash,” I said with a stunning lack of profundity. “You mean you are all so rich you can throw so much away?” she asked.

The reason I love teaching is that it enables me to spend time with young people at the best time in their lives – everything is new and subject to questioning, even the apparently obvious. Are we so rich we can afford to throw so much away?

The topography of virtually every large city in the U.S. boasts huge new hills, some of them almost mountains. I suppose we could call them Mons Purgamen, but the Latin belies the truth: they are landfills.

- Michael Guarino
When Mary Burkholder’s book, *The King William Area – A History & Guide to the Houses*, was published in 1973, Eleanor Toxey was not at all happy with how her house at 218 Washington was depicted. In a conversation with Eleanor in 2002, she told me that when she asked Burkholder why a picture of her house was not included in the book, and the house barely mentioned, Mary replied, “Your house is too new. I’m only including houses that were built before 1920.” That really hit a nerve with Eleanor. Burkholder states in her book that the Giesecke House was built “about 1920,” but Eleanor had a photograph of the house’s construction beginning in 1915. Eleanor never forgave Mary for not giving her house the respect that she thought it deserved with a photo and a more extensive history.

The original owners of this Craftsman Style house were Gustav Giesecke and his wife Annie. Construction of the house was completed in 1916-17, “before the United States entered into WWI,” according to Giesecke’s notes. The architect for the house was the highly acclaimed San Antonio firm, Augustus A. Herff Company.

According to research done by the current owner, Anne Toxey, Gus Giesecke participated in the design of his “dream house” which featured the most advanced technologies and comforts of the early 20th century: built-in electrical lighting and appliances; built-in central radiant heating system; built-in closets and cabinetry; flush toilets, bathtubs and a magnificent marble shower with both overhead and side water jets; sitting and sleeping porches; and strategically-placed screened windows for cross ventilation of breezes.

One hundred years later, the ornate radiators still operate from a huge 19th century cast iron furnace in the basement, now converted from coal to natural gas. One of the significant facts in the house’s history is that it has remained in its original state, unlike most mansions in the King William neighborhood, which were remodeled or divided into apartments in the early- to mid-20th century.

In 1894, Giesecke’s friend and neighbor, Arthur Guenther, who owned the Wulff house at 107 King William Street, left his family’s mill operation at the opposite end of the street to enter into a partnership with Giesecke in building and operating the Liberty Mill.

In 1912, Guenther left the Liberty Mill to become vice president of his wife’s family’s Gross National Bank, where he remained until his death in 1931 at age 72. Giesecke retired as president and general manager of the Liberty Mill in 1933, and died three years later at age 70 (see note below).

Several months after Annie Giesecke died in 1950, the Toxey family bought the property on Washington Street. In 1951, Walter and Eleanor Toxey and their son, Walter, Jr., and daughter, also named Eleanor, became the new owners.

In the mid 1950s, Walter Toxey, Jr., while still living in the home of his parents, was instrumental in having the King William park gazebo moved from the Arsenal grounds to its present location.

Walter Toxey, Sr. was a field engineer for the City of San Antonio. He died in 1957 at age 67. His wife Eleanor lived on in the house until her death in 1972, when the house passed on to her unmarried daughter Eleanor, who taught school at Herff Elementary School on S. Hackberry St. for many years. Soon after Eleanor died in 2005, the house that she so dearly loved became the home of her niece, Anne Toxey, and her husband, Patrick McMillan. Anne is the third generation of the Toxey family to own and live in the house.

- Bill Cogburn

Note: Arthur Guenther and Gus Giesecke were married to sisters. Arthur’s wife was Elise Frederike “Lieschen” Groos. Gus was married to Anna “Annie” Franciska Groos. The sisters’ parents were Gustav and Anna Groos, who lived at 231 Washington Street. The Groos family was one of San Antonio’s leading German business families, owning the Groos National Bank as well as general mercantile operations. There are two Groos family homes in the neighborhood: at 231 Washington Street where the sisters grew up, and at 335 King William Street.

