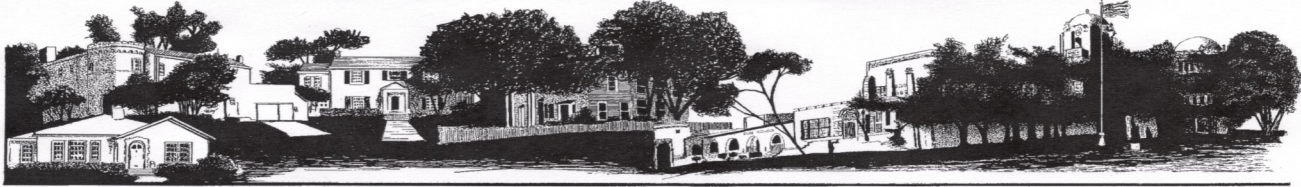


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



July-August 2012

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY
July 30, 2012

7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson Avenue

Monday's meeting will feature

A Presentation by
HEB,

Our partner in many
endeavors

Crime reports

Bond updates, and
much, much more

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Jan Peranteau

This house on North Drive looks like Hansel and Gretel could walk out of it at any moment. The stones are partially covered with dark moss. A sharp peak centers the house with a fireplace stacked down the middle of it. The front door is heavy and composed of several long beams banded together with iron. Inside the house, Charlie and Larissa (Ressie) O'Connors live with Larissa's father, Ed Bozarth. The animal kingdom includes Paddy Cat, a huge yellow and white longhair with a wee, tiny meow. Lyn Lee is a Siamese-looking cat that doesn't meow. Kiwi, a Cornish Rex cat, feels like a chenille rug and has a strange, slender body like the Egyptian cats seen on a sarcophagus. "One cat, Quincy, hides a lot and was raised by Paddy Cat," Larissa explained. He doesn't come out for the interview.



Dogs include Morry, a golden retriever; Andy, an aging poodle, belonging to Ed; and Max, the 11-month-old Hein's mix, who greets every stranger with paw-jumping welcome.

And children, Ressie declared, "I don't do children. I do animals and antiques. I love anything old." Inside the house antiques abound. Walking through living and dining room, adorned with turn-of-the-century parlor/dining room furniture, the visitor travels back in time. In the kitchen, a rainbow of Fiesta Ware for any occasion, sits on the shelves. "I don't like anything newer than the 50's. Most of the dishes are older. "I collect vintage Fiesta," she said. The eye travels to the "Detroit Jewel," the 1930's stove. It's a beauty with cream-colored enamel edged in black and red burner knobs. One other interesting item is a 5lb. jar of wasabi beans. Someone likes spicy in this household.

.....Continued on page 5

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Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How about that! For the third issue in a row, I get to start out with "what a storm".

So what to talk about this month. Hmm... I guess we'll start with VIA. As I am sure you have noticed, construction of the BRT stations at Mary Louise have started. The next time you go to HEB, take a look to see just how big of a bus stop these will be once completed. We have previously asked about consolidation of some of the stops (does HEB really need FOUR stops?), but it does not appear that this suggestion will be implemented. VIA did say that they were willing to improve, i.e. make larger and nicer, the non-BRT stop at Mary Louise so that will help.

Ah, Jefferson High School improvements. We continued our fight to prevent unneeded and unsympathetic proposals from being approved by the Historic Design and Review Commission. I want to personally thank all of the neighbors who came out in support to the June HDRC meeting – we had over 20 neighbors that either signed up to speak or yielded their time to others. WOW! Because the building proposals have never been controversial (we have always spoken in favor of these needed improvements), the Commission in June approved everything except the sports field lighting and fencing. These items were delayed until July in order to give the design team time to address our various comments. Last week, at the unusual time of 8:00 am (!!!), the HDRC once again convened, and the design team presented their latest work. I commended them for at least studying the various options we proposed for eliminating the outfield fencing, but I noted that I was dismayed that they submitted a surprise change the day of the meeting. Instead of keeping the fields open for community use as we requested (and as included in the their submission published on the City's website), they stated that they will probably have to gate and lock them so that the outfields can be used for stormwater detention. We are going to investigate this claim ourselves, because one of our goals has always been the continued use of the fields by the community. The fields are always used on the weekends by either parents or various "little league" groups, and locking the fields basically says to voters, "thank you for the taxes, but please stay away".

