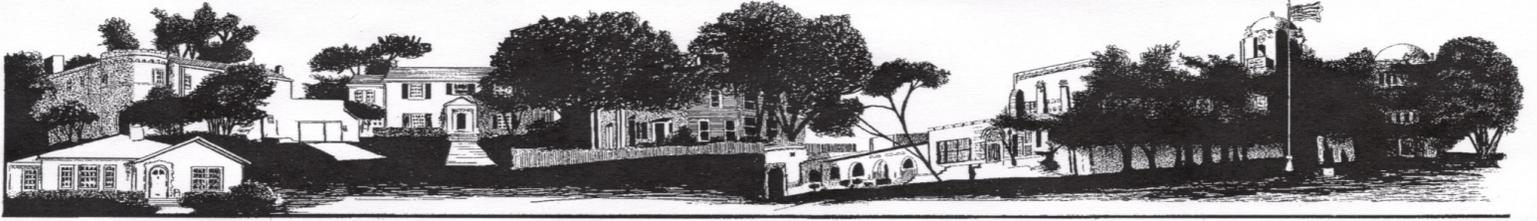


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MPNA is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

September - October 2019

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

MONDAY
September 30, 2019
7:00 PM

950 Donaldson, Grace
Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM

**Animal Care
Services**

**Gail Collins,
presenting
information on the
spay/neuter feral
cats program**

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

by Jan Peranteau

Monticello Park Neighborhood is a place where neighbors help each other. Because of the numerous efforts of many people we call this place home and our community. When we read about rampages in Odessa, Midland, El Paso, and Sutherland Springs, it is comforting to know we talk with our neighbors and borrow that cup of sugar. This doesn't mean we are immune to violence, home invasion and natural disasters. It does mean that we can call on a neighbor when we need help.

My neighbor, Kathy Hernandez, received assistance from neighbors in one of the early storms, June 6, that knocked down some power lines and huge branches from trees. "I heard a lot of crackling. I thought it was thunder. When I got outside after the storm, a huge pecan branch had fallen across the length of the property. My neighbors, Joe Palamino and David Lerma, came out as well as other nearby neighbors. We cleared the street first of palm branches and debris from the winds." She said, "There was so much debris that a truck could not get down Shearer Boulevard. He stopped to help us clear miscellaneous things including a chimney topper that had blown off during the storm." Lerma came back with a chain saw and cut the fallen pecan branch. Palamino assisted. Joe Simpson and neighbors from across the street came down to help as well. Piles were made in front of the houses.

Hernandez recalled, "I remember when I moved into the neighborhood. Neighbors came by and welcomed me. It felt so good." In turn Hernandez has given coffees and brunches to welcome others and to comfort neighbors who have experienced a loss.



*Kathy Hernandez is a
valued resident of
MPNA*

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President's Message

One of the bragging points I always make when speaking of life in Monticello Park is the fact that I know people on every street in our neighborhood. How many others living north of the loops or in a trendy Broadway condo (not that there's anything wrong with either) can say the same thing? And, I know that many of my neighbors share these bragging rights. Is it because we're nosy or because we have multiple neighborhood activities that bring us together and create a sense of community? I'd like to think it's the latter.

National Night Out (NNO) is always a great opportunity to meet one another, enjoy the results of the fine cooks who live around us, exhaust the kiddos in a bounce house, and congratulate ourselves for having chosen to call our neighborhood home! Read more details about NNO within the pages of this newsletter. We've also got updates on the renovation of our pocket park, intriguing news about commercial real estate developments nearby and of course, a General Assembly notice with practical news and information that we hope you can use. We all cope with the neglect of local pet owners and so during our upcoming General Assembly, we'll have guest speakers whose job and passion are caring for neglected animals. It will give us all a chance to learn what action we can take to help reduce the number of stray cats and dogs running loose in our neighborhood.

We're quickly moving into the season of gatherings. Families and friends come from near and far and visit our neighborhood during the coming months to share meals and fellowship. It's a great time to up your game to make these visitors feel welcome. You can plant fall flowers in pots and flowerbeds or add a seasonal wreath to your front door. You can prune shrubs away from the sidewalks and street corners to improve the safety of these important paths. Our neighborhood is also a destination point for Halloween and we want to make sure that water hoses, lawn equipment and toys are out of sight so masked trick or treaters don't get hurt on their way to and from our front doors in search of candy.

I'd like to think that hospitality will never go out of style in Monticello Park. There's many of you who are among the first to welcome families into our fold. That's another something for me to brag about and I hope that, like me, you'll be inspired by the stories of those who generously give of their time and talent and skills and show all of us how to be more neighborly to one another.

