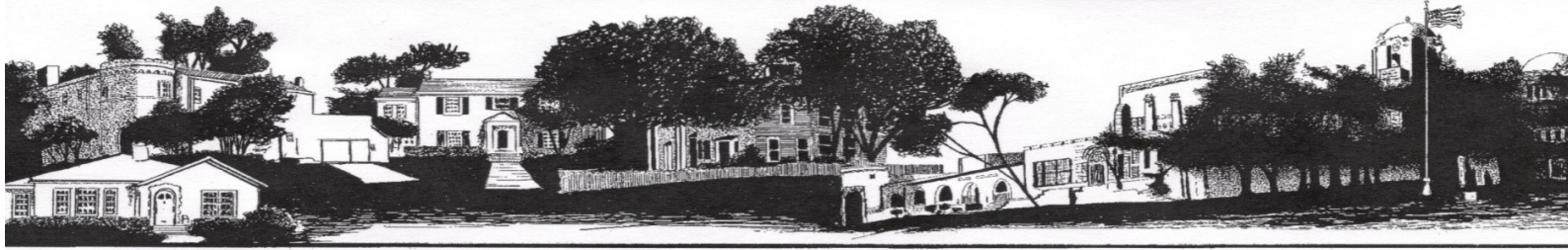


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



May - June 2013

You want sustainability?

YOU GOT IT!

Recently, a new member of the MPNA Facebook page posted Monticello Park's results from the City of San Antonio's Sustainability Study (sa-neighborhoodsustainability.org) and asked whether it was an ongoing effort by the city and whether the association utilized its findings. Comments and questions ensued revealing a strong interest to learn more about the background of the study and how we might utilize the results to improve our neighborhood's sustainability efforts.

**Join us at the next MPNA
General Assembly Meeting to learn more!**

**Monday, June 3 @ 7pm
Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson**

Lead researcher, Hazem Rashed-Ali of UTSA's College of Architecture, will present on the background of the study, our neighborhood's results, and how we can use the info gleaned to become a more sustainable community.

The study aimed to identify and measure different neighborhood-level sustainability performance indicators for neighborhoods across the city. This tool aims to provide support for neighborhood planning efforts to reduce energy and water consumption, vehicle miles of travel, pollution emissions (including greenhouse gas emissions), and the overall carbon footprint of the city.

Lisa Ortega, CHW, of Methodist Healthcare Ministries, will also provide information on the Wesley Nurse program and the free services offered including blood pressure screenings, blood glucose screenings, health education, group exercise classes and promoting holistic health.

Farewell, Sylvia

By Jan Peranteau



Sylvia Gallo Ramirez, wife of MPNA Board Member Frank Ramirez, fought gallantly against cancer for 19 months with her beloved husband by her side. Leticia (Letty) Miller, daughter, and Frank (Tico) Ramirez, son, were also at the bedside daily as well as many relatives including Norma Lozano (Placido), her older sister. Friends and relatives from near and far including a brother, David Gallo, from California and another brother, Herbert Gallo, from San Antonio came to visit. The Bunco ladies came in pairs. Grandchildren took turns helping out. And still on April 8, 2013 at the age of 71, she slipped away.

Visiting with her husband, Frank the other day, the living room still holds her presence. Frank said, "I am keeping the house clean according to her standards." Fresh flowers were everywhere—not the funeral kind—but happy bouquets that expressed her personality. The room itself is a memorial to her. All the pictures gathered for the service and reception are in this room with a large informal portrait of Sylvia sitting outside in a lawn chair. Two candles are lit on either side of the portrait as it rests on the mantle.

There is still the memory of Sylvia saying, "Have you polished the brass lately? Or, Betty comes today. Do you have all the supplies she needs for cleaning?" Even from her hospital bed she made sure the house was spic and span.

Frank didn't seem to need questions. He just wanted to talk. He told of her days at Brackenridge High School where she was president of the Honor Society. She graduated in 1959 and from his wallet he pulled a picture of a young Sylvia, dated 2-24-58. She wrote on the back of the photo, "To Frank with whom I have enjoyed every moment that we have spent together. I hope that our days together in the future will be as bright as those in the past. May they also be days of happiness and not sorrow. With this thought in mind, I shall remain yours forever. Sylvia"

They were engaged in 1959 and married one year later. Frank said, "Her father was a firm, Italian person." "My buddies said you can't get a date with her. Her father is real strict. Nobody has been able to get a date." So Frank bet his buddies that he could get a date. He said, "I was wearing my hair like Elvis then. It was slicked back and long." I had to get a hair cut and then I asked her dad if I could date her. He gave me his permission." Ramirez said, "I won that bet of \$.50." They were engaged for one year before marrying in 1960. From 1959 to 2013 the love flourished with the birth of two children. In 1973 the family moved to the house on Donaldson. Sylvia ran the business office of the family construction business from 1973-2011. She retired from business management because of feelings of fatigue, lost weight and some fever. "She always had check-ups regularly—every three months," Frank said.

