



September • October
2006

Friends 2006 Arts and Letters Award
Winners Named

Robert LaCaff

From the
President



Dear Friends,

Everybody mark your calendars! On *Sunday, October 22, 2:00 p.m.*, the Friends will host our annual *Arts and Letters Awards Ceremony* in the auditorium of Central Library. It will be a chance to meet and greet some of San Antonio's true shining stars! A reception will follow. Bring your family and friends! Y'all come!

At our July board meeting, we approved the bylaws of the Forest Hills Friends. They were welcomed as our newest branch group. The librarians at Cortez and Landa are trying to start up groups. If one of these branches is where you usually go to the library, just check with the librarian there for information about being a charter member of one of these new groups.

Our San Antonio City Council will be voting on the 2007 budget on the morning of Thursday, September 7. Please contact your councilperson to remind them that we value our libraries. The library system needs:

- ♦ More money for books and audio/video materials and new computers (a million more, to be precise)
- ♦ Continued computer classes for the library patrons (the proposed budget wants to end these. Classes would be taught at "community centers," rather than at the libraries)

We also can attend the city council meeting on September 7. Be sure your city councilperson knows that you care about our libraries and want your tax money to support them!

Your Friend,
Linda Nairn

A quiet journalist who has been covering the San Antonio arts and letters scene for more than twenty years. A director's director who produces San Antonio's finest award-winning, professional-quality theatre. A columnist, historian, storyteller, answering any query posed about the who, what, where, why, when, and how this or that became a puzzle part of San Antonio's past, present, and perhaps, future.

Friends Arts and Letters Award Committee Chair **Alan Cutler** is pleased to announce his committee's selection of the three nominees who will, on October 22, each receive a Friends 2006 Arts and Letters Award. Since 1972, the award has been given in recognition of individuals whose notable outstanding literary and artistic accomplishments have served to enrich the cultural and literary life of San Antonio.

Jasmina Wellinghoff, an award-winning feature writer and critic in thousands of articles appearing in San Antonio, state, national, and foreign media outlets, quietly considers herself a journalist strongly advocating accuracy and fairness in opinion. In 1990, she founded the Alamo Theatre Arts Council that sponsors the annual ATAC Globe Awards recognizing superior achievements in theatrical production and performance.

The award established a high standard for quality theatre in San Antonio. Currently, she is the Senior Writer and Arts Columnist with *San Antonio Woman* magazine, celebrating all women of San Antonio.

The 2006 Arts and Letters Award ceremony and reception will be 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 22, in the downtown Central Library Auditorium, 600 Soledad St.

The must-see professional quality theatre in San Antonio is directed and produced by **Kenneth (Ken) Frazier**, the founder and artist director-producer of the Barshop JCC's **Sheldon Vexler** Theatre and the Vexler Children's Theatre. He has directed and produced thirty shows for the Vexler Main Stage and produced twenty-five children's shows in leading the Vexler to the highest level of theatrical excellence and audience appeal. Ken is excited by the theatre's ability to

communicate universal ideas in providing a San Antonio audience with an opportunity to look at themselves — the human condition — with scripts that have the moral or ethical message in a solid entertaining moment of theatre. Reflected in all his shows is his insistence of and leadership to a collaborative effort of many artists working together to create a unified work of art.

Paula Allen, a featured columnist, historian, author, and storyteller with the *San Antonio Express-News*, takes questions from her devoted readers concerning any subject, any time period or location, any person, alive or deceased, and perhaps a paradox now and then, that are a part of the history of San Antonio. Her columned answers, which are thoughtful, studied, and well researched, are written with clarity and humor. To critical acclaim is Paula's new

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Friends of the San Antonio Public Library BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 16, 2006

Submitted by *Sheila Figueroa, Secretary*

Call To Order: Linda Nairn, President, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Board of Directors and Officers present: Linda Nairn, Robert LaCaff, Sheila Figueroa, Nancy Gandara, Vera Banner, Pat Brown, Lou Harris, Lee LaCaff, Aaron Konstam, Rowena Rodgers, Anna Cleve, Ronnie Retzlloff, Pat Konstam, Alan Cutler, Bruce Gill, Libbie Roussin, Lora Eckler, Tom Anderson, Nancy Fitzgerald, Pat Cummins, and Bettie Ward

San Antonio Public Library Administration present: Beth Graham

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and recorded.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Gandara reported on accounts through June 30. The Treasurer's Report was voted to be accepted and filed for audit with corrections.

