



King William Association

Volume 10, No. 1

February 2014

New KWA Membership Benefits!

Your Membership Committee has been very busy this year. Our goal is to increase membership in the KWA and to increase the benefits of membership. We have established three programs to achieve these goals.

Membership Card

By now you should have received your membership card in the mail with the latest KWA directory. This card will help you keep your membership current by reminding you of the expiration date, but this little card does so much more! Show your membership card when you patronize any of the local businesses below to receive discounts:

- A Dream Weaver Florist – 20%
- Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum – \$3 entrance fee instead of \$5
- Guenther House River Mill Store – 20%
- MadHatters Tea House & Café – 10%
- Robert Hughes Gallery – 10%
- The Friendly Spot – 10% on Tuesdays
- Tito's – 10%
- Villa Finale – 10% on entrance fees

We are also negotiating with many other restaurants and businesses in our neighborhood and beyond. If you have a good relationship with a local business, you might mention this program to them and invite them to participate.

Neighborhood Meet & Greet

We are hosting several “meet and greet” gatherings within the neighborhood. A cross-section of residents (not just KWA members) who live in targeted areas of the neighborhood is invited to each event. The first one was held on December 12, 2013, at the home of Annice & Keith Hill. A good crowd of members and non-members came and we had a great time. If you were not invited, do not lose heart! You will be invited to one in the near future, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome Wagon

We are restarting the “welcome wagon” program in our neighborhood. Several of our local businesses and restaurants are adding coupons to the welcome packet. We also have added our walking tour brochure and other info about our neighborhood. The Office of Historic Preservation has provided some great booklets about buying and caring for historic homes and they are also providing us with the bags! King William Realty has agreed to give the office a list each month of new sales and rentals within our borders.

Your suggestions and/or comments are always useful. Feel free to email your suggestions to us at info@ourkwa.org.

- Annice Hill



New Year's Day 5K

On a beautiful New Year's morning, about 40 Southtown friends, neighbors, children and dogs gathered at Brackenridge High School to start the new year off with some exercise (with the added benefit of good conversation). This was the second year for our group excursion. This time we took the scenic route north along the riverwalk, pausing for a photo at the Nueva St. dam before returning southward. What a great way to jump-start those New Year's resolutions with a crew of friends and neighbors beside you!

- Hugh Donagher

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Max Martinez

The holidays are behind us, but we wish the spirit of peace will be with you throughout the year. Last year ended in a whirlwind of activity and it looks like the trend will continue. There are several KWA committees doing some very important work for the organization. And yes, committee members are all volunteers. These folks donate their time and talents to do the work of the Association. Many find it a gratifying experience to be able to work with other neighbors to shape the community in which we live.

One group of individuals, the Planning Committee, is performing a critical activity. They will be developing a strategic plan for the KWA. We anticipate that this very important exercise will add understanding to what the organization and our membership want to focus on in the near-term. From our input meeting last October we heard that our membership wants change to occur. But, for change to occur we need to evaluate where to focus. The strategic plan promises to be the tool that will take us in the direction for our near-term journey.

Another very important committee is the Fair Committee. This is a year-round activity. Through the work of the staff and the many volunteers in its subcommittees the Fair is poised to have a banner year, so clear your calendars for Fair day on April 26th.

There are many other committees that are busy generating positive outcomes on behalf of the Association. Be sure to read the Membership Committee's article in this issue, and take advantage of your new KWA membership discounts with our local businesses! Many thanks to its chair, Annice Hill, for her excellent initiative, and to the participating businesses for their support.

As I indicated before, we are all volunteers. Just like Community Concerns Committee member Patty Duarte, who has dedicated her time and energy to addressing the crime wave that has hit our neighborhood of late -- from keeping people informed to coordinating prevention workshops. Patty, thank you for your dedication in trying to keep our neighborhood a safe and secure place in which to live.

Remember our neighborhood businesses and use your new KWA membership discounts to take your sweetheart dining this Valentine's Day!

New KWA Board Member

Neighbor Ethyl Pedraza has been appointed to the KWA board of directors to fill the unexpired term of departing member Jim Johnson, Jr.

A long-time member of the King William Association, Ethyl is retired from a local distributing company. She has lived in her Mission St. home for over 50 years and graduated from Brackenridge High School. Her hobbies include membership in two bicycle touring groups. In one she has toured in United States, Canada and Europe. She is also co-chair of the annual LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour sponsored by Friends of the LBJ National Historic Park. The tour, which began in 2007, is a major fund raiser for the park.

Ethyl says that her goal as a board member is to maintain the historic character of our neighborhood.

- Alan Cash



COORDINATORS Susan Athene,
Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn

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

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

Editorial guidelines are available online at kingwilliamassociation.org.

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Spotlight on Our Fair Friends