How does Frank want her remembered? "She was thoughtful of others. During her illness she would call others who had cancer or were sick and ask how they were doing. And she loved her animals. She was a happy person—she enjoyed going to Bunco and was a member of two clubs." Frank explained, "Of course the neighborhood one in Monticello Park but also an older Bunco club that her sister, Norma, belonged to."

But many neighbors remember her sense of humor, her matter-of-fact way of dealing with cancer, and the way she crinkled her nose. That nose twitched when she did not like or agree with something that was said or done. And who could forget her gorgeous hair with its' many curls. Cancer did not take that or her spirit that always looked on the sunny side.



Monticello Park Bunco Group

Frank's final words, "Life is too precious. Don't put off things. Go and do it."

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SicloVerde

On Saturday, June 15 Green Spaces Alliance will host SicloVerde, a bicycle tour visiting **six community gardens in central San Antonio – including your very own Jefferson Community Garden!** Three tour options will be offered: 14-mile group tour, 8-mile group tour, and self-guided. Participants gather at the first garden in the morning and travel in groups from garden to garden, visiting with gardeners and taking part in fun garden-themed activities before completing the loop.

Date: Saturday, June 15, 2013

Start location: River Road Community Garden, 780 E. Huisache at Allison Dr.

Sign-in and group assignments: 7am

First tour group departs: 7:30am

Closure and festivities: 12pm

To register (\$25) or learn more, visit greensatx.org or call 210.222.8430.

SicloVerde is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit community gardens in the San Antonio area.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THAT MORNING TO SERVE AS JEFFERSON COMMUNITY GARDEN HOSTS TO THE VISITING CYCLISTS (handing out water, etc.; this is a kid-friendly service opportunity).

INTERESTED IN A ONE OR TWO-HOUR SHIFT? Email Sarah at MonticelloParkNA@yahoo.com

President's Message



Is it almost summer already? If only we lived in an area where you could enjoy the nice weather and walk to a restaurant or a park, or catch the bus to downtown... oh, wait - we

DO! Someone should do a study and rank some of these features of the neighborhoods in San Antonio... oh, wait - they DID! Perhaps an interested

Board Member should email the lead researcher and see if he could present at our next General Assembly Meeting... oh, wait - she DID! Come join us on Monday, June 3rd to hear about the City of San Antonio Neighborhood Sustainability Assessment Project. Until then, you can check out the report at sa-neighborhoodsustainability.org.

"So what is up with that huge swath of asphalt on Fredericksburg Road where that shopping center used to be? Wasn't it going to be a park or something?" I have been asked those questions a lot over the past few months, and the good news is that the County is (finally) beginning on Phase 2 of the Laddie Place III project. Over the next year, asphalt and dirt will be carted off, grass planted, and trails installed. Most importantly, the area will serve as a stormwater retention area that will remove many neighborhood homes from the floodplain.

The scholarship season was another great success. The MPNA scholarship committee recently interviewed 4 finalists from Jefferson High School. They came away so impressed that they suggested we give TWO scholarships this year. Congratulations to the recipients, and a special thanks to Sandee Gibson who chaired the committee. Speaking of scholarships, don't forget to turn in your applications for our semiannual beautification awards.

Summer also means it is time for another of our highly popular socials. This time it is at the O'Connor's home on North Drive. Bring a plate of appetizers, perhaps some wine, and sit and enjoy some entertaining neighborhood gossip, err... information.

We all have known someone who has passed away due to cancer. Unfortunately your MPNA Vice President, Frank, knows the pain as well. His wonderful wife, Sylvia, recently left us; and I encourage you to read the article about her in this newsletter.

There will be a lot of opportunities this summer to get out, socialize with neighbors, maybe even paint over graffiti. I hope to see you at some of them!