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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San Antonio, Texas. 78201

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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Jan Reese, owner of Compass Catering, also is a valuable asset to our community. She has helped with numerous neighborhood parties and though one does pay for this service, the rates are reasonable and the ease it offers the host is well worth the money spent. "This is my 11th year to help with Dr. Wayne Ehrisman's New Year's Eve Party." She has also helped with parties at Ferne Burney's, Tom Simmons and Mark Skruhak's home and Jan Peranteau's house. When she and her crew are there one knows the party will go well, and if your covered dish is eaten, you will go home with a sparkling clean one at party's end. Born in New York, she moved to San Antonio in 1996, first working in a shop on the Riverwalk. She began her catering business in 1997 with Masonic events and moved into our neighborhood in 2001.



*Jan Reese, left,
caters many
parties in
Monticello Park*



*Right, from l-r,
Charlie O'Connors,
Mark Owen, and
David Guerrero move
a heavy table.*

People make connections in the neighborhood through social media such as Monticello Park Facebook and Next Door. Nena Contreras Barnett posted that an immigrant family from Honduras had arrived with four children. In a telephone interview, Barnett told how it all came about. "Our church shared a youth ministry with a youth pastor and his wife in La Ceiba, Honduras. "These are good people that I have known for years. They were active in their church and community. They had spoken out concerning injustices of the government. When the environment became hostile, they feared for their family. She said gunmen came to their house and held them at gunpoint. They decided to flee to the United States. It took 21/2 months to get to the border. They crossed illegally and immediately surrendered to US authorities. She said they were lucky, because they had a host family, the Barnetts, and they were allowed to come to San Antonio.

They live with the Barnetts right now. Barnett said, "People have been very caring. Food bank boxes appear on their doorstep anonymously as well as toys for the children. Mary Tutor and Cathy Teague stepped up and bought needed backpacks, school supplies and uniforms so the children could start school. " It shows how generous and caring this neighborhood really is.

Moving to another story, Charlie O'Connors can usually be found on any street helping someone in need. In fact, while at his house gathering a story about help he had given Cathy Teague when she was out of town, the phone rang. A neighbor, David Guerrero, needed help moving a very heavy mesquite table. O'Connors asked if more help was needed and Guerrero quietly said, "Well that table is pretty heavy, and we could use a few more men." Charlie contacted a neighbor across the street, Mike Owen as well as a neighbor across Donaldson, Bob Shade. In no time there were three men--Charlie, David and Mike to move the table and Ressie O'Connors, Charlie's wife, to generally supervise. A very massive table moved out with no injury to man or table, and a Duncan Phyfe replacement moved in complete with eight chairs.

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There are so many more stories. Tom Simmons strung lighting for this reporter for a Home Tour After Party. He always brings the paper goods and coolers for Flamingo parties and Tony Sanchez provides tables for many backyard socials.

And Gary Hudman, previous MPNA president, is a jack of all trades--most recently assisting Kay Woods to get into her locked house. Woods has a door lock that can be pressed down and locked without a key. Hence, she got locked out after a Flamingo Party. Gary waited with her at her house until a locksmith arrived and could open the door. He also helped her locate her spare keys and assess the situation.

This story would not be complete without mentioning women who step up to the plate. Laura Reid helped with the tree initiatives spearheaded by then president of MPNA, Bianca Maldonado. Fifty trees were planted in the neighborhood as well as the sycamores planted near the pawn shop.

Drea Garza, a current board member and Home Tour technology whiz, helped get ticket sales set up online. She attended multiple bond meetings and serves as a Tier I representative for our neighborhood. She is currently serving on the MPNA Board as secretary. This is her fifth year of service on the board. She said, "If everyone did just a little bit, we could be much stronger as a neighborhood."

Ferne Burney edits the Monticello Park Neighborhood News and has served as a past president of the association. Sarah Rice served as editor of the newsletter and managed the community gardens. And the list goes on.

Finally, Bianca Maldonado has been the workhorse of this neighborhood for as long as I have lived here. She tirelessly attended meetings to make sure our neighborhood got represented. She served as president of the association for many years. She now works with Ana Sandoval in our District 7 City Council office, still serving our neighborhood.

One more thing or ten--Your name might not be included as this article is supposed to end at some time--Food, all the dishes brought to neighborhood events could fill a cookbook. The punch line is this, "We all put on many hats to make this neighborhood the place we call home. And a fine home it is."

