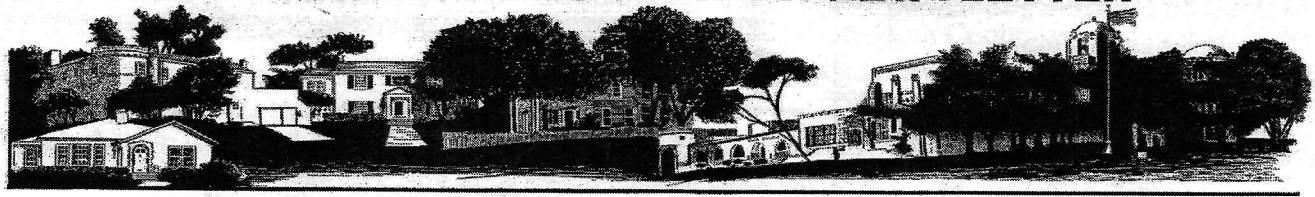


*Monticello Park*  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**



May-June 2012

*Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood*

**NEXT MEETING**

**MONDAY**  
**May 21, 2012**

**7:00 PM**

Grace Presbyterian Church  
950 Donaldson Avenue

**Monday's meeting  
will feature:**

**Scholarship Award**

**VIA BRT updates**

**The Real-Life  
Drama of the MPNA**

**THIS PLACE MATTERS**

In just three small words, this simple phrase embodies the entire scope of the work at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. People across the United States are sharing which places matter to them, and the "This Place Matters" campaign has already galvanized thousands of individuals and organizations across the country to start conversations about preserving those places, and the stories they tell, for future generations.

In light of this, and the fact that May is Historic Preservation Month, nearly 100 neighbors and friends (MPNA, Jefferson NA, Keystone NA, Jefferson Historic Preservation Society, and many others) gathered on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson High School just at sundown to document to the National Trust for Historic Preservation that "This Place Matters". It was thrilling to see so many came together on short notice to get this photo. More amazing was that most walked to the school and then walked home. MPNA has long advocated the pedestrian-friendly aspects of our neighborhood, and this was testimony to it!



Throughout May, the Office of Historic Preservation has organized several outreach and education programs. These are part of a larger goal of the OHP and the city's Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) to better prepare the community for understanding preservation efforts and how those might affect their specific property or the community as a whole. Better understanding of preservation and the HDRC process makes for more predictable outcomes for homeowners wanting to upgrade their homes and predictable outcomes for developers looking to develop downtown.

.....Continued on page 5

2012  
Monticello Park Neighborhood  
Association

**Board of Directors**

*President:* Rob Sipes  
738-0379  
*V. President:* Frank Ramirez  
734-0999  
*Secretary:* Ferne Burney  
734-2445  
*Treasurer:* Richard Weik  
731-0780

**Board Members**

Gail Collins  
Sagrario Mejia  
Gary Hudman  
Sarah Rice  
Tony Sanchez  
Michael Robbins

**Newsletter Committee**

*Editor:* Ferne Burney .....734-2445  
*Advertising Manager:* Board Members

**Advertising**

For pricing information call: 734-2445

MPNA Address:

**P.O. Box 5851  
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**

Let's see. Last time I started out with "what a storm", and since then we've had some good rain. I sense a pattern here that may need to continue. Roofs are still getting repaired, and I will tell you that we've had a few questionable contractors in the area who have done work without first obtaining the proper permits. When the City finds out, a "stop work" order is issued and fines are assessed. Please make sure that if you are doing any exterior work that the contractor checks with the City's Office of Historic Preservation to make sure a Certificate of Appropriateness is acquired. According to my roofing contractor, it is a simple process.

As many of you know, we have been keeping a watchful eye on the Jefferson High School bond project. The master plan recently went before the Historic Design and Review Commission where we outlined our concerns regarding drainage, lighting, and fencing. Thankfully, the commission agreed with us and added some stipulations to the approval. I feel like a broken record (whatever that is) when I say that we are NOT against improvements to the school - we just feel that they should show some sensitivity to our historic neighborhood. An update meeting from the architects is scheduled for Wednesday at Jefferson, so please plan to attend.

