

# KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION NEWS

JULY 2021

## THE STAYCATION ISSUE

### STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION # 1

#### FINDING COMFORT

Lisa Lynde

I have officially lived in Texas two years now though it feels more like a few months thanks to COVID. My partner and I also buy and sell antiques, so when we planned our move to Texas, we wanted to find a new home for our business. A friend suggested I check out Comfort, recalling visiting some shops years earlier, so we did! We found a home at 8th Street Market and moved there in late January 2020.

We also found a respite from the cloud of COVID in Comfort. Every time we'd go up, it felt like a mini staycation because it offered us an escape from the oppressiveness of what was most of 2020. So, when talking with staff about our STAYCATION issue, I decided to write about Comfort and much to my surprise it is deeply connected to King William.

Comfort was founded by Ernst Hermann Altgelt in 1854 and he established his law practice there. In 1866 he moved to San Antonio and it is believed he built the first house on King William Street. Around the same time, in 1857, Edward Steves (yes, that Steves) purchased 160 acres in Comfort for his family farm



LEFT TO RIGHT: AUGUST FALTIN GENERAL STORE, BAT ROOST BUILT BY ALBERT STEVES, POST OFFICE DESIGNED BY ALFRED GILES

before moving to San Antonio. His son, Albert Steves, built a Hygieostatic Bat Roost on the family farm and it is one of the few remaining in the United States. Another connection? Of the 100 plus historic structures in Comfort, seven of them were designed by Alfred Giles – the same architect whose work you can see throughout King William.

Downtown Comfort is lined with shops, restaurants and tasting rooms, all housed in historic buildings. If you decide to take a day-trip up to Comfort, be sure to visit High Street Café, where you can enjoy amazing sandwiches and they even have gluten-free bread! For

the spirit-minded, check out Hill Country Distillers and do a tasting. They also have an extensive cocktail list all made with their spirits. My favorite is the Cucumber Ginger Gin Fizz. If wine is more your speed, right next door is the Newsom Vineyards tasting room and both are often playing host to a food truck. The tiny town also boasts an annual art fair and Christmas in Comfort is something no one should miss. There's even a local American Volkssport Association (AVA) club in Comfort. And with the national AVA headquarters now in King William it is just one more connection to King William that Comfort has!

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURES INCLUDE:

#### 10 SUMMER ESCAPES

Your Summer Staycay Awaits...pg 3,4,5,8,9

#### BEHIND THE ALAMO

SA Fire Museum – A Hidden Gem..... pg 3

#### LET FREEDOM RING IN THE ART

Blue Star Contemporary..... pg 8

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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Margaret Leeds*

The first week in June I was on a plane for the first time since November 1, 2019. I have had both vaccinations and I was not unduly concerned about risks, so I enjoyed the chance to connect with friends in person and to exchange hugs. I returned from Southern California to the reality of 90° weather in San Antonio and reflected on the wisdom in our decision not to have a King William Fair in June this year. We will make up for that with a fantastic return to celebrating Fiesta in April 2022.

As you know, District 1 will be served for the next two years by Councilman Mario Bravo and we have begun to establish a solid working relationship with him. We will be soliciting his support for historic preservation and, in particular, his support for improving and enforcing the city's noise ordinances.

The Board has decided that it would be wise to wait until September to have in-person meetings. Your KWA Nominating Committee is working now to provide a slate of candidates for Board Members and KWA President and Vice President. Please share your suggestions with Nora Peterson, Robin Raquet, Kate Ruckman, Carlos Villareal or Tim Ziegel. The slate of nominees for the KWA Board for 2022 will be presented at the meeting on September 1 and the election will be held in November. Stay tuned for the location of these important meetings.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

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**EDITORIAL DESIGNER:** Alicia Spence-Schlesinger

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## KWA CONTACT INFORMATION

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## KWA STAFF

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## FOLLOW US ONLINE

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**SAFFE OFFICER DAVID MCCALL**  
[DAVID.MCCALL@SANANTONIO.GOV](mailto:DAVID.MCCALL@SANANTONIO.GOV)

## BOARD BRIEFS:

The King William Board met via teleconference on Wednesday, June 16; "Board Briefs" are not intended to replace the official minutes of the Association but to highlight some of the board's latest activities.

