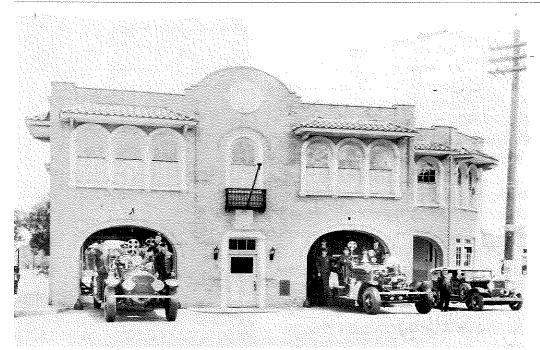
VOLUME 8, #2

KINGWILLIAMASSOCIATION.ORG

MARCH 2012



Old Fire Station No. 7

Tor the last two years, a group of firefighters who call themselves "The Water Street Irregulars" have been busy restoring old firefighting equipment and preserving the history of firefighting in San Antonio. The former fire station has been serving as a workshop for the San Antonio Fire Museum which is scheduled to open in the near future at the old Fire Station No. 1 at 801 East Houston Street near the Alamo.

When I stopped by old fire station No. 7 at 604 South Alamo & Water Street on a recent Wednesday morning, I found a beehive of activity. Retired fireman, Frank Walsh toured me through the drafty old building where I saw at least a half-dozen volunteers scraping, painting and polishing various pieces of antique firefighting equipment. Two of the volunteers were wrestling a repaired rear axle back into the housing of a 1927 American La France fire engine. Next to it was a 1951 Mack fire engine, newly restored and

ready to roll. Frank thinks it's very likely that one of those beauties will be in our Fair parade in April.

Fire Station No. 7 has a rich history of firefighting in San Antonio. It started out as a volunteer company in 1885 as Mission Hose Company No. 4. When the city changed its ward designations, it became the 7th Ward Hose Company in 1898.

During the years of the volunteer fire department, citizens took great pride in their volunteer firemen. When there was a parade, the men dressed in their uniforms and proudly showed off their fire equipment as they marched through the city. On Sunday mornings, church goers would walk over to the park after service to watch the volunteers

practice climbing ropes and performing calisthenics to keep themselves in top physical shape.

When the city established a paid fire department in 1891, firefighting may have become more efficient but a unique social and fraternal phenomenon which crossed class boundaries suddenly came to an end. The color and glamour which the volunteer fighter provided to the city's image was gone forever.

The old building on South Alamo that we see today was built in 1925 in the Mission/Spanish Colonial revival style of architecture. The three-bay station was built on the site of an earlier firehouse built in 1901.

While King William and Lavaca neighbors are proud of our new Fire Station No. 7 on South St. Mary's and Florida Streets, we will miss the old fire station on South Alamo. We're told that it will continue to be the

continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Michael Shearin Guarino

It has been suggested by Jack Kent, the artist who contributed the Thurberesque handiwork to the right, that a bet-

ter name for this item is "column", pun completely intended. As a lover and practitioner of that lowest

form of humor...I agree.

For this "column" I thought I'd expand on King William's role in continuing to teach the rest of the city what a good urban life can look like. There is a very large industry in this country devoted to trying to re-animate central cities, bringing variety of experience and vitality into shuttered cores. That's hardly our problem here. Blessed with parks, access to the River Walk and pending improvements of the Mission Reach besides ready access to downtown, we are already what urban planners dream of.

In the very near future we'll see transformations around the edges of HemisFair through the Complete Streets project which will add new landscaping, sidewalks and traf-

fic management, bringing us into a closer union with downtown. When the already-funded streetcar system reaches south, it will provide even easier access to the heart of San Antonio as close as a walk to a South Alamo stop. I've been attending planning sessions for the HemisFair Master Plan and Complete Streets plan for about 18 months now and am always surprised that San Antonio continues to find funding for these projects in this terrible economy.

The texture of a wonderful urban neighborhood is best seen at ground level, not from the Olympian perspective of a planner's map. The First Friday weekend of February, for the first time in months, I found I had some time on my hands and decided to experience what everyone else is enjoying in our neighborhood. I started with a First Thursday exhibition opening at the King William office, followed by an end to end survey of First Friday, followed by Jim Cullum's new Swing Music night at Liberty bar. With a minimal expenditure of shoe leather (and no gas) I found myself completely surrounded by cultural pursuits, very good dining, and the pure pleasure of people watching within a short walk of my front door. This is the kind of easy vitality planners covet. We already own this kind of urban pleasure and freedom of choice. Others are paying attention. I bumped in to former Express-News editor Bob Rivard with a camera crew trolling the First Friday crowds for a documentary on a night out in the neighborhood. Saturday at Liberty was a revelation, all the swing dancers were twenty-somethings (except for Edith McCallister, who wore them all out and closed the place). The Landing's loss appears to be our gain. It's easy to see why the selection of King William as a Cultural Arts District was a no-contest decision. The real urban culture of San Antonio is alive and very well right within our borders.



