



## Notes by Diego Torres – President

As we approach the Summer season, our residents are out enjoying our amenities and becoming active in the social activities. I am urging all of the residents to support the newest monthly activity, Coffee Social, on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and enjoy meeting and chatting with current and new neighbors.

There have been some complaints on the weed growth at the Bentsen Berm and resident fence areas on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. I have started an option list of all affected residents and based on the results, I will take the appropriate action.

Another issue that requires resolution is the height of grass/weed on our pond edges that allegedly will control pond edge erosion. A State expert on erosion control has been invited to speak on this subject at our May Board meeting. I am requesting that all residents interested on this issue, to please attend this meeting and state your views so we can resolve this issue.

In closing, I would like to wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day and remember to honor our fallen heroes on Memorial Day.

Village of Westlakes  
Board Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tue. / Martes,  
**May 20, 2014**  
**June 17, 2014**  
7:00 P.M.  
Clubhouse

## Erosion Plan Adopted for VWL Ponds Reported in 2008 *Monitor* Article

The problem of erosion control of the Westlake ponds has plagued VWL HOA since our assumption of pond maintenance in 1998. Various solutions have been tried — some costly. In 2002 or 2003, Grounds Committee members **Bev Percell, Nedra Kinerk, Bob Heising, Larry Rericha** and other volunteers worked to place barriers on the sides of our ponds to slow down the erosion. (It was really *damp, down, and dirty!*) Erosion was not stopped though.

In 2008, Chris Hathcock of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Habitat guided us to a less costly erosion solution featured in *The Monitor* article which follows. More recent residents, or those who have forgotten, may read the rationale for the cost-saving plantings on the pond banks to reduce erosion adopted back in 2008.

THIS ARTICLE WAS PRINTED IN *THE MONITOR*, VOL. 44, No. 09, FEB. 27, 2008, p.1B.

**“Pond project aims to prevent erosion, benefit wildlife.”**

by Adriana Acosta, *Monitor* reporter

The streets of McAllen's Westlake subdivision are pleasant, the movement of the trees and leaves soothing sound, serenading with the wind. Birds chirping can be heard from afar. Entering the subdivision, you can see one of the beautiful ponds that beautify the area; ponds where people can go and enjoy the water and look at the fish that swim in it.

*Erosion Plan* continued on P. 4, col 1



## COFFEE TIME

A morning coffee get-together for VWL residents is once again planned for the first Monday of the month — May 5 from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. — to renew old friendships and make acquaintances with new residents. The coffee time, which was inaugurated by the VWL Social Committee in April, was an enjoyable event. Thanks to committee members **Julie Groepper, Judy Boyle, Kathy Ament, Sherrie Mandsager, and Connie Gressinger.**





**Community potluck on May 15.**

**It will be a Bar-B-Q. Bring your own meat to cook and a side dish to share**

**Social hour: 5:00 P.M. Dinner: 6:00 P.M.**



Some residents walking on the street have felt threatened by dogs that are on their owners' property but unleashed and showing aggressive behavior toward the walkers. Although you may believe your dog will remain on your property, the walker does not have that assurance that your dog will not attack them. If your dog is aggressive to walkers, you may need to secure it with a leash.



Residents also need to be reminded that dogs should not be walked on the golf course areas. Walk them in the street and, of course, with a leash and a "pooper" disposal bag.



**Remember — Help the McAuliffe First**

**Graders help Ronald McDonald Kim Ketterer's**

**McAuliffe School first grade students are still**

collecting soda and beverage can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House as part of their IB action plan. Please help the McAuliffe kids help the Ronald McDonald kids by saving the soda can tabs. **Kim Ketterer** has a container for the tabs in the clubhouse kitchen. You may also put the tabs in a baggie and leave them on her porch at 4104 Whitewing Avenue. The kids would really appreciate your help.



**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

**Que Pasa? at the Village of Westlakes**

for May/June 2014

**VILLAGE OF WESTLAKES BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 20 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Tuesday, June 17 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Golf League play resumes in October. Groups of golfers usually convene at 9:00 A.M. in the summer.**



**Golf - Mixed: Tue., at 9:00 A.M.**

**Golf - Mixed: Wed., at 9:00 A.M.**

**Golf - Mixed Best Ball: Fri., at 9:00 A.M.**

**Pool - Water Aerobics: Tue./Wed./Fri., at 4:00 P.M.**

**Salsa Dance Lesson: Thu., at 10:00 A.M.**

**Coffee Time: May 5, at 9:30 to 11:00 A.M.**

**Ladies Lunch: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon., monthly.**

*Meet at 11:30 A.M., at the restaurant.*

**Social/Cocktails: Thu., at 5:00 P.M.**

**Bar-B-Q Potluck: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. May 15.**

Bring your own meat to BBQ

Social: 5:00 P.M. Dinner: 6:00 P.M.

**Ladies Lunch**



May 12, 2014, at 11:30 A.M.

Masterpiece,

4500 N. Tenth Street, McAllen

**Call Carol Lund at 683-9522 by Sunday night for reservations.**

*The Link* – a voice for VWL HOMEOWNERS

VWL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diego Torres

President/Board member

Lydia Mora

Vice President/Board member

Karen Kinerk

Secretary/Board member

Gregg Groepper

Treasurer/Board member

Kay Elliott

Parliamentarian/Board member

Norm Sands

Bookkeeper

Nedra S. Kinerk

*The Link* Editor



### Hilda DeShazo recognized as a "Shining Star" by the Zonta Club

Congratulations to **Hilda DeShazo** (2905 N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Steet) on receiving the ZONTA Award as one of the *Shining Stars* of Hidalgo County. **Hilda** is one of three women honored by the West Hidalgo County Zonta Club this year. The women are selected for their contributions in one of the following areas: Community Service, Professional Contributions to the Community, or Education and Youth.

Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

**Hilda**, we are proud of you.



### New Library Books

**Judy Boyle** thanks the anonymous donor for the many books that were recently received for the VWL library in the Clubhouse. However,

now there is a space problem. **Judith** says we either need more shelves, or to get rid of some of the books, or not accept more donations at the present.

Our shelves are full of great books for the residents to use. Please remember to put returned books in the container provided. It makes it much easier to keep the books in order for others to find them.



### July/August Link Newsletter Items

by Nedra S. Kinerk, editor

The July/August *Link* newsletter information should be submitted by June 20 to **Nedra Kinerk** ([nkinerk@att.net](mailto:nkinerk@att.net)).

If you change your email or phone number, please advise me at ([nkinerk@att.net](mailto:nkinerk@att.net)) so that you receive the newsletter and other notices.

Bienvenidos  
**WELCOME**  
NEW NEIGHBORS



### Wilma Longhammer

4117 Harvey Circle  
686-6780

Lot 54

<[wilmalangerhammer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wilmalangerhammer@sbcglobal.net)>

### Angie Kouri & Kaleb Kouri

**Gloria Calligan**  
4112 Harvey Circle  
250-5119

Lot 59

<[angiekouri@hotmail.com](mailto:angiekouri@hotmail.com)>

**For any VWL DIRECTORY updates**, contact

<[nkinerk@att.net](mailto:nkinerk@att.net)> or **630-4700**.

*If residents leave or new residents move in, please email me at <[nkinerk@att.net](mailto:nkinerk@att.net)>.*

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers



### Sherrie Mandsager (2800

N. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street). Please keep

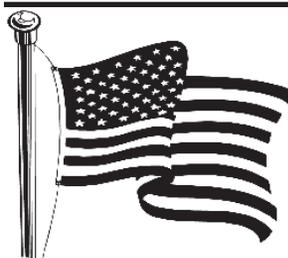
Sherrie in your thoughts and prayers as she undergoes treatment at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

### Meyers Home for Sale Now

Bill and Sara Meyer's family plan to put their folks' home on the market very soon.

They would love to sell the home to someone wanting to live at the Village of Westlakes and will offer a better price at a private sale now before they put it on the market with a realtor.

If you know of someone interested in a well-kept 3-bedroom, 2 bath home on the golf course, alert them to check out the Meyer's home at 4121 Camellia Court. **Serious inquiries call 956 821-0464.**



*Show the colors!  
on Memorial  
Day and  
on Flag Day,  
June 14.*



**Erosion Plan Adopted** *cont. from P. 1, col 2*

But something is lurking under the waters of those ponds — erosion. The wave action from strong south winds has been knocking against the banks causing the soil to run down into the ponds. Many of the residents that live near the ponds are slowly losing their backyards.

It was on a hot day that **Chris Hathcock**, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Habitat Coordinator for Bentsen-Rio Grade Valley State Park, illustrated what the problem was.

Last spring the residents of Westlake Subdivision, located off Ware Rd and Daffodil Avenue in McAllen approached Hathcock for a solution to the problem.

*“This is cutting edge. This will work better in the long run, will cost less to maintain and the landscape in general will keep longer.” Hathcock said of the eventual solution.*

**Janis Baylog**, vice president of the Homeowners Association for the subdivision, said they have been looking for different ways to beautify the area for more than 20 years without having to spend large amounts of money to maintain the area.

Currently the pilot planting project is only being tested in a 45-foot section of one of the seven ponds the subdivision has. The wooden walls that are under water and holding the soil will be replaced by three different rows of plant, wood-fiber, logs and shrub.

According to Hathcock, keeping the current wooden walls around the shoreline of the ponds that are experiencing erosion would cost \$150 per foot totaling about \$516,000 to maintain. With the pilot planting project, it would cost about \$62,000.

The bottom row will have taller wetland plants planted within partially submerged wood-fiber logs. Other plants will include Arrowheads, Flat-sedges, and Burheads which will reach 18 to 24 inches once they are fully grown.

“Logs will decompose in 1 to 2 years but will help break the waves and prevent erosion until the plants grow taller and spread.” Hathcock said.

The middle row which will be planted behind logs in an area that ranges from muddy to periodically flooded up to six-inch deep will have Water Hyssop and Dwarf Spike-Rushes which grow about 6 to 12 inches tall.

The top row will have Betty-leaf Mistflower which is low sprawling shrub with small purple flowers. These flowers attract butterflies and bloom year-round.



“We will learn and make mistakes in this project, but we hope to learn and do better,” Chairman of the Grounds Committee **Bevan Percell** said.

Although the plants will grow in stages, they are expected to fully bloom by late spring. Residents living in the community will keep maintenance on the test pond and will see the results as the passing months.

“This is a community where people live and care so much about the way things look.” **Maggie McAfee** said.

Hathcock’s interest in the project is to show ways they can benefit the wildlife. Although some of the residents are concerned about wildlife and the landscape in general, others are concerned about the money aspect of keeping up with maintenance of each pond.

“It is my hope that this project will serve as a model for natural, inexpensive ways that private landowners, cities, schools, and other groups can prevent erosion around ponds, lakes, streams, and ditches while beautifying their landscape and providing habitat for native plants and wild life. In other words, I hope that others in the LRGV can see the benefits of this project and want to take on similar projects themselves.”

Westlake subdivision has a total of 151 homes, has a clubhouse, library and exercise room for residents.

*Celebrate -*

