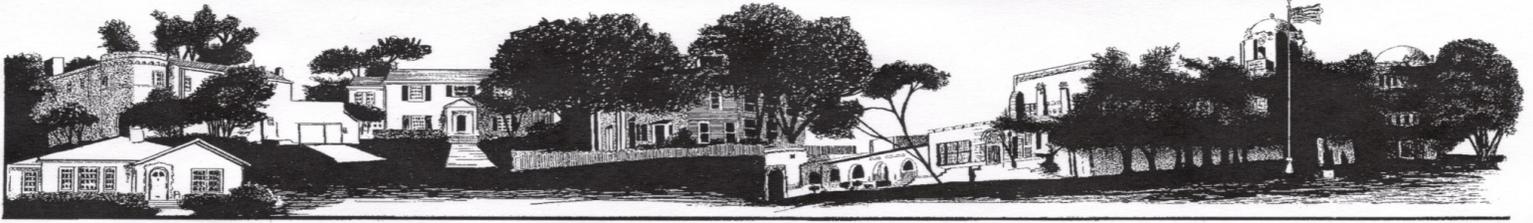


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MPNA is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

November - December 2019

Please attend the
Monticello Park
Neighborhood
Association **General
Assembly Meeting**

MONDAY
November 25, 2019
7:00 PM

950 Donaldson, Grace
Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM

**Holiday Crime
Prevention Tips**

**Board of Director
Elections**

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

by Jan Peranteau

Pam and Scott Carpenter moved into their Tudor house on Mary Louise in mid-July and their feet keep stepping. Returning to San Antonio in 2004 from Bozeman, Montana, where they both worked as architects for Overland Partners Architects, they lived in the Northwood neighborhood and were raising their daughter, Charlotte. With daughter grown and off to New York, they decided to look for a home they could cherish for the rest of their lives. Pam said, "We wanted to be in an historic neighborhood, and we needed more space. Scott worked on the Historic Design and Review Commission first with Bianca Maldonado and got acquainted with the neighborhood then. He now serves as a HDRC Commissioner for District 6. Needless to say, they both love design and historic neighborhoods. Pam said, " This neighborhood seemed so inviting. Each house a precious gem and with the park and lake nearby, and it felt like a real neighborhood."

Scott came into the conversation, via cell phone. He was at work on a Sunday afternoon, getting ready for Monday morning. The name of their firm is Seventh Generation Design, located near Five Points. Scott said, "Our firm has an emphasis on preservation and design." He said that they are currently involved with the Alameda Theatre project downtown. "We are small but mighty," Pam declared. Scott added, "For me, it is the vintage of the houses in this neighborhood that is so appealing. It's like a Whitman Sampler with all kinds of houses and a real community of people."



*Pam and Scott Carpenter are enjoying
their new home on Mary Louise Drive*

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President's Message

I am thankful for recent rains. I am thankful for two rescue pups who make it a joy to come home every day. I am thankful for having a short commute to work and for neighbors who lend a helping hand when needed.

Tis the season to be thankful and we who live in Monticello Park have many blessings all around us. Within this issue, you'll find updates on projects underway to make our neighborhood shine whether it's the improvements to Monticello Park or the reconstruction of an entire street, Furr Drive. Sure, there are challenges in getting from here to there but, we push and we persevere!

This newsletter also has important information regarding Monday night's General Assembly. It's election night for Monticello Park's Board of Directors and we hope you'll come and participate. There's a strong slate of candidates willing to volunteer their time and talent to improving our neighborhood. They deserve your attention. And, as if that's not enough of an enticement, our neighborhood Deco B is donating refreshments. So, come join us!

This issue also has another theme to it...courtesy. There are many opportunities to say thank you, to go the extra mile or to remind others that our neighborhood is not THEIR trash can. Whether its contractors being lazy with their materials, overgrown hedges that make for unsafe intersections or parties that linger into the wee hours, there's plenty of chances to show you're a good neighbor by being mindful of those who live around you.