CONTRIBUTORS Susan Athené, Lupita Barrientos, Alan Cash, Bill Cogburn, Dina

LAYOUT Angela Martinez

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.

KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION

1032 S. Alamo San Antonio, TX 78210 210-227-8786

OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

king.william@sbcglobal.net kingwilliamassociation.org kwfair.org kingwilliamculturalartsdistrict.com

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Zet Baer, Susan Rothman

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NOTICE: **CITY BRUSH** COLLECTION WEEK OF 03/26/12

King William Fair: Thanks To Our Volunteers!

The individuals listed here are the heart and soul of the King William Fair. Please shout out a big thank you to them for sharing their time, talent and treasures. The Fair would not be possible without their enthusiasm and dedication. If you would like to help out and volunteer, please contact the Fair office at 271-3247 or kwfair@sbcglobal.net. We'd love to have you as part of our team!

2012 Fair Chair: Kit Walker
Admissions: Alan Cash, Bill
Cogburn, Ruben Cuero
Art & Craft: Max Martinez
Beverages: Kit Walker
Compliance: Joe & Mary
Helen Mansbach
Entertainment: Rudi Harst
Environmental: Jack Kent,
Jeremy Nelson
Food: Annice Hill,
Ginger Ardid
Ilse's Attic: Nancy Diehl
Kids Kingdom: Richard
Warren, Richard Contreras

Parade: Sue Duffy Signage: Ed Day, Mike Schroeder, John Doski VIP Hosts: Villa Finale Volunteers: Sherry Hess

Marking: John Hartman

And thanks to our many corporate volunteers who serve thousands of hours on Fair day. Thanks to AT&T, H-E-B, NuStar, UPS, USAA and Valero for being such great partners.

-Zet Baer

The Mission Reach and Guadalupe Bass

Reach

Mission

As

the

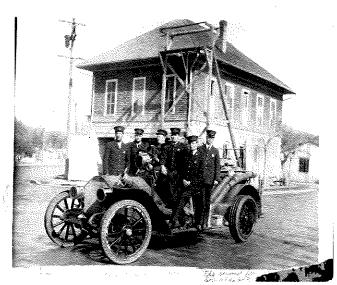
Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project matures over the coming years, it is anticipated that the improvements to the aquatic and riparian habitat will bring an increase in the numbers of native wildlife species. That means fishermen, bird—watchers and other nature enthusiasts will have increased opportunity to enjoy wildlife in the area. But what about the State fish of Texas, the Guadalupe Bass - will that species be seen again in the San Antonio River along the Mission Reach?

Guadalupe Bass are native to small streams in the Edwards Plateau region. These fish are particularly well adapted to these smaller streams because of their smaller size (the state record being less than 4 pounds). Their smaller size allows them to use habitat that their larger bass relatives such as the Largemouth Bass cannot. Even though they don't grow as large as some of their other black bass relatives, they still enjoy popularity as a sport fish. This is because the waters they occupy are typically hill country streams that are arguably some of the most naturally beautiful parts of Texas. Although they are most widely known in the headwaters areas of the Guadalupe and Colorado Rivers, Guadalupe Bass can be found in the Medina River and Cibolo Creek (both tributaries to the San Antonio River).

It is believed that they once lived in the San Antonio River proper before the urbanization of the area in the past century altered the riverine habitat, making it unsuitable for their survival. It is hoped that Guadalupe Bass will once again be able to survive in the San Antonio River within the city limits when the aquatic and riparian habitat along the Mission Reach is restored. In fact, the San Antonio River Authority is already investigating ways to re-establish the Guadalupe Bass in the Mission Reach section of the river once the habitat is suitable for their survival.

- San Antonio River Authority

Old Fire Station No. 7 continued from page 1



1920 Fire Station No. 7, South Alamo and Water

Fire Museum workshop until the city decides its next life. We honor all the firefighters who have bravely served at fire station No. 7 through the years.