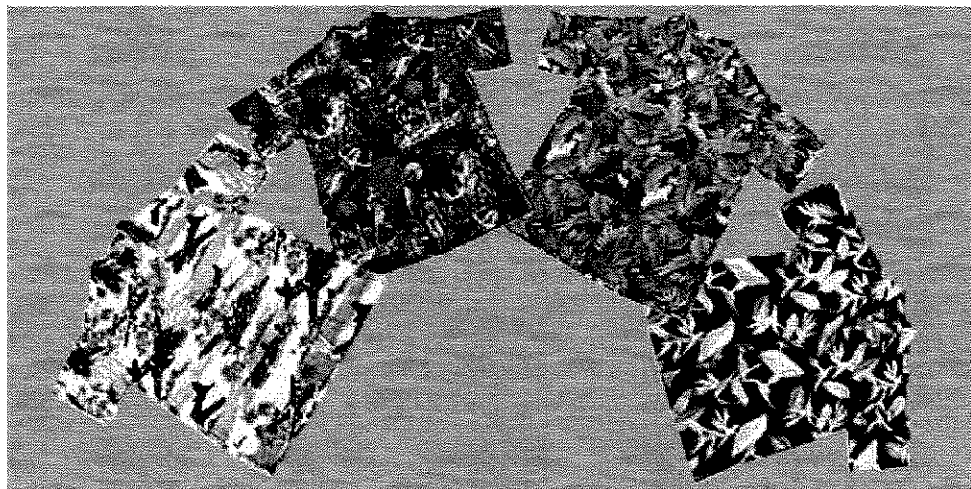
Entertainment

When Rudi Harst moved back to San Antonio in 1979 after a year and a half spent making music in Holland and England, one of the first local gigs he booked was at the original Friendly Spot, located on the corner of Alamo and Beauregard. Performing there regularly alongside bands like The #2 Dinners, The Smith Brothers and Claude Morgan and the Blast, he helped transform the funky, low-key neighborhood ice house into a true hotbed of creative energy.

It was a natural progression for him to get hired to play his music on the front porch of Phil Klein's house for the Fair that year, and for the following two years as well, before he and his wife, Zet Baer, moved to New York, then Berkeley to follow their muse. Upon returning to San Antonio in 1987, he resumed performing at the fair that year, and he has only missed a few years since then.

He has served as Entertainment Manager for the past five years, committed to booking a diverse, top-notch

Continued on page 13



Art & Craft

Moon Dog Shirt Co. is a small home-based company owned by Richard and Judy Kuenstler that has been in business for approximately 30 years hand making and custom making high quality tropical and novelty shirts. Richard does most of the cutting out and Judy does the sewing. Their shirts are made of premium cotton, have matched pockets, yokes in the back, slits on the sides and genuine coconut buttons. Each shirt is cut one at a time with strict attention paid to detail for the best placement of the design. Only about 1,000 shirts are made each year. Happy customers are the best walking advertisement because a well-fitted shirt is always appreciated.

Moon Dog has participated in the King William Fair for at least the last eight years. Judy says, "We do not do very many shows and the King William Fair is by far the best show that we do. From the day after Christmas, we really look forward to making about 40 new designs that we can bring to King William. We love the people who attend the show and the atmosphere of Fiesta. We really appreciate our many returning customers who buy from us each year and the great positive feedback they give us. It is the best show ever and enough can't be said about how much we really appreciate the wonderful group of people who coordinate it. The lovely location is beyond compare."

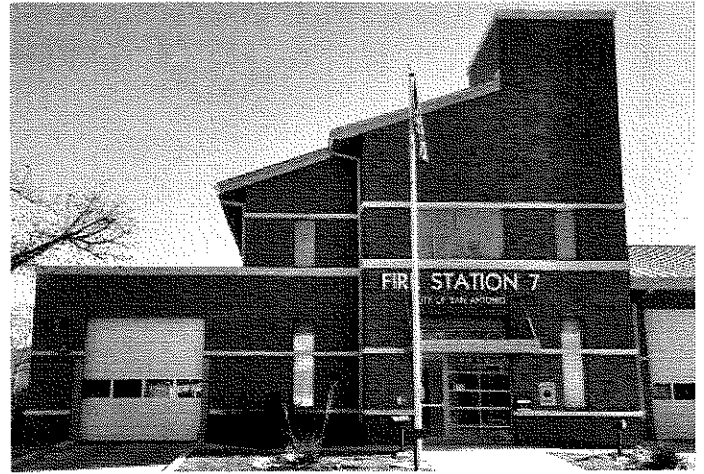
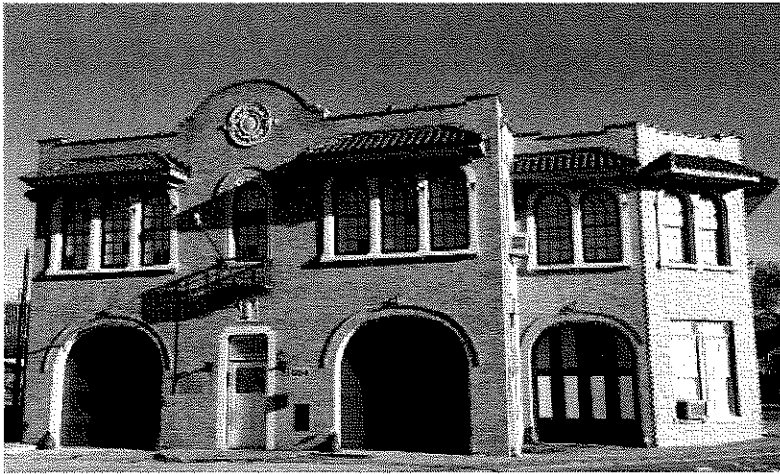


NOTICE



The proposed revisions to the KWA by-laws were presented at a special general membership meeting on January 22, and will be voted upon at the March 5 regularly-scheduled meeting.

A document comparing the current by-laws with the proposed updates and revisions is available at the KWA office, or you may request a copy at info@ourkwa.org.



Spirit of Station #7 Lives On

I recently visited the San Antonio Fire Museum for the first time since it opened last spring. Housed in the old Central Fire Headquarters building near the Alamo, it's home to an impressive collection of equipment, photos and three renovated trucks spanning the life of the Fire Department. While browsing through the photo collection, there was one particular photograph that caught my eye: a group of firefighters stood long-faced on the dusty ground in front of their station, with a woman wearing a long white dress standing among them. The accompanying description simply called her an unknown lady. I like to think that she was a fireman's wife there to bring lunch, or even cooking for the whole crew the day the photo was taken.