We Welcome Your Thoughts

Recently, a San Antonio REALTOR who specializes in commercial real estate reached out to members of our neighborhood. As the REALTOR working with the owners of the Woodlawn Theater store fronts, she's working to make the most of our budding theater district and find great tenants to occupy the vacant spaces that will soon be available.

Here is a link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WoodlawnTheatre> to an on-line survey seeking to understand what Monticello Park residents would like to see in this retail space. Would you support a live music venue, an art gallery, a restaurant or another business? How about a locally owned eclectic gift shop or florist shop? Give this topic some thought and please participate. We are also adding a link to the Survey on the Monticello Park Facebook page.

It's not every day that a neighborhood is asked to provide input about the kind of businesses they'd like to attract to the business district. I hope we can also share the results. It's a great reminder to all of us to support our local businesses! They too can be members of our neighborhood association just like you!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**October 1, 2019, 6-8 PM
Pavilion at Redeemer Lutheran Church
Corner of Fred Road and Quentin**

Serving hot dogs, drinks, and all of the trimmings
Bring a side dish or dessert to share

Bounce House for the kids!

**A Connected Community
is a Safer Community!**



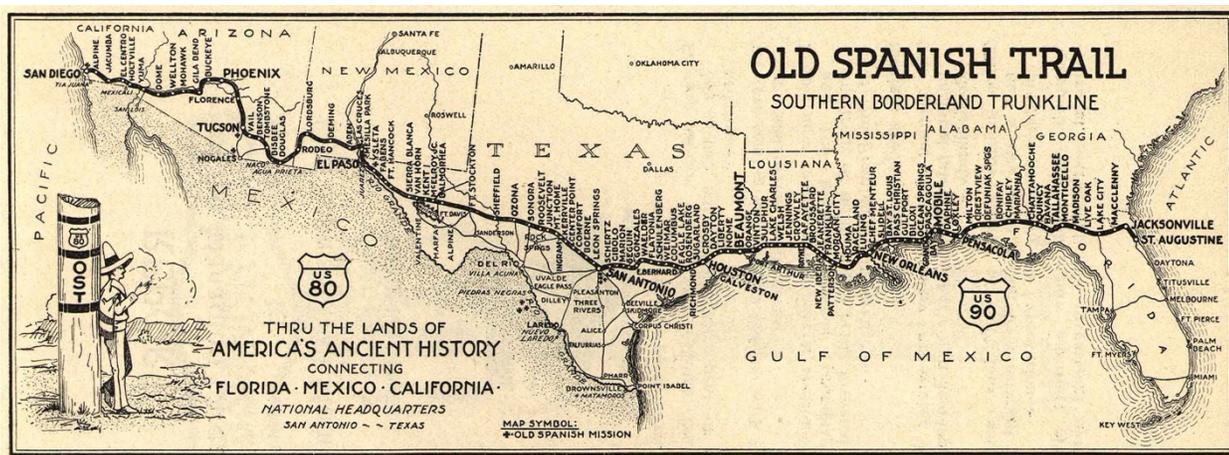
History Corner

By Gary Hudman

Remembering The Old Spanish Trail

This week in the History Corner, this writer will venture out of our neighborhood proper and explore one of the areas adjacent to Monticello Park. Fredericksburg Road forms the eastern border of our fair neighborhood and was the major thoroughfare leading northwest from San Antonio in the 1920s.

In 1915, a group of business and civic leaders conceived of and planned for a paved automobile road from Florida to California. This was before the Federal Highway Act of 1956 launched the Interstate Highway System. These leaders wanted to support automobile tourism and businesses along the route. In 1929, the Old Spanish Trail (OST) was officially opened, and included portions of current roads as well as new roads and improvements to older trails. Fredericksburg Road was the road through San Antonio designated as The Old Spanish Trail. This section was dedicated in 1924.



There were a number of monuments built along the OST, many of which no longer exist. One of these is a major monument at the corner of Fredericksburg Road and Vance Jackson. This beautiful rock and iron bench still stands today, although unfortunately hidden behind some electric supply boxes. Here is a picture of the bench from 1936, and a closeup of its dedication plaque.



By the 1960s, when the original Expressway (now I-10) was built, most of the tourists stopped traveling the OST, and many of the businesses along Fredericksburg Road began to decline. This writer, for one, is very glad that the traffic from I-10 is not being routed along Fred Road, but it must have been something to see that road during the glory days of The Old Spanish Trail. We are truly lucky to have this major historic artery leading to our neighborhood, and look forward to the upcoming 100th anniversary of our section of the OST.