- Bill Cogburn

Source: Shirley Lerner's Growth & Change – The San Antonio Fire Department 1884 – 1900, and photos from San Antonio Fire Museum furnished by retired fire fighter, Frank Walsh.



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A Dream Comes True

On Friday, January 13, 2012, a dream came true when the small park at the corner of César Chávez Boulevard and South Saint Mary's Street was officially dedicated as Don Pedro Huizar Garden. A number of Don Pedro's descendants, King William residents and San Antonio Conservation Society members witnessed the presentation of City Parks and Recreation signage and a commemorative plaque placed by SACS.

Vincent Huizar, a descendant of Don Pedro Huizar who worked diligently to get the sign and marker recognizing the contributions of his ancestor to the City, was among the speakers. District l City Councilman, Diego Bernal, Janet Martin of the SA Parks and Recreation Department and Roberto Hinkson, San Antonio Conservation Society, also spoke.

The ceremony was well attended by the Huizar Family, neighbors from King William (including KWA president, Michael Guarino), people who happened to be on hand waiting at the bus stop, a crew from Channel 41 and a reporter from NPR.

The Huizar family was photographed with the sign and plaque and everyone enjoyed cookies and iced tea. Five new understory trees have been planted in the park by the Parks & Rec Deptarment since the ceremony.

- Madeline Guyer

OUT IN THE GARDEN

with Alan Cash

o far 2012 has been good in regards to moisture. My rain gauge on Mission St. has registered a total of 6 1/4 inches. At this writing, SAWS has gone back to Stage One water restrictions. This means that lawn watering with any type of sprinkler system is allowed before 10am and after 8pm during the week only based on the last digit of your street address as follows: 0 or 1, Monday, 2 or 3, Tues-



day, 4 or 5, Wednesday, 6 or 7, Thursday, 8 or 9, Friday

Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed anytime. Even though rains have been good, conserve water as much as possible. Remember, for five months in 2011 we had no measurable rain.

Mulch around trees, shrubs, and in flower beds to reduce ground water evaporation. Put 5 to 6 inches around trees and shrubs leaving at least a 6 inch diameter open ring around the base. Mulch against the base can cause rotting. Put 3 to 4 inches of mulch in flower beds. This will also keep weeds from sprouting.

We have had a mild winter so far and perennials that usually freeze back have not done so. Such plants include: Philippine violets, plumbago, firebush, shrimp, Mexican honeysuckle, lantana, esparanza, and thryallis. Cut stems back to about 4 inches from the ground. It is hard to trim back plants that look good and may even still have blooms. But remember, as tall as they are now, they could be twice that by the end of summer and be misshapened and crowded.

Trimming with dull garden tools is not fun. There are probably many places to have them sharpened, but a dependable and nearby place is Warfield Smith Hardware and Supply at 3412 S. Flores St., 534-8839. They sharpen most garden tools but not hand saws.

Here is my annual pitch for electric lawnmowers. If you need a new mower, consider getting an electric model. They are almost maintenance free and do not hurt the environment. Gas mowers put out more pollution in an hour than a car in a day. Something to think about. Do not worry about cutting the chord. You get the hang of it in no time and I've never cut my chord in over 20 years. The only expense I've had is to replace the wheels.

Garden Note: A garden is the best alternative therapy.



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BONHAM BOBCATS2-time UIL District Champs!

There's nothing sweeter than the smell of success! Just ask the dozen or so University Interscholastic League individual event winners from January's District meet, or any Bobcat on the Bonham team. For the second year in a row, Bonham Academy fielded SAISD's best elementary school team in academic contests ranging from spelling and number sense to remembering music and art selections' titles and composers.

Bonham's team is unique in SAISD in that it combines the efforts and talents of both teachers AND parents in coaching our kids to develop their talents in writing, ana-

Students who placed in individual categories:

Ready Writing: 3rd place Lily Campbell (4th gr.) and 2nd place Mia Mendez (4th gr.)
Creative Writing: 2nd place Benjamin Welchman (2nd gr.)
Listening: 3rd place Jonathan Reyes (5th gr.) and Elizabeth Bacon (5th gr.) (TIE) and 1st place Janet York (5th gr.)
Music Memory: 3rd place Natalie Sanchez (4th gr.) and 1st

place Nico Gonima (4th gr.)

Oral Reading in English: 3rd

place Mia Mendez (4th gr) and 1st

place Peyton Spriester (5th gr.)