We again spoke passionately about the incompatibility of sports field lighting within neighborhoods. The actual bond language was presented which, curiously, never mentioned sports field lighting as it only stated "track resurfacing and lighting improvements". I believe that the oft-mentioned statement that voters approved sports field lighting is incorrect. So what happened? Even though we talked at length about how these lights were neither necessary per the UIL, nor common at the majority of schools, the HDRC approved both the lighting and the fencing. However, (and this is a BIG however), one of the Commissioners amended the motion to include our "in case of approval" stipulations. . Those stipulations included a reduced height for the fencing and backstops, irrigation for plantings around the fencing, an 8:30pm cutoff time (something that the coaches actually suggested at a previous meeting), shields and visors to reduce glare, and a REDUCED lighting level. While the total elimination of field lighting

.....continued on page 3

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

was the goal, the result won't be "sports field lighting" but rather lighting about twice as bright as a typical parking lot. This lighting will provide safety for the players, but not be nearly as bright as the lighting you see at the fields at Trinity University or Brackenridge Park. I still don't believe this lighting was even necessary. After all, the newest schools in NISD or NEISD don't have it, so it's not like we were asking for diminished facilities.

Are things now settled? Unfortunately... no. The June and July meetings were only for "Conceptual Approval", so we will still have at least one more to go. It will be important to attend in order to ensure that things don't change as they did with the locking of the fields.

By the way, Ferne sought out and was provided copies of the letters that the students wrote in support of the improvements to the school (it's public information as are the MPNA letters we wrote). About half of them (31 of the 67 unique letters), made NO mention of sports field lighting but rather primarily talked about the need for BUILDING improvements. Interesting - the exact same position that Monticello Park has always held.

Finally, on Saturday, August 25, the Office of Historic Preservation will be hosting its fourth annual Historic Homeowner Fair at Jefferson High School. Monticello Park had a presence last year and this year we will have a booth set up to not only promote our neighborhood but this fall's home tour as well. Around lunchtime, the City will unveil the draft version of the new Historic District Design Guidelines for public comment, so please stop by.

I hope to see you at both our July General Assembly Meeting and the Fair!

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:

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

**Membership
Dues**

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

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

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

TO THOSE LIVING IN THE 300 BLOCK OF Mary Louise Drive and the 300 BLOCK OF Furr Drive.

Tired of hauling your trash cans out twice a week instead of leaving them in the alley for pick-up? The MPNA Board has followed through with the reasons we have not had alley service for more than a year while other alleys are served and even PAVED. SAWS has completed the work that initially closed the alley. NOW, the issue is that the alley-way is overgrown with grass, bushes, and trees. If you have branches that extend past your fence line, they must be removed before Solid Waste will send trucks down the alley again. PLEASE comply by moving, trimming, and clearing the alley!



Saturday, August 25

Join the Office of Historic Preservation for the
4th Annual Historic Homeowner Fair
Thomas Jefferson High School
9:30 am to 3 pm

Free and open to the public, the fair provides residents and professionals with a unique opportunity to interact and discuss issues related to caring for older homes.

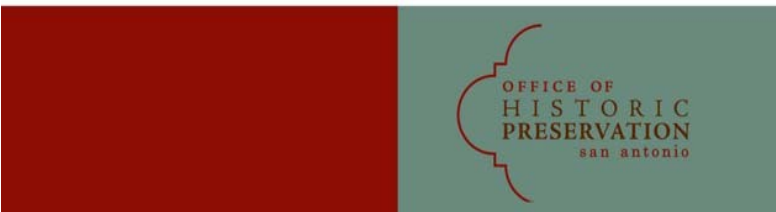
Educational presentations will cover topics such as preservation and sustainability, financing rehabilitation projects, landscaping for historic properties, preservation advocacy, repairing historic windows, planning appropriate repairs and additions to historic properties, and a presentation on mid-century modern architecture in San Antonio.

If you live in a historic district you won't want to miss the the midday **Keynote Session** as Clarion Associates will present the first public draft of the proposed **Historic District Design Guidelines**.

Be sure to visit the **exhibitor hall** to find products, services, and information targeted to residents interested in improving their older homes and preserving the unique character of San Antonio's urban neighborhoods. Design and preservation experts from the UTSA College of Architecture will be on hand to answer questions about your rehabilitation plans, and experienced researchers from local libraries and archives will offer advice on how to uncover the history of your home.

Bring the kids! Activities for school-age children will be hosted by the Jefferson High School Architecture students.

Visit www.sanantonio.gov/historic to learn more.
Questions? Email OHP@sanantonio.gov or call (210) 215-9274.



