

Monticello Park
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



January—February 2012

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY
January 30,
2012

7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
 950 Donaldson Avenue

**Monday's meeting
 will feature**

Updates on:

**Jefferson High
 School Master Plan**

VIA's BRT Station

**Historic Design and
 Review Commission**

Laddie Place, Phase 3

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By
Jan Peranteau

Some families are just brimming with talent, and such is the Wilkerson-Scaljon family. They sing, dance, play the piano, and design beautiful gardens. Basil Scaljon evaluates, buys, and sells antique oriental and contemporary rugs. He owns Scaljon Rugs on Main Street, one of the most prestigious rug stores in San Antonio. He personally helps individual buyers and decorators select and place rugs for optimal enhancement of home or office.



Lynn Wilkerson and Basil Scaljon with two of their wonderful chickens

Nick, the only son, a First Lieutenant Marine, lives at 29 Palms, California. It is the largest military base in the world, larger than the state of Rhode Island. He soon will be deployed to Afghanistan for a third tour of duty.



Ed Wilkerson, Basil, Lynn, Nick, Macleay, and Zoe: happy family and their garden

Zoe, the youngest daughter, is studying voice performance at California State University, the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music. Macleay, the oldest daughter, is an administrator at a Montessori school in Austin, Texas. Really, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Lynn Wilkerson has been many things. Currently, she is the assistant chief and general counsel for the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department, working for the benefit of troubled teenagers in the office of now deceased Judge Andy Mireles. Previously, she owned a bus manufacturing company which made buses for the city.

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2012
Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association

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734-0999
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734-2445
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San Antonio, Texas 78201**

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So here we are again - another year and another set of concerns for the neighborhood.

Oh, I guess I should re-introduce myself first. Wait, there is no time, let me sum up: I'm Rob, architect and husband to Leslie, an English teacher. Proud parent of two elementary school kids - one a Dr. Who fan and the other a fan of anything pink. I'm also a past president of MPNA and general procrastinator when it comes to writing articles.

Ok, on to the important stuff:

First, we have some new board members this year. Two have not served before, and one is a very familiar face. We welcome all of them to the exciting world of meetings where it seems that we never know ahead of time what new neighborhood issues will pop up. We also say goodbye (for a year or so... hopefully not too much longer) to some long-term board members who have been very, very active in making our association a success. To our intrepid reporter, Jan Peranteau; Kay Woods; and Mr. Scholarship, Ron Hubbert... THANK YOU! Of course, many board members are staying on for another fun-filled round, including our illustrious and immediate past-president Ferne Burney.

Jefferson High School is due to receive some much needed work to the campus. The first phase has been to complete a Master Plan for the site, and our neighborhood has been vocal in what we did and did not want to see happen. While it appears that our concerns have been addressed, we will continue to monitor the project. To those who appeared at the various public meetings, thank you. It is obvious from the updates made to the Master Plan that our presence had an impact. There is tremendous potential for the school, and some positive changes have already been made to the academic program. MPNA's goal has always been to ensure that the proposed improvements from the 2010 Bond served to enhance these academic gains.

VIA is due to start their BRT project soon, and we have already seen the beginnings of the City's portion of the work with the signal modification of Fredericksburg Road. Later this year, the State will repave the street, and VIA will be constructing the actual bus shelters. The neighborhood worked with VIA on the design for the stops at the Mary Louise stations, and while they are about 90% similar to the other stations, we hope the 10% is noticeable enough.

The Laddie Place project is, well, behind. Due to have started back in the summer, demolition of the old shopping center was delayed until this spring. When it is completed, our neighborhood will see a huge benefit as many homes will be removed from the flood plain.

Finally, a thank you to Bianca Maldonado. You all already know that she has and continues to be a tireless advocate for the neighborhood. Her work on the City's Bond Committee will pay huge dividends for our area, and she made certain that the neighborhood always had a voice in the local matters that came before the City's Historic Design and Review Commission.

Our work to improve the neighborhood continues. I hope to see you on the 30th as we hear more in-depth updates to these various projects.

