

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



May – June 2014

HARDBERGERS IN MONTICELLO

by Jan Peranteau

I've ridden on the shoulders of my brother all my life. My first memory of riding was when I was about three or four years old. Mother and I walked down the country road a half mile to meet Brother on the school bus from O'Donnell, Texas. On the way home we cut through the pasture and the cemetery to get back to the house. I always got to ride on his shoulders, bouncing along, looking at the cows in the pasture.

This story is not about me, though, but about my brother, Phil Hardberger, former mayor of San Antonio, his wife Linda, and daughter Amy who spent many years, almost 20, in the Monticello Park neighborhood.

At his home in Monte Vista, Phil told of his reasons for being attracted to Monticello Park. "We liked the looks of the neighborhood. "Jefferson High School is one of the best looking buildings in town and we were attracted to it." He added, "Chief Justice, Carlos Cadena, decided to sell his house at 470 Furr, and we fell in love with it. The big yard, the den, and the mixed neighborhood were all part of the decision. We wanted a neighborhood that was neither all brown nor all white. We wanted Amy to go to public school and to be a part of the mixed cultures of San Antonio. We did not want a de-facto, all white neighborhood, such as Alamo Heights." Phil remembered the year as being around 1977.

Linda talked about moving into the house in a separate interview. "We moved in the year Phillip flew across the Atlantic. At the time, I didn't know it, but he was planning to run for the Texas Senate. He later told me that flying the Charles Lindberg flight would get his name out there, and then he would run for Senate." Linda spent her first year in renovating the house. She remodeled the kitchen, knocking out walls and putting in new cabinets.continued on page 3

**DON'T COME ON THE
USUAL DAY....
BECAUSE IT WILL BE
MEMORIAL DAY!!**

**PLEASE COME TO THE
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
General Assembly Meeting**

**Monday,
June 2**

**7PM
950 Donaldson
Grace Presbyterian Church**

**Program:
Code Compliance
Bring your concerns and
your questions!**

President's Message

What's happening in our Neighborhood?

It's a hot topic: everyone wants to know what's occurring. Did you hear the loud music last night, why was SAPD at my neighbor's house, why is MPNA in the airport flight pattern, who's in my alley, how can MPNA encourage my neighbors to cut their overgrown yard, have you seen the missing dog/cat, is there a way to persuade my neighbors to water their lawn, how can I get my sidewalk/curb/street repaired, did my neighbor receive approval for home repairs, are there any houses for sale, how can I challenge my property taxes, and what social event is coming up???? These are just a few of the items discussed on the neighborhood Facebook page and questions asked by homeowners in the past months. Join the neighborhood Facebook page and its "real time" information on what is happening in the community.

Airport Flight Pattern over MPNA: Have you heard the planes landing late at night or early in the mornings? It's temporary and planned to be completed by June/July time frame.

Crime in the community: If you have specific questions about SAPD being dispatched in our community you may contact our SAFFE SAPD Officer Joey Vidal, phone number in the newsletter. Officer Vidal attends the MPNA general assembly and elaborates on calls within MPNA.

Increase in Property Appraisal Value: Ah, the BCAD property tax bill landed in my mailbox the last week in April. The average increase within Bexar County was 8%. You can protest the evaluation of your property. BCAD will provide an evidence packet. Use this information to see what is similar and what is different regarding your home to those within the evidence packet. Items which may impact your Bexar Appraisal Value in MPNA: do you live near a business, are you in the flood plain, what are the conditions of the homes surrounding your property compared to those in the evidence packet, is the information on your house accurate, and have you take advantage of all the exceptions available to you.

Garage Sale: Hat's off to another successful garage sale fundraiser for the MPNA Scholarship. Much thanks to Adrian for all his hard work and to Richard for selling refreshments!