As a firefighter's wife myself, I've experienced the life of the station secondhand with stories of both the bizarre and everyday calls that are made, and I've joined in on a number of meals over the past several years — Thanksgiving at Station No. 7 is truly a feast.

The current Station No. 7 on S. St. Mary's and Florida has been like a second home for our family, but we, like so many residents and visitors to Southtown, can't help but feel drawn to the old Station No. 7 on S. Alamo. Until recently it was maintained by a group of volunteers — both retired and active duty firefighters — and housed equipment now on display in the Fire Museum.

During my visit to the museum, I had the honor of meeting retired firefighter Lee Zalesky, who happened to

spend his early years in the department at old Station No. 7. Zalesky described how they used to call it The Rock, because it stood alone like an island when it was surrounded by Lavaca and the former Water Street, before the days of HemisFair Park.

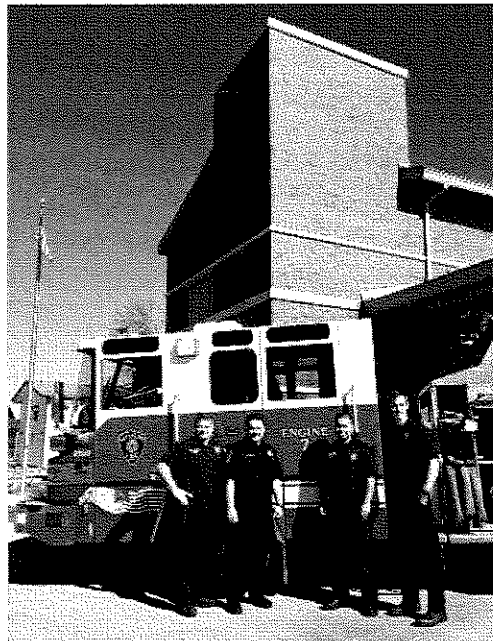
The S. Alamo station standing today was actually the third firehouse built on the same lot, and was thought to be the longest active fire station site in the U.S. Originally home to the Mission Hose Co. No. 4 in 1885, it was replaced with a two-story wooden firehouse in 1901 after the city took over the volunteer companies. The current three-bay station was built in 1924 and remained active until 2007 when the new station opened.

Said to be haunted by firemen who spent their lives in service to the community, it is unknown what will happen to the S. Alamo station. There are rumors of it becoming a restaurant, bar or even an art gallery. Although the old station may never see its glory days again, the camaraderie is still very much alive in the new Station No. 7. We are indebted to both the men and women serving at our station today, as well as the volunteers who have worked together for the last decade to bring the San Antonio Fire Museum to life and pre-

serve the stories of stations like The Rock.

The Fire Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. A small donation is requested for adult visitors, and children 12 and under are free.

- Amy Johnson



Members from Station No. 7's C-Shift (left to right): Captain Gary Ullmann, Engineer Albert Vasquez and firefighters Jamie Alveraz and Chris Johnson. Photos by Amy Johnson.

A Very Late Fall

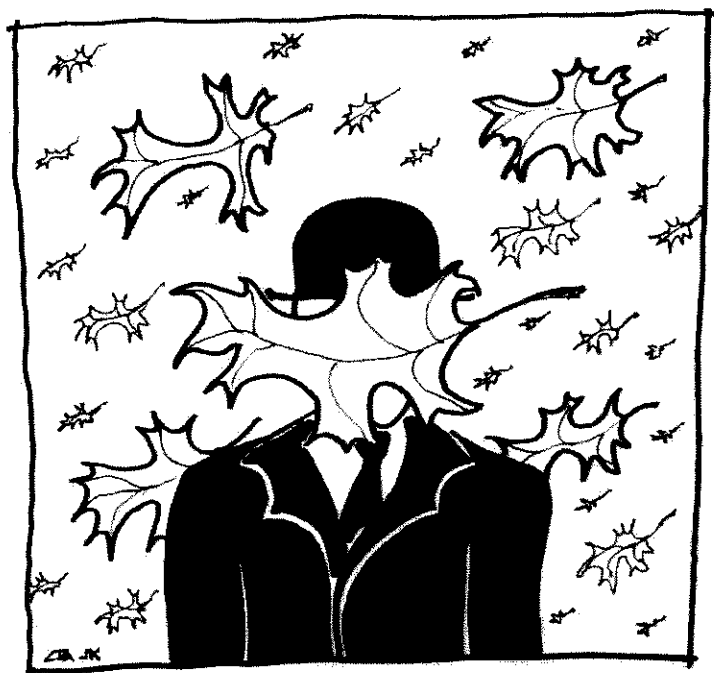
As I'm writing, the nation is shuddering through an outbreak of polar air that is shattering pipes and records from Florida to Maine. Our own temperatures have had the consequence of revealing who among our neighbors has lived in the upper Midwest or Northeast: you can tell them by their long wool coats (mine included).

The German architecture students I wrote about previously were fascinated with the cypress trees along King William's stretch of River Walk. They grasped some of the soft low-hanging needles and gazed at the knees poking out of the bank. Crape myrtles were explored by touch, running their hands over the smooth bark. Noticing others noticing things one takes for granted can be revelatory. I've been looking at the landscape differently since their visit.

Whatever your opinion of climate change may be, the seasons in King William are noticeably altered. Some of my red oaks are still wearing all their scarlet garments and the pecans seemed to have shed all their leaves in a single night, well into December. The crape myrtles and cedar elms were all later than usual changing color, and it lasted much longer since the trees seemed reluctant to let their foliage go. I'm usually raking leaves the weekend after Thanksgiving. This year it was after New Year's.