Finally, the holidays are a time when our community is filled with visitors. Let's pick up those free newspapers deteriorating on your driveway. If you don't want them delivered to your home, we have a tip on who to call. It takes only minutes to remove these eyesores and yes, you'll probably have to do it again next week but, no excuses! We are a community that prides itself on being among the best. Let's prove it!

Cathy Teague
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

President: Cathy Teague (Furr)
210-415-6670
Vice President: Gary Hudman (Mary Louise)
210-286-9212
Secretary: Drea Garza (Furr)
210-643-4760
Treasurer: Tom Simmons (Club)
210-701-4300

Board Members

Len McClure
Ressie O'Connors
Tony Sanchez

Visit MonticelloParkNA.com

Or

Check us out on Facebook
[Facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA)

Newsletter Committee

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For ad pricing information, call
210-734-2445 or visit monticelloParkNA.com

MPNA

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HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office.	210-207-7044
SAWS	210-424-7097
CPS	210-353-2222
Officer Vincent Cano	210-207-0803
(Cell)	210-394-1398
Vincent.cano@sanantonio.gov	
SAPD, West Substation.	210-207-7420
SAPD, Non-emergency.	210-207-7273
SAISD Truancy Office.	210-223-2360
VIA Transit	210-362-2020
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control	311
Office of Historic Preservation	210-215-9274

Historic Building Enforcement Officer
report@sapreservation.com

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How did they meet and what were their beginnings? Scott was an Air Force baby and basically lived everywhere but lived in San Antonio several times. Pam is from South Texas, El Campo, a little town of 12,000 people. She attended Texas A&M and he the University of Texas. She said they met at a previous firm where they both worked.

Another factor in choosing the house on Mary Louise is Pam's mother. They wanted her to join them since she has difficulty living alone. "The house has carriage house potential and we felt that would be a good place for Mother." Currently though, she sleeps in a little breakfast nook off the dining room. "It is downstairs and easily accessible to her. "

On this particular Sunday, Pam took her mother to St. Paul's Catholic Church, eating lunch at the church, and dropping her mother off for Bingo afterward. Pam said, "She is no longer able to drive and has mobility issues. She needs help and it seemed this house is part of the solution.

There are still boxes about, but progress continues amid going to work, helping Mom and two dogs--a pup of springer spaniel variety and a poodle mix. The green recycling can sits in the front yard awaiting more brush clippings and a large open back yard is a landscape palette ready for the right plantings.

Scott said, "We are conservators and stewards of this house and we want to leave it in good shape. The previous owners stabilized the foundation and updated the electrical system, gave it a new roof." Pam added, " They did the hard work and now we get to refresh the house with some new light fixtures, paint, and other updates." Pam concluded with, "People are drawn to historic homes. It is an obligation or a calling to keep these houses in good condition."

With Scott serving on HDRC and Pam wanting to be more involved with Monticello Park Neighborhood Association as a board member, this neighborhood gets two individuals who will jump feet-first into the activities of our community. We look forward to seeing them at neighborhood meetings, Flamingo parties, and other events throughout the year.

Monticello Park Improvements

After starting with such promise in August, many of you noticed that the "deconstruction" of Monticello Park in advance of new concrete sidewalks and other improvements, stalled. For weeks there was no activity.

After permit issues were resolved, the sound of dirt movers could again be heard at the park in early November. The current timeline, according to the city's TCI department, should see the completion of the park (weather permitting) around mid-December.

The Board is planning a re-dedication ceremony at the Monticello Park in early 2020. We'll let everyone know so that you can attend and see the new sidewalks, signage, additional trees and an improved look to our gazebo.



Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 6:30 pm

Home of Wayne Ehrisman

401 Mary Louise Drive

Please bring a side dish, dessert, or your favorite beverage to share

Come meet your neighbors and celebrate the Holiday Season in our friendly neighborhood



Another Reason to Give Thanks

You may remember from a previous newsletter that a recent meeting in June of neighborhood association leaders, VIA Transit and H-E-B was held to discuss ways to improve the relationship between these businesses and providers and their neighbors. This meeting was organized by the office of City Council District 7 and Monticello Park leaders participated in the discussion. The meeting focused on Fredericksburg Road, a busy corridor that touches the lives of those living in many neighborhoods with “issues.” Among those issues: trash, homelessness and panhandling, traffic congestion and security.