Oral Reading in Spanish: 2nd

place Marisol Cortez (4th gr.) **Spelling:** 2nd place Brandon Gutierrez (3rd gr.)

Art Appreciation: 1st place Freddy Sanchez (4th gr.)

lyzing, speaking and more. Under the leadership of UIL Director Desirre Madrid (also Dual Language 4th grade teacher), stushowed dents bright and early to Edison High School on January 28th to compete against hundreds of other kids from all over the district. addition to the excited kids, almost every teacher at Bonham was on hand to help with registration and judging, as well as many parents eager to cheer on their kids to victory or personal best.

Our Bonham team garnered first place status again this

year due to everyone's hard work and excellent abilities. In addition to this impressive win, Bonham drama students in the middle school also received a Superior Rating (I) for the third year in a row for their one act play, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. The student actors also received awards for Best Actress/Best Actor in their District competition. The Drama Club is under the direction of teacher Holly Clifford, assisted by parent coach Retha Oliver.

UIL competition is becoming an established tradition at Bonham as more and more students, parents and teachers are getting excited as our kids' demonstrate their skills, hone their talents and learn beyond what is taught in the classroom. Our kids' success with this program is just one more testament to the great things going on in Bonham's classrooms and in our larger community.



Highlighting Neighbors' Talents and Businesses

Friends of Bonham has planned a busy and entertaining series of events designed to highlight the many talents of our venerable neighbors as well as neighbor-owned businesses this year. All of them are 100% benefitting educational and enrichment programs at the school, from the arts program to computers for the middle school and beyond. Take your pick or come to all of them, you are sure to have a great time and do your part to help our neighborhood school!

First Friday Zumbathon: Friday, March 2nd, 5:30 – 7:00 in the Bonham Gym

Led by Bonham parent Kim Cuero who sponsors an afterschool Zumba club for students parents, and teachers alike. Come and get your groove on with your neighbors and friends! Cost is just \$5 for adults, and kids are free!

Concert featuring Janis de Lara: Saturday, March 31st, 7pm at Blue Star

Featuring the vocal stylings of our own Janis de Lara (a proud Bonham grandparent). Come enjoy an evening of beautiful music with your friends and neighbors for just \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Beer and wine available for purchase from the bar, light snacks provided.

Texas Cavaliers Fiesta River Parade, Room with a View: Monday, April 23rd, 6:30 – 9:30, 235 E. Commerce

For the first time we have the opportunity to view Fiesta's most unique parade (other than King William's, of course) from the comfort of a 2nd floor climate-controlled building—good for rain or shine! Cost is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, and kids and Bonham teachers are free. Drinks and snacks provided. Don't miss out!

Battle of Flowers Fiesta Parade, Room with a View: Friday, April 27th, 314 E. Commerce

Want a great view of the Battle of Flowers parade without the heat, crowds or long lines? This is a great bargain, just \$10 per person or \$15 per couple and again, Bonham teachers and kids are free. Drinks and snacks provided. Please check the Friends of Bonham website (www.friendsofbonham.org) for more details or the KWA e-blast closer to the date of the event.

In May and June there are plans for a Book Fair featuring student performers and neighborhood artists, parties featuring cocktail-making at King William Manor and a Brewery Tour and Tasting at the new Filling Station & Brewpub. Check future newsletters or e-blasts for upcoming details, and as always, visit www.friendsofbonham.org for more information or to make a much-needed donation to our wonderful neighborhood school.

SBACK AT BRACK BY LUPITA BARRIENTOS

The Brackenridge Eagles have begun the second semester of school, and despite the hectic atmosphere, a sense of excitement can still be felt around the school after returning from break. With TAKS tests, SATs, ACTs, GPAs, and ranking on the minds of practicly every student, there is still much work to do before the end of the year.

The senior class in particular has been busy applying to universities and scholarships, making use of the newly re-vamped GO Center and many more of Brack's resources to ease their search. A number of seniors have already received their acceptance letters and are gearing up for college in the fall. They have the full support of their Eagle family, as we all hope to see great things come from the class of 2012.

Just before leaving for Christmas break, a number of Brack students were entered into the Scholastic art and writing competition, sweeping up three gold keys and three honorable mentions. The students with gold keys are: Chrysanthemum Brown with her piece "Operator;" Shamari Jefferson with "Shadows of Doubt;" and Desiree Guerra with "Back to the Topic." The honorable mention winners were Shamari Jefferson with "Selflessness;" Desiree Guerra with "Think;" and Luis Martinez with "Eye Connect Hands." Students are hoping for more wins in this month's Visual Arts Scholastic Event competition.