The simultaneous dropping of leaves and pecans has made something of a dilemma out of retrieving the fruit of this year's growing season. The shells are buried among the leaves and the cracking and popping that accompany every footfall resonate in the pit of a stomach that won't benefit from the macerated kernels pressed into the soil.

Sound is as much a part of the landscape as color. Crunching along a walk over acorns, the suddenly muted footsteps on a thick carpet of vivid russet cypress needles,



the papery rustle of dry leaves on the sidewalk, the moan of wind blowing through shutters – all the aural signature of a very tardy autumn.

The abundance of falling leaves softens all of the landscape and blurs the distinction between the river and its earthen shoulders. Great rafts of red and gold leaves and needles make the water an extension of the ground's palette, nature coloring outside the lines of the boundary between the aquatic and the riparian. The intensity of the color is enhanced by the blankness of the forms of white herons halfway in and out of the water.

The wind is picking up out of the north, time to turn up the wool collar and walk home along streets crisscrossed by skittering leaves. They make a sound when they move across the pavement, kind of a hiss, or is it a sigh at the end of a very late fall?

- Michael Guarino

In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities ...

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Spillman Buildings in King William



202 Madison St.

Beverly W. Spillman was a prominent South Texas architect born in San Saba in 1885. After graduating from Texas A&M he moved to San Antonio around 1906 and joined an architectural firm. In 1907 he married Grace Glover, and they lived at 142 Laurel Heights Place in a house he designed.

Spillman was the architect for numerous theaters in South Texas and for the San Angelo Hotel. He also designed many commercial buildings, including one at 202 S. Flores Street (now the Cadillac Bar), Prospect Hill Baptist Church, and the general office building and entry gate for the San Antonio Portland Cement Co. In San Antonio there are at least six houses in Monte Vista designed by Spillman and two buildings in King William.

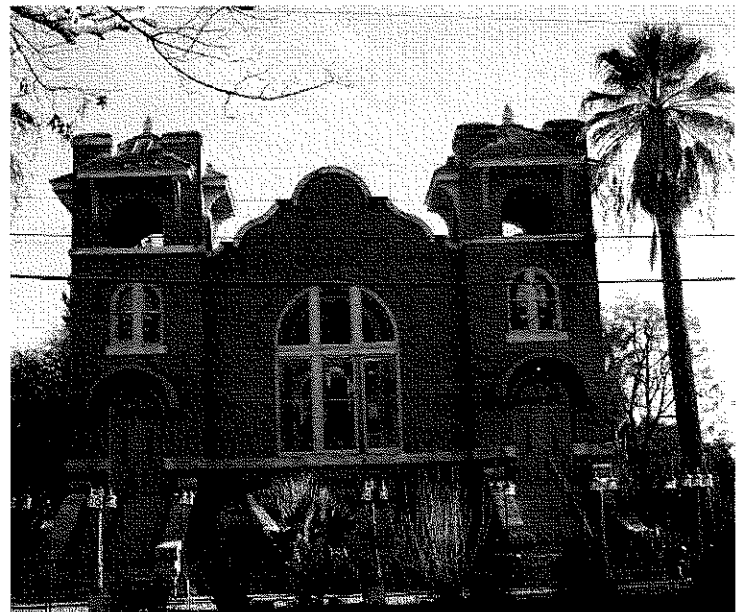
In 1906 Issac Henyan and his wife Pauline hired Spillman to design a house for their lot at the corner of Madison and Turner, today's 202 Madison. Ed Steves & Sons supplied all the materials. According to the mechanics lien, the cost for the brick house, complete with plumbing, wiring, piping and heating, was \$3,500.

The former Alamo Methodist Church, at 1150 S. Alamo St., also designed by Spillman, is a great example of Mission/Spanish Revival architecture. In 1908 trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South bought two lots at this corner of S. Alamo and Wickes Street for \$3,000.

Church services were held in a house at 102 Wickes until January 1912, when the church building was begun. By the 1970s its congregation had dwindled so the church was merged with another and the building sold.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, this building is rumored to be "one that definitely is the home of a variety of spirits," according to HauntedHouses.com. Alleged ghosts include locally famous Margaret Gething and her seamstress, Henrietta, who supposedly became attracted to the space during its reincarnation around 1975 as The Alamo Street Restaurant & Theatre. It was also home to Casbeers at the Church, a popular music venue and restaurant, until about 2011.

- Susan Athené and Cherise Bell



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Free Valentine's Day Event

Friday, February 14, 2014

6-10 pm (films start at dusk)

Arneson River Theatre in La Villita Historic Arts Village
(at the corner of Alamo and Nueva Streets)

For more details please call 210.207.8614 or visit SAHearts.com



Did You Know?

The King William Association is a nonprofit organization run by a board of directors that is voted upon by the membership, as set forth in its bylaws: "The Board of Directors will be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting of the Association in September." The affairs of the organization are managed by the board members, who serve one-year terms and are eligible for three (3) consecutive terms. Since board members join the board at different times, this means that about one-third of the board membership changes annually. The KWA board of today is a completely different board from 20 – or even three – years ago. Each year the board is a unique blend of members who represent the "property ownership, geography, gender and ethnicity" of the King William area.

Each board faces unique situations and opportunities. Staff and board members gather information and thoroughly discuss the options and implications of potential decisions. Board members vote for what each thinks will be most beneficial outcome for the neighborhood's long-term viability. When tough decisions are made it is important to remember that the vote represents the majority of the members.

