

KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION NEWS

AUGUST 2020

A PERFECT COMBO OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, LOCAL ARTS, AND SUCCULENTS

DAVID'S PLANTAS

Dina Toland

Who loves gardening, social justice, and making a difference in their community? That's a sweet spot for a large number of people in our neighborhood, and David's Plantas was dreamed up to cater to those interests! Founded by Bonham Principal (and South-town resident) David Nungaray along with his husband, Jonathan, just a few months ago, this is a venture that seeks to raise money for philanthropic causes in our community through fundraising partnerships with San Antonio nonprofits and other small businesses. They do this by pairing people with the perfect succulent arrangement in pots, including local artisan-made pots. Purchase plants through David's Plantas and "round up" your purchase to donate to a different organization each month. In addition, the organization starts with seed money from committed neighbors that helps to match all purchases to increase the donation. Recent groups to benefit from this effort were Thrive Youth Center of San Antonio, who provide support for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness (thriveyouthcenter.org), and Black Outside, an organization that provides experiences for African American youth in our great outdoors (blackoutside.org). The goal of David's Plantas is to "uplift



David Nungaray making a stand at his Lone Star District home with his creative planta in the foreground

others, bring awareness, and share in the joy of plants," says David. He also does one-on-one commissioned work to bring plants to your home, workspace, or create gifts to your friends and family members.

David became interested in plants and gardening due to his involvement in the Environmental Science pillar at Bonham, which focuses on teaching students to create both vegetable and herb gardens as well as flowers and native plant gardens. "Initially, a friend told me I needed a hobby to help with stress,"

he said. "Plants have been the answer for me, and I particularly love easy-to-care-for plants and getting to see them grow with the right care. We all have a green thumb, we just need the right plant to help us find it."

You can follow David's Plantas on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), where they advertise and sell their creations, as well as highlight the small businesses they work with and the nonprofits they give to. It's a good cause you can feel good about! •

IN THIS ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE READ ARTICLES FROM:

SYEIRA BUDD, ALAN CASH, WM. CHARLES, JOHN DOSKI, ANNICE HILL, ROSE KANUSKY, LISA LYNDE, DANIELA OLIVER DE PORTILLO, GRETCHEN ROSE, ALICIA SPENCE-SCHLESINGER, DINA TOLAND, AND PENNY WIEDERHOLD.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURES INCLUDE:

CALLING ALL COLLECTORS
King William Fair Fiesta Medals pg 3

A CONTROVERSIAL AUTHOR
King William-ish Book Review pg 5

A USEFUL HANDY MAN
Why I Live in King William pg 4

A TASTY CONCOCTION
Good Will Dining pg 6

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

John Doski

"It would be so nice if something made sense for a change." - Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll

One month ago, I was uncertain of anything because of the possibility of a COVID surge. It is now firmly here, filling up our hospitals, deaths increasing, and impacting all aspects of our lives. By the printing of this newsletter, I expect our fall 2020 Fiesta and King William Fair to go the way of Austin City Limits and the Texas State Fair into thin air. We now wait to see what the world will look like on the other side. Whenever that might be. Most importantly, I implore all our neighbors to act responsibly, maintain strict adherence to all public health recommendations and stay safe during this surge.

As I referenced last month, the Board of the King William Association has been tracking these challenges carefully. We have significantly scaled back much of what we do, including grants, sidewalks, meetings and socials, and the Home Tour. I remain appreciative of the efforts of neighbors and staff to pull off the recent online concerts, and the great progress made by the KWA office staff in organizing files, policies, member lists, and the directory. We have seated the Nominating Committee – Anne Alexander, Maria Pfeiffer, Jessie Simpson, Pat Heard, and Carlos Villareal – and their deliberations will proceed (via a hybrid of in-person and Zoom participation) through the summer fashioning a platform for the 2021 KWA Board. Our Bylaws mandate in-person meetings for voting purposes, and last year's revision did not include a pandemic clause. So, Lisa and other KWA members are reaching out to other nonprofits to consider how these organizations conduct their business. I anticipate broad publicizing of how this might be done. At the July Board meeting, we considered KWA priorities during this unusual time, even the home for the KWA, and will agree on these priorities at the August meeting. One possibility, coordinated by office staff but executed by volunteer efforts, would be a video library/virtual home tour having homeowners create, narrate and film information on their house, featured on our website and YouTube channel (yes, we do have one).