Sources: Mary Burkholder’s *The King William Area – A History & Guide to the Houses*; research of current owner, Anne Toxey; SAPL Texana Room.
This wonderful 1905 home in King William is rich in history and meticulously maintained, with high ceilings, original wood floors, ornate moldings, abundant built-ins and expert lighting. Two large living areas with fireplaces, one with carved marble mantel; master suite with dual baths, three additional bedrooms each with full bath; elegant dining room, separate breakfast area and small open and efficient kitchen. Rear covered patio, several balconies, large 2-car garage, maid's quarters, beautifully landscaped brick courtyard. Beautiful entry porch with carved stone details. Two central air systems. Flooring includes wood, Saltillo tile, ceramic tile and carpeted areas. Conveniently located near several fine restaurants and the San Antonio Riverwalk. This is a must see!

The perfect opportunity to own an architectural gem on a corner lot in King William.

Debra Maltz
(210) 639 - 3272
www.centroproperties.net
Cuentos y Culturas
Fri Sep 23, 2016
6pm – 9pm

Celebrating Latinx Heritage Month, SAY Sí presents exhibits and performance looking at personal narratives and explorations of Latinx identity.

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.
A dear friend and long-time King William neighbor has died. Ralph Wells suffered a fatal heart attack while preparing breakfast early on a recent Wednesday morning. He always said he wanted to die in his own backyard with his dogs nearby. He made it as far as his back porch. He had just celebrated his 84th birthday the day before.

Just a few months earlier, during the 2016 King William Fair, the Brackenridge High School Eagle Band marched down E. Guenther, stopped at Ralph’s house, did a right face and serenaded him with “O, Wisconsin,” the Brack Fight song. They were honoring Ralph for starting the Brack Scholarship Program and keeping it alive for over 30 years. Ralph said that recognition was one of his proudest moments.

In 1983, on his regular evening walks along the river, Ralph began noticing a few high school students gathering to do their homework where Sheridan Street meets the river. Engaging them in conversation, they said it was peaceful and quiet on the river; their homes were too crowded and noisy to study. Touched by the determination of those students, Ralph decided to invest in the lives of his young neighbors who wanted and deserved an education but could not have it without assistance.

At first, the scholarship fund consisted of Ralph’s regular payments; then contributions of friends and grateful patients caused it to grow. In 1986, KWA adopted the fund, but it was some years before substantial money began to flow into the ACCD Scholarship Fund that we’re so proud of today.

Born in Chicago, Ralph grew up in Minnesota where, as a high school senior in 1950, he built a wind tunnel to enter the Westinghouse Science Contest. Honorable mention won him a scholarship to Hamline University in St. Paul. After medical school in 1957, being in the Army Reserves, Ralph went on active duty at Ft. Sam Houston. By the 1960s, his wife, Barbara, and their two children were settled in San Antonio, while Ralph was stationed at various foreign and domestic posts.

Disturbed that the Army was drafting civilian physicians while some regular Army doctors remained state-side, Ralph volunteered for combat duty and served three tours of duty in Viet Nam. He was Medical Battalion Commander and Chief of the Third Field Hospital during the Tet Offensive in 1968. While in Saigon, he treated Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu.

Back in the states, Ralph became Chief of Gastroenterology at BAMC from 1972 to his retirement in 1976. Ralph first treated President Lyndon Johnson at Ft. Sam. When Johnson left office and moved back to his ranch near Johnson City, Ralph began regular visits to care for the former president until his death in 1973. The medical bag he carried is now exhibited at the LBJ Ranch Museum.

Ralph retired from the Army on a Friday in 1976 and joined the Nix Hospital staff the next Monday. After twenty years of Army housing, he and Barbara could finally buy a home of their own. A friend put them in touch with Walter Mathis who showed them the house on the corner of S. Alamo and E. Guenther. Seeing that Ralph and Barbara were discouraged by the rundown condition of the house, Walter invited them to his house for drinks. After a few stiff gin and tonics they made the decision to buy the house.

It took three years to make the house livable but it was a good time to be in King William. The 1970s saw a resurgence of urban pioneers, many of them looking to restore these old houses. Strong, lasting friendships were quickly formed in those early days with good neighbors such as the Battersons, Masoros, Crains, Baileys, Ed Slezk and Caroline Matthews, and Janet and Sidney Francis.