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President: Bianca Maldonado
385-6188
V. President: Gary Hudman
286-9212
Secretary: Ressie O'Connors
Treasurer: Adrian Contreras
385-1729

Board Members

Laura Reid 215-9589
Sarah Rice 738-8772
Michael Robbins
Sherri Shadrock (512) 217-2401
Rob Sipes 738-0379
Richard Weik 731-0780

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
monticelloparkna@yahoo.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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Huge glass windows and doors were added to the den and a tile floor was installed. She described it as pure agony. "I never drank so much Bill Miller's iced tea and ate so many Tip-Top meals." She also said, "I was in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, writing papers, re-doing the house and taking Amy to school." She laughed and said, "I felt I was more civilized," speaking of her frequent encounters with neighborhood critters. Linda, born in Mexico, lived in Italy, Spain, and Washington, D.C. "I had never lived in a house with raccoons running up and down the inside walls of the house, possums crawling about, and skunks spraying our dog regularly. Oh, and the basement flooded." And so, the house on Furr was full of adventure. Linda even recounted tales of ghosts in the house. The Galvans heard footsteps on the stairs and Amy also heard them. Linda said, "It seemed centered in Amy's bedroom." But what's an old house without a few good ghost stories?

Around 1978, Linda, Ana Deosdade, and Joe Deosdade began meeting in the Deosdade home to form a neighborhood association. A neighbor, Katrina Scoggins, now Katrina Meredith, also met with the group. Ana, working for the City of San Antonio, felt nervous about giving an historic designation to the neighborhood. Linda said, "There was a feeling that the historic designation would have too many stipulations concerning renovations, mostly done by local carpenters. Also the exact boundaries of the association had to be set. Linda estimated they spent about a year working on the formation of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association. When asked about other activities within the neighborhood, Linda said, "We didn't have a lot. We had a fair once at the pocket park by Jefferson. We did try to work on landscaping of the park, but there was no water. "Aida Villalon and her husband always put on a New Year's Fireworks display on Furr Drive each year.

Amy described living on Furr Drive this way: "We had a good street with lots of kids up and down the street. We were free to roam on our bikes. We always went to Ernie's and spent all our allowance money on candy." She described Halloween as awesome. "Everyone gave out candy except for one house, and they gave out pennies. Many of the same people still live in the neighborhood."

Phil said, "One of the highlights of the neighborhood is its openness and friendliness. "That doesn't happen in every neighborhood. It is a middle of the road neighborhood where neighbors come out of the houses and talk to each other. You have street life and front yard life. If your dog gets out of the yard, your neighbors help to get him back in. If your daughter tries to cross the street on her tricycle, the neighbors stop her and tell you. There was Ernie's, down the street, a favorite kid hangout with soda, lots of candy, and ice cream. We had a Jewish delicatessen and a wonderful bakery. It is middle America-small town with a San Antonio accent." Phil described the house as a natural gathering place for the neighborhood so naturally, there were lots of parties. He also said there were many political gatherings there with hundreds of people and neighbors. "During all that time we had only one thing taken, a compact radio." He did not remember vandalism as being a problem. He paused and reflected, "I loved the mixture in the neighborhood.

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Restoration and Beautification Award 2014: \$5,000. Remember it's a resource to assist with funding home improvement projects. There are 2 opportunities to apply in 2014. Examples: Exterior painting, Wood screen Repairs, front door restoration, wood window reglazing, tuck pointing brick or stone exterior, rotted wood replacement on exterior, new roof, and landscaping. See the application on the MPNA website (www.monticelloparkna.org) for all the details.

I encourage all residents to pay their yearly MPNA dues and to attend the upcoming General Assembly. The dues are used to fund the Restoration and Beautification Award, social events, newspaper publication, home tour, tree challenge, and scholarships.

Bianca Maldonado
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Now Enrolling!

THE CIRCLE SCHOOL



Culture & Arts Program

JUNE 2ND - AUGUST 16TH
AGES 4 - 14

THECIRCLESCHOOL.ORG



Biennial Home Tour Coming in November

The always-popular tour of homes, “At Home in Monticello” will be held in November. The planning has begun!!