At the last General Assembly Meeting, we discussed the plan for a new tattoo establishment that wanted to open on Fredericksburg Road. The tenant did not have the proper zoning, so a zoning change was proposed. The Planning Commission turned down the request to change our Near Northwest Neighborhood Plan, and the Zoning Commission (unanimously) turned down the request to change the zoning. At the request of Councilman Bernal, we met with the tenant and had numerous discussions with their legal representation before the final decision was made. Monticello Park was not the only neighborhood involved - Jefferson and Keystone also were highly engaged in the process.

I want to just say that I never believed this issue to be about the neighborhood not wanting to support a local business. We have all helped to try and make the area inviting for business through our graffiti cleanup efforts, our calls to Code Compliance, our receipt of streetscape enhancement grants, etc. It was ALWAYS about piecemeal changing to the the zoning and neighborhood plan which would allow other uses we did not want. We would hear or make suggestions for stipulations to a conditional zoning, but the City would tell us, "no that can't happen," or "we can't enforce that." I told City Council a story about the neighborhood being like a rug. The weakest part is at the edges, and if they are allowed to fray, the whole rug is in jeopardy. We may have liked THIS tenant, but there was nothing we could do to ensure that the NEXT tenant would be as good. Many neighbors spent many hours creating the neighborhood plan, and we believed we owed it to them to defend its ideas for the area.

I thought we could come to an agreement, and we worked many hours trying to make something happen, but it was just not meant to be. In the end,

.....Continued on page 3

and after THREE City Council meetings, Councilman Bernal moved for denial of the changes and it passed unanimously. I do not consider this case to be the end of the discussion. Both Councilman Bernal and Councilman Medina agreed that we need to somehow address the few empty storefronts in the Deco District. I hope that we can get a group together to meet and brainstorm.

Because of Memorial Day, we are having are May meeting on **Monday the 21st**. VIA will be there to discuss the construction of the BRT stations in our neighborhood. We will also have updates on various activities that we have been involved with over the last several months.

I hope to see you there!

Rob Sipes  
President, MPNA

**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**

- |                                      |  |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <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



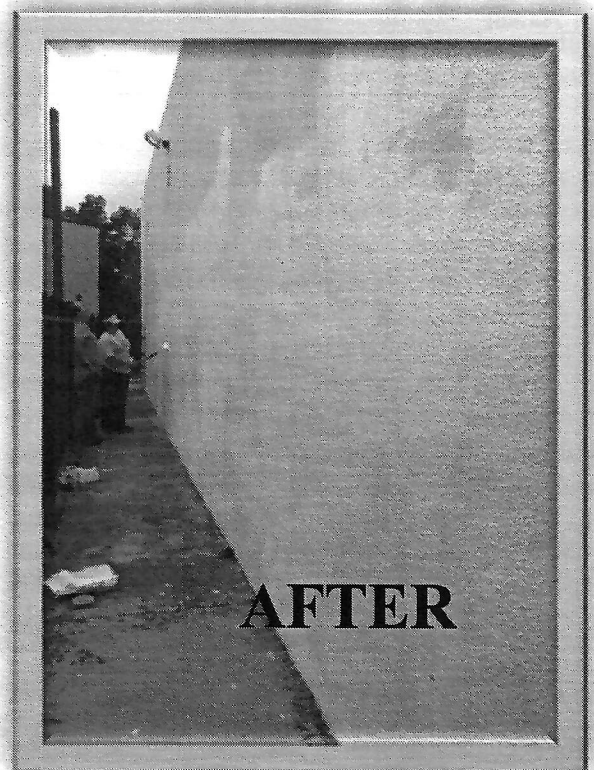
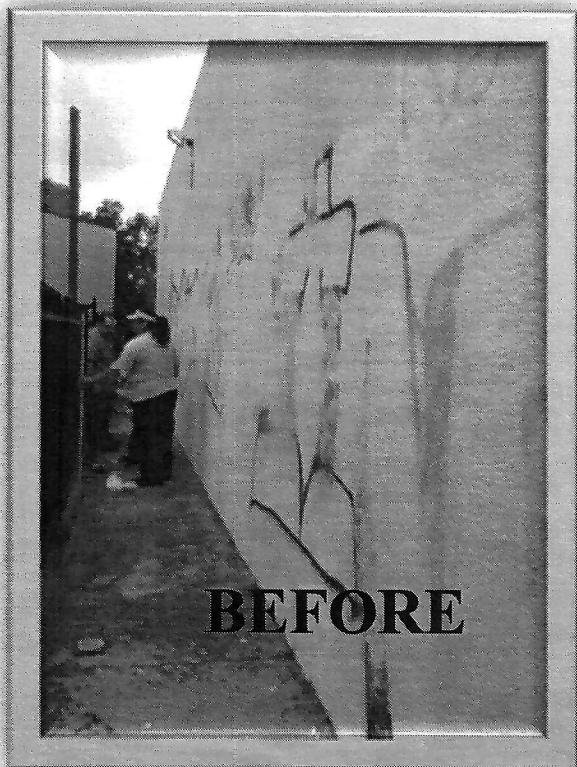