H-E-B’s Deco District has a new unit director named George Monita. Mr. Monita attended the June meeting. He has shown a great willingness to continue to listen to neighborhood associations and more importantly, seek solutions to some of these issues.

Recently our Deco B has focused on trash collection along the perimeter of its parking lot with special attention paid to the areas around the VIA Primo and other bus stops as well as the parking lot. The positive results are certainly being noticed. The Texas sage landscaping that defines the Deco B’s parking lot is essentially free of plastic bags, beer cans and other debris each morning. The parking lot is clean too. In a recent email, Mr. Monita also added that additional security will be added at night beginning January 2020. The focus is on providing security in the parking areas.

Although he can’t attend our Monday, November 25th General Assembly (it’s all hands-on-deck at our Deco B Thanksgiving Week), H-E-B will be providing refreshments for our evening gathering. And, we hope to have Mr. Monita attend one of our 2020 General Assemblies and continue the dialogue with Monticello Park residents. It’s working with local businesses to improve the visual appeal of our neighborhood that benefits everyone. We appreciate Deco B’s response and look forward to more collaborations.



Heads Up Furr Drive Homeowners

Your world is about to change, and we want to make sure you're not in the dark! On **Tuesday, December 10**, the city of San Antonio's Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) team in charge of the reconstruction of Furr Drive will host a meeting. Please plan to attend beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church. This is your **LAST CHANCE** to listen, ask questions and review plans regarding this major project.

The 2017 bond issue included significant funds for the Furr Drive project which includes new sidewalks, new mobility access ramps at intersections, new driveway approaches and of course, the complete tear down and reconstruction of Furr Drive. This is more than simply resurfacing the streets. This is a two-year project impacting Furr Drive between Kampmann and Fredericksburg Road. Side streets neighbors such as those living near Furr Drive on San Antonio, Shearer, Vollum and Lake will also be impacted as neighbors search for temporary parking sites off Furr as the construction begins to impact their ability to use driveways and areas in front of their homes.

Construction is scheduled to begin immediately after this meeting so, with holidays and other distractions all around us, don't miss this opportunity to learn how this project will impact you. Check your mail for a post-card from TCI announcing this meeting.

Contractor Courtesy

With roof replacements, new landscape projects, pool improvements and other construction work going on around your home, please remind your contractors that jobsite cleanliness is a serious safety issue. Recent work to replace one neighbor's roof led to broken glass, left over shingles and scraps of wood littering the sidewalk and easement. Their mess frustrated neighbors and walkers alike. So, "police" your subcontractors to ensure they respect your property and the neighborhood. Please walk the area where they parked their vehicles and work equipment and make sure it is clean before they leave the site.

While there's no current city ordinance regulating the hours in which contractors can fire up their generators, leaf blowers, nail guns and boom boxes (yes, you can still find those relics in work zones), please encourage them to wait until sunrise and wrap up their work by sunset. And, if you're a DIYer, please be mindful of the noise your equipment can make too.

Old Home Lovers: Save this Date



December 6, 2020 is the date for Monticello Park's next Holiday Home Tour! This is our neighborhood's primary fundraiser. It gives the rest of San Antonio and a growing number of out of town visitors the chance to tour select homes within our neighborhood's historic district and see why we fell in love with the charm and challenge of living in 90 to 70-year-old homes. I mean who doesn't love old plumbing, knob and tube electric systems, quirky bath tiles, original appliances, small closets and plenty of DIY projects to test your patience and resolve? We do, that's who!

Soon Home Tour organizers will be seeking new homes to add to the 2020 line up and asking for volunteers to assist with sponsorship outreach, lining up Christmas Market vendors and other tasks. Can you spare some time?

All monies raised during the Home Tour support neighborhood activities such as our annual 4th of July Kiddie Parade, National Night Out, Beautification Awards and much more! Think about ways you can support our 2020 Home Tour. Tell your friends to mark their calendars NOW for this special, fundraising event.

