

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



May - June 2015

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

by Jan Peranteau

The Old Spanish Trail is having a birthday. It will be 100 years old this December. The planning for OST began in 1915 in Mobile, Alabama. After the Civil War, Mobile suffered many losses. It was isolated and suffered economically. Highways were being built north and south, but none connected east and west. So on December 10-11, 1915, a meeting was held in Mobile to get ideas for a transcontinental highway that would run from St. Augustine, Florida to San Diego, California.



A trail marker for the OST is at the corner of Vance Jackson and Fredericksburg Road. A drive past this marker lets one know that it is not very important to our neighborhood. Weeds cluster about the bench, and bits of graffiti mark a nearby electrical pole. Vines climb over the yucca plants and occasionally one sees a person emerging from behind the towering Yucca plant—sleeping bag bunched under an arm.

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ATTEND THE
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
General Assembly Meeting

Monday,

June 1

7PM

950 Donaldson
Grace Presbyterian Church

Come find out about
protesting your property
taxes!!!

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying mild weather! The rain has been a blessing and has kept MPNA quite green! Here is some information on events in the community:

Storm Debris: Many thanks to all the neighbors who came out on Sunday to assist with clean up. Several limbs were down, and streets were blocked. Neighbors helping neighbors is something quite unique to our community and I am thankful for the outpouring of volunteers.

Historic District Signs and Poles: On 4/21 MPNA made a request to the D7 office to have 26 historic district intersections street signs replaced. Funding the timing on the new signs is still pending from the City. Also we asked for 11 street sign pole to be straightened, and this is expected to be completed in June.

SAISD Right of Way Acquisition and Traffic: SAISD wanted to extend the new location of the JROTC paved marching field to within 6' of the Kampmann curb (near the Monticello Park). Previously approved drawings showed the field to be within 25' of the curb. With this change, MPNA met with SAISD in early May, and a compromise of 15'. This will provide an adequate buffer and allow SAISD to acquire some right of way. SAISD is waiting on information from D7 Council office on a waiver for the requirement to close the pedestrian gate on the 500 block of Club Drive when the new wrought iron fence is installed. MPNA requested the gate to be removed (it was not originally installed) to deter pick up/drop off/parking on the 500 block of Club Drive. Lastly, MPNA requested a traffic map for TJHS that would also include parking information. The intent is to maintain no parking in the bike lanes along Kampmann Boulevard.

Candidate Forum: Many thanks to all who came out to the candidate forum in April. We want to remind all that there is a run-off election on June 13th. Early Voting is June 1 through June 9. Please exercise your right to vote.

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President: Bianca Maldonado
385-6188
V. President: Gary Hudman
286-9212
Secretary: Ressie O'Connors
210-284-0092
Treasurer: Richard Weik
512-748-2609

Board Members

Drea Garza 210-643-4760
Laura Reid 215-9589
Tony Sanchez 210-269-2886
Patrick Shea 614-214-0736
Tom Simmons 210-701-4300

MonticelloParkNA.com
or check us out on Facebook
facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/

Newsletter Committee Editors:
Ferne Burney article and event submission
please call 734-2445 or email
ferneburney@hotmail.com

For ad pricing info call 734-2445 or visit
monticelloparkna.com

MPNA P.O. Box 5851
San Antonio, TX 78201

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office	207-7044
SAWS	724-7097
CPS	353-2222
Officer Joey Vidal	218-6546
	207-1363
SAPD, West Substation	207-7420
SAPD Emergency 911	
SAPD Non-emergency	207-7273
SAISD Police	271-3124
SAISD Truancy Office	223-2360
VIA Transit	362-2019
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control	311
Office of Historic Preservation	215-9274
Ron Meyers	219-2093
Historic Building Enforcement Officer	