Rob Sipes
President, MPNA

FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD



WHERE AM I????

Our quiz with each newsletter features a beautiful place or architectural feature inside the borders of Monticello Park.

Attend the next General Assembly, fill out a guess at the sign-in table, and maybe you will win!!

The first correct guess drawn from the basket will win a valuable prize.

Last month's winner, correctly identifying the bench at Monticello Pocket Park, was EDITH CUELLAR.

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 2012 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

Membership Dues

Finance	Social Activities	Park
Fundraising	Safety/Crime Prevention	Zoning
Membership	Historical Preservation	Home Tour
Directory	Scholarship	Newsletter

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

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

Reporting Potential Violations to the Historic Building Enforcement Officer

To help protect the City's historic resources, residents are encouraged to notify the Office of Historic

Preservation of potential violations. To report a concern:

1) Gather information. Be prepared to provide the address of the property in question and a brief description of the potential violation or concern. Photographs are helpful but not necessary.

2) Call 210.219.2093 or email

ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or

OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45 am - 4:30 pm) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov.

3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, will investigate and take the necessary action if a violation has occurred. If contact information has been provided, a report on the outcome of the investigation will be provided.

Historic Structure Plaques



Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. The plaques visually identify properties and districts that

have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. The plaques, available for purchase for \$95, are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaque is approximately 7½ inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. Fill out an application available on our website or stop by our office to purchase yours today. For questions, please call 210.215.9274.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office.....	207-7044
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control.....	311
SAWS.....	724-7097
CPS.....	353-2222
Officer Vidal.....	218-6546
SAPD — West Substation.....	207-7420
SAISD Police.....	271-3124
VIA Transit.....	362-2019
SAISD Truancy Office.....	223-2360

Sherilyn Strickland is the garden coordinator for the Jefferson Community Garden sponsored by Green Spaces Alliance. She has scheduled garden workdays for Saturday, Feb.4, and Saturday, Mar.3, between the hours of 9 a.m. to Noon. Future workdays will be published in this newsletter.

Garden workdays are open to anyone wanting to put a little or a lot into the garden located behind Jefferson United Methodist Church at 2350 W. Gramercy. The focus will be on bed preparation and garden cleanup in February and begin planting in March.

If you have any questions or want to talk about the Jefferson Community Garden, please don't hesitate to contact Sherilyn.

210-912-4871

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And now, she and husband Basil share a passion for gardening. "Basil laid out the big garden in the back. It's his baby", Lynne said. Basil added, "I buy plant plants and shrubs—mostly native. We buy our plants from Evergreen Nursery on Hildebrand."

Wilkerson said, "I like plants that give back. So I have an olive, pomegranate, fig, and grapefruit tree. The fig and pomegranate trees are bearing fruit. My bridge friends gave the Mexican olive tree to me when my sister died."

Wilkerson walks along a gravel path and stops at the fish pond. "We put in the fish pond in 2004 after Nick came home from Iraq." Wilkerson laughs and says, "Nick said it was harder digging holes in this clay than digging holes in the sand in Iraq." The pond is lush with tall, broad-blade canna plants all around. A few large rocks define the perimeters of the pool and goldfish fish swim about lazily. Two lawn chairs are positioned nearby for an afternoon siesta or for reading a favorite book.

In another part of the back yard is the square foot vegetable garden. There are 16 squares in a 4x4 ft. plot. Scaljon says, "We put this in two years ago. It uses one third as much water as a regular garden plot." The plants include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, green pepper, butter lettuce, and strawberries.

The Wilkerson-Scaljon family has enhanced the water supply with a rain barrel in the back that holds 100 gallons of water. In the front is a rain catchment system holding 500 barrels of collected rainwater. It is hooked up to drip hoses that water plants in both the front and back yards. Wilkerson says they made a mistake with the front yard. "We went overboard. We didn't water all summer. Since it hadn't rained, we decided to let the front yard go and just to focus on the back. But we got a new yardman, and he said your yard would erode. So we got the sprinkler system fixed and began watering on the schedule. The weeds grew, but no grass, so this fall; we planted the rye. Now the grass billows a vibrant green in the front and hides the abuse it took this summer.