## **MPNA Spring Graffiti Cleanup April 14, 2012**

Thank you to our neighbors for helping us keep our neighborhood beautiful: Bianca, Jan, Juliana, Gary, Sagrario, John, and Richard.

Special thanks to Tony Sanchez for letting us borrow his truck- we couldn't have done it without you.

**Thank you all!**





.....continued from page 1

All exterior improvements to properties in historic districts such as ours must be reviewed by the OPH staff and gain approval of the HDRC. Homeowners proposing maintenance or repairs such as exterior painting with same colors or repair of damaged materials with like materials need only to secure a repair and maintenance approval from the OHP staff, and recent changes allow the OHP staff to approve many of these and other minor changes administratively, so applicants do not have to appear before the commission.

Applicants with more substantial changes may request a meeting with smaller committees of the larger HDRC in order to have intimate dialogue regarding the proposed improvements.

Applicants need to provide construction documents that clearly describe in detail the work to be completed. The scope of these documents will vary greatly depending on the complexity of the work proposed. More complex projects might require the use of an architect with experience in preservation of historic structures or development of appropriate new additions to historic structures.

The OPH staff and the HDRC are guided by the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation and design guidelines adopted by City Council for specific districts. Homeowners can access these documents on the OHP website to better understand the goals of historic preservation.

The most successful applications are coordinated with the guidelines, thoughtfully developed, and clearly prepared. Keep in mind that windows are considered character-defining features of historic buildings and all efforts should be made to repair historic windows whenever possible. If the windows are beyond repair, the guidelines suggest replacement with in-kind material. Demolition of any structure in a historic district will need to be carefully considered. If the structure is deemed to be historic or contributing to the historic district, then demolition likely would not be recommended.

Our community has a substantial cultural investment in its historic resources. This month especially, celebrate all that is historic in San Antonio!

#### 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

### Are You Confused Yet?

I take all of the blame for making everyone confused regarding the **MPNA Garage Sale!** In the rush to get the newsletter to the printer, I completely ignored the fact that the calendar showed a different date than did the article about the Garage Sale. Taking a step further, we are now announced a third date for that same sale. The difference is that we are sticking by this decision!

Saturday, June 2 is the semi-annual GARAGE SALE. The cost per booth is \$25 and all proceeds support the MPNA Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Ferne Burney at 734-2445 to make a reservation for a space at the pocket park on Club Drive. But call quickly because available space will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