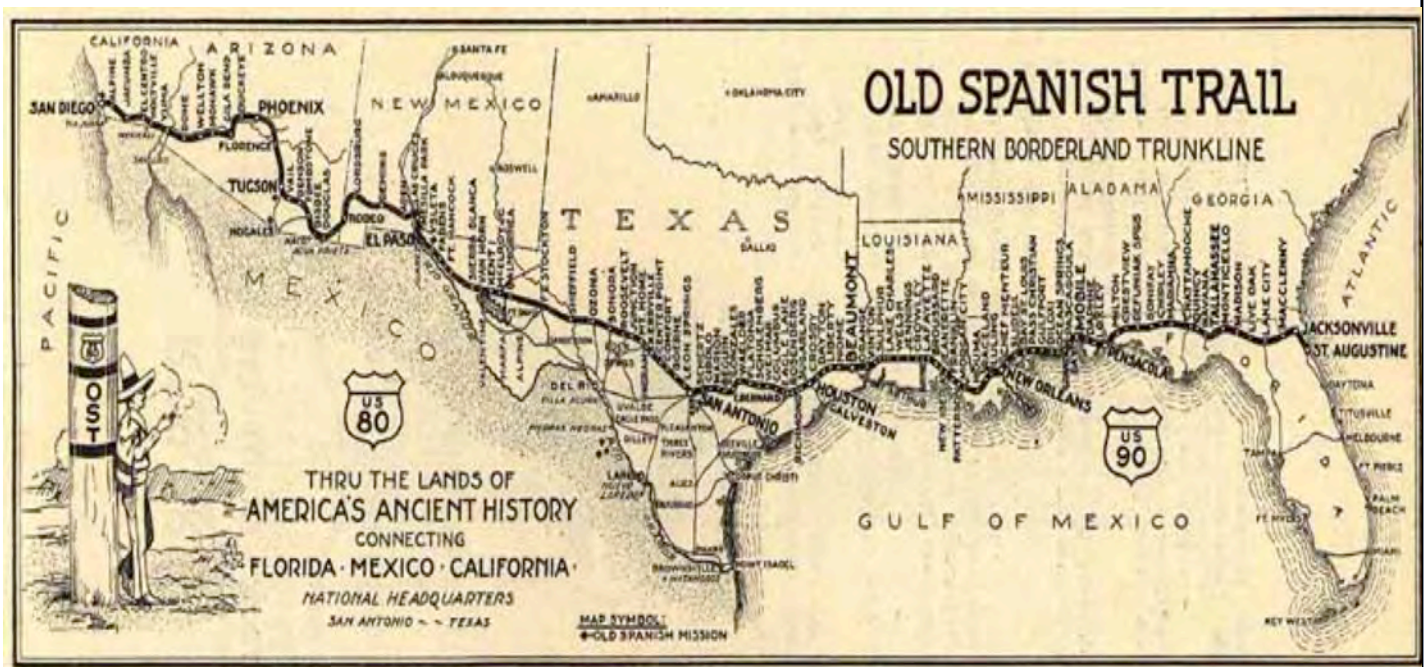
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Back to the story—In 1919, the headquarters for the project were moved to San Antonio and Harral B. Ayres became the managing Director. Having come to San Antonio as a mere stop on his way to the west coast and then to Hawaii, in an effort to find good health, Ayres was recruited to head up the project. He set up shop in the Gunter Hotel and established a residence in Alamo Heights. He worked on the project for ten years, gathering historical data, including information on Spanish forts, missions, and trails that ran through six cities of historical interest: St. Augustine, New Orleans, San Antonio, El Paso, Tucson, and San Diego. To market the romantic link to Spanish history, the highway was named the Old Spanish Trail (OST).

Ayres tried to quit in 1929, but somehow stayed on to work for another year. The trail was completed in 1929 at a cost of over \$80,000,000. The highway was billed as the most expensive and most highly engineered of all the transcontinental trails. It was the shortest route between the Atlantic and Pacific, marked by distinctive “OST” signs along the way.