The Association submitted a 10-year report to the Texas Commission on the Arts, available in the KWA office, highlighting the many cultural events in the neighborhood. The Board decided to host a face-to-face general membership meeting in September, watch for more news about the time and place. The Residential Quality Committee reported on continued efforts to enhance the Noise Ordinance by identifying similar ordinances at comparable cities in Texas.

*Dan Ratliff,*  
KWA Board Secretary

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## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #2

### VILLA FINALE: MUSEUM & GARDENS – TRAVEL THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING SA!

*Farrah Varga, Manager of Marketing & Programs for Villa Finale*

This 1876 Italianate mansion hosts guests from all over the globe who come to see the 12,000+ object collection that fills the home from top to bottom. Villa Finale boasts a collection that will make you feel like a world traveler, too – from Greek and Russian religious icons, to English Wedgwood Jasperware, to Spanish Colonial paintings.

For those Francophiles out there, Villa Finale has a real treat. Three rooms of the mansion are packed with Napoleon memorabilia! You can even come face to face with the death mask of the French emperor – if you dare! For those in search of local delights, Villa Finale also boasts a beautiful collection of Robert and Julian Onderdonk paintings, as well as a large collection of early Texan and 19th century American furniture and antiques.



VILLA FINALE DURING THE 2019 KW FAIR, PHOTO BY CHRISTINA LEAVITT

If your heart lies in the great outdoors, do not miss a simple stroll through Villa Finale's lush gardens. Free and open to the public, this stunning landscape offers ample selfie spots and delightful nooks and crannies in which to lose yourself. From June 18th, enjoy the latest outdoor exhibition, *Still Standing: The Many Faces of Villa Finale's Owners*.

Villa Finale is the only site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Texas and we are indeed lucky to have it right in our backyard. Book a tour at Villa Finale during your staycation and explore the world!

Please visit [www.villafinale.org](http://www.villafinale.org) for hours, prices, and public safety guidelines.

## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #3

### SAN ANTONIO FIRE MUSEUM: THE HIDDEN GEM BEHIND THE ALAMO

*Hector Cardenas*

Hiding behind the Alamo is this city's latest museum. The 1938 WPA Central Fire Headquarters Fire House No. 1 opened in 2013 as the San Antonio Fire Museum where the brave and storied history of the fire service in San Antonio is told with photos, equipment, video and apparatus dating back to the mid 1800s. Visitors can venture through the two buildings and witness how the first volunteer fire companies were formed before the Civil War and how the professional paid Fire Department was formed. Walk between antique fire engines and witness how they progressively changed through time. Relax in the small theater and view historic and educational videos or let the children and adults put on real fire bunker gear and helmets aboard one of the old trucks. (COVID has restricted some hands-on items.) Many great photo ops available. Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10am to 4pm, admission is a bargain for Adults at \$5, Seniors at \$3, and Children at \$2. Free first Tuesdays after 12pm. The museum is fully air conditioned and a great respite from our summer heat.

San Antonio Fire Museum, 801 E Houston, SATX  
For more info visit [sanantoniofiremuseum.org](http://sanantoniofiremuseum.org) or call (210) 390-7236.