Wilkerson breaks into song and Scaljon joins in, "Should have been a cowboy. Should of learned to rope and ride." It seems the lament of a city girl stuck in the city. She explains, "I wish I'd been a rancher or a farmer. I mean a boy farmer—who rides and rounds up cattle (so I'd have a horse), and not in the back yard with chickens and a goat."

There are chickens in the back yard. Beautiful, big, brown, Rhode Island Reds and a black Australorp chicken meander about the coop set squarely in the middle of the back yard. "I give my neighbors eggs." Wilkerson describes her horse, Phoenix. "He's a paint but he's buff--half quarter horse and half Tennessee Walker. She keeps him in stables outside the city limits and says she rides him at least once a week.

About the time this reporter is about to leave, Wilkerson's father comes through the back gate. He is in his usual jolly mood and wonders what is going on. He lives in an apartment that backs up to the Scaljon residence. Wilkerson moved him here a few years ago because of a need to keep a closer eye on this man in his twilight years. Wilkerson says of her father, "He befriends every stray animal in the neighborhood." Wilkerson, Senior, or Ed, loves music, singing and playing the piano at the least chance. "When at a Christmas party recently, Ed sat down and played whatever the guests requested and more. He has a jazzy style as he plays familiar Christmas songs. But one cannot keep him too long as there is a Karaoke bar he must go to for more singing.

Lynne Wilkerson says, "I have to go now." She explains that she is going to check on the progress of the barn and fencing project near a juvenile facility, part of the CHAPS program, an equine assisted therapy program. "We just got two new horses and I want to check on them." She said that the actual name CHAPS means Children and Horses Always Produce Success. Recently, the Andy Mireles Foundation gave \$10,000 for the building of the shed, tack room, and fencing for the twenty-nine acres of land purchased next to the juvenile facility. So off she goes to check on horses and the land. As she leaves, she says, "Daddy, make sure you close the gate."

The song, "I should have been a cowboy" drifts back into mind. It seems true—a city girl drives to the country and a dream turns real.

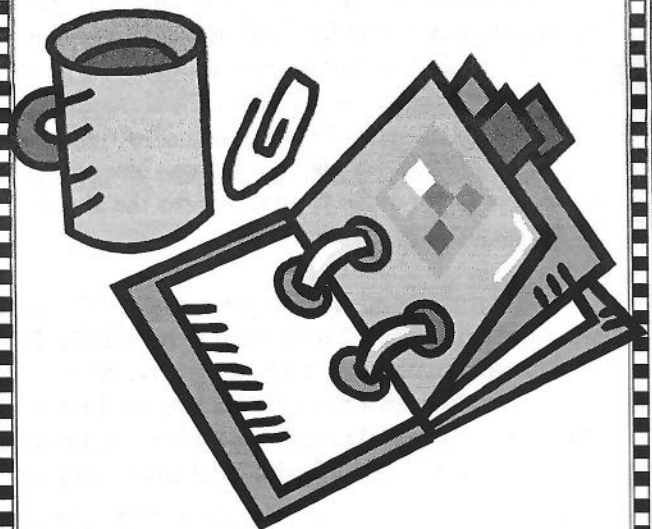


Ed Wilkerson stands at the back-yard fence at the Wilkerson-Scaljon home

CALENDAR REMINDERS

January 30 **General Assembly, MPNA**
February 3 **First Friday**
 Southtown
February 3 **Cowboy Breakfast**
 Thomas Jefferson High School
February 4 **Western Heritage Parade**
 Downtown Houston Street
February 9—26 **SA Stock Show and Rodeo**
 AT&T Center
February 11 **MPNA Social**
 Café Tutti, 1933 Fredericksburg
February 16 **Open House**
 Thomas Jefferson High School
February 18 **On and Off Fredericksburg Road**
 Art Tour
February 24 **A Night in Old Jeff**
 Thomas Jefferson High School
February 25 **Tower Climb and Run**
 Tower of the Americas
February 28 **Asian Festival**
 Institute of Texan Cultures
All of March— **Contemporary Art Month**
March 3 **Low Vision Expo**
 Colonial Hills United Methodist Church
March 6 **Dawn at the Alamo**
March 9, 10 and 17 **St. Patrick's Day Celebration**
 River Walk