Students are also working to raise Brackenridge attendance percentages. A new goal of 94% has been placed on all grade levels and we are rising to the occasion. With a minor slip right after the break, students are back on track and are set on taking Brackenridge to the next level.

The Eagles appreciate your support!

Page Middle School Program Update



Page students had a great time at CIS-SA's ROPES Course.



Principal Lemelle Taylor congratulates Amy Gutierrez for being the top credit earner in the Page Middle School Partners Program. Ms. Taylor said, "Last year our conversations with Amy were about staying focused and getting motivated. Today's conversation was about her desire to earn a masters degree, join SAPD, and become a detective!"

Communities In Schools of San Antonio is now serving 70 students at Page Middle School in the Partners Program. CIS-SA-sponsored student activities over this school year include:

- Salvaging Sisterhood helping girls build healthy relationships and self-confidence
- Poe/Page Pen Pals Program
- Martial Arts classes
- Mentoring by community volunteers
- ROPES Course field trip for team-building and leadership skills activities
- College and career awareness
- Mobile Food Pantry for families in need
- Individual counseling to help students overcome obstacles to success

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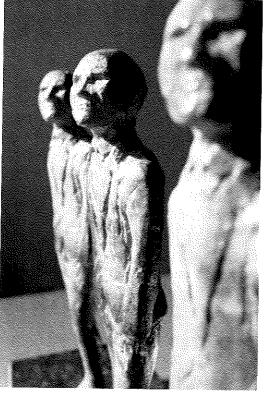
Main Plaza, March 15, 8pm

New Artists in the 'Hood

Elizabeth McDonald and Seth Orion Schwaiger are new King William residents. Relocating recently from a successful two years in the UK,

where they both received major accolades in national competitions and exhibited throughout Europe, these two young artists are enjoying the warmth of the people and the weather here in San Antonio. Ms. McDonald, painter and Texas native, and Mr. Schwaiger, sculptor, have established Aesthetiac Studios on the third floor of the historic Southern Music Co. building on Broadway and Jones, just a block west of the San Antonio Museum of Art.

As they have settled in on Washington St. they agree they have become more and more convinced that San Antonio was the right choice. Seth sums it up this way: "Surprisingly, we have found many of the positive aspects of European life in the neighborhood. The walkability,



Seth Orion Schwaiger, Not a Pair between Them, 2011, cast iron, granite

the small unique restaurants, folks being outside, the riverwalk, and the support of the arts. Blue Star, Sala Diaz and other galleries have all been a pleasure to visit, and we've been looking forward to catching a show at Overtime Theatre. These European aspects in combination with a certain Texas charm and grit is something we've really enjoyed."

For more images of the work of Ms. McDonald and Mr. Schwaiger, visit their website: www.aesthetiac.com.

-Ann Toxey



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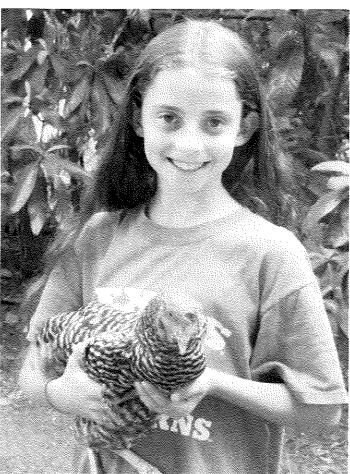
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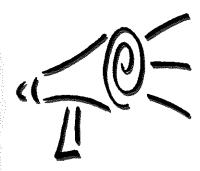
(ALLING ALL NEIGHBORHOOD ARTISTS

Artists living within the boundaries of the King William Historic District (tinyurl.com/kwdistrict) are invited to apply to exhibit their work at the KWA office. Exhibits run for two months. Email king.william@sbcglobal.net or drop by the office for an application.

Welcome, Chicken Sisters!



Meet the new neighbor, Kate (held by her namesake, Kate Agostini). She is a Plymouth Rock hen who, along with her sisters, lives on Washington Street and belongs to Janie Barrera, Patrick McMillan and Anne Toxey. She moved here last July from Santuario Sisterfarm, a sustainable sanctuary in the Hill Country developed by two nuns. Neighbors are welcome to drop by and visit the beauties. See what it's like to own a pet who feeds you, for a change.



Newsletter Submissions Wanted: 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 king.william@sbcglobal.net.