Please plan to attend the committee meeting at
470 Furr Drive
on June 3 at 6PM

The committee will be busy selecting homes for the tour, planning the brochures, and arranging all the many details for a successful tour.



DON'T GIVE THIEVES A BREAK (IN)

- Consider hiring a house sitter.
- Don't leave GPS in your car at the airport (It literally has a road map back to your vacant house!)
- Don't announce your vacation plans on any public social media.
- Lock all of your doors and windows, including the garage.
- Assure your outside lights will be on at night.
- Close your drapes and blinds.—Keep prying eyes from seeing inside.
- Install a random timer to vary times interior lights go on.
- Stop mail and newspaper
- Have a trusted neighbor remove fliers stuck on doors.
- Install an alarm and cameras.

Did You Know...?

You always need a Certificate of Appropriateness to begin any exterior work involving alteration, restoration, or rehabilitation to a designated local landmark structure or a property in a designated local historic district. Go to the website for the Office of Historic Preservation to view the Historic Design Guidelines section for Exterior Maintenance and Alterations. For questions regarding working on your historic property, call 210-215-9274 to speak with the OHP planner on duty or e-mail your inquiry to OHP@sanantonio.gov.

You've heard it before: "The greenest building is one that already exists." It's true! Investing in the prolonged maintenance or rehabilitation of a historic home is a sustainable approach to housing because it facilitates the reuse of existing materials and infrastructure.

Sustainability, or sustainable architecture, is a design practice that seeks to minimize negative impacts to the environment. The best sustainable or "green" homes are thoughtfully designed, durable, and energy-efficient. Similarly, historic homes were constructed with permanence in mind, and many have inherently sustainable features such as deep shaded porches lined with windows, deep roof eaves to shade and protect the house from moisture, and integrated shutters and screens to deter solar heat gain. They were designed in response to their setting and constructed with high-quality, local materials by skilled tradesmen. Many homes in San Antonio have lasted for at least 100 years and can even outlast homes built today through routine maintenance and repair.

First and foremost, any historic elements that are inherently sustainable, such as awnings, porches, recessed entryways, overhangs, or operable windows and shutters, should be preserved or restored when possible. However, there are other ways to "green" a historic home such as improving energy efficiency. While old houses are generally viewed as being drafty energy wasters, they can be made energy efficient through a number of methods outlined in the [Historic Design Guidelines](#).

EASTER EGG HUNT

Conceived and coordinated by comments on the Monticello Park Parents Page* on Facebook, neighborhood parents and children gathered for an Easter egg hunt at the Monticello Park pocket park on Saturday, April 19. Candy-filled eggs and cascarones delighted little ones while parents enjoyed assisting their children and the company of one other. It was great to see familiar faces and meet many new ones as well!

**Monticello Park Parents Page is a neighborhood Facebook page designed to help moms and dads in the area connect, set up playdates, talk about local events, and even post items to buy/sell/trade.*



BEAUTIFUL Monticello Park children had some great Easter fun at the Egg hunt.



GET READY!!!!

The next bulky trash collection will be in July 2014. Watch your door for the signs to give you the specific week for pick up, but get your things ready!!

GARAGE SALE SUCCESS

We had a great turnout and the weather was absolutely perfect. A total of 21 participants brought our total funds collected to \$525 minus the \$16 for the garage sale permit. Richard Weik also set up in the gazebo and sold bottled water and bags of chips which he donated the sales to MPNA (approximately \$20).

Look for our next Garage Sale event in November.



The weather is heating up.....so that must mean that our GIGANTIC 4th of July Celebration at Woodlawn Lake Park is not too far away. We will not have another newsletter before then, so we are reminding you now that we need helpers before, during, and after the big Children's Parade.

