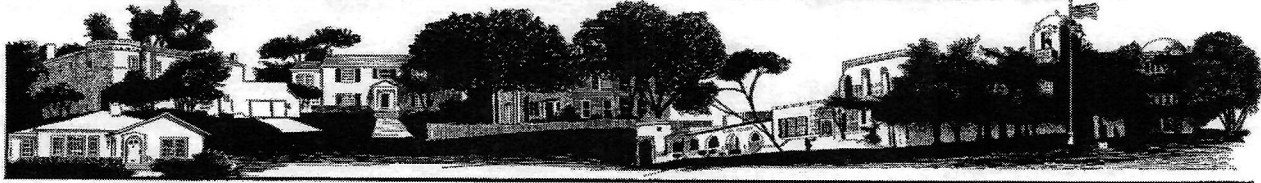


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



November—December 2010

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY
November 29,
2010
7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson Avenue

Future Meetings:

General Assembly

- November 29
2011
- January 31
- March 28
- May 23
- July 25
- September 26
- November 28

Board Meeting (Open to all interested)

Held at 6:30 PM at
The Deco Building
1800 Fredericksburg Road

- December 13
2011
- January 10
- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

by Jan Peranteau

Joanne Cockrell is the comeback principal for San Antonio Independent School District. "I've been called back four times to help schools in trouble. I thought I was retired." In 1995, Fox Tech was low performing in math. "By 1998, we were the first and only high school in SAISD recognized under the TAAS examinations." In 1999-2000, Fox-Tech won the National Blue Ribbon Award and was runner up to a Time Magazine award for best high school in the nation. "We were also runner up for the School Change Award from Fordham University."

Cockrell eagerly tells some of her strategies for success. "I'm a stickler for rules. Deadlines mean just that. Teachers, students, parents and staff are all expected to pull their own weight. In 1939, Jefferson had some of the best kids in the city. People came from all over to attend Jefferson High School."

Cockrell said one goal is that 85 % of the freshman class will be involved in extra-curricular activities. "I want 75% of the other classes involved in extra-curricular. We have the Lassos, a female rope twirling group as well as the new Wranglers, a male rope-twirling group. Our pep squad has expanded to 110 members." Cockrell is also proud of the twirling squad, the Card Section, the athletic department, and the band. The football coach was called to the office on a Monday morning to explain Friday night's loss. The game had been very close and one got the feeling that there would be dues to pay if a loss occurred at the next week's game. Cockrell continues, "We have 30 new teachers, young and energetic. Our motto is Return to Glory—Destination Exemplary" "We want everyone to believe in it—when all do their jobs, we'll get there. It takes everybody working together to achieve excellence."

As Cockrell talks, people get pumped up. "We have the support of our superintendent, and our own Ed Garza, school board member. He graduated from Jefferson as did the

Continued on page 7.....



Thomas Jefferson High School's new principal is Joanne Cockrell, and she is bringing exciting change to the school.

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Association**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are featuring the new principal in our neighborhood, Joanne Cockrell, in this month's issue of the newsletter. I had an opportunity to meet her and hear of the recent accomplishments at our own Thomas Jefferson High School. Fourteen months ago, our high school was deemed "unacceptable" after the TAKS test results were revealed. The most recent TAKS test allowed TJHS to claim "recognized" status, and they are now aiming for "exemplary"! After what we have seen recently, I do not doubt their ability to achieve that goal.

At a recent neighborhood leadership council meeting at the high school, great team spirit was everywhere. We heard about the high school's progress and about local Madison Elementary School's new discipline program. A positive, rewarding, and encouraging system is in place, and everyone is enjoying the results! The school is looking for mentors and will welcome those who can assist these children in their studies and serve as role models. Nearly 90% of their students are deemed disadvantaged, so the need is great. I hope that you will find an opportunity to help!

During our recent Home Tour, students from TJHS's architecture club served as escorts through homes and greeters outside. Lassos were also at each home, serving as greeters and providing entertaining with their roping skills. How wonderful these young adults were! Our neighborhood came together in a wonderful way, and Monticello Park was celebrated as the unique place it is.