Rob Sipes
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

2013 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

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Adrian Contreras
Gary Hudman
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Ressie O'Connors
Sarah Rice
Michael Robbins

Newsletter Committee

Editors: Ferne Burney, Sarah Rice
For article and event submission
please call 734-2445 or email
monticelloparkna@yahoo.com

Advertising Mgrs: Board Members
For pricing info call 734-2445 or
visit monticelloparkna.com

MPNA
P.O. Box 5851
San Antonio, TX 78201

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office 207-7044
SAWS 724-7097
CPS 353-2222
Officer Joey Vidal 218-6546
SAPD, West Substation 207-7420
SAISD Police 271-3124
SAISD Truancy Office 223-2360
VIA Transit 362-2019
Code Compliance 311
Animal Control 311
Office of Historic Preservation 215-9274

*Ressie and Charlie O'Connors invite you to
their home for the next MPNA Social.*

Saturday, June 15

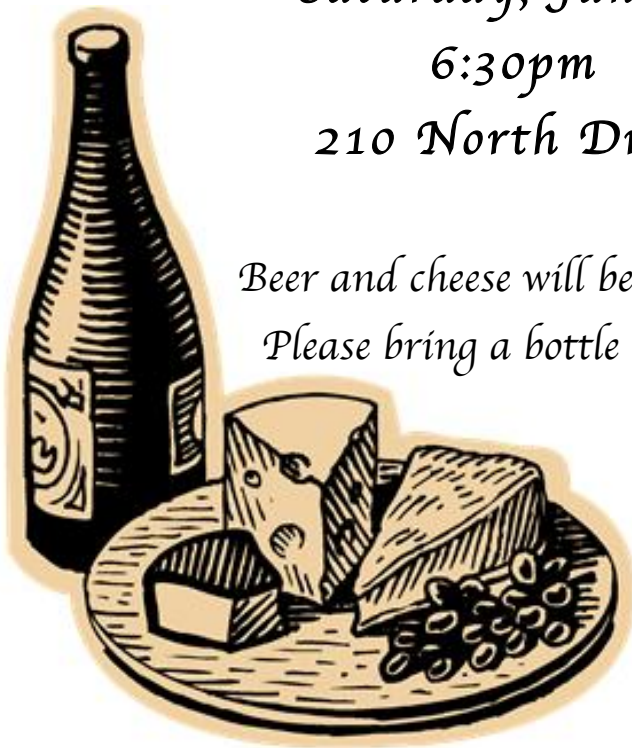
6:30pm

210 North Drive



Beer and cheese will be provided.

Please bring a bottle of wine and/or hors d'oeuvre to share.



See you there!

**BE SURE TO NOT MISS OUT ON ANY
NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS.**

JOIN THE MPNA FACEBOOK PAGE!

To join visit
facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/

Before you will be confirmed as a new member you
will need to send an email with "MPNA FB Group" in
the subject line to MonticelloParkNA@yahoo.com.

Within the body of the email please include your:

- 1) name
- 2) home address
- 3) what you love most about Monticello Park

*Thank you, Charlie O'Connors, for creating the
MPNA Facebook page!*





Congratulations to Thomas Jefferson High School Seniors **Kevin Campos** and **James San Miguel**, both winners of an MPNA Scholarship. Kevin, headed to Texas A&M University to study petroleum engineering, will receive \$1,000 and James, headed to The Los Angeles Recording School to study music and production, will receive \$750.

Thank you MPNA Scholarship Chair, Sandee Gibson, and committee members Ferne Burney and Sarah Rice for your work this year on the MPNA Scholarship.

HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV is back with all new episodes!
See the show on TVSA Channel 21:

Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm



View current and past episodes of HPTV online at the OHP Website here (sorry, PC only). Recent episodes include a look at the relocation of historic structures, including an 18th century Virginia log cabin relocated to San Antonio in the 1950s! If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see covered on HPTV, contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.

MPNA TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking \$7510.32
Savings \$3901.49
CD \$11,329.70

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 1 – MPNA Garage Sale 9am-4pm (see below)

Saturday, June 15

SicloVerde: a bicycle tour of six community gardens in central San Antonio

hosted by Green Spaces Alliance. 7am-12pm. greensatx.org or 222-8430 (see back cover)

Free Community Health Fair: Davis Scott Family YMCA; 1213 Iowa St; 12-4pm (Page 10)

May 24-June 23 – “In the Heights” @ Woodlawn Theatre

May 30-June 9 – “The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs” @ Woodlawn Theatre Black Box

Saturday, June 29 - Council District 7 presents Movies by the Lake at Woodlawn Lake Park,
1103 Cincinnati, between the pavilion and the basketball courts. Begins at dusk. Title TBD.