REPORTS:

Library Board: John Nicholas was not present.

Library Administration: Beth Graham reported that the library is testing a software program that would allow people to register online to use the computers in the library. Beth also reported that the new assistant director for public service is Mark Gretchen, and Andy Gordon is the new special events coordinator at Central Library. Beth gave a special thank you to the Friends for their support in allowing the production company for the library to go off site to film. Beth also reported that the new John Igo Branch library will have a ground-breaking cere-

mony on July 27 at 10:00 a.m. at 7938 Hausman Road. On Saturday, July 29, the library will have its end-of-the-summer reading fest. It was also reported that there were no final dates for the budget talks.

Linda Nairn reported that **Barbara Isner** that her report on the Texas Library Association Convention was submitted to the newsletter for publication in the next issue. Linda also reported that she had brought 10 new book bags from the Book Cellar to sell for \$8 each.

Library Foundation: Lucy Gale was not present.

Linda Nairn introduced **Debi Nichols**, the assistant branch manager of Semmes, and thanked her for her hospitality. Linda also reported that the Semmes branch was a "green" library — it conserves electricity, saves water, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arts and Letters: Alan Cutler reported that he is very enthusiastic about this committee. Alan reported that the first meeting of the committee would be held Sunday, July 23, at Alan's home. The date for the awards ceremony is October 22.

Book Cellar: Aaron Konstam distributed a chart and figures comparing 2005 and 2006 for the Book Cellar. He stated that earnings were up, partly because the Book Cellar is open on Thursday evenings. Aaron again stated that volunteers are needed for the Book Cellar.

Directory: Robert LaCaff, Vice President, reported that he had contacted four print shops to obtain bids for the printing

of the Friends directory. It was unanimously approved that we accept the bid from Southwest Research Institute Media Production Services to print the directories. **Alana Woods** is a supportive Friend overseeing our interests in the publication process.

Membership: Ronnie Retzlloff reported that the Friends gained 47 more members since the last meeting. There are 906 members of which there are 437 individual members, 4 individual teen members, 41 individual patrons, 18 individual contributors, 156 individual life members and 125 dual memberships (250 individuals).

Memorials/Honorariums: No report.

Newsletter: Cathy Dean was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

The plastic holders for the Friends' envelopes have been distributed to some of the branches. Linda suggested the branches could stamp their branch name on the envelopes.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Forest Hills Friends' By-Laws were presented. **Johnnie Spraggins**, President of the Forest Hills Friends, was introduced. The By-Laws were presented and approved.

Vera Banner made a motion that the Friends purchase t-shirts with our logo on it and wear them to city council meetings or just about any place to advertise the Friends. **Ronnie Retzlloff** then suggested buttons as an alternative that would advertise the Friends or state "Ask me about..." **Kel-**

Continued on p 6.



The Friends, inaugurated March 23, 1964, promote public use of the San

Antonio Public Library and appreciation of its value as a cultural and educational asset to the community and encourage the extension and improvement of its services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Nairn President
Robert LaCaff Vice President
Nancy Gandara Treasurer
Sheila Figueroa Secretary
Barbara Isner Immediate Past Pres

BOARD MEMBERS

2005–2007 Term

Vera Banner • Betty Kelly Berry
Pat Brown • Lou Harris
Aaron Konstam • Lee LaCaff
Maria Pfeiffer • Rowena Rodgers

2006–2008 Term

Anna Cleve • Alan Cutler
Teresa Garza • Bruce Gill
Pat Konstam • Josie Martinez
Janie Oosterveen • Ronnie Retzlloff

SAPLINGS

Newsletter published every two months for the information of member Friends of the San Antonio Public Library and others supportive of our ideals and activities.