March 10 **Luminaria**
 Across San Antonio, various locatrions
March 17—18 **Alma de Mujer**
 Guadalupe Theater
April 7—8 **Starving Artist Show**
 Little Church at La Villita
April 13-15 **Poteet Strawberry Festival**
April 16-22 **Valero Texas Open**
April 19—29 **Fiesta San Antonio**
April 25 **Fiesta Hat Contest**
 and Luncheon
 Marriott Rivercenter
April 19—20 **Fiesta Flower Show**
 The Woman's Club of San Antonio



JEFFERSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

758 Donaldson Ave
San Antonio, Texas 78201-4896
Church Office (210) 735-5221

On Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Valentine's Day
from
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Only

The Wheeler Chapel At Jefferson
will be opened to the Public
&
Free Individual Wedding Ceremonies
&
Free Individual Renewal of Vows Ceremonies
Will be Performed by the:
Dr. Rev. Malford Hierholzer
Rev. Bert Clayton
Rev. David Cervantez

For further detailed information go to our website: www.jeffumc.org
or e-mail dmilligan@jeffumc.org

Love Offerings Welcomed!



The Monticello Park Scholarship Committee is taking applications for its \$1000 scholarship for a graduating senior. If your family lives within the MPNA boundaries and you attend Jefferson High School, a school administrator will be able to nominate you. If you live within the boundaries of MPNA but do not attend Jefferson, you need to call Ferne Burney at 734-2445 to obtain an application. The deadline for the self-nominating applications is April 14, 2012. Scholarships are made possible due to the very successful Garage Sales held twice a year at Monticello Park. Your participation in these events is critical to our success and ability to encourage a neighboring student in education. The MPNA is also considering other forms of fund raising. The board would welcome any ideas you have for these projects. Please contact any board member with your great idea!

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association Beautification Application

Please complete the application below. The application is an continuing process so it is suggested that you keep it and your supporting documents in a folder until you are ready to turn it in.

Remember that the project you choose to beautify your house and consequently the neighborhood can be something very simple or something very complicated. It is up to you. **This application is due by Saturday June 2, 2012. It and the supporting documents can be turned in to any board member. You do not have to turn in the original receipts, work orders, contracts, etc. You may turn in photocopies, but the dates and relevant information must be visible.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

This is the _____ first time I have submitted this project for consideration.
_____ second time I am submitting this project. I did not receive a reimbursement award for it the first time it was submitted.

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

You must abide by the following rules to be considered for the reimbursement award. A committee will make the final decision as to which household will receive the reimbursement award.

- 1. Your full application must be submitted to a board member by Saturday, June 2, 2012.**
- 2. Applications must include receipts, work orders, contracts or photocopies of the same. The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association will reimburse you up to \$500 for your project. If your cost is less than \$500, you will be reimbursed up to the amount of your cost.**
- 3. Some store receipts do not give details as to what was purchased. Please list your purchases on a sheet of paper. You must still turn in your receipts, or copies, along with this list.**
- 4. The project must be able to be seen by anyone who stands on the street. Your undertaking should take place in the front of the house if you live in the middle of the block. If you live on a corner, the project can be on either the front or the side of the house or yard.**
- 5. You must submit a "before" and an "after" picture of your project.**
- 6. All repairs/maintenance and changes, including window repairs and landscaping, must be submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation for approval. Check with the Office of Historic Preservation before you begin any work and make sure to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness. You must submit a copy of the certificate of appropriateness as part of the application. The Office of Historic Preservation is located at 1901 South Alamo. The phone number is 215-9274.**
- 7. There are certain types of work that may need a permit from the city. Check with the Office of Planning and Development before you begin any work and obtain a permit if one is needed. If a permit is needed from the city, you must submit a copy of the permit as part of the application. The Office of Planning and Development is located at 1901 South Alamo. The phone number is 207-1111.**
- 8. If you were not awarded a reimbursement for your project the first time, and this is the second time you are submitting this application, please make sure that you checked the appropriate space above.**

8 THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
- 2 The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs <http://www.crimedoctor.com/> and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book, *Burglars on the Job*.