PHOTO AT TOP: HECTOR CARDENAS INSIDE THE SA FIRE MUSEUM, COURTESY OF THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF SAN ANTONIO

MIDDLE PHOTO: OLD FIRE STATION NO. 10 AT OAK AND MILAM STREET, CIRCA 1910

PHOTO AT LEFT: MUSEUM ON HOUSTON STREET





## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #4

### SA BCYCLE: EXPLORE SAN ANTONIO WITH A BOOST

*Alicia Spence-Schlesinger,  
Marketing Specialist for SA BCycle*

I've been working for San Antonio Bike Share part time for about three years as the Digital Media Coordinator. The job was a perfect fit for me because if it wasn't for a bicycle, I would have high-tailed it out of San Antonio in my early twenties. I grew up in the burbs of San Antonio and, thanks to the abundance of cookie-cutter shopping centers, my husband and I frequently joke the northside could be labeled "Anywhere, America." If it wasn't for bicycle rides with my fellow art students at SAC, my enduring love for the history and culture of San Antonio would not exist.

A bicycle ride can completely change your perspective on the ordinary. Not only are you able to find hidden gems nestled off the beaten path, but you also experience a rush of endorphins. Add a pedal assist motor to your ride and you'll find yourself pedaling twice the distance, discovering more, and reaping the benefits of several feel-good neurotransmitters! Bicycles also put you outside with nature, which is known to serve up multiple mental health benefits. Altogether, the combination of exercise, explo-



ALICIA SPENCE-SCHLESINGER PRETENDING TO BE A STINSON SISTER ON THE MISSION REACH

ration, and nature will serve as a frequent reminder San Antonio has so much more to offer than the Alamo.

San Antonio Bike Share has a multitude of docking stations along the Museum Reach, downtown and Mission Reach. For only \$11 a day you have access to the system, which includes traditional bikes and pedal assist eBikes; plus, you don't have the hassles of parking. In fact, you can stand tall knowing you're saving the planet by giving the city a reason not to build another parking garage.

If you choose to utilize the San Antonio Bike Share system year-round, an annual membership will save you money and provide discounts at locally owned businesses near the docking stations. Follow us on Instagram (@SABikeShare) for places to bike, safety tips and transportation updates. Download the BCycle App to learn more about the system and rediscover the ordinary!

**KING WILLIAM MEMBERS CAN PURCHASE A SA BCYCLE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$80!**

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## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #5

### THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER: OFF THE BEATEN PATH – TWO ADVENTURES EVERY SAN ANTONIAN SHOULD TRY!

*Sarah Neal,*

*Owner of Mission Adventure Tours*

Whether you are a native San Antonian or a newcomer to the city there are always new and exciting things to do in our great city. Now that the city has fully reopened, it's time to enjoy once again exploring all that our city has to offer!

The first new adventure you should try is kayaking on the downtown section of the River Walk. The last time kayaks or canoes were allowed on this section was in the 1970s. Fortunately, Mission Kayak worked out a deal with the city to bring kayaking back to the river Walk for 2021. You may have walked along the River Walk or even rode on a river barge, but I guarantee you have NEVER experienced the San Antonio River as you will from a kayak. It's the most intimate and breathtaking way to see not only the river but downtown as well.

The second adventure everyone should try is an electric bike tour of San Antonio's Historic



URBAN KAYAKERS ENJOYING THE RIVER WALK THE LOCAL WAY

Spanish Missions. Mission Adventure Tours is the only bike tour company with both traditional pedal bikes and Electric Bikes. You can choose from 2 different tour options and if you opt for the eBikes you will be able to ride twice the distance with less effort thanks to pedal assist technology. On this tour you will follow the beautiful Mission Reach Trail as the guide talks about a number of public art installa-

tions and the history of river and acequias that brought life-giving water to the missions. Each tour stops for 20-40 minutes at each mission so that you have plenty of time to explore and take photos.

These two adventures will show you a side of San Antonio you have never seen before.

## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #6 AND #7

When staff is tasked to create a Staycation issue for the King William Newsletter they naturally ask their friend Mary Jurewicz, a Professional Tour Guide, for her recommendations. But we didn't want any ol' San Antonio tourist trap vacay site; we wanted something as unique as the basement of the Alamo, as featured in Pee Wee's Big Adventure. Here is what Mary found for us...