One of the reasons for such an expensive roadway had to do with the numerous waterways that had to be spanned between Florida and New Orleans. Money had to be raised and various people of means paid subscriptions to help build the highway. Charlotte Travis told of her involvement in the OST. She described her work doing historical research for the OST. "My daughter was in Incarnate Word High School at the time. She needed a service project, and I suggested a revitalization of the OST marker and bench at Vance Jackson and Fredericksburg Road." So 15-20 years ago, Travis' daughter took on a beautification project for the OST site.

Travis described travel logs written to help people know what they would be seeing along the way. The logs listed the condition of the road in various places and places where one could find food and lodging. There weren't many hotels –so campsites were listed.



Foss, 1858-1911.

A part of the poem states---

Let me live in a house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by—
The men who are good and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I will not sit in the scorner's seat
Or hurl the cynic's ban—
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man

I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press on with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with strife,
But I do not turn away from their smiles or their tears,
Both part of an infinite plan—
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man

And so the trail came to be—Restaurants and hotels were built along the trail. Businesses flourished. Families packed up and moved west on this new highway. “They now had cars and they wanted to explore this land, from east to west,” Travis said.

Birthday celebrations will actually occur in 2029 when a motorcade will travel from St. Augustine to San Diego, Travis said. When asked who should maintain the property, Travis answered, “It is the city’s responsibility.” But a look at the many pocket parks in our city lets one know that government doesn’t always get around to everything.

And we have a major point of interest in our neighborhood. Think of the history-- all the people who passed this way on their journey to a new place. Let’s give this historic spot some glory and a good deal of clean up!

Sources

www.OLDSPANISHTRAILCENTENNIAL.COM

Charlotte Kahl-OST Centennial committee and historian for OST

Charlotte Travis-OST research Team. San Antonio, Tx.



This event was re-scheduled from the original May date.
Mark your calendars for the semi-annual



AUGUST 1, 2015
Monticello Park
Call 385-1729 for space reservations

All proceeds benefit the MPNA Scholarship program.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), can help avert graffiti vandalism:

- ☐ Eliminate design features that provide access to roofs or upper levels. It's harder to remove graffiti from these locations.
- ☐ "Grow over graffiti" by planting climbing, thorny plants next to fences to discourage intrusion or graffiti vandalism.
- ☐ Install lighting, such as solar powered spot lights, to prevent blind spots in critical areas.

The more difficult it is to commit a crime, the less crime will occur.

Make sure address numbers are clearly visible from the street and public way, and remove graffiti within 24-48 hours.

Need help with removal? Call 210-207-2833 [BUFF] to request free supplies or assistance. You can also like Development Services

Department's Facebook page to receive tips and reminders!



AND THE RAINS CAME

Along with the wind and all of the branches in the neighborhood..... Saturday, May 23 brought a tornado WARNING and around 4" of rain. It appears that our part of the city was among the hardest hit. A neighbor out of town received a motion detector alarm on the house alarm, and the best guess about what happened in the house that was not broken into was that the tremendous lighting and thunder caused a chandelier to move in front of the sensor. Power was out throughout Monticello Park and at least one transformer exploded.

MPNA President Bianca Maldonado was busy throughout the night, reporting on downed trees and water issues via the neighborhood Facebook page. And then the morning came, and all were aghast at the damage the storm had created. But did that stop the intrepid members of Monticello Park? Oh no.....

Check out the evidence of neighbors helping neighbors.....



Charlie O'Connors (left) wields a might chain saw, bringing downed trees to a more manageable size

Damaso Rodriguez (right) climbs onto a roof to remove a branch from a neighbor's roof. No damage was reported to the roof or any of the workers.



The hard-working cleanup crew treats themselves to well earned margaritas at Los Barrios Mexican Restaurant!

Nearly all MPNA Board members, past and present, were among those who pitched in to help friends.



And there was more to the story.....

Tom Simmons (another brave one who got on a roof) Tony Sanchez, Carla Rodriguez, Dámaso G Rodríguez, Marcel Sanchez, and Angela Sanchez, Larissa O'Connors, Charlie O'Connors, Brody McQueen, Kathy Hernandez, Jan Peranteau, Lynne Wilkerson, Valeri Olvera, Christopher Olvera, Roy Olvera, Drea Garza, Bianca Maldonado, Farron and Joe for joining in on the clean up!