As opposed to a short detour back to business as usual, it has become clear there will be adaptation and permanent change. And for a neighborhood which celebrates tradition and preservation, change may not be welcome, accompanied with gnashing of teeth. But I am thankful for Lisa Lynde's one-year ED anniversary with us and remain grateful for her wisdom and guidance. (Even when there are not a lot of fun things going on, and she still hasn't seen a Fair.) Things continue to evolve, but I hope to maintain as many cool aspects of our KWA, and to position for a successful emergence on the other side of this mess.

"One sees clearly only with the heart; anything else is invisible to the eye."

- *The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

BOARD BRIEFS:

The board met twice since the last newsletter deadline. Both meetings were conducted via Zoom conference as permitted by the bylaws.

The board met in a specially called meeting on July 1, 2020 to discuss options regarding the property the Association owns at 1032 S. Alamo and the one it rents at 122 Madison, including, among other things, the sale of 1032 S. Alamo to purchase 122 Madison. The board also approved a resolution authorizing Lisa to take acts necessary to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Bexar County Small and Micro Business COVID-19 Relief Grant, which she had successfully pursued and secured for KWA.

The board met in a regularly scheduled meeting on July 15, 2020 to again discuss its property options, including estimated moving costs to 1032 S. Alamo, monthly rental of 122 Madison, monthly costs of operating KWA at 1032 S. Alamo, and potential monthly rental of 1032 S. Alamo. The board voted to allow the current tenant of 1032 S. Alamo to leave her lease at the end of September.

Lisa reported on the work conducted by the staff with funds received under the CARES Act, including regular maintenance of the website, social media, and newsletter, as well as creation of an inventory of all office files, many of which are historic preservation files on individual properties in the historic district.

There was no official action on other topics of discussion. "Board briefs" are not intended to replace the official minutes of the Association but to summarize the board's latest activities.

- Rose Kanusky, Board Secretary

LETTER FROM LISA

Executive Director Lisa Lynde

Prior to coming to KWA I was the Head of School at a Waldorf school. For those of you not familiar with Waldorf education, their entire pedagogy is based on the work of Rudolf Steiner and Anthroposophy. I tended to pick and choose which of his teachings had practical merit for me, but there is one that always stuck out to me.

May our feeling penetrate into the center of our heart, and seek, in love, to unite itself with the human beings seeking the same goal, with the spirit beings who – bearing grace, strengthening us from realms of light and illuminating our love – are gazing down upon our earnest, heartfelt striving.

Setting aside the topic of spirituality, this encourages us to surround ourselves with other human beings that are seeking the same goal and share an “earnest, heartfelt striving.” The beauty of this verse for me was that he wasn’t saying we should only surround ourselves with people that think like us, but rather surround ourselves with people who share the same goals. That leaves the door open for conflict and disagreement certainly, but also means that what can be created is all the more beautiful because of it.

One of the things that has made this time all the more challenging is that right now we can’t safely physically surround ourselves with anyone, much less people who share the same goal. That has made communication challenging on all fronts. But I do see glimmers of hope.

We all know the African proverb “It takes a village...” In the context of King William, it takes a neighborhood. I experienced that in June when I picked up a stray dog on Wickes who needed help. By the time I got to the office, KWA staff pulled together a leash, gotten dog food and asked Nancy Diehl with The Cannoli Fund to scan her for a chip (there was none). I posted her all over Facebook and staff shared her information in hopes of finding a foster for her. The Cannoli Fund paid for her to get her spayed, and we continued our efforts to find her a home while I boarded her at my vet. Thankfully, a friend of Alicia’s in Austin responded that she was willing to foster her and, even better, had experience with pit bulls! She’d foster as long as she could and she would be safe in Austin – a no-kill city. After



Augie waiting for her forever home in Lisa’s office

getting her vaccinated, temperament tested and all checked out by the vet, I drove Augusta (Augie for short) to meet her foster up in Austin. Less than twenty-four hours later, it was decided Augie is going to be a “foster fail” and they are in love. None of our differences politically, philosophically, or religiously amounted to anything. Why? Because we shared the same goal: find Augie a safe and secure home. And we accomplished that.