The board appreciates the input received from members and neighbors regarding issues affecting our neighborhood that fall under the jurisdiction of the KWA Charter, and meets on the third Wednesday evening of each month. Per our by-laws, "Board meetings will be open to all members, with participation in the discussion permissible on invitation of the presiding officer."

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact the office at 227-8786 or info@ourkwa.org.

- Cherise Bell

OUT IN THE GARDEN

with Alan Cash

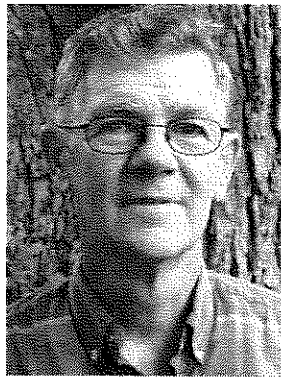
We are now into the New Year and by the time this reaches your mailbox we will be only weeks away from the next growing season. Early March is the typical last frost so Valentine's Day is the earliest best time to trim plants. Bush roses can be cut back by about half but do not trim climbing roses until they have bloomed. Climbers bloom on last year's wood and trimming them earlier eliminates their spring flowers. Bridal wreaths, mountain laurels, flowering quince and most early blooming plants fall into the same category.

Keep watch on the Mexican plum tree at the rear gate at the Steves Homestead at 509 King William St. to see a spectacular display of white flowers lasting two to three weeks. These beautiful trees can be hard to find and you may have to call around to get one for your garden, but they are worth the effort.

Now is the time to fertilize lawns and flowerbeds, if it has been more than three months since your last application. Organic fertilizers are best. Look for brands such as Medina Grow and Green and Lady Bug at an independent nursery or feed store.

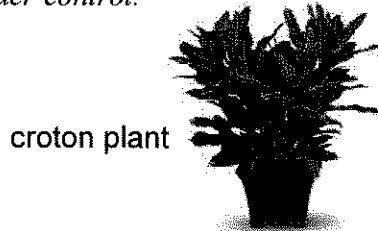
Transplants of flowers and vegetables will soon be available at reasonable prices. Do not plant them until after the danger of frost, usually the second week of March.

For color in the garden throughout the warm months, plants with colored leaves cannot be beat and are easy to grow. Two such plants are crotons and coleus. Both do well in shady areas. They will freeze, but crotons can be kept from year to year if grown in pots.



Many remember Andy Rooney who for years closed the 60 Minutes television news program on Sunday evenings. He always had an amusing story to tell covering a variety of topics. I was recently given a copy of his book *Word for Word*, and the following is taken from it. I hope you vegetable gardeners find it as humorous as I did. His comment went like this: "There are few things in life more satisfying than saving money by growing your own vegetables. Last night we had three home-grown zucchini for dinner. I estimate they cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$ 371.49 each."

Garden Note: Gardening brings joy and keeps the blood pressure under control.



HOUSE NEEDED FOR SUE & BOB!

Professional couple just arrived from UK (Wales) looking to rent a house in or around King William. Prefer 3 Bedrooms and 2 Bathrooms.

Please contact Sue at 210-529-0913

Thank you.

Big Pig Gets New Peepers



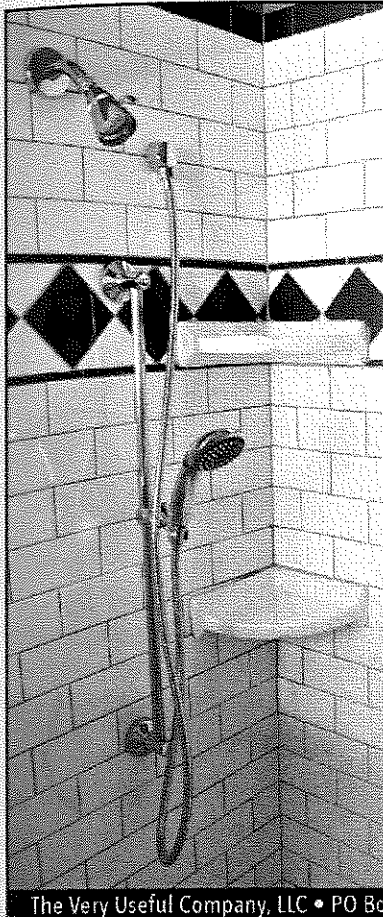
Local artist and Lavaca neighbor Oscar Alvarado recently installed new eyes on the Big Pig.

The "Big Pig," located at the corner of S. St. Mary's and Pereida Streets, was the trademark for the Pig Stand restaurant chain for decades at its Broadway location until I-35 passed it by.

It was found a few years ago in a parking lot on Roosevelt Ave. and relocated to its present spot and restored with the help of neighborhood time, money and effort. In 2007, it was donated to the King William Association as part of legal proceedings when the Pig Stand chain went into bankruptcy.

Made of concrete and steel, local artist Carlos Cortes described it as a large work of folk art and a fine example of pop culture.

- Alan Cash



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Basura Bash is Coming!

Saturday, February 22

Celebrating 20 years of Basura Bash!

Twenty years ago, twelve of us began organizing a river cleanup. There were representatives from SARA, SAWS, the National Park Service, and environmental activists. At that time, we teamed up with the state of Texas "Adopt-a-River" program. The King William Association was the first organization to sign up. We adopted Section One, running from the S. Alamo bridge down to Brackenridge High School. Several homeowners, such as Ed Day and Janet Williams, whose property backed up to the river, pitched in. In those days, there was a huge tunnel under the Alamo St. bridge. We found all sorts of dangerous trash there that required special handling by the big trash trucks from the City. Also, behind Insko, there was about five feet of accumulated bottles and cans that required handling. Eventually these problems were remediated.