(Above) The crew poses for a short while during clean up efforts.

(Left) Tom Simmons uses his Saw-Zall to get those pesky branches under control.

Let's Read

by Ferne Burney

I was intrigued when our neighbor posted on our MPNA Facebook page about the project in which KLRN provides a "Little Library" for applicants. It seems that the television station is going to provide only a certain number of these, so I wanted to see what else could be done to contribute to this movement throughout the United States.

Years ago, when I was teaching high school, I had a library of mostly paperback books in my classroom. The students knew that they could take a book to read whenever they wanted. I had learned that my classroom inventory at the end of the year would simply ask for the number of books and not the actual titles. I told my students that, if they truly wanted to keep a book, they could, provided that they replaced it with another suitable classroom book. At the end of the year, I had more books than my inventory than were listed at the beginning of the year. And I had lots of happy readers in my classroom.

For this project, I researched the internet for "little library" ideas. The one shown in this article's photo sells for around \$300...slightly out of my budget. Many are more expensive than this one. Then, I discovered one "librarian" who had an idea to use a large, rural postbox. This mailbox retails for around \$35 and with the pole mount and labor to set it in the ground, I determined that I could have what I wanted for under \$100. My plan is to decorate it so that the mailman will not confuse it with the place that I actually receive mail, and that it will be accessible to anyone passing by who would like something to read. I would love to think that the many TJHS students I see every day on my street would take advantage of this!

But what would the Office of Historic Preservation think? I came into the office on S. Alamo, spoke to the clerk at the desk, and walked out with my Certificate of Appropriateness within about ten minutes. I had brought the office a photo of the mailbox I intend to use with its dimensions, a Google street map photo of my house, and an indication of where I will locate the little library. The process was simple, without cost, and necessary for our historic district.

My hope is that the others on the Facebook page who have indicated an interest will join in the installation of these libraries. Wouldn't that be another great distinguishing feature of Monticello Park?



KLRN's Little Library, dedicated to the memory of a veteran



This very large, rural postbox will serve as my little library. It mounts on a pole; and it will be situated in a place that will not be affected by my sprinkler system, should not confuse the postman, and will be roomy enough for lots of books, and will be accessible to anyone.

ART IN BLOOM

Presented by Rey Garza Real Estate

We would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our local artists at our office on May 16th. Rey Garza Real Estate is proud to call the Deco District home and is committed to supporting the arts in our community by hosting artists and sponsoring such great events as On & Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour.

Much like an art piece, a historic home's true value can only be ascertained with a Realtor who understands and appreciates the character of such unique homes. I am your neighbor over on Gramercy Place. I am also your neighborhood Realtor.

Rey Garza Real Estate is a boutique business specializing in the Deco District. In fact, our office located on Huisache and Zazamora is a historic home.

Historic homes are unique and possess their own set of challenges when it comes to accurately pricing a property and appealing to a specialized buyer. Because of my knowledge and experience, I know how to price a home when no other comparable homes are available. I also have a unique, specialized marketing strategy. Furthermore, I can recommend affordable contractors familiar with older systems who can prepare your home for sale or provide repairs that arise from the buyer's inspection.

I was born and raised in San Antonio. My first job in high school was working at my mother's Real Estate firm. After graduating from Princeton University in '96, I worked in both the Residential and Commercial Real Estate fields before returning home to be a full time Realtor. Rey Garza has worked in San Antonio Real Estate full-time for 40 years and is consistently recognized as a Top 100 Latino REALTORS in the San Antonio Area.

When it comes to choosing a Realtor, you want one who knows your neighborhood and knows how to target the buyers who want to live there and appreciate the character of historic homes. You do not need to install granite or demolish pink tile to sell your house for an optimal price!