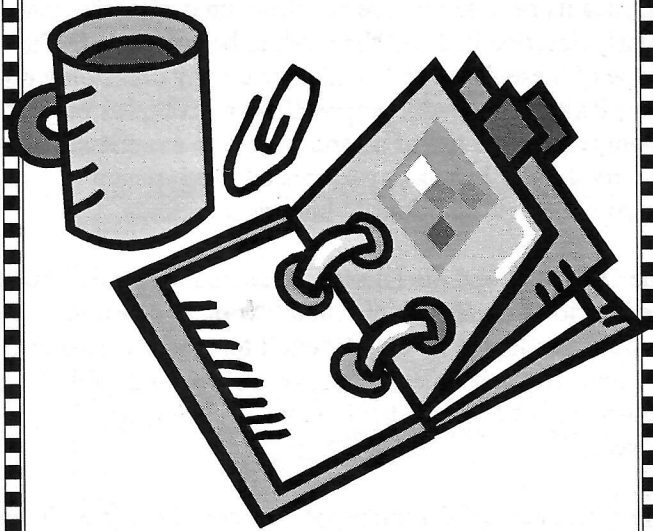
In addition to the traditional park sale where the license covers one area, neighbors are invited to hold their own garage sale at their homes, obtaining their own sale license. For a fee of \$10, the MPNA will include their location on a map we will be distributing at the park and on some major street locations.

It's going to be a great day for a great cause!!

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

- May 21**                      **General Assembly Meeting**  
   **MPNA**
- May 23**                      **Update on School Bond**  
   **Jefferson High School, 6PM**
- May 24**                      **MPNA Mojitos del Jardin**  
   **MPNA Social**
- May through August**                      **Fiesta Noche del Rio**  
   **Friday and Saturday nights**  
   **Arneson River Theater**
- June 1—3**                      **San Antonio Summer Art and Jazz**  
   **Festival**
- June 1**                                      **First Friday**  
   **Southtown**
- June 2**                      **MPNA Garage Sale**  
   **Monticello Park**  
   **and throughout the neighborhood**
- June 8—10**                      **Texas Folklife Festival**  
   **Institute of Texan Cultures**
- June 15**                                      **Gartenfest**  
   **Beethoven Maennerchor**
- June 19**                                      **Juneteenth**  
   **Celebrations throughout the city**
- July 4**                                      **Fourth of July Celebration**  
   **Woodlawn Lake Park**
- July 6**                                      **First Friday**  
   **Southtown**
- July 6 through August 3**                      **Balcones Heights**  
   **Jazz Festival**
- July 20**                                      **Gartenfest**  
   **Beethoven Maennerchor**

To add a listing to the Calender Reminders,  
email information to  
[ferneburney@hotmail.com](mailto:ferneburney@hotmail.com)





Come meet  
**SARAI MARTINEZ**, the 2012  
MPNA Scholarship Recipient, at  
our general assembly meeting.

**Special thanks to our Scholarship Committee:  
Sandee Gibson, Frank Ramirez., Sarah Rice,  
and Sagrario Mejia.**



*So pretty in pink, Anna Catherine Sipes awaits her turn to hunt  
for the treats left by the Easter Bunny at the home of Jan  
Peranteau on the Saturday before Easter.*

*The children of Monticello Park get on  
their marks as the Easter Egg hunt  
begins.....*





**S.M.A.R.T announces SMARTchitecture 2 winners**  
**SAISD Historic school photo competition**  
*First place photos to go on display in 25 SAISD transit shelters*  
*Beginning May 21, 2012*

San Antonio, TX – May 10, 2012 -- SMART (Supporting Multiple Arts Resources Together) presents the results of its 2011- 2012 photo competition centered around historic school buildings in the San Antonio Independent School. Utilizing historic school architecture as the subject, the competition, entitled “SMARTchitecture,” challenges SAISD students to critically evaluate their educational surroundings inciting further interest and appreciation of the SAISD learning institution of their choice. From there, students compose and produce a cutting edge photograph capturing that object/detail that makes their photo SMARTchitecture.

“Students selected the SAISD learning institution of their choice and captured an object, detail, or perspective of that particular building that they decided best represents the historic design elements that make it SMARTchitecture. “ said Andy Benavides, Executive Director S.M.A.R.T. More than half of the SAISD buildings are more than 50 years old and some buildings date to the late 1800s, so the students had a wide variety of historic architecture from which to choose.”