Holiday Party Courtesy

With extra visitors to our homes, parties to host and distractions coming from all directions, it's easy to forget about the small courtesies that can make a positive difference in the relationships we have with our neighbors. Please ask guests to pay attention to where they park. With our tight-turning driveways, backing onto a street filled with cars can spark frustration and worse...a fender bender. We can't change the size of our historic streets but, we can be mindful to try and use only one side of the street for parking and looking around to see if we've left enough room for drivers to exit their property safely. Direct your guests on where to park and they will also appreciate the assistance.

Everyone expects the sounds of conversation, laughter and music when a party is underway but, when the music is still blaring after midnight and the laughter continues until the pre-dawn hours...well, your neighbors can justifiably become a little cranky. Please consider the noise your party may create and its impact for families with small children and older neighbors.

Finally, please walk the area around your home after the guests have left and the clean up inside your place has begun. Typically, there's beer cans, wrapping paper and other things that fall out of cars that your guests may not notice they are leaving behind. Help keep our neighborhood looking its best by removing these "party leftovers" by checking the easements in front of your property all the way beyond the curbs. Being respectful of neighbors during the holiday season can be a real gift to those who live around you.

Who Doesn't Like A Contest?

Neighbors, we want Monticello Park to really shine during the month of December. To promote this effort, we'd like for you to consider entering our Holiday Home Decorating contest. All homes within the Monticello Park boundaries are eligible. All you have to do is show us your best holiday spirit. First, second and third place winners will be announced no later than December 24th with the award of \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift cards (so you can buy even more lights when they go on sale Dec. 26th)!



Laws Don't Eliminate Homelessness

By Cathy Teague

The fact that laws can't wipe away one of our country's growing concerns, the problem of homelessness, was one of the messages delivered recently by San Antonio Police Chief William McManus during a President's Meeting organized by the District 7 office of Council member Ana Sandoval.

While laws won't eliminate homelessness, McManus told the group of approximately 30 neighborhood presidents that strong ordinances, such as those in San Antonio, can give law enforcement and prosecutors the ability to control a situation that has seriously and negatively impacted the quality of life in major US cities such as San Francisco, Seattle and even nearby in Austin. Austin, by the way, recently relaxed several local ordinances relating to panhandling and street camping. The outcry was swift and loud against elected city leaders as even residents sympathetic to the plight of the homeless population struggled to deal with the rapid growth of camps in their neighborhoods as the visible signs of illegal drug use, trash and other hazards became apparent.

In San Antonio, panhandling is legal. There are ordinances, however, which forbid panhandling at certain intersections, near bus stops and ATMs. It's a Class C misdemeanor. The COSA uses a variety of tactics to address the problem.

Ten police officers and a sergeant are currently trained to engage homeless men and women (many of whom suffer from mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, loss of jobs and loss of homes) to get the right resources to those who will accept the help. Haven for Hope and other non-profits are also working harder to coordinate their efforts to insure the homeless learn about the services available to them. Even the Solid Waste Department manages the biohazards that come to light when temporary homeless camps are cleaned up. If you see a homeless camp, you are encouraged to contact 3-1-1 and report the location.

McManus began and ended his talk by admitting that homelessness cannot be "arrested away" yet, the goal of San Antonio is to be proactive and employ strategies to avoid the highly visible mistakes we are witnessing in other major cities. You might recall that the City Council recently agreed to reach out to San Francisco leaders to understand what works and what doesn't work for dealing with this complicated problem.

As a neighborhood dealing with homeless camps, panhandlers and the sometimes criminal activity that happens by those who live on the streets, Monticello Park is eager to learn what new steps may be taken to address this complicated problem. Many in our neighborhood are moved by the plight of the homeless yet are also concerned about San Antonio becoming the "next" Seattle or Los Angeles. Monitoring, reporting, responding and learning from others are important steps to prevent the problem from growing.



Monticello Park is considered by many as a highly desirable neighborhood in San Antonio. The attraction is the uniqueness of the homes, friendliness of the neighbors, and the nostalgic feeling that comes with established neighborhoods like ours.