We make flowers ahead of time for the children to decorate bicycles, trikes, scooters, and strollers for the big day. On the day of the parade, we need folks to help distribute all of the decorations and goodies for the parade.

Contact Bianca Maldonado, 385-6188, if you can help at any time. We traditionally team up with our friends from the Jefferson Neighborhood Association, and all of us benefit from the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake CDC which donates the funds for the decorations and refreshments.

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!



Nearly 500 children came through the gymnasium at Woodlawn Lake Park last year to participate in the annual Children's Parade

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

We are in stage 2 water restrictions. Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only **once a week from 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m.** on your designated watering day, as determined by your address. What day do you water?

Landscape Watering

Last Digit of Address	Watering Day
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday
No Watering on Weekends	



Amy Hardberger chose Monticello Park when she was looking for a home. Her beloved dog, Pearl, seems to enjoy the choice as well.

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I wanted Amy to have the San Antonio experience and she did.” He chuckled and said, “In fact, when she came back to San Antonio as a professor at St. Mary’s Law School, she looked all over town for a place to live. She could have chosen anywhere in the city. She came right back here to this neighborhood and where she started.”

In closing, Phil made a sort of Lion King analogy. Our first circle of life is our family. Second, the extended family, and the third circle is our friends and neighborhood. “ That third circle is a way of pulling those friends and neighbors into your life and making it part of your own.”

The Hardbergers made Monticello Park part of that third circle of life and continue to come back to visit friends and family here.

When asked about the value of a neighborhood association, Phil said, “A neighborhood association engenders pride in your area of town, gives you some political influence, and improves the city as a whole. It makes neighbors more responsible and inter-dependent on each other.”

So, I am still riding on my brother’s shoulders. My husband and I bought that wonderful old house from Brother and Linda. We raised our children in this house too, and I still live here. Brother will be 80 years old in July and I plan to keep on riding on those same shoulders till that final curtain call when one of us goes Home.



Linda and Phil Hardberger recall happy moments in Monticello Park.



Home appraisals are in....YIKES! Most are shocked by the increases in appraisal values. Some are not so shocked but are relieved that they have reached the age of 65 and the increases will no longer happen.

If you feel that you have seen an unfair increase in property appraised value, visit the website for the Bexar County Appraisal District, <http://www.bcad.org> to find all of the information you need to protest.

A new feature at the website is the ability to protest totally online. Be aware that not all properties are able to do this, but you can quickly determine if yours is by following the steps listed on the website. The "Forms" tab will take you to the list of the many forms to choose from depending on the type of protest you want to enter.



MPNA will be applying for the San Antonio Tree Challenge in July 2014. We are looking for homeowners who are interested in trees for their front yards. If you are up for the CHALLENGE, Please contact an MPNA board member if you are interested. Planting will occur in the Fall of 2014.

Join us on FACEBOOK

Look for Monticello Park Neighborhood Association



Our current Facebook page has 171 members, and we share information that is gossipy, friendly, informative, and important. We let each other know about crimes in the neighborhood, activities, and just general goings-on.

We are connected to our Councilman's office, the local police, and the school district.

JOIN THE FUN!!!!

Runway 12R– 30L Closed for Construction

April 2, 2014 (San Antonio) – A major repair project on Runway 12R – 30L started at San Antonio International, with an anticipated 90-day construction period. The closure requires a temporary change in flight patterns during that will bring more planes than usual over certain neighborhoods.

Major components of the project include:

- A surface dip located 1,000 feet east of Runway 12R threshold will be repaired
- A surface repair to Runway 30L between Taxiways Delta and November will be repaired
- New construction of a new Taxiway Whiskey will be completed
- Runways 4-22 and 12L-30R will remain open
- Taxiways Delta, Alpha, Sierra and November will be utilized for crossing Runway 12R-30L during the closure

Weather permitting, the work on Runway 12L-30L will be completed in late June/early July.