No Letter Yet

At the January General Assembly of the MPNA, Councilman Cris Medina addressed the assembly. We had requested his presence as we expressed concern regarding the Thomas Jefferson High School Masterplan proposal that was presented to the SAISD School Board meeting in November. At that meeting, a representative from the District 7 Council office read into the record a letter signed by Councilman Medina. In that letter, the Councilman stated his "complete support" of the Masterplan "as proposed."

When pressed about his rationale for this support when his constituents were in staunch opposition, the Councilman admitted that he had neither met with the neighborhood nor read the document which outlined the plan. He apologized for that oversight, and promised redress. He agreed to the request from the floor that a letter to the SAISD would be drafted to reverse the statement of support.

At the March meeting, it was moved, seconded, and carried that the MPNA state in its newsletter if the Councilman failed in his promise to submit the letter to the Board.

He has not sent the letter to date, and here is your official notice of that fact.

.....continued from page 1

All members of the family are retired from the Air Force. The O'Connors are proud of this fact. Ressie said, "I was in for 22 years, Charlie served 20 years, and Ed spent 28 years in service. Moving here one and a half years ago, the O'Connors left Tallahassee, Florida to return to a military city they had always loved, San Antonio. Ed retired from the Air Force and moved with his wife to New Braunfels where they lived for 33 years until his wife died five years ago. After her death, he stayed on by himself for four months and then decided to move in with daughter and son-in law. Living in Tallahassee, Ed developed his passion: the hobby of making birdhouses. He made his first houses for his daughter and a neighbor. "The street we lived on was a loop. It had 13 houses on it. By the time I left, every house on the loop had a bird house." Ressie added, "He always paints them red." Why, "well I always had red paint around." The paint is a rusty red. Shingles are used on the roofs. "Ed said, "My houses are duplexes. They will hold two bird families."

Ed drifts back to his time in the military, "In my day, we felt we were helping the country. Belgium loved us, but not France." Back to birdhouses, Ed said, "I've built 13 on this block of North. At the far end of North, Tony Sanchez has two houses. Tony Provident has one on Club. "I'd say I have built easily over 100 bird houses over the years in different cities." Why does he do it? "Well, I like to watch birds and it's something to do. " Ed said he has 30 houses in New Braunfels, and 3 houses in Atlanta, Georgia. Ed also spoke of where the birdhouses should be placed. "I do prefer that people put them in trees. After all, they are for the birds." Seems he might not like using them as mantle decorations. He also said, "I want to see them up." So if you really want to please him, put them in the front yard so he can spot them as he takes his morning walks with his dog, Andy.

Charlie comes inside the house from his air-conditioned workshop and garage. Ressie wants him to sit down and tell about his job. Ice tea is served. When he arrived in San Antonio, he said, "I didn't have a job. But I soon had one as a non-medical care manager for the Air Force Wounded Warriors Program." He described his program as assisting the ill and wounded combat veterans to transition from military to civilian life.

He said the government has a contract with Lockheed -Martin. "Eighty per cent of his customers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. I ensure that they receive Air Force and V.A. entitlements." The office carries a caseload of about 1500, but Charlie said he personally sees 30 customers a month.

Growing up in Waterloo, New York, birthplace of Memorial Day, Charlie and his family moved back to San Antonio after retirement to be around the military. He said, "You can always tell who has been in the military. They get along easily with others." Asked about his interests, "I like old British cars." In fact, in the garage, he has a 1960 Austin Healey that he restored. Walking to the garage, one sees a raised tomato bed and some herbs. One of Ed's birdhouses hangs from a tree. The garden is small and has an English-cottage feel, just enough room for a fruit tree and coming soon, a small rose garden. Inside the garage, the Austin Healey gleams silver-blue and buttery cream. It is beautiful. Projects line the shelves of the garage. One is an art deco light fixture that is being rewired. Next door is Ed's birdhouse workshop. Everything is neat and organized.

Maybe this is not the house Hansel and Gretel could have lived in. Perhaps it is a house of elves, ever busy to restore the old and beautify the "Monticello Village."