Saturday, July 27 - Council District 7 presents Movies by the Lake at Woodlawn Lake Park.
Begins at dusk. Title TBD.

Thursday, July 4 – Children’s picnic and parade at Woodlawn Lake (details will be posted on
The MPNA Facebook page and MonticelloParkNA.com as they become available)

Recurring Events

Second Sunday – On the 2nd Sunday of each month Deco Pizzeria hosts **Sexy Second Sunday Brunch 10:30am-2:30pm** (Page 9)

Mondays & Wednesdays @ 6pm – FREE Yoga classes @ Jefferson United Methodist Church. Call Dorothy Milligan at 735-5221 or email dmilligan@jeffumc.org

Tuesdays 12-1pm - "Lunch Bunch" @ Jefferson United Methodist Church in Jackson Community Hall. Enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship for only \$3. If you’re on the run, let them know at the door you want a To-Go order.

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is hosting a garage sale
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, from 9am-4pm
at the pocket park next to
Thomas Jefferson High School
(444 Club).

The cost to rent a space is only \$25
and you don’t even have to worry
about putting out signs! Contact
Adrian at 210.385.1729
to reserve your space today!



Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Beautification Application

Please complete the application below. The application is a 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 Sunday, June 30, 2013. 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.

APPLICATION GUIDELIENS ON NEXT PAGE

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 Sunday, June 30, 2013.
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 on the application page.

MPNA BUSINESS BUZZ



Sexy Second Sunday Brunch @ Deco Pizzeria By Sarah Rice

I'm guessing most of you have been to Deco Pizzeria. BUT, have you been to Sexy Second Sunday Brunch at Deco?

For better or worse, each time my thoughts tinkered with this article I'd hear Justin Timberlake in my head singing "I'm bringing sexy back" with the ensuing repetition of "Get your sexy on." That's the power of music, right? Subconsciously, it makes its imprint.

And music is exactly one of the mediums used to create the sexy vibe that permeates this brunch that takes place at Deco Pizzeria the 2nd Sunday of each month. The patio opens at 10:30am and brunch menu items are served until 2:30 – although DJ Lando is happy to stay and play as long as there's a crowd.

DJ Lando happens to be one of our own Monticello Park residents. In fact, you may recognize him and his wife, Kelly, as one of the hosts of the 2012 Monticello Park Tour of Homes. He and Deco Pizzeria owner, Jacob Valenzuela, hatched the idea of Sexy Second Sunday Brunch.



Owner, Jacob Valenzuela, enjoying a mimosa on Deco's patio.

Says Lando, "I have wanted to do a Dance Club type brunch since I was introduced to the concept in 2000 at a place called La Strada (in Houston). They had a Sunday Brunch that would last all day; with DJs' drink specials and a positive fun loving crowd that would drink, flirt and dance all day. It's actually silly to call it a Brunch because it would last until the early evening. Fast Forward to 2011



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■ 210.732.DECO (3326)
■ www.decopizza.com

when Deco first opened, I saw the potential to recreate such an event. I was in the process of doing major renovation to my house and would often go to Deco to get 'To Go' pizza. I met Jacob a couple of times... We talked about places we have been and the idea of a fun funky brunch came up. That was all it took! Jacob was excited because he had been to La Strada's Sunday Brunch. We talked for a few minutes and decided that it was something that needed to happen. We made plans to talk about it more in the Spring, and here we are...Sexy Second Sunday Brunch."

When I asked him how else he would describe the musical vibe he creates for brunch besides "sexy" he replied, "I think Sexy would be the one word to describe the vibe, but if you want a couple more I like Cool, Smooth, Summer, Breezy, Fun, Sultry (kind of like his picture to the right). I want to create a Sunset Club or Beach Party Vibe. I'm trying to use music to create a Soundscape for people have fun, relax and feel a little groove. I want to see a crowd drinking, smiling, flirting and some heads moving to the beat. And, yes, I would love to see people dance."



To do this he plays House, Disco House, Deep House and Balearic beat music. He might sprinkle some current dance hits, but only if they fit his set. He also plays a little downtempo and chill-out for the folks who come earlier to the brunch... a before noon set.

Yup, that's right. You are nearing the end of the page and I haven't even started to talk about the food even though this is an article on a brunch. Why? I want you to experience the passion and creativity that go into this monthly experience – to bring to life for you the uniqueness of this brunch among the ocean of eating options here.