For more information about the OST, see www.drivetheost.com

Pocket Park Feels Parked

When the fences and barricades went up there was general excitement in the neighborhood as the long-awaited restoration of Monticello Park's own small park was being readied for a face lift. As gravel was removed off deteriorating paths and mounds of dirt appeared on the site, it looked as if real progress was finally underway. Then, it stopped.

According to our Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) contact, the work is halted due to delays in receiving permits. Yes, even the city must receive permits from other departments before proceeding with bond improvements. We're told as of print deadline this temporary halt in activity has added ten more days to the work schedule.

As you may recall, the pocket park is scheduled to receive new, wide, stamped concrete sidewalks, better access and seating around and under the gazebo, new decorative latticework and finials to the structure and new signage. We hope to have a rededication of the park once the work is completed. Stay tuned for those details.

General Assembly

If you want to learn more about up-coming construction projects, meet city staff and learn about the latest affecting the Monticello Park neighborhood, it's always a good idea to attend our quarterly meetings called General Assemblies. Your board's goal is to find timely topics and speakers who can help explain the intricacies of city historic preservation procedures, the latest crime incidents affecting the neighborhood and cover other issues that might be pertinent to the community.

During election season you can always count on politicians "dropping by" and our quarterly meeting is also a chance to highlight the results of fundraising efforts and other community initiatives. For example, during our next meeting, we're going to recognize the two recipients of our annual Beautification Award. Restoration and improvement work these families performed on their homes help preserve the value and character of Monticello Park.

It's our goal that everyone who attends a meeting walks away with new information that will make their life easier. We hope to see you on Monday, Sept. 30, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church (intersection of Manor and Donaldson). Come with questions. Leave with answers!

Board Nomination Time

By Cathy Teague

According to our bylaws, which were established in 1996, the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), is an organization made up of “residents, business and friends of the MPNA.” Voting privileges are granted to members who have paid his or her dues during that calendar year (more on this in a minute). At our upcoming General Assembly, an important task must take place. A nominating committee of at least three members will be appointed to present a slate of candidates for each office on our Board at our November meeting.

It is so important that our board reflect the membership of the neighborhood. It’s also important that you understand that two of our current board members, the Treasurer and Secretary, have reached the maximum length of time they can hold the same office (four consecutive years). You should also know that in addition to the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, the Board should have six elected board members. We currently have three vacancies on the Board.

I hope that as you read this information, you will consider how you can serve Monticello Park. You don’t need to be a public speaker. You don’t need to attend city council meetings (unless, of course, you want to do so). And you don’t have to have lived in the neighborhood for many years to have a say in your community. If we are going to be a community of ideas, a community with purpose and passion and a community that enhances the quality of life of the families who live here, Monticello Park needs more participation.

The time commitment means one evening meeting every other month for our General Assemblies and one evening meeting each month for Board business. The Board of Directors work with neighborhood committees, such as those who help with the Holiday Home Tour. We support Pink Flamingo parties, the annual July 4th Kiddie Parade, NNO and participate in District 7 activities so our voice is heard on bond issues and other city projects impacting the neighborhood. There’s lots of experienced people currently serving on the Board so, there’s plenty of help available to get you up-to-speed on community matters. And, the Board is planning on holding a “retreat” to set the upcoming year’s goals and priorities.

If you’d like to learn more, please reach out to a Board member immediately. No prior experience is required. Board member’s contact information is on the front page of the newsletter.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

We're not talking about doing the lowly but necessary work--the blood, sweat and tears—it takes to become an expert in your profession. We're talking about the annual dues that intitles you to vote in the upcoming Board elections. Dues are payable each January for the current year but, if you are new to the neighborhood or have forgotten to pay your dues for 2019, our Treasurer, Tom Simmons, will be available to accept your check or cash (covers the entire household) at the Sept. 30th General Assembly. The annual dues is \$15 for families, \$10 for seniors (55 years old and above).



MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
The MPNA is for everyone (owners and renters)

Yes, I want to invest in my neighborhood.
Enclosed is my 2020 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

Social Activities Garage Sale Fundraiser Historic Preservation

Scholarship Home Tour Newsletter

Other: _____

Send to: **MPNA, c/o Tom Simmons, Treasurer, 501 Club, San Antonio, Texas. 78201**

The MPNA has worked hard to achieve its §501(c)(3) status. What does that mean to you?
Any dues paid, any donation to the association (such as for scholarships), any expense to you on behalf of the Association is now tax deductible. Check with your tax preparer concerning any deductions you want to take.