The Wells enjoyed life in King William, collecting and supporting local artists, especially students at SAY SI. They were breakfast regulars at El Mirador and dined with friends on Monday nights at La Focaccia. At least once a year, they traveled by train to Chicago to visit museums and art galleries, dine in fine restaurants and see a few stage productions.

Following Barbara’s illness and death in 2004, Ralph still took his evening walks around the neighborhood. He altered his head was down and his step slower. When Ralph met Ruth Polston, his life changed. Life was good again. They were married in Chicago in 2007, honeymooned at Niagara Falls and began a new life of travel and interesting projects. “Every day was an adventure,” Ruth said.

Education continued to be of utmost importance to Ralph. For years, he read with Bonham students through the Kiwanis mentorship program. The King William Scholarship program for neighborhood students, who would not otherwise be able to further their education, remained a major focus of Ralph’s resources, time and energy until the day he died.

Source: 2013 interview with Dr. Wells; photo courtesy Ruth Wells.

- Bill Cogburn
Here is a suggestion for how to spend a pleasant Saturday. Take the short ride, about 30 minutes, to the Shady Oaks Olive Orchard near Elemendorf (sandyoaks.com). I recently visited and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

The tour, conducted by owner Sandy Windkur, takes you through the 10,000-tree orchard and explains the process and things made from olives. Besides olive oil, there are creams, lotions, soaps and even tea. The tour usually starts about 11:00 a.m., only on Saturday. The orchard is open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at 25195 Mathis Road in Elemendorf. Go out Highway 37 to exit 120, Hardy Road. Take a left and go across the freeway about a quarter mile and turn left on Mathis Road. Go another quarter mile and turn left through the iron gate with the orchard’s name on it.

Take the guided tour, browse the gift shop, and have lunch in the “farm-to-table” restaurant. Trees are also available to buy in the nursery. Olives are hardy in South Texas and are long lived. (To see what they look like, there are two trees growing along Stieren St. at the corner of Adams St.)

For another interesting destination, take the short trip to 711 Matagorda St. in the Lavaca neighborhood to see the front garden and perhaps get ideas for your garden. It has been designated by the National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, having the four basic habitat elements for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young. The plants are drought tolerant and native or adapted for our area. For more information go to nwf.org.

It was getting extremely dry because of several weeks of near or at 100 degrees plus and no substantial rain since early June. Thankfully, mid-August rains and cooler temperatures have revived the soil. Between August 13 and 15, I recorded 3 1/2 inches of rain in my gauge on Mission St.

It is not too late to trim evergreen perennials and shrubs as needed. New growth should harden off before the threat of freezing temperatures. Day lilies and iris can be divided now. Give any excess to a neighbor.

From Wisdom of Mark Twain: A Book of Quotations: “There’s a good spot tucked away somewhere in everybody. You’ll be a long time finding it sometimes.”

Garden Note: A garden is a place to plant your dreams.

This house on Matagorda St. has achieved Certified Wildlife Habitat designation from the National Wildlife Federation, having the four basic habitat elements for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

Brackenridge HS Alumni Assoc. Fundraiser

The Brackenridge High School Alumni Association will be hosting a fundraiser that is a WIN/WIN for everyone! The Brackenridge High School parking lot will be a Goodwill Donation Station on Saturday, September 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You win because you can go right around the corner and get rid of those gently-used items that you no longer want or need! Clean out those garages, closets and cabinets! We win, too, because we will take the items off your hands to fill up our donation truck!

We will also drive through the neighborhood on that day to pick up bags of items; just put them on your porch and mark them Brack/Goodwill and we will take them. Please contact me at letiew@brackalumni.org for a list of acceptable and unacceptable items.

The Alumni Association would appreciate your assistance in spreading the word to neighbors about this as soon as possible, so they can begin gathering donations.

Thank you for your support of Brackenridge High School!

- Letie Wawrzyniak
September Calendar

1      Opening reception - Jesus Toro Martinez paintings exhibit - KWA office - 6:00-7:30 p.m.
7      General Membership Meeting – KWA Office – 7:00 p.m.
7-11   World Heritage Festival – San Antonio Missions
13     Deadline for October newsletter
14     KWA Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
17     Brackenridge HS Alumni Assoc. Fundraiser – school parking lot - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
18     Rudi & the Rudiments – Upper Mill Park – 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

More info on page 5.