### ENORMOUS SUNFLOWER FIELD

Besides the great shopping, there's a giant field of sunflowers on the southwest side of town in Trader's Village. This 10-acre field of sunflowers is every selfie-fanatic's dream! With walking paths plus an exploratory maze you definitely won't feel like you're in San Antonio. This field of dreams is only open through July, so be sure to check out the buzz soon.

**For more information, visit** [www.tradersvillage.com/san-antonio/events/sunflower-field-now-open/](http://www.tradersvillage.com/san-antonio/events/sunflower-field-now-open/)



### "ANGELS UNAWARE" ON TOUR

Catholic Life Insurance Company's "Angels Unaware" sculpture commissioned by Pope Francis and created by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz is currently touring the US and making a stop in San Antonio. This masterpiece will only tour eight American cities and has been displayed in Miami and New Orleans. San Antonio is the only city in Texas chosen to showcase this 20' long and 12' high piece weighing 3.8 tons.

This work of art will only be here for six weeks at Catholic Life Insurance Company on 410 at Harry Wurzbach.





# KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

## SIGN ME UP OR RENEW MY DUES TO BE A KWA MEMBER IN 2021

While dues were due January 15th, you can **still** join or renew your dues! Remember to be a voting member you must be current with your dues at least 30 calendar days prior to any vote. We will be nominating neighbors to serve on the nominating committee for our Board of Directors in May, so now is the time to renew your dues if you haven't already! The membership year runs January 1 - December 31. Dues may be paid any time but will not be prorated. The King William Association is a nonprofit 501c3.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Select a category:

Individual (Free)    Family (Free)    Business/Organization (Free)

## VOTING MEMBERS: Select a category:

Individual (\$30/1 vote)    Business/Organization (\$50/1 vote)  
 Patron (\$75)    Family (\$40/2 votes)  
 Benefactor (\$250)    Lifetime (\$1000)

**INDIVIDUAL NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

For voting business members, list the designated person and alternate who may cast a vote.

**BUSINESS NAME** (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN** (under 18, list names): \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTING MEMBERS:** Would you like your children's names in the KWA Directory?

YES  NO

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one)  I AM  AM NOT WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KING WILLIAM ASSOCIATION.

**PRIMARY PHONE** (with area code):

home  cell  work

**WEBSITE ADDRESS** (for businesses): \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES):** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTING MEMBERS:** Would you like your email address listed in the KWA Directory?

YES  NO

**ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE ON THE...**

Board    Home Tour    King William Fair    Architectural Advisory    Cultural Arts  
 Newsletter Committees    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please fill out the KWA membership form above and mail to the KWA office. You may also drop your KWA membership form in the mail slot in the door facing Madison (not the parking lot entrance). You may also email us at: [info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org). Finally you may also become a KWA member online by going to [www.OurKWA.org/Membership-Join](http://www.OurKWA.org/Membership-Join)







Renew your membership today or join King William Association for the first time! The membership year began in January but it is never too late to renew or to join.

The more numerous and diverse our members the more powerful our voice in the effort to advance the KWA mission of preserving and protecting our historic residential environment. We encourage you to become involved in the work of KWA and to participate in KWA sponsored events that offer an opportunity to strengthen a sense of belonging by building relationships with neighbors. Your membership offers other benefits in the form of discounts on KWA merchandise and at businesses in the area.

Equally important, your membership helps to support KWA programs that we hope will return to in-person events in the coming year, including the King William Fair!

Joining for the first time or renewing your membership is quick, easy, and secure online by visiting our website at [www.ourkwa.org](http://www.ourkwa.org).