I can’t help but be inspired and think of all the things we, as KWA, could accomplish and have accomplished! Just the creation of the Association is example of that. The Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) and their work on behalf of the neighborhood is a testament to that. The Cultural Arts Committee is another. These committees’ common goals have enabled them to adapt– AAC now meets regularly via Zoom and our Concerts in the Park Series has gone online! Pretty amazing accomplishments when you think about it. But I know we can always do more and create new goals that we’ve probably not even thought of yet. And while it may get messy at times, if we share those goals, and are earnest in our striving, sky’s the limit. •



CALLING ALL COLLECTORS! 2020 FIESTA MEDALS STILL AVAILABLE

The Fiesta Commission’s online Fiesta Store at shop.fiesta-sa.org has been experiencing a rush of Fiesta medal sales since the cancellation of Fiesta 2020 was announced, but they still have a limited supply of our official 2020 King William Fair medals available for collectors and Fiesta enthusiasts to purchase for \$10 each. All sales benefit the King William Association.

The colorful artwork by neighborhood artist Regina Moya features a historic house framed by a festive wreath and accented with free-flowing ribbons. ¡Viva Fiesta! •



Jose Antonio Flores 1952-2020

King William Neighbor
Jose Antonio Flores died March 2, 2020.
Tony is survived by his loving wife
of 32 years, Betty Ann Flores.

WHY I LIVE IN KING WILLIAM



Penny Wiederhold standing in front of her former home on King William

THE USEFUL HANDY MAN NEXT DOOR

Penny Wiederhold

We're moving to WHERE? In the Spring of 1980, my husband, Mike, had several job offers. We had talked casually about them, but when he announced that we were going to Texas to be interviewed, I was blindsided! Several weeks later, we left our (just) 4-year-old son with our neighbors in Chevy Chase, and flew to San Antonio. I allowed as how it was a pretty city, surprisingly green, that the Alamo was tiny, and the Spurs must be a good team of something. We met interesting people who appeared to be normal, not my idea of a Texan, and I began to relax. Mike had been here once before, and his boss-to-be had driven him around a place called King William. All he remembered was that he loved it and really wanted to live there.

We met the real estate agent who, when learning about a child and a job "way out there" (UTHSCSA), spent the day showing us the world of Alamo Heights, Olmos Park and probably places in-between. She told us that KW was not a safe place to live, there were no children, a very poor school and it was too close to "dangerous" downtown. It was a long day! We returned to the delightful La Mansión, and as we were dressing for dinner, Mike was on the phone calling a future colleague who lived in KW! Ed Masoro answered, and as soon as he heard what Mike wanted, he put his wife, Bobbie, on. There were several questions and an-

swers, and he hung up. A few minutes later she called back to tell us to be at 217 King William St. at 10 the next morning to meet her good friend Julia Cauthorn, the legend, who sold houses in the KW neighborhood.

At 10 a.m. we were on Ms. Cauthorn's front porch, and she opened her door. The first thing she said was, "You have a flat tire!" She and I chatted while Mike changed the tire, and then we got in her car to see several houses. There were some beautiful ones and many that had had their day and were waiting for some loving care, but it was interesting. Nothing sang out and we were feeling somehow let down. She brought us back to her house, and over a glass of cold water, she casually mentioned that maybe we would like to see the house next door? Mike almost yelled when he realized that this was the house we had been trying to see all along. There was newspaper on the windows and the yard was non-existent, but as soon as we walked in, we were sold! And indeed, we did buy 203 King William and we moved in in August of 1980. Later I asked Julia why she hadn't shown us that house first, and her reply says it all. "When I saw Dr. Wiederhold change that tire in record time, I decided to sell it to you. It is always useful to have a handy man next door!" We came, we saw and we were conquered! •



Photo courtesy of Azul Barrientos

AZUL BARRIENTOS, PARA TU AMOR KING WILLIAM CONCERT #4

The days keep rolling on, as do the monthly Facebook live stream King William Concerts. If the sound of classical guitar paired with soulful Spanish ballads pulls at your heartstrings, then our August concert featuring Azul Barrientos is calling your name. Azul has performed at past King William Fairs and is also the artist in residence for the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.