S.M.A.R.T is proud to have **Clear Channel Outdoor** as a partner in this year’s competition. Beginning May 21<sup>st</sup>, SMARTchitecture first place winners will be showcased in **25 bus shelters** throughout the SAISD. It is a thrill for the students and a proud moment for the SAISD.

Additionally, all winning photographs will be exhibited at the October 2012 Inspire Awards hosted by the SAISD Foundation. <http://www.saisdfoundation.com/events.php>.

Judges selected winners in categories based on originality, technical skill and personal voice or vision.

The photo competition is sponsored by SMART, the SAISD Foundation, SAISD, Clear Channel Outdoor, Swirl, Alamo Architects, BZ Designs, Benavides Picture Framing and The Builders Exchange. Additional details can be found at [www.smartsa.org](http://www.smartsa.org)

(smart·kī·tĕk'chĕr)

**SECOND ANNUAL**  
**S.M.A.R.T. Student Photo Competition**

**2011 - 2012**  
**First Place Winners**



1st Place, Hourime Baker, 10th Grade  
 Young Women's Leadership Academy  
 photo: Thomas Jefferson High School



1st Place, Jacob Stallup, 8th Grade  
 Riverside Park Elementary  
 Borham Academy

(smart·kī·tĕk'chĕr)

**2011 - 2012 WINNERS!**  
**S.M.A.R.T. Student Photo Competition**

**1st Place Winners**



1st Place, TWLA  
 Courtney Baker, 10th grade



1st Place, Borham Academy  
 Jacob Stallup, 8th grade

**2nd & 3rd Place Winners**



2nd Place, Highlands HS  
 Aiden Vega, 11th grade



2nd Place, TWLA  
 Maria Saldaña, 8th grade



3rd Place, TWLA  
 Myka Hancock, 10th grade



3rd Place, Longshore MS  
 Joe Chapa, 8th grade



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**



Does anyone happen to notice that, throughout all of the SAISD, the winners in this competition chose to feature the beautiful Jefferson campus in their photographs? No sports field, no sports lighting, very few other schools at all! This is no surprise to us. We find the school to be one of the most beautiful spots in San Antonio, and we aim to keep it that way.

## SAISD Superintendent's Weekly Message

May 14, 2012

Many of you have likely heard about a college readiness program called AVID, Advancing Via Individual Determination. Well, Jefferson High School and Longfellow Middle School have done such a stand-up job of implementing that program at their schools and preparing students for college that they were each designated as an AVID National Demonstration School this month.

Representatives of schools from across the country can come and visit Jefferson and Longfellow to see AVID's methodologies and strategies implemented successfully throughout the schools. The two model campuses are among only 124 schools in the *country* – and the only ones in our region – to hold the designation, which was awarded after a rigorous validation process. So, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the dedicated students and staff at those campuses for a job well done.

I have long been a supporter of AVID and what it has to offer students. I was glad to see, when I came on board, that the program is in place at 26 of our schools. SAISD has the expectation that all students will graduate prepared for higher education, and AVID is helping to achieve that by offering support through an elective course in middle schools and high schools. And it's important to note that all schools can use AVID-like strategies; they do not have to be official AVID sites to adopt these methods that lead to student success.

Students who take the AVID course learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and inquiry and receive academic help from peers and college tutors. In AVID, the goal is to raise the bar by placing students in challenging courses, outside of the elective class, and introducing them to a new kind of peer culture, one that is based on support and collaboration. Teachers feel that challenging courses that stretch and stimulate bring out the best in students. Students rise to the challenge, becoming more driven, more organized and focused, and arguably, more responsible.

These are the types of skills and attributes that catch the eye of today's employers, who are demanding the same critical-thinking, higher math and excellent communication skills required by college admission officers. Having acquired these essential skills and knowledge, students will be better off in whichever path they choose after high school – whether that takes them to a college or university, the military or directly into the workforce.

Best regards,  
Dr. Sylvester Perez  
Interim Superintendent

## Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns



continue to grow at . . .