Val Glinka teaches self-defense to students at Sylvania Southview High School. For decades, he's suggested putting a can of wasp and hornet spray near your door or bed.

Glinka says, "This is better than anything I can teach them."

Glinka considers it inexpensive, easy to find, and more effective than mace or pepper spray. The cans typically shoot 20 to 30 feet; so if someone tries to break into your home, Glinka says, "spray the culprit in the eyes". It's a tip he's given to students for decades. It's also one he wants everyone to hear. If you're looking for protection, Glinka says look to the spray.

"That's going to give you a chance to call the police; maybe get out." Maybe even save a life.

Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your Dr.'s office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across. Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

12 MORE THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it..
5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
7. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
9. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
10. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
11. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
12. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at <http://www.faketv.com/>)

During December, a car was stolen out of the Deco Building parking lot while the owner was inside for just one hour. On January 4th, a resident on Club Drive also had a vehicle stolen in the night from a driveway. This seems to be a sudden increase, and these residents have notified the authorities.

It has also been reported to the newsletter that a scam artist is at work in the neighborhood. This is a young man who claims to be from Mexico who has taken money from Monticello Park residents for work that is never completed. He seems to offer excuses, not materials or labor.

Be on the watchout.....keep valuables out of your car.....keep your house and car alarms on!



The History of My Home

Like many Monticello Park area homeowners, I checked out the Historic Homeowner Fair in August at Jefferson High School. The lady at the library table started me researching the history of my home. She was right. It was not too difficult.

My neighborhood, the 1900 block of West Magnolia, was started when Harry Shearer purchased the surrounding land, former farm land, from the University of Cincinnati in 1923 for \$48,375. He then sold several acres to the American Building Company. My front door still has the ABC name plate identifying my house as House No. 14. That indicates it was No. 14 in a catalog used by ABC. Mr. Shearer sold the land to ABC in 1926. My house was then built in 1927. ABC advertised its homes as "Everlasting homes." I can attest to that description. The newspaper advertisement also states that my house has three cool bedrooms to the south. I am not as certain about that claim.

The land unfortunately was sold with a few deed restrictions in 1923: 1) only residential structures could be built and materials and labor had to amount to at least \$3500, 2) the house had to be set back at least 35 feet from the street, and 3) the property could not be sold or leased in the future to persons "of Mexican or Negro blood." Fortunately, the University of Cincinnati withdrew this restriction in 1952. That restriction apparently did not matter regarding my house.

The first resident of my house was a Joseph D. Gililand and his wife, Dot. He apparently could not make his payments and re-sold the house back to ABC within a year. In the 1930's, Thomas E. Portwood and his wife, Mary lived in my house. Mr. Portwood was the Assistant Superintendent of the San Antonio school district. On March 28, 1932, the San Antonio Light reported a burglary at my house. Clothing and 14 Easter eggs were stolen from my house. On March 17, 1935, the San Antonio Express reported that a meeting of the Entre Nous Club met at my house. The annual election of officers was to take place.

Starting in the 1940's a series of oil company engineers lived in my house. James Graves, a lawyer, bought the house next door in 1940. He would live in my neighborhood into the 1970's. Mr. Graves would later draft the will for my great-grandmother in the 1950's.

But, the first sale of my house that lasted was when Mary Sieber, also known as Luisa Sieber, purchased the home in 1930. Mrs. Louise Sieber was from Mexico. She paid \$7000. She was from Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. Her family owned my home from 1930 until 1968. In 1968, a descendant of Mrs. Sieber sold my home to Hortencia Ramirez. Ms. Ramirez paid \$9500. Mrs. Sieber's heirs had names like Emilio, Eduardo and Elisa. So, I like to think my house was the first "blow" for integration in my neighborhood.