Advertising: Promote your business directly to your King William neighbors by advertising in this newsletter! Rates, sizes and details are in the newsletter section of our website at kingwilliamassociation.org, or call 227-8786, or email king.william@sbcglobal.net.

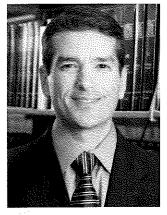
MESSAGE FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

State Representative Mike Villarreal, House District 123

As we move from winter into spring, our work to build support for public education continues. During the 82nd legislative session I fought hard to save as much funding for

schools as possible, but, as we all know, those attempts were thwarted. Since then I have been working on several fronts to help promote local efforts to help our schools and students make the best of a difficult situation.

Mayor Castro's ServeSA program recruits volunteers to serve as elementary school reading buddies, mentor middle school students, and to help

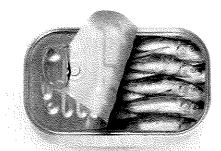


high school students fill out college financial aid forms. I've volunteered as a reading buddy at Herff Elementary, and I encourage you to volunteer as well.

I also had the pleasure to help organize and speak at the recent Save Texas Schools conference here in San Antonio. It was very encouraging to see all the people who came out to learn what they can do to help keep up the pressure on state legislators so they will put our children first and invest in education. If you missed the conference, please consider attending the Save Texas Schools March & Rally on March 24th in Austin. More information is available at www.SaveTxSchools.org.

You can also go to nowcastsa.org to watch an archived video of the event. Nowcastsa.com is a great resource in our city, providing an open source online venue where videos of many public meetings and workshops can be viewed. Communities can also post calendar events and stories of what's going on in their "neck of the woods."

Texas Classrooms



savetxschools.org

House District 123
1114 S. St. Mary's, Ste. 110 San Antonio, TX 78210
734-8937 www.mikevillarreal.com

Diego Bernal, City Council District 1

Since the first week of 2012, the District 1 staff and I have been hard at work on many fronts. We are creating incentives for visitors and our hometown folks to come downtown. At the



same time, we are addressing recent policy changes dealing with panhandling in ways that we hope will help those who most need it.

Recently, I partnered with the Downtown Operations Department to launch an effort to bring locals back to the heart of the City, called Downtown Tuesday. Downtown Tuesday kicked off on Valentine's Day and offers free parking at Cityoperated parking meters every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free

parking is available only at City-operated facilities. To view a map of eligible parking facilities, visit http://www.sanantonio.gov/dtops/downtowntuesday.aspx. So, make plans to enjoy your Tuesday evenings with your sweetheart at San Antonio's beautiful downtown attractions.

On a serious note, in response to recent changes to the City's Aggressive Solicitation ordinance, the District 1 office, Haven for Hope, VIA Metropolitan Transit, and the San Antonio Area Tourism Council came together to initiate an alternative to panhandling: offering a bus pass to the homeless who truly need a warm meal and access to social services. While it is not a solution to the issue of homelessness, it is at least a way for local folks to give the homeless a safe place to go to.

The San Antonio Bus Meal Pass is free to the recipient and is a one-way ride on VIA Bus Route 77 to Haven for Hope facilities. At Haven for Hope, riders can receive a meal and a place to sleep. The passes are being circulated through the District 1 Office, City Amigos, and downtown City offices, businesses and associations. If you would like passes or need more information, please contact my office, 207-7279 or email district1@sanantonio.gov.

Thank you, King William neighbors, for your contributions to our city. I have made sure to announce some of your recent successes in the District 1 e-newsletter and will continue to do so throughout the year. To subscribe to the newsletter, send us your name, telephone number and email address to district 1@ sanantonio.gov.

Best regards, Diego

City Hall 100 Military Plaza P.O. Box 839966 San Antonio, TX 78283-3966 207-7279 Fax: 207-7027 district1@sanantonio.gov Field Office 1310 Vance Jackson Rd. San Antonio, TX 78210

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- Shrimp Salad plate
- Chicken Salad plate

Coffee, tea, water Choice of desserts

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- Shrimp Salad plate
- Chicken Salad plate

Coffee, tea, water Choice of desserts

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Bonham Wins UIL! see story on page 6

March Calendar

- 7 KWA General Mtg 7:00 p.m. Blue Star Brewery
- 14 Deadline for newsletter submissions
- 21 KWA Board Mtg 6:30 p.m.
- 26 Newsletter mailing prep 6:00 p.m. KWA office
- 26 City Brush Collection Week