Margaret Leeds  
KWA Board President



## FORMULARIO PARA MEMBRESÍA DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

### FAVOR DE ACTIVAR O RENOVAR MI MEMBRESÍA DE KWA PARA EL 2021

Las cuotas para el 2021 se pagan antes del 15 de enero. Los miembros con derecho a voto deben estar al corriente con el pago 30 días corridos antes de cualquier votación. El pago antes del 15 de enero, le dará derecho a recibir pulseras de entrada a la Feria King William gratis y a ser parte del directorio impreso. La membresía es efectiva del 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre. La cuota se puede pagar en cualquier momento, pero no se prorrateará. La Asociación King William es una organización sin fines de lucro 501 (c) (3).

### MIEMBROS ASOCIADOS: Seleccione una categoría:

Individual (Gratis)    Familia (Gratis)    Negocio / Organización (Gratis)

### MIEMBROS CON DERECHO A VOTO: SSeleccione una categoría:

Individual (\$30/1 voto)    Empresa /Organización (\$50/1 voto)  
 Patrocinador (\$75)    Familia (\$40/2 votos)  
 Benefactor (\$250)    De por vida (\$1000)

**NOMBRE (S):** \_\_\_\_\_

Para los miembros empresariales con derecho a voto, indique la persona designada para votar y el respectivo suplente

**NOMBRE COMERCIAL** (si aplica): \_\_\_\_\_

**HIJOS** (menores de 18 años, liste los nombres): \_\_\_\_\_

**MIEMBRO CON DERECHO A VOTO:** ¿Le gustaría que los nombres de sus hijos se publiquen en el Directorio de KWA?  Sí  NO

**DIRECCIÓN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CIUDAD/ESTADO/CÓDIGO POSTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Seleccione uno)  VIVO    NO VIVO DENTRO DE LOS LÍMITES DE LA ASOCIACIÓN KING WILLIAM.

**TELÉFONO PRIMARIO** (con código de área):

Casa    Celular    Trabajo

**DIRECCIÓN DE SITIO WEB** (para empresas): \_\_\_\_\_

**CORREO(S) ELECTRÓNICO(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MIEMBROS CON DERECHO A VOTO:** ¿Le gustaría que su dirección de correo electrónico se publique en el Directorio de KWA?  Sí  NO

**¿ESTÁ DISPUESTO A SERVIR EN . . .**

Mesa directiva    Recorrido de Casas    Feria King William

Comité de asesoramiento arquitectónico    Artes culturales

Comités para el boletín    Otro: \_\_\_\_\_

### GRACIAS POR SU APOYO!

Por favor llene el formulario y envíelo por correo a la oficina de KWA. También puede depositarlo en la ranura de la puerta que da a Madison (no en la entrada del estacionamiento). También puede enviarla por correo electrónico a: [info@ourkwa.org](mailto:info@ourkwa.org), o puede activar su membresía en línea en [www.OurKWA.org/Membership-Join](http://www.OurKWA.org/Membership-Join)



## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #8

### OUT IN THE GARDEN

Alan Cash

July 4th is when we celebrate America's independence. This year it is also a day to make decisions about what garden plants to keep or delegate to the green recycle bin. Some plants have resprouted while others have no leaves at all. In the latter case they probably should be replaced. The past months have shown that patience in the garden is an important virtue and in some cases can pay off. As an example, a sago palm growing in a pot on my patio completely froze in the February "big freeze" and did not put out new growth until the first week of June. I imagine most of us experienced something similar with a variety of plants.

For those plants that are coming back, it is important to water and fertilize on a regular basis. It is best to feed them with a liquid fertilizer to give them the jump-start they need to recover. Medina Hasta Gro Plant is a good liquid fertilizer to use. It can be found at better nurseries and some feed stores.



ALAN CASH WATERING HIS GARDEN IN PREPARATION FOR THE DAY'S HEAT

We have been fortunate to have received fairly good rains this Spring. However, July and August typically promise to be hot and dry and test our gardening skills. Remember to follow City water restrictions which can change with the aquifer level. To keep up to date, go to [saws.org/WhenToWater](https://www.saws.org/WhenToWater).