As a child, Azul was introduced to the folk music of her native country, Mexico. Now residing in San Antonio, she rejoices in her Latina roots by giving musical life to the narratives of her Latin American history. Azul's music highlights the many cultural influences and interconnections between the Americas, Africa, and Spain.

Join us on Sunday, August 2nd, at 5:30 p.m. when the King William Cultural Arts District will live stream a performance by Azul Barrientos on their [Facebook](#) page and on the King William Association [YouTube channel](#).

KING WILLIAM CONCERT SERIES #4

**Sunday, August 2nd
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

AT HOME

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Annice Hill

Here are two great summertime recipes! **Enjoy!**

This salad is my go-to for all outdoor parties because it is best at room temperature - a potato salad with no mayo! This is an Ina Garten recipe and she gave me permission to include here.



FRENCH POTATO SALAD

- 1 pound small white boiling potatoes
- 1 pound small red boiling potatoes
- 2 tablespoons good dry white wine
- 2 tablespoons chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons champagne vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 10 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced scallions (white and green parts)
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons minced flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons chiffonade of fresh basil leaves (stack the leaves, roll them up, and slice thinly)

Drop potatoes into a large pot of boiling salted water and cook for 20 to 30 minutes, until they are just cooked through. Drain in a colander and place a towel over the potatoes to allow them to steam for 10 more minutes.

As soon as you can handle them, cut in half (quarters if the potatoes are larger) and place in a medium bowl. Toss gently with the wine and chicken broth. Allow liquids to soak into the warm potatoes before proceeding.

Combine the vinegar, mustard, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper and slowly whisk in the olive oil to make an emulsion. Add the vinaigrette to the potatoes. Add the scallions, dill, parsley, basil, 1-1/2 teaspoons salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper and toss. Serve warm or at room temperature.



Anne Alexander enjoying a good read in Upper Mill Park with a pitcher of Baja Limeade



Gretchen Rose is the award-winning author of the memoir, *Dancing with the Devil*, and the middle-grade fantasy, *Dune Dragons*. Her contemporary fiction novel, *Veni, Vedi, Vero* is to be released in February of 2021.

KING WILLIAM'S BOOKMARK

Gretchen Rose

The King William-ish Book Club is comprised of savvy, professional women with varied interests, but we all share a common passion: the love of reading. Because our tastes are different, we often find ourselves diving into books we would not otherwise have selected and being enriched for the experience. Recently, one of our members selected *American Dirt*, by Janine Cummins, a January pick for Oprah's Book Club. This novel about a Mexican woman and her son who flee the violence of a brutal drug cartel has created a backlash in the publishing world and initiated

I started making this beverage for parties when we lived at St. Benedict's. Everyone loves it, so it has become a family favorite.

BAJA LIMEADE

- 3 cups water
- 3/4 cup agave syrup, plus extra as needed
- 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 cup freshly squeezed lime juice (about 8 limes)

In a medium saucepan, bring 1 cup of water, 3/4 cup agave syrup, and rosemary to a boil over medium-high heat. Remove pan off the heat and cool for 10 minutes.

Strain the mixture into a pitcher. Add the lime juice and remaining 2 cups of water. Stir and sweeten with more agave syrup, to taste. Serve in ice-filled glasses. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

a timely conversation about who has the right to tell a story. The book received a scathing review by Myriam Gruber, who complained that it relied on racist stereotypes and tropes, and other Latinx writers also voiced their concerns. Despite the negative press, *American Dirt* went on to become a bestseller. But this milestone was bittersweet, for its publisher, Flatiron, cancelled Cummins' book tour.