Managing Editor Alana Woods
FOSAPL Editor Open

Southwest Research Institute® provides partial funding for printing the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Lyn Belisle • Cathy Dean
Bruce Gill • Rowena Rodgers
Linda Nairn, *Ex Officio*
Mary McAfee, *Distribution*

Article contributions for publishing in the newsletter are always welcome!

The deadline for submitting articles and photos to SAPLings is the 15th of the month

(February 15, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15, and December 15)

Articles to be submitted should be a simple text file or in Word or WordPerfect. Please email files and photos to **Alana Woods** at <awoods@swri.org>. Hard copy articles and photos should be mailed to Alana Woods at Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78238.



Brook Hollow

Good things continue to happen at Brook Hollow! The Library Staff is moving ahead with purchase of a number of items from their "wish list," including a license to show movies as part of the library's "multi-media" approach . . . books, CDs, films and DVDs, and computer and internet services.

A major project to get underway this fall will be landscaping the grounds surrounding the library building, using drought-tolerant xeriscape plants. Phase One calls for replacing the dull brown grass with ornamental Texas River Rock and mulched beds. Current trees will be pruned and some new ornamental trees planted this fall. This will be followed by the planting of a variety of hardy Texas plants, shrubs, and flowers next spring. The heavy work will be professionally done, with volunteers assisting with the lighter planting and maintenance. Please come by the library later this fall to check on the progress of our new Texas-style landscaping!

Brook Hollow's Fall book sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 14. While we aren't expecting a repeat of last spring's record-breaking sale, we will be offering a wide variety of books and videos, including some very interesting premium titles. Please come by and check us

out . . . the doors open at 9:00 a.m.

Richard Bowser

Cody

Cody Library is having their last book sale for 2006 on Saturday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mark it on your calendar.

We take donations all year — books, magazines, videos, records, CDs, DVDs, cassette tapes, games, and puzzles. And we thank you for your generosity in donating.

Carol VanCleeve

Guerra

July was such a great month for us. First, State Representative Jose Menendez gave us a wonderful set of the U.S. and Texas Flags. They add so much to the meeting room and allow us to salute both our country and state. Thank you so much Jose, we really needed them, and you came through for us.

Then we celebrated Guerra's 2nd birthday with an afternoon party. We had a wonderful time with approximately 900+ patrons joining us to celebrate. We had cake, drinks, hotdogs, games, a magician, crafts, and a clown making balloons for the kids. The library honored its hardworking volunteers with certificates of appreciation. As always, thanks to **Evelyn Thomas** for pulling together the cake and refreshments from the Friends. Many thanks to the Guerra library staff for all the extra time and hard work in putting this event together and making it such a fun time for all.

We had a great discussion with **John Phillip Santos** about his book. A good size

crowd had lots of interesting questions and thoughts until the library closed on us. The book gave us all a lot to think about.

We look forward to hosting the Friends Board in September. And in our October meeting, we plan to spend a lot of money on items from the library's wish list. What a great way to start our 3rd year.

Lora Eckler

Maverick

The Maury Maverick Jr. Branch Library will have a used book sale on Saturday, September 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is the first book sale for Maverick Library, which opened earlier this year at 8700 Mystic Park near Bandera Road in northwest San Antonio.

Donna Hogan

McCreless

McCreless Branch Library closed August 14 for maintenance. The project will include repairs to the roof, parking lot, air conditioning, foundation and plumbing, plus sewage and storm drainage work. Funded by the 2003 bond initiative, the work will cost \$532,000. Staff members have been reassigned during the time of renovation. The library is expected to reopen by mid-October.

McCreless Friends August meeting was cancelled due to the branch closure. A mailout will notify members of the next meeting, hopefully in October.

McCreless Branch Library has been designated an early voting site. Voting begins October 23. If the library is still closed for renovation, a trailer will be located nearby,

probably across the street on what is still referred to as McCreless Mall property.

Vera Banner

Semmes

In the first summer of operation, the Semmes staff must have really promoted the summer reading program. Their hard work was rewarded by signing up 1,424 kids and teens for the program. This is a great indicator that this branch is becoming a vital part of the community. Congratulations to the staff for promoting this worthwhile program.