During our National Night Out, our attendance numbers were disappointing, but all there had a good time. The lights went out in the pavilion at Redeemer Lutheran Church unexpectedly, so the evening was cut short a bit. We were joined by members of the church as well as faculty from the San Antonio Technology Academy Charter School now at the campus. Principal Earl Costley is an enthusiastic man who wants the best for his students. We discussed possible joint projects between the school and the neighborhood association. These kids are ready to learn and help in the neighborhood.

So, our future looks better than ever. We plan to continue to award scholarships to our local students, and the hard work of Ron Hubbert with the Garage Sale has ensured that ability for some time to come. We look forward to working together with our neighbors to eradicate graffiti, improve the appearance of Monticello Park, and help these young people reach their goals.

Ferne Burney
President, MPNA

For article submission and calendar of events, please contact the editor, Ferne Burney, 734-2445 ferneburney@hotmail.com

FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Christmas shopping of a non-traditional style has been going on in our neighborhood. Saturday before last, a car was broken into on Mary Louise Drive. The thieves rummaged through the car, taking items out of storage, scattering them throughout the vehicle. An attempt was made to take the stereo system, but to no avail. New clothing in the car was dropped on the driveway. But what was actually taken is the biggest puzzle of all. The owner's white coat, her medical school coat with all of her identification and stethoscope were taken. Considering the retail value of all of these items, it is not prudent to make an insurance claim as the deductible is more than the value.

This coat was given to her on her first day of medical school in the "white coat ceremony" that every medical student attends and remembers forever. It has been worn by her for four years and has seen her through some challenging days. It is a reminder of her Hippocratic oath and what she means to patients. Unless the thief is a doctor, it is difficult to imagine what value it would be to him.

So two things need to be said:

- 1) if you find a white lab coat in your trash or yard, please contact the newsletter editor
- 2) **DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR!!!!** More than one vehicle was burglarized on that night.

MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is for everyone (owners and renters).

Yes, I want to invest in my neighborhood. Enclosed is my 2011 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

**Membership
Dues**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directory | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |

\$10 Senior Dues
 \$15 Member Dues
 \$__ Additional for _____

Send to:
MPNA P.O. Box 5851 • San Antonio, TX 78201

LADDIE PLACE PROJECT IS ON ITS WAY

Sometimes, progress is painful.

That's the blunt message from Bexar County officials to residents whose lives and routines are about to be disrupted by huge flood control projects.

Already, more than 40 Leon Valley homes in flood-prone areas of Huebner Creek have been purchased for bulldozing.

Hundreds of merchants face ouster from a **Fredericksburg Road** shopping center where a huge detention pond is planned.

Heavily used Ingram Road will be closed for up to a year as a bridge is built over Leon Creek, where many a high-water rescue has transpired.

And soon the streets of Alta Vista will be torn up curb to curb as an overwhelmed, century-old drainage system is upgraded with buried box culverts.

These and other county-funded projects will detour and aggravate thousands of motorists. It would be hard not to notice what Bexar officials call "the most ambitious flood control program in county history."

"Once construction starts, we're going to really hear about it," Alta Vista Neighborhood Association President Mark Porter said. "Streets will be downright closed. It's like putting living rooms down under the street. But they promised this will solve the problem."

The county devised the \$500 million plan in 2007 in response to flooding in 2002 that claimed 12 lives.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office.....	207-7044
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control.....	311
SAWS.....	724-7097
CPS.....	353-2222
Officer Serda.....	207-7421
SAPD — West Substation.....	207-7420
SAISD Police.....	271-3124
VIA Transit.....	362-2019
SAISD Truancy Office.....	223-2360

Treasurer's Report:

Checking:	\$7,129.31
Savings:	\$3,841.66
CD:	\$11,329.70
Total Treasury:	\$22,300.67

District celebrates even more high-performing schools

Great news for Fox Tech and Jefferson high schools! Their 2010 ratings have been upgraded to *recognized* from academically acceptable.

Successful appeals to the Texas Education Agency based upon completion rates resulted in their taking their rightful place with Burbank as District high schools at this

level of academic achievement. (Travis Early College HS is rated *exemplary*.)

In all, 36 campuses are rated *recognized*, while 12 are *exemplary*.

City Council District 7 Food Drive

Join our office in sponsoring a local food drive in District 7. Monetary donations and canned goods can be left at our Field Office located on 2712 Hillcrest Dr.

Donations will be accepted beginning December 1st. We will also accept donations at our Holiday Party on December 7th.