Lawns and flower beds should be fertilized if it has been two or three months since the last

application. Use an ORGANIC granular fertilizer. They can be used any time of year and will not burn foliage.

#### GARDEN NOTE:

**When working out in the garden it does not matter how slow you go... just do not stop.**

## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #9



DOERTE WEBER, *SHED*, COURTESY OF BLUE STAR CONTEMPORARY

### BLUE STAR CONTEMPORARY: LET FREEDOM RING

*Daniela Oliver, Marketing & Communication for Blue Star Contemporary*

Let freedom ring! Blue Star Contemporary's galleries have been bustling with the energy and excitement of those who are vaccinated and now safely free to venture off and enjoy art in person. This July, we follow up last month's opening of our inaugural summer exhibition, *The Sitter*, with three new thought-provoking exhibitions.

Doerte Weber presents weavings reflecting on COVID-19 and everyday life during the pandemic. Joanna Keane Lopez is a multidisciplinary artist whose work blurs the boundaries between contemporary sculpture and architecture through the medium of adobe mud. Her BSC presentation will include a newly commissioned sculptural work. Terran Last Gun presents an exhibition of ledger drawings, a form which rose to prominence amongst Native American artists in the mid-1800s and continues today. All BSC's summer exhibitions will be on view through September 5, 2021. Visit [bluestarcontemporary.org](https://bluestarcontemporary.org) for more information.

For the first time at BSC, exhibitions are accompanied by an interactive app featuring an in-depth look at the exhibition through gallery texts, visitor prompts, and information aimed at giving visitors a broader context to engage with the works of art. The newly launched app is free to download and available at the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

BSC is delighted to welcome more and more guests back into its galleries, and this sum-

*continued on page 9*



## STAYCATION RECOMMENDATION #10

### BACKYARD BBQ: WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Annice Hill

When I think of Staycation I am so happy we live in San Antonio where there is so much to do and see. I also think of a backyard BBQ.

Here is a great recipe that won't keep you out in the heat for long!

#### BARBECUED SPARERIBS

- 2 racks pork spareribs, about 3½ to 4 pounds each
  - Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
  - 1½ cups of your favorite purchased or homemade BBQ sauce, plus more for dipping
1. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
  2. Lay the ribs on baking sheets, meaty-side up. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for 15 minutes.
  3. Brush the ribs with sauce and bake for 45 minutes more, basting frequently with sauce. Remove from oven.
  4. Place the ribs on a preheated grill, 3 to 4 inches from heat source, meaty-side up. Cook for 10 minutes, basting often. Turn the ribs over and cook for 5 minutes, basting.
  5. Carve up and serve with extra BBQ sauce on the side for dipping.

And here is a great salad to serve with the ribs!