Historic Preservation How-To: Researching Your Historic House

Nicholas Fuqua and Edna Campos Gravenhorst, OHP

Have you ever wondered if George Washington slept in your house (not likely here in Texas!) or who used to slide down that beautiful banister that your children now enjoy? If you own a historic home, then undoubtedly some of these thoughts have crossed your mind, and a journey into your home's past may be just the ticket to answer those questions. Every building, like every person, has a past. A historic home's past forms so much of its identity. Researching your home's history can be a fascinating way for you and your family to unlock some of its secrets and form a closer bond with the place where you spend so much of your time, energy, and money! House histories, like any research, must be approached methodically. There are a few basic steps you can follow to begin uncovering your home's past and get you moving in the right direction.

Continued on the next page.....

1. Real Estate Deed Transfers and Title Search

A deed trace can be time consuming but very valuable to understanding the history of your property.

- Property details, like assessed values and current owners, can be found at the Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD) at www.bcad.org. Be careful, though. The year given for construction found here is only correct about half the time. Continue researching to nail down the accurate year of construction for your house.
- Property deeds from 1837-present can be found at the Bexar County Clerk's Office at www.countyclerk.bexar.landata.com

2. Building Permits

Building permits can be useful in determining dates of construction and modifications and can help you understand the physical evolution of your property.

- Research addresses and original owners using historic newspaper archives at www.newspaperarchive.com. This service is free at all city library branches but a paid subscription is needed for private use.
- Building permits issued from 1980-present can be found by contacting Anna Galimore at the City of San Antonio at 210.207.8270 or anna.galimore@sanantonio.gov. You will need to fill out an open records request for this information.
- Building permits issued from 1921-1980 can be found by contacting Donna Guerra, City Archivist at the Municipal Archives & Records Facility. Donna can be reached at 210.207.7029 or donna.guerra@sanantonio.gov. The Municipal Archives are open Monday-Friday, 7:45am- 4:30pm. When you contact Donna, make sure you have the address and legal description for the property, including the New City Block (NCB) number.
- Once you have narrowed down the year, date and month the building permit was issued, you can continue your research at the Texana and Genealogy department at the Central San Antonio Public Library at 600 Soledad St. Contact Frank Faulkner at 210.207.2500. Be sure to call ahead, as this department has different hours from the library.
- You can also search for building information in the *Service for the San Antonio Builders Exchange*, which contains information from 1920-present.

3. Census Records

Census records are a valuable tool to find out when and where people lived and can give you insight into the occupant history of your house.

- The 1880 United States Census can be found for free at www.familysearch.org.
- The 1790-1930 United States Census can be found at www.ancestry.com. This service is free at the Texana and Genealogy department at the Central San Antonio Public Library. There is a \$300 annual fee for a private subscription.
- The 1860-1930 United States Censuses are available through the public library database "HeritageQuest." You can use this service from home with your library card.

4. City Directory Research

City directories contain listings of businesses, residences, and their occupants. City directories also list people's occupations and contain advertisements of the day.

- City directories from 1877-1970 are available on microfilm at the Central Library. Those from 1960-present are available in book form. The directories start listing residents by address in 1903. Remember to look for the residents by address a few years prior to the year that the city has on record in which the home was constructed.

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5. Individual and Family Research

- These websites are helpful in researching individuals or conducting genealogical research on your family:
www.familysearch.org
www.pilot.familysearch.org
www.ancestry.com
www.newspaperarchive.com
- Obituaries are also very helpful sources of information and can be found in newspapers such as the *San Antonio Express* and the *San Antonio Light* at the Central Library and online at www.newspaperarchive.com.
- Other contacts include the San Antonio Conservation Society, the San Antonio Public Library Texana and Genealogy department, the Institute of Texan Cultures, and records collections at the Bexar County Courthouse.

6. Maps and Photographs

Maps and photographs are valuable sources for information that cannot be found in strictly text-based resources such as census records or city directories.