If you have any questions contact our Field Office at 733-7525.

Most Needed Food Items:

Peanut Butter, Cereal, Tuna, Beans, Rice, Macaroni and Cheese, Chili, Canned Stews, Canned Soups, Canned Luncheon Meats, Full Meals in a Can/Box, and "Pop Top" Food Items

Councilman Rodriguez cordially invites residents to the
4th Annual District 7 Holiday Party



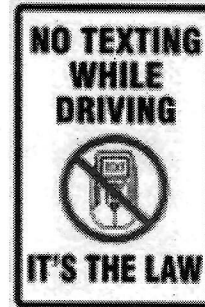
Enjoy food, live music, and door prizes

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2010

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: St. Luke's Hall
4603 Manitou Drive

Councilman Rodriguez will be collecting toys and encourages residents to bring at least one new, unwrapped toy for *Toys for Tots*.



On October 15, the San Antonio Police Department began implementing the 90-day grace period on the texting ban. During the grace period, only warning citations will be issued. The grace period lasts until January 12, 2011.

The ordinance prohibits use of a hand-held mobile communication device such as a mobile phone or personal digital assistant to send, read, or write a text message, view pictures or written text, engage in gaming or any other use of the device, besides dialing telephone numbers or talking to another person, while operating a moving motor vehicle.

Conviction for offense after January 12, 2011, shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$200.00

A new Neighborhood Liaison Program has been created within the Planning and Community Development Department. The goal is to enhance communication within the neighborhood groups such as ours. Through this program, staff and information will be more accessible.

Neighborhood Liaisons have been assigned to us and will be available for questions related to our neighborhood, community, and sector plan.

They are:
Tyler Sorrells, tyler.sorrells@sanantonio.gov,
207-7395

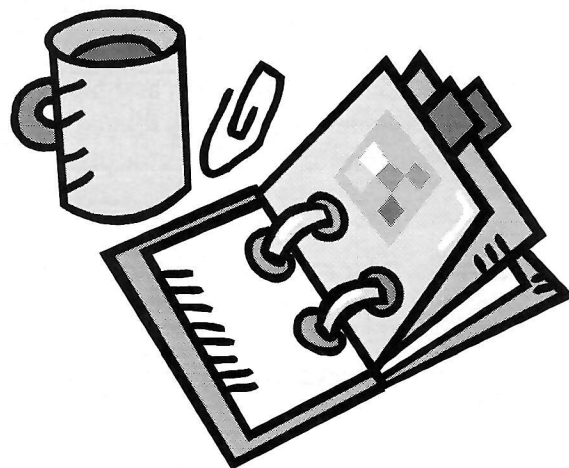
and

Robert Acosta, Robert.acosta@sanantonio.gov
207-0157

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- November 26** FORD Holiday River Parade, RiverWalk
- November 27—December 19** Holiday Boat Caroling RiverWalk
- November 30—December 4** Christmas at the Mansion San Antonio Woman's Club
- December 2** The 31st Annual Grand Western Shindig Leon Springs Dance Hall
- December 3** Caroling Nights with Santa
- December 3** First Friday Southtown
- December 4** Santa's Parade and Arrival Wonderland of the Americas
- December 4** 16th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza San Antonio Convention Center Municipal Auditorium
- December 9** Poinsettia Ball Hyatt Regency
- December 10** Holiday Arts and Crafts Show
- December 11** Tamales! At Pearl: A Holiday Festival

- December 22** Madrigal Alumnae Concert Chapel of The Incarnate Word
- December 31** Celebrate San Antonio Hemisphere Plaza
- January 15** Go Western Gala Freeman Coliseum
- January 18** Cowgirls Live Forever Style Show and Luncheon Pearl Stable
- January 30** Opera Festival Majestic Theater
- February 3—20** SA Stock Show and Rodeo
- February 12** Valentine Luncheon and Style Show San Antonio Country Club



.....Continued from page 1

mayor, Julian Castro, and his brother Joaquin Castro. Mrs. Castro, the mayor's mother, will be here tomorrow night for our Junior-Senior night. Columbia University will be here to make a presentation to the seniors."

Asked about the discipline at the school, Cockrell replies, "Dress code is enforced. Truancy and tardies are way down and attendance is up." She described OCI as an In-School suspension with regular assignments for students not allowed to attend regular classes during this period.