However, keeping this reputation does require some effort on the part of the homeowners. Home and yard maintenance can result in some expense. But keeping yards free of litter and trash takes less effort, and it's free if the homeowner does it.

Litter not only distracts from the beauty of our neighborhood, it often blows onto the sewer grates and blocks the flow of water into the sewer. This in turn causes blockage in the sewer and is a contributing factor to street flooding.

Contributing to the litter is the Conexion, the free advertisement paper that is delivered weekly to most homes. If not disposed of, the paper ends up littering our yards, driveways and the street. Stopping delivery of the Conexion is simple. All you have to do is contact Roselinda Sword at 210-250-2435. She will stop delivery to your address. Be patient. Stopping delivery can sometimes take a week or two. If it takes longer, call again.

“Keep Monticello Bello” is a phrase coined a few years ago. It was a reminder to clean up trash in yards and neighborhood common areas. So please, if you see litter, pick it up. Let's Keep Monticello Bello!

History Corner
By Gary Hudman

Cuban Style Home One of Neighborhood's Earliest

This week in the History Corner, we feature one of the oldest homes in our neighborhood. The Cuban style home at 401 Mary Louise Drive was featured in a *San Antonio Express* advertisement on November 22, 1925, just four months after the first house in North Woodlawn Park Addition was sold. As a reminder, North Woodlawn Park was the original name for the main section of what is now called Monticello Park.

The home was built as a speculative (spec) home and its gorgeous architecture was featured in several newspaper ads for the neighborhood over the next few months. On February 7, 1926, the house was announced as sold to Mr. E. C. Diggans. Earl C. Diggans was the proprietor of the Diggans Music Company, which apparently was one of the largest musical instrument retailers in Texas, specializing in selling pianos. His store was on Main Avenue downtown, near the current site of The Alamo Music Center.

This beautiful home has been expertly maintained over the years and still features the original porch tiles, barrel tile roof, and decorative ironwork. The entryway is particularly impressive, with a grand double staircase leading to the second floor.

Wayne Ehrisman is the current steward of this stucco beauty and has generously invited the entire neighborhood to his home on December 14, 2019, when he is hosting the Monticello Park Holiday Party. Please join your neighbors and help celebrate the holiday season. And while you are there, take time to marvel at the spectacular architecture of one of our oldest homes. You will also see that the living room features a grand piano, a fitting link to the home's first owner. We all hope to see you and your family at the party!



SOLD!

Beautiful Cuban Style Home—To Mr. E. C. Diggans

**NORTH
WOODLAWN TERRACE**

The Home-Builders' Paradise

H. J. SHEARER & CO. Realtors Exclusive Agents
Stucco Office Fredericksburg Road and Mary Louise Drive Phone W-3939

Election Day for Monticello Park



We proudly proclaim ourselves a neighborhood of actual voters but, when was the last time you attended a General Assembly and cast a ballot for new board members? If former U.S. House of Representatives Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill is right in saying, "All politics is local" then nothing has the potential to impact the quality of life we enjoy in Monticello Park more than those who serve on the Association's Board of Directors.

Can you consider making this an election that matters too? We need to thank Charlie O'Connors and his Nominations Committee of KC Hernandez and Adam Elmer, for working to ensure that we have a fine slate of candidates for this year's Board elections. Voting takes place on Monday, November 25th, during our General Assembly. Please attend and ensure that we have quality representation on our Board.

To vote, you must be current on your dues. Tom Simmons, our current Treasurer, will be there prior to 6:30 p.m. to ensure you can pay your annual dues and be among those who can vote later that evening. Dues are \$15 per household unless you're older than 55 and then your dues are \$10 annually. While we have neighbors who have expressed an interest in running for the Board, we also can take nominations from the floor. Please participate to ensure Monticello Park remains one of the strongest Neighborhood Associations in District 7.



Para Pedidos y Todo Tipo de Eventos



La milpa, tortilleria, taqueria y gorditas



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1933 Fredericksburg Rd. San Antonio, TX 78281