This controversy was reflected in microcosm-fashion in our own book club, some members feeling strongly that Cummins, an affluent non-Mexican, should not profit from writing a story that was not hers to tell. I disagree. What right did Shakespeare have to relate history as he did in his tragedies *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra* or *Timon of Athens*? Was Samuel Clemens wrong for writing *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*? Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*? (You get the idea.) We would deprive ourselves of mountains of great literature, if we insisted that all authors be allowed to tell their story only. The writer's job is to immerse herself in her subject and to write it with objectivity, sensitivity, and passion. Cummins has done that.

Do I believe literary agents and publishers should promote more works by minorities—that ALL VOICES MATTER? Yes!

American Dirt is a brilliantly written, well-researched page-turner, and Cummins shows great empathy towards her protagonists and their plight. If you haven't read it, I strongly urge you to do so, and join the conversation. •

OUT IN THE GARDEN

Alan Cash

While taking walks through the neighborhood I have noticed something that gave me an idea for this article. It seems that over the years, parts of some yards have been covered with concrete limiting space for landscaping. This happened in my own backyard. The accompanying picture shows what I have done to add a touch of nature back to my yard. The idea came after reading a magazine article on container gardening. The perimeter is stones, but bricks or other edging from home improvement stores will work with infill of mulch about 4 to 6 inches deep. Container plants can then be placed down into the mulch.



August is a good time to trim roses and evergreen shrubs. Roses can be cut back by about one fourth to encourage new growth and more blooms in the fall. Evergreen shrubs that have gotten too large or that need shaping can also be trimmed now.



Container grown plants can wilt in the afternoon sun, but that does not necessarily mean they need water. The best time to see if they are stressed is in the morning. Then water thoroughly until water comes out of the bottom of the container.



The hottest time of the year is upon us. Stay safe in the outdoors by eating fruit and drinking plenty of water. A broad brimmed hat can be your best garden tool.



Alan Cash showing us his wide variety of potted plants



Garden Note:

The solitary seed nestled patiently in the ground awaiting the warm sun is the seed that becomes a tree.

GOOD WILL DINING

Wm. Charles

Friends, I am sure just like all of you, during this time we have sought to expand our culinary and mixology skills (albeit at home). With over 1,000 meal opportunities each year, all should be memorable; so should your beverage of choice. Before the craziness, I attended a cocktail class at local craft distillery Seersucker – est. 2018.

Driving up to this far east side distillery is like driving up to a Kentuckian equestrian center, expansive and beautifully lush front lawn filled with yard games, picnic tables, and wraparound porch to sit a spell. The main building houses a tasting room and store. My classroom was right next to the large vats of their signature Southern Style Gin. Our instructor, Adan, introduced us to the nuances of gin as an easy mixer with big on citrus and subtle notes of juniper that would be the base for The Ric Flair. This tasty concoction is perfect for summer – or anytime really (see recipe below). In addition, they offer several flavors to elevate and inspire any cocktail. We really like grapefruit for a twist on a Paloma sipper.

A couple of side notes. The Friendly Spot features Seersucker gin in their refreshing Watermelon Gin & Tonic and Pomegranate Limeade cocktails on tap. When COVID hit, Seersucker started producing hand sanitizer, which you can purchase on their website at seersuckershops.com.

One day the distillery grounds and tasting room will reopen – soon, I hope. But until then, enjoy, WOOOOO! •

THE RIC FLAIR

Be safe, wash your hands – then eat, drink, live!

- 1.5 oz Seersucker Gin
- 1 oz lime juice
- .5 oz rosemary simple syrup (steep rosemary in a 1:1 ratio sugar to water mix)

Shake and strain in a Collins glass. Top with Topo Chico. Add sprig of rosemary for aroma.