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were published from the 1880s-1970s. They are an excellent source of information on buildings and the historical evolution of cities. Digital Sanborn maps are available at www.mysapl.org. You will need a library card number to log in. When you access the website, click on "Database," then scroll down and click on "Texas Digital Sanborn Maps." You will then log in and can browse by city and date. Be sure to first review the key and index pages to find the street where your property is located. This will tell you the volume and sheet number of the map for your property.
- There are also a number of "bird's eye" maps from 1872 and 1886 of San Antonio at the Texana and Genealogy department at the Central Library, as well as street maps which start in 1865. There is a list of original maps at the desk.
- Vintage photographs can be found in the vertical files at the Texana and Genealogy department, at the Central Library, the Institute of Texan Cultures Library, and the San Antonio Conservation Society.

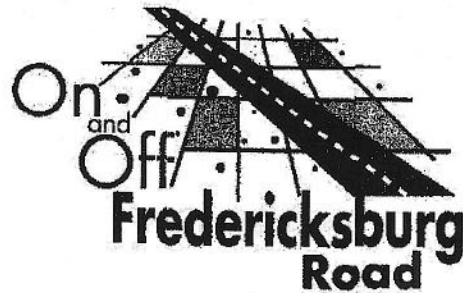
Researching your home's history takes time, but it is definitely worth the effort. For questions or more information on starting research on your property, contact historical researcher and author Edna Campos Gravenhorst at EdnaCampos.Gravenhorst@sanantonio.gov. You can also visit www.sanantonio.gov/historic/tools.aspx to get your own Historic House Research Guide and check out other helpful links to start your journey into the past. Happy hunting!

The MPNA Social for December was held on January 1. Okay, don't knock us, we were trying not to interfere with the busy holiday schedule!

About 40 residents made it to the Open House on Mary Louise Drive. The weather was perfect and Monticellians could be found in the kitchen, the living room, and on the deck for a cold one to start the new year off right.

!!!DON'T MISS THE NEXT ONE!!! See Details On The Back Page!!!

You're invited to the 7th Annual



ART STUDIOS TOUR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17:

- **6-9 pm: OPENING RECEPTION**
@ BIHL HAUS ARTS, 2803 Fredericksburg Road
Music by *LOS NAHUATLATOS*
Parking at Redeemer Church

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18:

- **11 am-5 pm: STUDIO TOUR**
Look for yellow balloons and yard signs
- **5:30-9:00 pm: CONCERT IN THE PARK**
@ LIZ DAVIES GREEN SPACE, 800 block Fredericksburg
Road @ Michigan Ave • Music by *SOUTH TEXAS JAZZ*
Bring your blanket, lawn chairs & picnic

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- **11 am-5 pm: STUDIO TOUR**
Look for yellow balloons and yard signs
- **5:30-8:30 pm: CLOSING RECEPTION**
@ LONG HALL GALLERY, 618 W. Craig Pl.

Color Catalog with Map (\$10 adv/\$15 at Bihl Haus during tour; includes free admission for 2 to all events) available starting Feb. 1st @ **VEE'S SALON** (1022 Donaldson)

CAFÉ TUTTI (1933 Fredericksburg Rd.) • **BIG GRASS** (637 W. Hildebrand)
ARTWERX ALLEY (1717 Blanco Rd.)

More info @ www.OnAndOffFred.org or call 210.383.9723

Supported in part by the City of San Antonio

MPNA's FEBRUARY SOCIAL

Saturday, February 11

4-6pm

Caffe Tutti

1933 Fredericksburg Rd.

@ the corner of Fredericksburg & Furr Roads

Come fellowship with your Monticello Park neighbors
and help welcome Caffe Tutti to the neighborhood.

Check out the cafe's menu offerings, art gallery featuring
local artists, and community library while enjoying house
blend coffee and a spread of muffins and sweets
(baked fresh daily and courtesy of Caffe Tutti;
all other drinks & munchies are Dutch treat).

*When I was in Italy, I learned a word - It's "tutti" with
double T, which in Italian means "everybody." So
that's the lesson, isn't it? When you set
out in the world to help yourself,
sometimes you end up helping Tutti.
(excerpt from Eat Pray and Love)*

Caffe Tutti- Great coffee shared with kind hearts.
caffetutti.com