#### CORN TOMATO AVOCADO SALAD

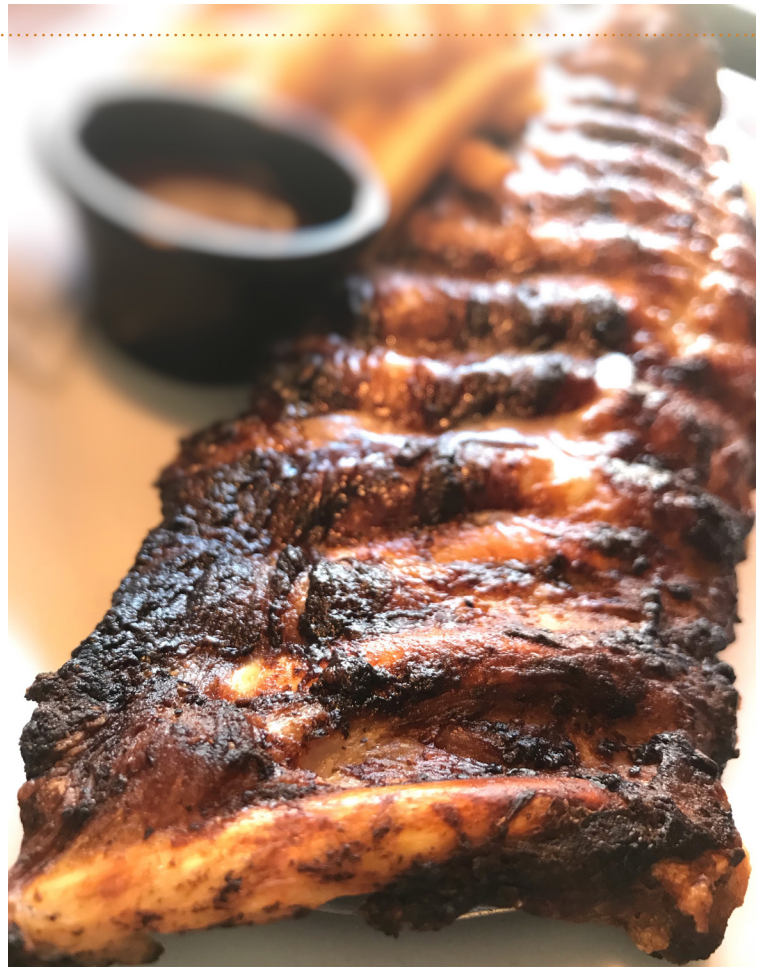
- Corn kernels from 1 large steamed/boiled corn cob
- 1 medium avocado, diced
- 1 English cucumber, seeded and diced
- 1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons diced red onion
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- Fresh black pepper, to taste

Toss all ingredients together and serve immediately. Enjoy!

If you are staying in town this summer, I hope you have a wonderful Staycation! I am going to Florida to the beach!

*Blue Star Contemporary continued from page 8*

mer we hope to see you enjoy the works of La Vaughn Belle, Suzette Bross, Ruth Leonela Buentello, Carmen Cartiness Johnson, Madison Cowles Serna, Natan Dvir, Sarah Fox, LaToya Hobbs, Loc Huynh, David Johnson and Philip Matthews, Zora Murff, Cruz Ortiz in *The Sitter*; and of Doerte Weber, Joanna Keane Lopez, and Terran Last Gun whose solo exhibitions open on July 1.



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## FREEDOM FLOAT FOR THE FOURTH



S.T. SHIMI AND OSCAR ALVARADO UPPING THE STANDARDS FOR REGATTA STYLE IN 2019

## A RELAXED AFFAIR

*Marita Emmett*

The King William Yacht Club celebration year will be a relaxed affair on July 4th this year. No races, no trophies, no pressure. We'll ease our way along our river in any kind of floating device. Take your time and enjoy a different perspective in this year's celebration of freedom and vaccinations. Many in our unofficial pop-up paddling group plan to be out of town for the long weekend to catch up on travels postponed. The King William Association voted to cancel the traditional July 4th lunch & music & games social that usually follows the river regatta. Still, it wouldn't be the Fourth of July in King William if a few of us didn't gather on the river with our neighbors. Patriotic swag encouraged. Anybody who lives in the general area is invited. **Please contact the Commodore for details at [marita.emmett@gmail.com](mailto:marita.emmett@gmail.com) or 210-472-1600.**



REGATTA PARTICIPANTS WAVING TO THE CROWD IN 2019



KAISER WILHELM ON HIS KAYAK IN THE 2019 REGATTA

## IN MEMORIAM



MICHAEL PATRICK HODGE'S KING WILLIAM HOME AT 337 MADISON

## MICHAEL PATRICK HODGE

**JUNE 20, 1940 ~ MAY 20, 2021**

*Bill Cogburn*

Mike Hodge, longtime King William resident and preservationist died suddenly on June 20, 2021, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was eighty years old.