The library will be having its first birthday party on Saturday, November 4, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. City Councilman Chip Haass will be attending. There will be games and refreshments. Plan to come and help us celebrate a great first year.

Tom Anderson

Thousand Oaks

The Thousand Oaks Friends had a successful book sale on August 19. Our thanks go to all who purchased books, videos, CDs, etc. Our next sale will be Saturday, November 18. Hope you will plan to visit us.

The Friends appreciation luncheon for the library staff will be held on September 21. We will be honoring the staff for all the hard work and effort they provide for the library as well as the Friends.

Nancy Fitzgerald

Westfall

Late breaking news! Westfall Branch Library has repair work scheduled from August

Continued on p 6.

Arts & Letters from p 1.

book *San Antonio, Then and Now*, a splendid photographic adventure of scenes of San Antonio from early times to the present, all featuring her unique descriptive narrative of the historical significance of each scene. In reporting upon any subject, Paula educates, entertains, and amuses her readers, and in so doing, benefits the enrichment of the literary and cultural life of San Antonio.

The Arts & Letters Award Ceremony is open to the public. Members of the Friends are encouraged to attend in recognizing and celebrating the three 2006 awardees.

Committee Chair **Alan Cutler** thanks the members of his committee for their dedication to selecting the three nominees and for their efforts and support in preparing and presenting the forthcoming awards event. Committee members are **Caren Creech Berlanga, Lucy Gale, Bruce Gill, Lee and Robert LaCaff, and Ginger Purdy**. Friends President **Linda Nairn** serves as an ex-officio member.

Book Cellar News

The Book Cellar's "buy-one-get-one-free" special during the month of September is adult and children's hardbacks with Dewey Decimal numbers in the 300s. The 300 series includes sociology, family life, politics, economics, personal finance, law, military affairs, folklore, and more.

The October "buy-one-get-one-free" special will be the 800 series, which includes poetry, drama, literary criticism, essays, humor, and guides for writing and public speaking.

A new addition to Book Cellar merchandise is "altered books" — containers and decorative items made from surplus *Readers Digest Condensed Books*. These include book safes (with a hollowed-out space for

valuables), a tiny Zen garden, and angels. Prices start at \$4.

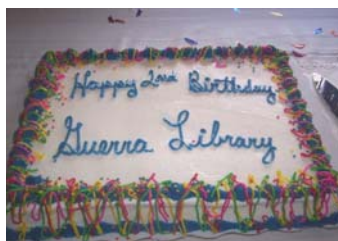
The store also has hundreds of back-issue magazines about subjects from cooking and decorating to travel and sports, priced at 10 cents each or 12 for \$1.

Aiding our constant quest for Book Cellar volunteers, thanks go to artist **Lyn Belisle** for designing a large sign inviting customers "to upgrade their status" by joining FOSAPL and signing up as volunteers.

In addition to volunteers, the store needs book donations. Call 210-227-9519 for more information.

Pat Konstam

For the Book Cellar Committee



Guerra's Second Birthday Party

Photos submitted by Lora Eckler



ALA New Orleans Conference

Mary McAfee

More than 18,000 librarians and Friends attended the annual American Library Association (ALA) conference in June at the New Orleans Convention Center. There were 28 hotels to choose from when the information sheets were sent to me. It seemed that N'Orleans was ready to welcome us, and they really did! I have manned the Friends of Libraries USA booth for many years at the conventions and really enjoy meeting up with old Friends and making new Friends, and this one was especially good. We had excellent speakers —

Madeline Allbright, Cokie Roberts, and **Laura Bush**, to name a few. I handed out FOLUSA information and talked a lot, as usual. Friends want to know what other groups are doing, and FOLUSA acts as a clearing house for sharing information about what is happening. Usually there are some Texans who have moved to other states, and they always are anxious to hear what we are doing in San Antonio.