In those early years, we felt we had barely made a dent in the trash. We filled up Mike Yndo's truck lots of times with large branches, tires and construction waste. We started painting out graffiti on the walls and culverts down by what is now the Constance-Crofton Park. Little by little, over time, the riverback looked better and better. Eventually, the Mission Trails Rotary Club and student service clubs from Brackenridge High School, including the InterAct Club, the Environmental Club, Math Club and Student Council, stepped up to help. When the Mission Reach project came to fruition, it just felt like the icing on the cake!

Back in 1995, 400 volunteers collected 3.1 tons of trash across the city, and by last year totals were up to 2,535 volunteers and 22 tons, including five tons of metal to be recycled. We are so proud of the progress!

Because our section is so beautiful now and SARA takes care of the maintenance, our KW "River Rats" volunteer group is no longer needed in the 'hood. So we have been volunteering for the last three years at a very special location, the Headwaters of the San Antonio River, located behind the baseball field at Incarnate Word College. We invite you to meet us right there at the bridge behind the field at around 8:30 a.m. Heavy shoes and gloves required! It is fun, rewarding, and only takes two or three hours. Look on the Headwaters website (headwaterscoalition.org) for a map. Also, take a look at the Basura Bash website (basurabash.org) for more information. Come join us and bash some trash! You'll be glad you did.

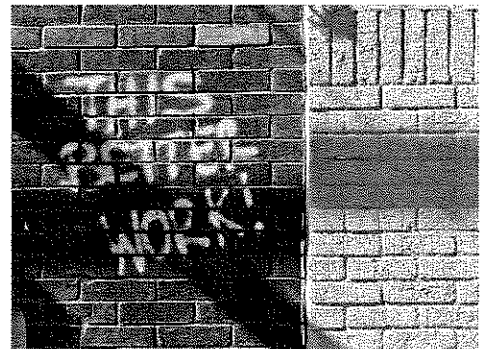
- Robin Raquet



San Antonio 311 Mobile Application

Last October, the City of San Antonio launched a new smart phone and tablet app called San Antonio 311 Mobile Application, or SA 311. Citizens can use this app to report 14 different non-emergency issues including graffiti, aggressive animals, overgrown yards, pothole repairs and missed garbage pick-up.

I gave the app a go for the first time myself last week in order to report some graffiti on the River Walk. The app took me step by step through the reporting process, even allowing me to take a picture of the graffiti to send in. Then, I was able to use the app to track the report's status. It took two days for my report to be closed out. When I returned to the spot where I saw the graffiti, sure enough it had been removed.



Grffiti on building under construction on S. Flores at Arsenal.

This app ought to be a time saver for anyone wishing to contact the city about common non-emergency issues. You can download the app free of charge from the iTunes or Google Play store.

- Charlotte Luongo

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Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program Updates

The Central SAFFE Office phone number is 207-7413. Any SAFFE Officer can try to answer your question or take your message for another officer.

Officer Robert Esquivel took over Officer Santos' post. He can be reached at the Central SAFFE Office or by email at robert.esquivel@sanantonio.gov.

Emergency vs. Non-Emergency Calls:

- Call 911 if you ARE witnessing a crime or fire, if someone is intending to harm someone, or if EMS is needed.

- Call 207-SAPD (Non-Emergency Dispatch) if you witnessed graffiti, burglary, theft, assault or robbery.

Call the SAFFE Officer after calling the Non-Emergency Dispatch to report it so he can follow up on the case. The Non-Emergency Dispatcher will prioritize your call to an officer who is on patrol based on the emergency type.

More crime-prevention tips:

- Home or business safety surveys are free through SAFFE. Call to make an appointment for an officer

to come check your place. Estimated time for review is 30 minutes.

- Operation Identification – SAFFE will let you borrow an engraver to ID your electronics. A \$20 deposit will be refunded when the engraver is returned. You can request this to be brought to your home or business during a safety survey by a SAFFE Officer.

- Going out of town? Call Central Post Police Station at 207-7410 to let them know and request for SAPD to check your home or business during their patrols. Also, you can request Central SA Police Explorers to come out during their regular patrols through King William.

- First Friday or any event parking or public intoxication issues: Call SAPD Non-Emergency 207-SAPD for parking violations, blocked driveway, or intoxicated persons who are making trouble or carrying an open container. SAPD's usual command post on First Fridays is in front of B&D Ice House at S. Alamo and Cedar.

- Call the Traffic Dept. at 200-7400 if there are not any NO PARKING signs posted for First

Friday before the event starts; they are usually up by 2:00 p.m. If a block party or other event doesn't have signs or barricades up call 207-SAPD for an officer.

- H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) Program – SAPD will run your license plate from midnight – 5:00 a.m. if it's seen on the streets and pull over your car to confirm it's not stolen. Border Patrol will also check the plates and if the driver's license number doesn't match the license plate they will not let your vehicle cross the border.