Historic Home Tour

It's never too early to begin thinking and planning for next year's Historic Home Tour and Christmas Market. Save the date: Sunday, December 6, 2020! This event is our neighborhood's primary fundraiser and it serves an important purpose. Monticello Park is a recognized historic district and, as written in our by-laws, an "emphasis is placed on historical education and on promoting a sustainable environment."

The historic home tour gives the public a chance to take a step back in time and marvel over the tile, woodwork, original appliances and other period details found in many of our homes. It also gives those who have performed renovations an opportunity to show how reusing and repurposing lights, doors, mantels and other materials can be done in such a way that the character and beauty of the home is enhanced while still functional and meeting the needs of today's families.

If you'd like to volunteer your home to be part of the upcoming tour, raise your hand. We can talk with you about what's involved. Frankly many families use their commitment to the home tour as the kick in the pants needed to whittle down their home's "To Do" list.

If you'd like to help with other duties such as working on advertising, finding local vendors for the Christmas Market, being a docent the day of the tour or other volunteer opportunities, we'd love to talk to you too. Money raised during the tour stays in Monticello Park and supports neighborhood improvements and homeowner beautification awards.



A Bittersweet Farewell

I remember visiting Justin's home for the first time when we started dating. I exclaimed "It's like something out of Beatrix Potter!" "Harry Potter?" he asked. "No, *Beatrix Potter*" I replied. The historic character of the house, the greenery, fruit and pecan trees, and abundant birds, butterflies and critters reminded me of Potter's sweet stories of personified animals in cottage garden settings. Monticello Park is where we began our married life together. We soon adopted purple martin families that return each year and a host of hens we affectionately call "Arroz con Pollo." Four years later, our son Finley was born *in* our kitchen. Simply put, marvelous memories have been made at 202 Club Drive.



Besides building our little family here, we've also been blessed with incredible neighborhood friendships. These were one of the things that made our decision to move hardest. Located on a major intersection of MP, we frequently have neighbors stopping by for a chat when they drive by and see us out in the yard. I even had a neighbor offer to watch my child when she saw me trying to surprise Justin with a freshly mowed lawn and my toddler in tow. Finley (now five) has been fortunate to have playmates his age on the block. A group of women on Club informally called ourselves the Monticello Park Housewives and would go out for dinner/drinks and movies together. How often do you find that in today's modern society where people drive straight into their attached garages and don't even know their neighbor's names?

One of the other things I've cherished about our time here is the strong sense of community. From pink flamingo socials, National Night Out, fantastic 4th of July celebrations (highly anticipated parades at Woodlawn Lake/evening celebrations at Tom and Mark's), and annual holiday parties at Wayne's, Monticello Park is a

sweet spot for community - a wonderfully diverse one at that! I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to live in and raise a child in a community that's racially, culturally, religiously, and socio-economically diverse.

I should also mention that being able to walk to HEB, a park WITH A LAKE AND POOL, Jefferson HS facilities, a community garden, paleta/pizza/taco vendors, and local theater has *definitely* been cool. Our DecoB can be frustrating at times, but I do see improvements being made and it's just so darn convenient, particularly when you're missing that one ingredient for a recipe! *And*, we have TWO theatres within walking distance - Woodlawn Theatre and The Classic Theatre of San Antonio. We were season ticket holders at one and Finley attended theater camp at the other. The programming offered by both is excellent.

"Then why are you moving?" you ask. Well, in addition to finding a property with a bit more square footage, our "new" home (moving from a 1929 to 1959 house) will be within walking distance of Finley's grandparents. Can I get an "Amen!" from the parents and grandparents out there?! Finley and his Sita & Pop *adore* their time together. They do sleepovers on a weekly basis!

In summary, this is a bittersweet time for us. We look forward to the next chapter of our family's story and yet it's hard to leave this chapter behind. Many thanks to those who've been part of our lives and welcomed us into theirs.



Grateful,
Sarah Rice

P.S. - While our house isn't on the market yet, if you know someone looking for a property with storybook character and the benefits of a community like the one described above don't hesitate to call/text me at 210.387.2108. We plan to sell by owner this fall.

Buying, Renovating, Staging, Selling - We Do it All!
A portion of all commissions donated back into our community.



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Camille Rodriguez Brigant *Realtor*[®]

 210.802.9797  Camille@MotifTX.com

Answer: Your neighborhood realtor.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK!

This is a closed group.....only MPNA residents may join, offering a bit more privacy.

Learn about the neighborhood happenings and commentary. Stay up on the issues!

Look for the group “Monticello Park Neighborhood Association” and ask to join.