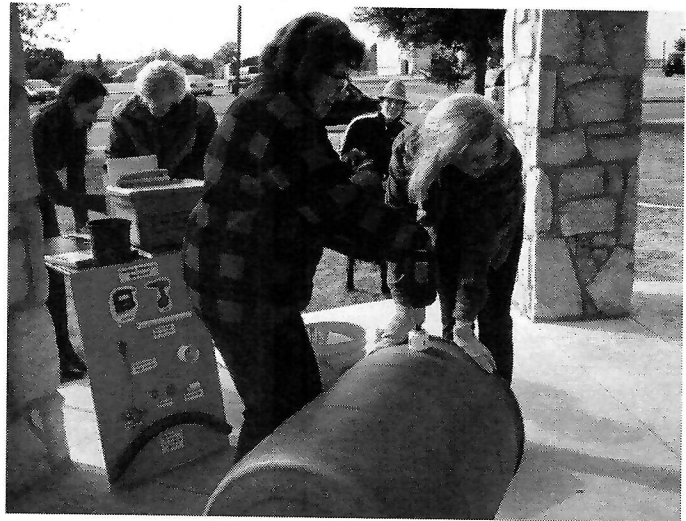
To help students get started with college applications as well as scholarship applications, Cockrell has a person, Allison Najera, member of the Texas College Advising Core. Cockrell said, "There are five people from the Core in San Antonio and fifteen assigned in the state." Cockrell smiled broadly as she announced Jefferson's good fortune in having one of five Core members in the city.

When asked how the neighborhood could help, Cockrell said, "Let us know what you see. Call the district police when something happens. Report weekend vandalism." The campus police number is 271-3124. Cockrell emphasizes, "You can call 24-7.

You know what they say about Alamo Heights? 'Prestigious High School.' I want that said about Thomas Jefferson High School. I have high expectations for children, teachers and parents. I don't do halfway. We must do it to the best of our ability. I take their safety and education seriously. After all, what can be more important than the education of our children?"

One last statistic—"Graduation/continuation was at 65% in 2008. In 2010 it was up —88% graduated or continued their education."

Leaving the office, this former teacher notices the flow chart seen in so many school offices. Usually there is a break down of power from principal to vice principal to curriculum coordinator and department heads. Jefferson's is quite different. There is a circle in the center of the page with Cockrell's name or initials. Web lines are drawn from the circle but there are no names attached to the lines. That about sums it up--Joanne Cockrell is in charge.



Board Member Sagrario Mejia arranged for our neighborhood to receive a very special program from the Master Gardeners of San Antonio. Monticellians braved the frigid morning and gathered at the gazebo in the park to hear about rainwater collection systems and good water saving techniques. All in attendance received helpful information concerning xeriscape planting and proper irrigation under all circumstances.

These intrepid ladies brought out drills, barrels, and the strangest collection of hardware to show how easily a rain barrel can be produced. Putting such a device into a historic neighborhood was also covered.

Jan Peranteau was the lucky winner of the rain barrel. Many thanks to the Master Gardeners and to Sagrario for helping us keep Monticello Park green.



Time to take precautions now for the upcoming flu season

When friends and family soon gather for the holidays there especially are certain uninvited guests you definitely don't want horning in on your good times: those flu-causing germs! To ensure that you are well-prepared to ward off this potentially deadly illness, we encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the symptoms and preventative care.

Know the signs

You might have the flu if you suffer from:

- Fever (usually high)
- Headache
- Extreme fatigue
- Dry cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle aches
- Stomach symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea

New CDC guidelines

The best way to prevent the flu is through yearly vaccinations, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now advises this for nearly everyone 6 months of age or older. Those in most need of the vaccine are people at high risk, or who care for babies too young to be vaccinated to ensure the flu isn't passed on to them.

Just one vaccine needed

This year one vaccine can protect against both the regular seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu, and it already is available in several large drug store chains, in many doctors' offices, and at health departments and other locations. But be prepared that it will take your body up to two weeks to build immunity to the flu. While children younger than 9 also need only one vaccine they will, however, need two doses with one month in between.

Shot or spray?