- Patricia Garcia Duarte

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

KW Officers on patrol:
Officer Ron Strothman #0706
 Tel: 207-5176

Officer Robert Esquivel
 Office: 207-7413

Architectural Advisory Committee - Recent HDRC Cases Reviewed

Address	Scope	Action
415 Mission	Historic Tax Verification	KWA: Concurred with OHP staff to approve HDRC: Approved
1115 S. Alamo	Infill planting strip w/ concrete sidewalk	KWA: Concurred with OHP staff to approve HDRC: Approved
430 Pereida	Infill planting strip w/ concrete sidewalk	KWA: Concurred with OHP staff to approve HDRC: Approved
411 E. Cesar Chavez	New construction – 350 unit apartment complex (not in KWA boundaries)	KWA: Questioned some elements, including: SE corner unit and ground floor uses, lighting, adherence to code for infrastructure HDRC: Approved as submitted
430 Adams	New construction of Single family home	KWA: Agreed with OHP Staff to deny, suggesting that, even with revisions, the concept for the home was still not appropriate for historic district HDRC: referred to HDRC Design Committee

To the warm hearts and cold noses of King William, Lavaca and Downtown community,

Four years ago, during an economic recession, I opened Bark of Southtown pet grooming. With the support, love and loyalty of your neighborhoods, Bark spayed and neutered over 85 animals, found homes for nearly 65 Southtown strays, raised several thousand dollars for animal care programs, won San Antonio's pet food drive for District 1, and became your neighborhood grooming shop. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to see the warmth and power of a true neighborhood. Without you, we would have never been.

Like all new years, 2014 will usher in change and new opportunities. January 1, 2014 Bark officially changed ownership. Gloria Pantoja, of whom many of you know and love, will take ownership along with her daughter Denise. Gloria has been a faithful co-captain since the beginning. It is now time for her to steer the ship.

I know you will welcome her as you did me.
You made Bark possible....my sincere thank you to each and every one who call Southtown/Downtown home.

Sincerely, Michelle Stress

Fair Spotlight

continued from page 3

lineup of local entertainers – and he's looking forward to doing so again for 2014. The King William Fair remains one of his all-time favorite gigs, 35 years and countless performances later.

Currently Rudi is a writer, performance artist and Spiritual Director of the Celebration Circle, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a creative approach to spirituality that he co-founded in 1992. He is the author of *Hurry Slowly*, and has released nine albums/CDs of original music, including his recent, *House of Yes*. Contact him at rudi@rudiharst.com.

- Zet Baer

Editor's Note

The article about Dr. Ralph Wells in the December/January newsletter was edited for space. Here is the full text of the last sentences of the tenth paragraph:

In Saigon, he was Commanding Officer of the 17th Field Hospital and Headquarters Area Command Surgeon during the Tet Offensive, 1968. During that time he treated Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. He subsequently served as Theater Consultant for Internal Medicine at USARV Headquarters.

Remembering Maria Chavez



Maria Chavez (right) and friend Lizzy Wilson.

Long-time King William neighbor Maria Chavez died Thursday November 21, 2013. She and her husband, Henry, who died in 2010, lived in their pretty cottage on Sweet Street for over thirty-five years.

In the 1970s, Maria and her young son, Rudy, lived in a small apartment at the corner of S. Main Ave. and Johnson St. In a 2010 interview, Maria said she often did her laundry next door to the old B&D Grocery (now Tito's) on S. Alamo. "This nice man named Henry worked part-time at the laundry and one dark evening, he insisted on seeing Rudy and me home to our apartment. We soon began dating and after several months, he asked me to marry him and I said yes."

Maria had a life-long career as a hairdresser. For many years she worked in the Menger Hotel salon, but in the mid-1980s when Rivercenter Mall was built, the shop was forced to close. Then she opened a shop of her own on S. Alamo two doors north of the KWA office (currently Feast restaurant) and was there until the 1990s. She continued to see a few clients in her home salon for the next few years.

Maria was a very social person – she loved parties and was active in neighborhood activities. She served on the KWA board, always pitched in to work on the Fair and particularly enjoyed serving as docent for home tours. Maria's cheerful smile and optimistic attitude will be greatly missed by her many friends and neighbors. She is survived by her son Rudy and a granddaughter in Virginia.

- Bill Cogburn



SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY

Water Brings Us Together

Not Just a Tool, But a Call to Action: SARA's Basin Field Guide

You wanted it, and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) delivered. The much-anticipated Basin Field Guide (BFG) has arrived, and its presence online is providing insights and answers to green thumbs and novices alike. The BFG is an online database of plants and animals that are most common in the San Antonio River Watershed. It is a robust resource and provides information about a diverse landscape, but these two things alone do not make the BFG meaningful. It is what people do with this information that makes the BFG a call to action.

The basic structure of the BFG is simple, dividing the user experience first into flora or fauna (plants or animals). From there, one can begin to delve a little deeper. With the animal section divided into six broad categories (amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals and reptiles), and the plants split into two (herbaceous or woody) the robustness of the guide starts to become clearer. Boasting over 180 plants and a whopping 246 animals, the BFG is poised to grow even bigger. The guide provides a description of the species, an image and, in many cases, an interesting fact or two about the species. It is very user-friendly for naturalists and people who are inexperienced with the scientific classification of living things.

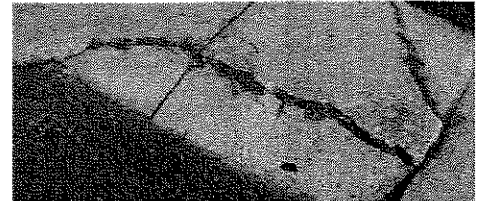
Not only is the BFG a unique and expansive resource, it covers

one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world: South Texas. The San Antonio River Watershed, or drainage basin, contains five unique ecoregions within its boundaries. The Edwards Plateau, Southern Texas Plains, Texas Blackland Prairies, East Central Texas Plains and the Western Gulf Coastal Plain all reach into the part of the landscape that drains into the San Antonio River. Each of these ecoregions has different conditions that provide habitat to different plants and animals. Trying to encapsulate this diversity is no easy task, which is why the BFG is a living database that can be modified regularly.