Camille Rodriguez Brigant *Realtor®*

p: (210) 802-9797

HomesbyCamille@gmail.com

2722 N Zarzamora, SA, TX 78201



Monticello Park Neighborhood Association 2015 Beautification & Restoration Award Application

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), with a donation from the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation, is proud to announce \$4000 for the 2015 MPNA Beautification and Restoration Award. Please complete the application below. Projects eligible for Beautification and Restoration award must be visible from the street. Some examples: wood window restoration, wood door restoration, roof, exterior masonry repairs, wood screen restoration, painting and new landscaping. New construction projects will not be considered.

Application is due by Sunday, January 31, 2016 and can be turned in to any MPNA board member or mailed. Projects must be completed between 1/1/2015 and 1/31/2016.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Number _____

Please provide a description of the scope of the project. If you need more lines, feel free to answer this on another sheet of paper and attach it to the application. Please write or print legibly.

All Applications MUST include the following documentation:

1. Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation.
2. Itemized list of all expenditures associated with project for award consideration.
3. Copies of receipts that show proof of payment with detail of the scope of project and materials.
4. Photos of "before" and "after" the project.

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Monticello Park Streets: After the SAISD meeting, I asked the Councilman to look into what happened on the City of San Antonio's Infrastructure Maintenance Program 5 year schedule. The MPNA streets in most need according to the City's PCI Pavement Condition Index score were removed: 100-500 block of Donaldson and 400-500 block of Club Dr. These blocks fell off the IMP 3-1/2 years ago but have the lowest scores (40s/50s/60s out of 100) and the highest traffic volume. However, Quentin with PCI scores of 70s/80s, was resurfaced in 2014.

Alleys: With all the rain, please remember to trim back your alley! According to the City's Code, each homeowner is responsible to maintain the alley from property line to mid alley and have an 11' overhead clearance.

Regards,
Bianca Maldonado
MPNA President

Woodlawn Lake was the dream of real estate developers in the 1880s who wanted to build West End, a residential subdivision on San Antonio's rural west side. It was George W. Russ, president of the Rhode Island-based West End Town Company, who saw great potential in the flat pasture on Alazan Creek and made the dream come true. To attract residents, the creek was dammed to create West End Lake, which some reports say was as large as 80 acres. (Today it is about 30 acres.)

Visitors traveled by streetcar to enjoy what was called "the finest artificial lake in the south." Electric lights (still new at that time) illuminated the lake where visitors danced in an outdoor pavilion and rowed in small boats. In later years there were outdoor movies and vaudeville acts. The lake and surrounding land were privately owned until 1918 when they were deeded to the City. The name was changed to Woodlawn Lake and many improvements and additions were made to the 62-acre park in the next 79 years.

Today, after more than 100 years, Woodlawn Lake remains a popular gathering spot for visitors from throughout San Antonio. Residents use a walking trail daily, fish from the boat dock, swim at the pool, play basketball in the gym, and dance at Bertha Almaguer Dance studio. In the late 1990s the park became the site of the city's annual Fourth of July celebration, complete with fireworks and a parade. It continues to draw enormous crowds each year.

It looks prettier each time we visit these days....what a joy to have such a beautiful place in walking distance from our homes!

THE POOL IS OPEN!! Friday through Sunday, 1-8 pm; Tuesday through Thursday, 1-7 pm. And check the parks and recreation website for pool availability for parties during hours other than these.





MPNA will be coordinating the
Salute to the Red, White and Blue Children's Parade at Woodlawn Lake

Saturday 4th of the July

***Doors Open at 10 AM
Woodlawn Lake Gym
1103 Cincinnati***

Come down to Woodlawn Lake to celebrate the 4th of July by dressing up in your finest patriotic costumes and participate in the popular *Salute to the Red, White and Blue Parade*, that kicks off at 11:30 a.m. **Parade participants will be judged for best costume, most patriotic, best bike and best group.** Everyone is invited to join in and winners will be announced on the main stage at the Opening Ceremonies following the parade.