Mike and wife Carol were among the 1970s wave of young urban pioneers who accepted the challenge of building a vibrant community while preserving the historic residential fabric of King William.

When they bought 323 Wickes in 1979, they knew what they were getting into, having previously restored a historic house and commercial building in Castroville while Mike was City Attorney there. After the Wickes Street cottage, the Hodges took on the larger project of saving 335 and 337 Madison Street.

337 Madison Street was nothing more than bare walls, dirt floor and rubble before Mike and Carol painstakingly rebuilt the entire structure. The gracious two-story limestone house that you see today was their home until 2004.

During these same years, Mike served as King William Association President in 1981 to 1982 and KW Fair Chair later in the decade. Carol took her turn as Association President from 1988 to 1990.

Professionally, Mike served in the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, City of San Antonio Attorney's Office, Office of the Attorney General of Texas and a two-year stint in Washington D.C. where he worked on prosecution of money laundering. He retired from the City of San Antonio Attorney's office in 2004 moving to Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he and Carol built their first and only new house.

In his retirement years, Mike continued to indulge his interest in photography participating in several exhibits in New Mexico. Travel was another passion – France and England being favorite destinations. They enjoyed spending several weeks every year in Oaxaca, Mexico, soaking up the culture, history, arts and food of that area.

Mike and Carol have continued to maintain their friendships in King William while dividing their time between homes in San Antonio and New Mexico.



*John Doski*

As we continue emergence from our COVID cocoons of the last 16 months, and while we reflect on how messed up things have been, the KWA remains very much committed and positioned to engage in neighborhood quality of life issues. We see restaurants with greatly increased business; a return of parking shortages, increased foot traffic, horse drawn carriages, and electric scooters; all kinds of real estate transactions and transformations; and noise. While San Antonio has a noise ordinance created over 25 years ago, we recently have struggled greatly to get the attention of the city to address noise complaints from residents.

Related to longstanding complaints in King William, with significant resident frustrations, former Councilman Roberto Trevino was able to convene a San Antonio City Council task force to assess the impact of outdoor amplified music on residential and commercial disharmony. The task force is charged with determining "how the Noise Ordinance can be adjusted so it is easy to understand and enforce, and so residents can have peaceful and quiet enjoyment of their home without having to resort to filing a complaint on their commer-

cial neighbors." It is made up of 15 members: three from specific neighborhoods including King William, five from general neighborhood appointments, one from the N. St Mary's Business Association, one from the San Antonio Restaurant Association, two from the food/beverage industry, one officer from SAPD, one officer from SAPD code enforcement, and an attorney from the City Attorney's Office, all coordinated by a representative from the Department of Development Services.

There have been two meetings of a getting-to-know-you quality, and the Task Force must complete its charge within a 90-day period.

Some of the initial topics included:

- Who should be in charge of this process: previously by the Department of Development Services, but now by the SAPD with their peace officer mandates;
- Ways to establish the definition of a noise problem: currently precise measurements for decibel readings, but alternatively a 'plainly audible' determination;
- Creation of a permitting process as done in other Texas cities; and

- The critical need for effective enforcement, including fines.

Our KWA committee accumulated a significant body of information to educate and inform, including examples of how other cities have addressed this issue within Texas and across the nation. Ultimately, our quality of life and health is affected by dealing with the stress of unwanted noise, and our home resale values could suffer too.

The KWA Residential Quality Committee has been chaired deftly by Pat Conroy. Recently he has stepped down as chair, but remains active on the committee, along with myself, Shelley Galbraith, Rose Kanusky, and Gretchen Rose. The committee remains interested in hearing from you, whether it is a noise nuisance issue or some other quality of life challenge you identify. The KWA recently looked into a potential short-term rental issue, and also is engaged with zoning standards and the prospect of commercial expansion onto Cedar Street. Your involvement is welcome and needed.

We continue to urge you to call in any noise complaints to the SA Police Department's non-emergency number, 210-207-7273.

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