While the diversity and amount of content are vast, it is what we hope users will do with this information that is the most important. The old idiom, "Tell me, I'll forget; show me, I'll remember; involve me, I'll understand," rings true. SARA hopes that the BFG will lead people to action. By incorporating many of the native plants into one's backyard, by preserving the natural diversity in one's own neighborhood or by simply understanding the significance of this diversity, the San Antonio River Watershed can become a healthier place to live.

The BFG is accessible from the Public Resources section SARA's website at www.sara-tx.org.

- Josef Kaul



Sidewalk Repair Matching Grant Funding Available!

Call the KWA office
for details at 227-8786.

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.

S. Alamo St. & Drainage Project

Construction began October 2012 and is estimated to be complete by December 2014. Construction updates can be found at www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks/southalamodrainageimprovements.aspx.

For questions or concerns, contact: Dave Hook, Capital Projects Officer, Public Works, Contract/Consultant Management, City of San Antonio, at (210) 207-8036 or david.hook@sanantonio.gov.

Bonham Academy Middle School – Past, Present & Future

On behalf of the students, staff and families that make up Bonham Academy's Middle School community, I'd like to make a long overdue introduction.

The Middle School at Bonham is an in-district charter that began in 2007 in a single portable building and with two teachers. Our school now boasts nine teachers who are responsible for teaching ESL, ELA, Spanish Math, Science, History, Music and Drama, and we are currently preparing our fifth group of eighth graders for life after Bonham. In recent history, our school has been able to maintain around 100 students, many of whom attended Bonham since Pre-K. Many of the students participated in the Dual-Language program, but all have benefitted from the foundations created by the community of teachers, staff and parents that support the children in the elementary school classrooms. Our Middle School maintains the three core programs at Bonham: dual-language, fine arts and outdoor science.

Though currently stationed in portables along S. St. Mary's, everyone here is excited to see the beginning phases of a new two-story building that is to be built between June 2014 and December 2015. This new building will house all of the middle school classrooms, a black box theatre, two science labs, computer labs and an art classroom. The grounds that will surround the new building will certainly do a lot to enhance our outdoor science curriculum, just as the black box theatre will take our already superb drama program to new heights. The theatre, I believe, will serve as the heart of our middle school building.

When asked, students in the middle school consistently return to several common reasons as to why student life at Bonham's Middle School is unique socially and academically. They cite how important it has been to maintain their friends from elementary through their middle school years. This, they believe, allows them to grow up "like themselves," rather than trying to fit into a new environment when they start a new, bigger middle school. The comfort

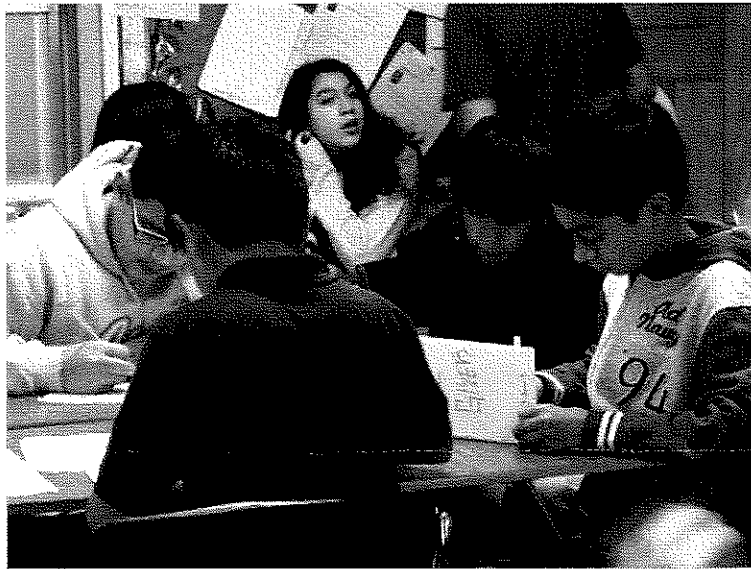
enables them to grow up safely, in a supportive, nurturing environment. They also mention how nice it is for their families to be able to pick up all of their children from one campus. Indeed, many middle school students are responsible for gathering up their younger siblings and ensuring they get home safely. Just walk past our campus at 3:20 on any weekday and you'll see what I mean. Finally, students talk about how the three pillars support them academically. Those who remain in the dual-language program end up taking AP Spanish, a course that prepares them to

earn college credit, especially understand the value of having had the dual-language experience since kindergarten.

I hope this gives you an introduction to who we are here at Bonham. We also hope to continue to update you on what's happening here. The Middle School teachers all maintain a blog for each grade, as well as a blog to keep parents up-to-date about important dates and events.

A weekly email blast also goes out every Friday, with a summary of the week's academics. In sum, Bonham's Middle School maintains all the things you love about the elementary, while creating a vibrant, rigorous, nurturing environment for a group of kids that typically get forgotten in the hustle and bustle of life.

- Nathan Busse



Middle school students hard at work.

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Artist Amada Miller, left, and KW Fair Coordinator Zet Baer unveiled the 2014 Fair logo at the December KWA social at SAY Sí.

February Calendar

- 5 KWA General Meeting - Blue Star Brewing Co. - 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Office of Historic Preservation Go Historic Downtown Churches Tour
- 11 Deadline for submissions for March newsletter
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 19 KWA Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

Síclovia is coming! Sunday, March 30
S. St. Mary's/Roosevelt Ave., from C. Chavez Blvd. to Mission Concepción, will be closed from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for this free family event.
See www.ymcasatx.org/siclovia for details.