Sally Reed, FOLUSA Director, and Friends of New Orleans Public Library dedicated the final home of **Tennessee**

Williams during the conference. The Friends of New Orleans are selling a beautiful pin, designed by a local artist **Thomas Mann**. If you are interested, you can purchase one online at <http://nutrias.org/info/friends/friends.htm>.

I wish that each one of our Friends could receive the *FOLUSA Newsletter*. We belong as a group, and you may go to <http://www.folusa.org> to download information.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Membership Renewals

Renewals go out in October!

1. **Renew now.** It is official. Dues have gone up. But more of each renewal goes to your favorite branch!
2. **Renewing early (before Feb. 1) saves money.** Sending out second letters is costly in time, printing and postage. That money could be better spent to help the library!
3. **Life members** do not have to pay anything to designate one branch a year. But we need to hear from them annually to keep our information current. We welcome contributions from the MANY who continue to make donations each year.
4. **Individual members** pay one fee and may designate one branch for support. Each additional branch designation adds \$5 to the total.
5. **Dual members** consist of 2 adults at the same address paying together. They may designate one branch each to support. Every additional branch costs \$5 each.
6. **Patrons, Contributors, and Life Memberships** are all on an individual basis (For example — if one partner wants to be a patron and the other just wants a membership, the envelope needs to include the patron fee and an individual fee. It also needs to state which member is which category.)
7. **Your phone number will appear in the new directory** unless your annual membership envelope designates in some way that it is to be unlisted. If we have a phone number and it is not written on the current year envelope, that number is moved to unlisted. If a number was previously unlisted but appears on the new membership envelope without a note to keep it unlisted, it is designated as listed.
8. **Email addresses** can be written legibly on your envelope if you want your branch officers to have it. Or you can suggest that they call if they want your email address.
9. **Membership cards** are mailed after the first of the year to all who have renewed in a timely manner. They are held so that we can save money by doing bulk mailing.
10. **Accurate records are important.** When a member moves without notifying us of the change of address, we sometimes get the new address from forwarded mail. But the current 'return to sender' fee is anywhere from \$.70 to over \$1 based on the weight of each piece of returned mail. Thank you to each of you who notify us when you move.
11. **If you have a problem?** Call the treasurer if it is a money question. **Nancy Gandara**, 695-9648. Call the membership chairman if your new card does not reflect the selections you thought you made. **Ronnie Retzloff**, 210-490-4337, retzloff@satx.rr.com, 319 Neches Branch, SAT 78258.

Hispanic Heritage Month 2006

September 15–October 15

Each year the San Antonio Public Library celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month throughout the system. In 2006 the Library will introduce a Hispanic Awareness/Public Awareness Campaign during Hispanic Heritage Month. The goal of this campaign is to promote library services and resources in the Hispanic community, with special emphasis on encouraging everyone to get a library card. The campaign will target all members of San Antonio's Hispanic community, whether monolingual or bilingual, recently arrived or lifetime resident.

The San Antonio Public Library will offer a series of programs that will include workshops, dance demonstrations, lectures, art exhibits, appearances by authors **Xavier Garza** and **Carmen Tafolla**, and a panel discussion hosted by **Sandra Cisneros**. These events will take place at the Central Library and each branch library.

Friends of the Library funds some of these activities. Contact your library for dates and times.

Check out the Library's website at www.sanantonio.gov/library for all the details.

Branch Leaves (Cont'd from p. 3)

24 to September 28 and will be closed during that time. As a result, the Westfall Friends have had to postpone a meeting planned for late August and will try to reschedule when the work is finished.

We were so pleased to learn that **Loubelle Vandeventer** was selected as a "Library Champion" by the Library Board of Trustees in May. The Westfall Friends nominated her for the award because she has a long and illustrious history as a volunteer at Westfall Branch. She also has provided great help to the Friends at all of our used book sales! We are very proud of her and congratulate her for this outstanding honor.

We sign off for now, but we shall return ARF (after repairs are finished).