Charlie and Ressie O'Connors and Ed Bozarth enjoy their home in Monticello Park

CALENDAR REMINDERS

July 30

**MPNA
General Assembly**

Through August 3

**Balcones Heights
Jazz Festival**
Wonderland Mall

August 3

First Friday
Southtown

August 4

Dog Days of Summer
San Antonio Botanical Center

August 18—25

**Culinaria:
Restaurant Week**

August 18

**4th Annual White Martini
Party**
H.B. Gonzalez Convention Center

August 25

Historic Homeowner Fair
Thomas Jefferson High School

September 7

First Friday
Southtown

September 12—13 **Taste of the River Walk**
Restaurant Tour

September 22-23

Jazz's Alive
Travis Park

September 24

MPNA General Assembly

October 5 **Golf Tournament/Dinner**
Judge Any Mireles
Charitable Foundation

October 5

First Friday
Southtown

October 5—6

October 11—13

Oktoberfest
Beethoven Maennerchor

November 3 **MPNA Garage Sale**

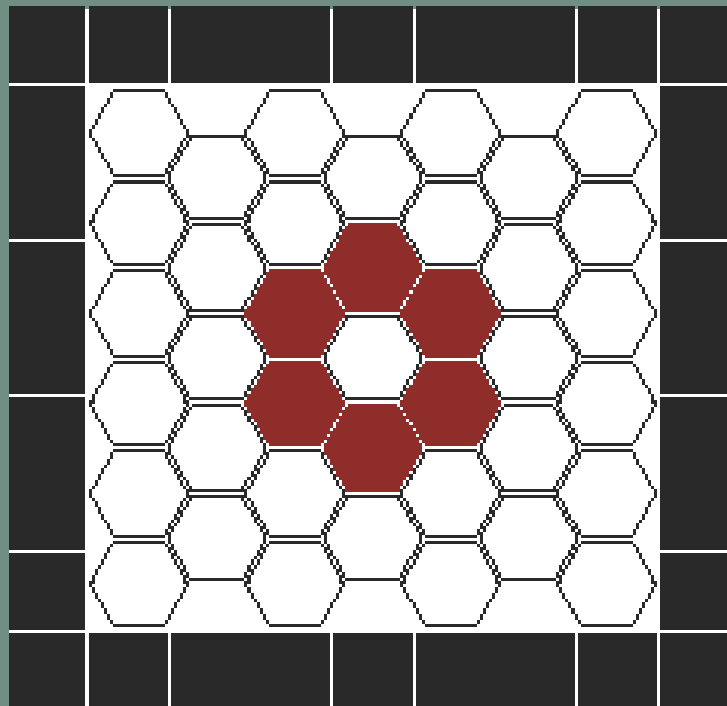
November 4 **MPNA Home Tour**

**(MPNA is seeking homes for the
Tour. If you would like to have
your home featured on the tour,
please contact any board mem-
ber)**



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 25, 2012



HISTORIC HOMEOWNER ■ FAIR ■

OFFICE OF
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
san antonio

Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson Ave
9:30 am to 3 pm
Free and Open to the Public

School Bond 2010 Voting Information

When to vote:

Election Day, Tuesday, November 2
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Early Voting October 18 - 29

Where to vote:

Polling locations listed at [Bexar County Elections Department](#). To vote, you'll need one of the following pieces of identification:

- Voter Registration Card
- Driver's License
- Texas ID
- Social Security Card
- Utility Bill Showing Current Address

Proposition As It Will Appear on the Ballot:

THE ISSUANCE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$515 MILLION SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT, AND THE PURCHASE OF THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS, MORE SPECIFICALLY BEING: (1) CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATIONS OF ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUSES (2) PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENTS, (3) TRACK RESURFACING AND LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS, (4) CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS, (5) CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENTS, (6) RENOVATIONS AND RESTORATION OF DISTRICT WIDE ATHLETIC AND EXTRA CURRICULAR FACILITIES, AND (7) TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES ENHANCEMENTS, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE AND FACILITY OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS; AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF.

Early Voting

ONE OPINION

Perhaps this is just a cautionary tale. Perhaps it will serve as a warning to you as it was to me, that what we may have heard in a campaign promise will not be what appears when we finally step into that important polling place. I trusted and urged the building improvements that were outlined in the 2010 Bond for the SAISD. Line after line in the \$24,000,000.00 planned for Thomas Jefferson High School promised improvements in the building and its programs. No mention was made of the sports facilities. Any outside lighting was "security lighting" upgrades. The fencing we understood was to be the replacement of the aluminum fencing on Club Drive with a true wrought iron fence.

The ballot language is what our school district is moving forward, #3 in the paragraph. Based on that, the proposal before HDRC included lighting for the new stadium and field lighting all around the campus. The students, begging for a roof that does not leak, sufficient power outlets for new technology, and improved air-conditioning have been placed in an "alternate" status or totally ignored.



David Shockley was the Drum Major at Thomas Jefferson High School in 1962.