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SETTING OUR SIGHTS ON 2021

Syeira Budd

It was not at all unexpected to receive the news that our 2020 Fiesta and King William Fair will not take place this November as planned due to the continued health and safety concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. As we focus our efforts on controlling the spread of the virus this summer into fall, canceling this year's Fiesta San Antonio celebration was the responsible, smart, and compassionate thing to do for our community. The resulting financial hardships for our vendors, entertainers, service providers, and the King William Association is no small thing, though. We sincerely hope we will be able to produce a safe and prosperous King William Fair next year on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

In a so-called normal year, we take advantage of a full 12-month planning cycle to successfully pull off Fair Day. With uncertainty still in our



Festive 2019 King William Fairgoer photographed by Matt Buikema

midst, however, the most prudent approach for our planning cycle is to extend our pause into early October as we wait and see what effects COVID-19 will have on our community and on the festival and event industry. When the Fair team regroups this fall, we will

adjust our planning process for 2021 as needed based on what I expect will be some new realities regarding mass gatherings.

In the meantime, please stay safe and keep the spirit of Fiesta alive in your heart! •

30TH ANNUAL RED DOT SALE

Daniela Oliver de Portillo

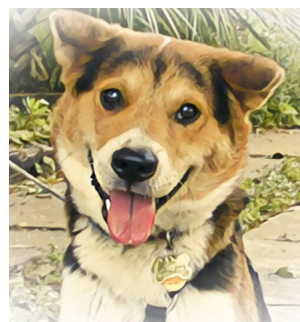
Blue Star Contemporary's spring exhibitions close to the public this month as we prepare to install our Red Dot Show which opens to the public September 23 through October 4, 2020. For the first time, BSC features an exhibition of the work of San Antonio artists participating in our annual fundraiser that will be free and open to the public. The show's featured artwork, available for sale directly benefits Blue Star Contemporary and more than 100 San Antonio artists.

Those familiar with BSC's Annual Red Dot Art Sale remember it as an art-filled night where 500 art lovers gather to sip drinks, enjoy works of art and support BSC by taking home an artwork. This year, while we are not able to enjoy this event together, there will be a Red Dot online! Browse a wide-ranging selection and support BSC by making a purchase today! And please mark your calendars for September 23 through October 4, when the works will be installed in our galleries for the public to view in person.

Each year, BSC honors an artist and patron at Red Dot in recognition for their support of the San Antonio art community. This year, our honorees are Francesca Billups Mannix and César A. Martínez. Artist César A. Martínez is recognized as a major figure in the Chicano Art Movement of the 1970s and 1980s. His iconic portrait paintings from the *Bato/Pachuco/Ruca* series combine imaginary sitters and the artist's depth of knowledge of art history with his lived experiences of life in South Texas. Chair of Blue Star Contemporary's Board from 2013-2016, Francesca "Francie" Billups Mannix has been a longtime supporter of the arts in San Antonio as a collector and philanthropist. Currently, she

serves as co-chair of Blue Star Contemporary's Advisory Council and resides in our neighborhood of King William.

Your acquisition benefits BSC and its programming, ensures the organization will stand strong in the years to come. Since 50% of the sale proceeds go directly back to the artists who donate their work, collecting art at BSC's Red Dot Art Sale also means you are supporting San Antonio's creative community and the livelihood of its artists. •



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This article is inspired by past issues of the King William Association newsletter beginning in November 1967. Its purpose is to inform newer neighbors and remind those who have been here a while of how the King William area has evolved through the years.

References and comments are those issues containing “news” items that seem, to this writer, to show the development of the King William neighborhood or merely to show how some things are unique to an historic district. The series started with the first newsletter published in 1967. Articles will continue, but not in every issue of the newsletter.

April 1979 - Members and neighbors were invited to a concert of classical music and traditional Mexican songs performed Sunday, April 8, at the home of Julia Cauthorn at 217 King William St.

The first annual Mulligan Stew Cook-Off to benefit Saint Benedict Hospital and Nursing Home was held on Saturday, April 21, from noon to 8pm on the Saint Benedict grounds. The site is now where the Liberty Bar is located on South Alamo St.

June 1979 - At a meeting attended by 100 neighbors, the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) Board advised it would withdraw its plan to build a food warehouse at the site at Main and Sheridan Streets.

The City Planning Commission failed to approve a request to rezone the historic Arsenal on Main Street to allow a moving and storage operation. •

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