The vaccine comes in shot or nasal spray form such as FluMist, and may be given to healthy people ages 2 to 49, and to women who are not pregnant. Ask your doctor which is right for you, and also seek consultation if you have had a bad reaction to the vaccine in the past, or are allergic to chicken eggs.

Who is at greatest risk?

According to the Mayo Clinic, the following health problems put people at high risk: cerebral palsy, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, epilepsy, HIV-AIDS, kidney or liver disease, muscular dystrophy, obesity, and sickle-cell disease.

Take care!

Head to the doctor at the first sign of symptoms, and take these precautions to avoid spreading the flu:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Cleanse hands frequently
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Keep your distance from those who are sick
- As much as possible, stay home (accept to seek medical care) when you have flu-like symptoms, and for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without the use of medicine to lower your temperature.

For more information contact your health care provider or visit: www.cdc.gov or www.flu.gov

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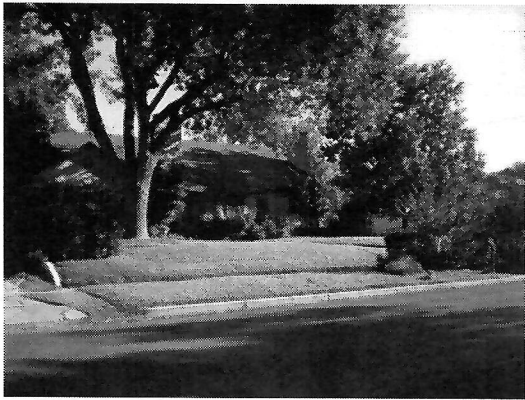
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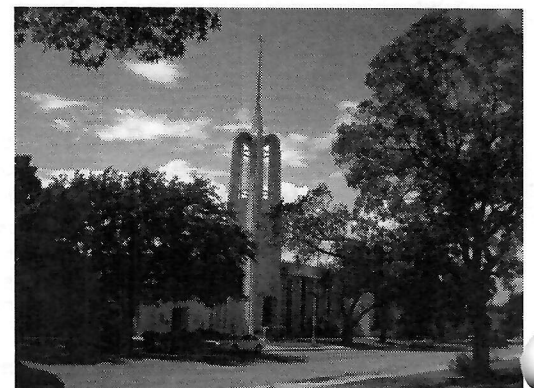
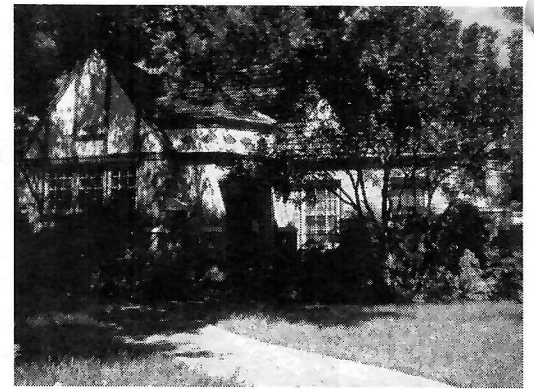


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THANK YOU,
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**And thanks to our
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working volunteers, this
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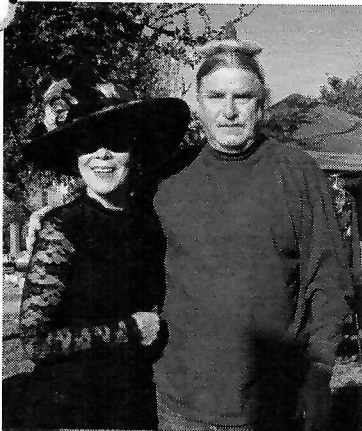
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The Fall Garage Sale was a success! The weather was Chamber of Commerce perfect, and bargains were everywhere. Ferne Burney and Galen Gibson showed that hats can range from the sublime to the ridiculous. The Thomas Jefferson High School Jazz Band provided music to make the ambience just perfect. The proceeds from the rental of spaces for the sale go to the MPNA Scholarship Fund.



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Just a gentle reminder that NO landscaping changes or modifications to the outside of your home can be made in our historic district without the approval of the Office of Historic Preservation.



Once proposed changes are presented, a determination will be made whether or not the proposal must be presented to the Historic District Review Board.



The offices are located at 1901 S. Alamo in San Antonio, phone 215-9274.



You may contact the office on-line at ohp@sanantonio.gov.