We can only imagine the changes taking place in the high school during the beginnings of the turbulent 1960s, but his words seem prophetic in an expression of his attitude about his beloved school. Wonder what he would say about the changes today?

"Jefferson is changing; that is certain, but are these changes for the improvement of Jeff and its students? There is one thing that sets Jeff apart from other high schools; that is the character or spirit of Jefferson, the pride in Jefferson. We do not receive praise from outside sources just because of our school's name. The praise we receive is earned: which makes it much more meaningful, and instills in us pride in our school, in our organization, and in ourselves. If it is found that these coming changes will help Jeff and its students and promote spirit, then the changes should be effected. However, changes should not be instigated just for change's sake or because some other school has them, for we are not some other school...WE ARE JEFFERSON!"

MONTICELLO PARK NOW HAS A WEBSITE!



We are still working on moving our presence up in the Google search, but if you go to

www.monticelloparkna.com

you will see our first stab at our own website. Calendars for the neighborhood association will be listed there along with current officers and events in the neighborhood. You can download a full-color copy of the neighborhood newsletter, view advertising rates, download the home beautification or scholarship applications, and we hope one day to enable dues paying on the website as well. Membership could be placed on the site in a password protected page. So many possibilities await us as we try to improve communications throughout Monticello Park!

We would love to have a complete database of email addresses so that last minute important issues can be addressed without the expense and labor of hand-delivering flyers to all neighbors. In the meantime, the internet and a website can give us an opportunity to post important matters.



And while you are surfing the web, click on over to Facebook and join

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

as a friend. There too you will find events for the Association posted, links to other neighbors who are on Facebook, and an occasional forum among friends on neighborhood topics.

Fourth of July Children's Parade At Woodlawn Lake Park



Best dressed individuals pose with the HEBuddy at the parade held on Independence Day

The weather was predictably hot and humid, but what was not predicted was the ocean of children who showed up to parade on the 4th of July. Our state representative, Trey Martinez-Fisher had given us some great advertising that the parade was taking place and that once again, Monticello Park Neighborhood Association would be coordinating and equipping all of the children for the parade. A grant from Parks and Recreation made it possible for us to provide hats, paper flowers, streamers, dazzling halos, and an assortment of other decorations for all of the kids.

Judge Laura Parker of the 386th District Court braved the heat and the crowds to determine “the best” in several categories. Visiting dignitaries included Councilman Cris Medina and staff, “Parky” the Parks and Recreation Squirrel, and our local HEBuddy.



Judge Laura Parker (left) congratulates the winning “float” entry in the Children’s Parade.



Once again, “Sam” Guerra donated her great face-painting skills to the children at the parade. Our thanks go out to Sam and the other members of the Jefferson Neighborhood Association for helping the MPNA make the parade a success.



Volunteers from the MPNA and from the Jefferson Neighborhood Association join with Judge Laura Parker for the annual Children's Parade on the 4th of July.

All Along Fredericksburg Road...

By Bianca Maldonado

Fredericksburg Road is seeing many improvements: VIA Primo bus stops, 2007-2012 city bond traffic mitigation (intersection improvements), and Phase II of the Deco District streetscape enhancements.

The Deco District Phase II streetscape enhancements on Fredericksburg Road are from Quinten to W. Kings Highway and will begin this fall.

Here is an update from CIMS:

After numerous unforeseen budgetary setbacks, several bid proposals and negotiations bouts; CIMS is submitting an agenda item Request For Council Action (RFCA) to award a construction contract for the streetscape enhancement on Fredericksburg Road.

The RFCA is scheduled for August and recommends award of a Job Order Contract to Jamil-Smith Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$138,527.18. The work involves the landscape renovations and repairs to the existing streetscape areas and parking lot that we previously determined to be in need of attention. It includes trees and plant material replacements, landscape lighting repairs, pedestrian paver restoration, and associated landscape material. No street work is included nor called for, but may require some limited and sporadic lane closure for short durations in order to access planters.

The notice to proceed should be issued in September and the work substantially completed in December. CIMS will determine the construction critical path with the Notice to Proceed for a more accurate delivery schedule.

*Start your Saturday with a sip of coffee and smiles from your neighbors
at the next Monticello Park Neighborhood Association Social
Saturday, August 4
9-10am*



At last month's MPNA Social, late into the party, neighbors discovered that the host, Wayne Ehrisman, was celebrating a birthday on that day.

Our "host with the most" was then feted with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and best wishes from all of us for a happy year ahead.

*And thanks for hosting,
Wayne!*