Bettie B. Ward

Writer Friends

The Writer Friends of the San Antonio Public Library will hold their fall quarterly meeting Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the main auditorium of Central Library. The meeting will feature a celebration of the San Antonio Hispanic literary scene in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Local authors **Diane Gonzales Bertrand, Xavier Garza, and Carmen Tafolla** will give readings and discuss how living in San Antonio has informed their work. The Writer Friends will also elect new officers at this meeting. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served!

Rick Riordan

Minutes (Cont'd from p. 2)

ley Smith suggested the transfers (iron-ons). **Nancy Gandara**, Treasurer, reminded the Friends that the cost was not budgeted for this year. A vote was taken on this Motion, and there were eight for and nine against. **Pat Konstam** suggested someone obtain information about the buttons and present it at the next meeting. **Anna Cleve, Kelley Smith, and Lora Eckler** will obtain this information for the Friends and report on it at the September meeting.

Vera Banner also suggested that there be some kind of recognition for the life members of the Friends. **Linda Nairn** asked for recognition ideas for patrons and contributors as well.

Linda Nairn reminded the Friends that, at the September meeting, people will be asked to help on the Budget and the Nominating committees. This year, officers, as well as board members, will be elected. The next meeting is September 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the Guerra library.

Branch News and Announcements:

Cody will have a book sale in October.

Guerra had its Second Birthday Bash July 15.

McCreless. The date of its closing for renovation is unknown at this time.

Oakwell will have a book sale August 19.

Semmes will have their first book sale September 23. They will have their first birthday party Nov. 4.

Thousand Oaks will have their summer book sale August 19. They are also making plans for a staff luncheon in September.

Westfall. Their next Friends meeting will be August 26. They will have **John Philip Santos** at the branch at 2:00 p.m., and there will be a guitarist at 1:30 p.m.

Forest Hills will have a book sale September 21 and 22.

Maverick will have a book sale September 16.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

John Igo Library Groundbreaking Ceremony Held July 27

7938 Hausman Road

Photos by Mary McAfee



Top, Honoree John Igo with (L-R) City Councilman Art Hall and State Rep. Julian Castro; Robert LaCaff; Mary McAfee; and Gerry LeFevre.

Bottom, L-R: Barbara Stanush, Robert LaCaff, & Lee LaCaff; Library Director Ramiro Salazar & Library Board Chair John Nicholas; Friends President Linda Nairn & Library Foundation Board Chair Dennis Martinez



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CALENDAR OF BOOK SALES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Because dates and times change occasionally, please call and verify information.

- Sept. 9 San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees public hearing on proposed Oakwell name change to **Robert L.B. Tobin** Library at Oakwell, 2:00 p.m., Oakwell Library
- Sept 12 Writer Friends fall quarterly meeting, Central auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept 15 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at SAPL begins. Ends Oct. 15.
- Sept 16 Maverick Library's first book sale, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Sept 17 Friends Board meeting, Guerra Library, 2:00 p.m.**
- Sept 21–22 Forest Hills book sale
- Sept 23 Semmes book sale, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Sept 28 Westfall to reopen
- Sept 30 Cody book sale, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Oct 14 Brook Hollow book sale, 9:00 a.m.
- Oct 22 **Arts and Letters Awards Ceremony**, 2:00 p.m., Central Library Auditorium
- Nov. 4 Semmes first birthday party, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Nov 11–12 Guerra book sale
- Nov 18 Thousand Oaks book sale

Note: Each branch Friends group has a designated representative to the Board. However, these Board meetings are open to the general membership. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Brook Hollow Library
530 Heimer Road, 78232
210-496-6315

Central Library
600 Soledad Street, 78205
210-207-2500

Cody Library
11441 Vance Jackson, 78230
210-696-6396

Forest Hills Library
5245 Ingram Rd., 78228
210-431-2544

Guerra Library
7978 Military Dr W, 78227
210-673-1492

Maverick Library
8700 Mystic Park, 78254
210-680-9346

Oakwell Library
4134 Harry Wurzbach Rd, 78209
210-828-2569

Semmes Library
15060 Judson Rd., 78247
210-650-9540

Thousand Oaks Library
4618 Thousand Oaks, 78233
210-657-5205

Westfall Library
6111 Rosedale Court, 78201
210-344-2373