## St. Bridgette's Academy



**Phone: (210) 438-9346**

1213 Bandera Road  
San Antonio, TX 78228  
(210) 438-9346



The City is on a mission to combat bandit signs and is enlisting the help of neighborhood associations and local business owners to help remove illegally posted signs in public rights-of-way. Code Compliance has developed Operation S.O.S. (Sick of Signs), a tracking system to help residents record the bandit signs they remove in their neighborhoods.

Per City ordinance, a citizen, at his or her own risk, can remove a bandit sign or other sign in public right-of-way that does not have a City permit. Individuals can download a copy of the Operation S.O.S. tracking log on the Code Compliance website at [www.sanantonio.gov/codecomp](http://www.sanantonio.gov/codecomp). The Operation S.O.S. log sheet will be used to record information on a bandit sign prior to removal. Citizens can return completed forms to the attention of the Code Compliance Division at 1400 S. Flores, San Antonio, TX 78204.

Bandit signs are normally found clustered at busy intersections and along main thoroughfares. Individuals who have placed signs illegally in a right-of-way are encouraged to remove them to avoid being issued a citation. Violators, determined by property owner or business named on the sign, may be subject to a fine ranging from \$100 to \$500 per violation depending on the offense.

Citizens can report a bandit sign violation by calling 3-1-1.



**Ready, Set....BOND.**  
*Bonding and Building a Better SAISD*



## Community meeting to share design of bond renovations

**Fenwick Elementary - Woodlawn Elementary - Longfellow Middle School -  
Jefferson High School**

**Please join us for a community meeting to discuss bond renovations  
within the Jefferson High School cluster. The bond design team will  
present the planned layout and design of the new buildings.**

---

**WHEN: Wednesday, May 23 at 6 p.m.**

**WHERE: Jefferson High School (in the cafeteria), 723 Donaldson**

---

**210-554-2230 • [www.saisd.net/bondprojects](http://www.saisd.net/bondprojects)**

### **Have you lost a Beloved Pet?**

It is heartbreaking to read signs posted around the neighborhood begging for information about lost dogs and cats. Sometimes a door is left open a second too long and a beloved pet slips out, or an unlatched gate tempts a curious pup. However the animal was lost, there are steps you can take to aid its return or to prevent a future escape.

**First**, be sure to spay or neuter your pet. This limits the desire to roam and reduces the incidence of cancers and other diseases.

**Second**, microchip your pet. Many local agencies provide this service at a very low fee. You can also buy collars printed with the pet's name and telephone number (include the area code, please).

**Third**, if the worst happens and your pet is lost, notify the San Antonio Humane Society. The Humane Society has a large bulletin board that posts photos and descriptions of lost animals. Front desk personnel screen animals brought in for microchips and check to see if their photos are posted on the bulletin board.

Does this help? In 2011 alone, the San Antonio Humane Society returned 84 dogs and 16 cats to their owners! The Society is located at 4804 Fredericksburg Road, just outside Loop 410, and can be contacted at [www.sahumane.org](http://www.sahumane.org) or 210-226-7461.

# MAY MPNA SOCIAL



## MOJITOS DEL JARDIN

Thursday, May 24, 2012

6-8pm

2350 W. Gramercy Place

Stop by the Jefferson Community Garden for a tour of the green bounties growing in your neighborhood! Mojitos, limonada y paletas to be provided – bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 23 to Sarah Rice at 738-8772. Hope to see you there!



## 4th of July Children's Parade

When the City of San Antonio wants to seriously celebrate our Nation's birthday, it comes to Monticello Park and Woodlawn Lake!

Once again, the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association and the Jefferson Neighborhood Association will team up to make the Children's Parade a top notch event. We offer face painting, bike and wagon decorating, costume decorations, and lots of fun.

Volunteers are needed to help the kids get ready for the parade and to help get them out the door for the big celebration.

Please contact Bianca Maldonado at 732-9950 if you are able to volunteer to either help prepare decorations prior to the function or to help on the day of the parade (July 4th).

