

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



November - December 2015

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Jan Peranteau

The story is an age-old tale of a woman abandoned by a man for a young princess. Left behind, a wife and two children live in quiet desperation. The wife cries and moans. She cannot be comforted. She seeks revenge. This is the story of Medea, by Euripides, playing until the end of November at the Classic Theater on Fredericksburg Road. Sharing space with the Woodlawn Theater, the Classic Theater offers four plays a year.



Medea is currently being presented at the Cameo Theater on Fredericksburg Road

Kelly Hilliard Roush, executive director, talked about the theater and its purpose. "These are stories that resonate with people again and again. They are classic stories, told through a contemporary lenses." Coming to the theater in June, Roush brings her experience as a professional artist, educator, and administrator of over twenty-five years back to her home base, San Antonio. She received a B.A. from Baylor in Theater and English. She holds a M.F.A. in Professional

Actor Training from Louisiana State University. Some of her favorite roles include Catherine in *Proof*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Anne Bronte in the *Bronte Project*, and Masha in *The Seagull*. Most recently she served as Assistant Professor of Theater at Aurora University. She said the theater is in its eighth season.

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**ATTEND THE
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
General Assembly Meeting**

Monday,

November 30

7PM

950 Donaldson

Grace Presbyterian Church

Program:

**TCI and Capital
Improvements will give us
updates on the streets in
need of work within the
MPNA**

**If this looks like a repeat, it is!
They were not at the last meeting,
so they will be at this one.**

President's Message

Happy Fall!

The weather has changed and it feels wonderful!

MPNA By-Law Amendments update: During the 9/28 meeting, the by-law amendments were ratified by the General Assembly unanimously.

Transportation and Capital Improvements: It was announced at the last General Assembly meeting the 100-500 blocks of Club Drive will be reconstructed in 2016. Scope of work to include: street, sidewalks, and curbs. MPNA requested Club Drive improvements during the City's Budget input as it was removed from the five year IMP (infrastructure maintenance program) for work. Also, the 300 block of Mary Louise and 200 Block of Club Alley will see work to address drainage concerns. TCI will be at the MPNA meeting on 11/30 to update the General Assembly on requests for Donaldson Ave and a complete sidewalk on Lake Blvd.

Drainage Repairs at Kampmann/Club Drive: Did you see the closure on Kampmann last week? During rain events, water was draining slower than normal and was a concern as it's an area within the 100 year flood plain. MPNA asked the City's Storm Water Management Division to inspect the connection from the street to the underground drainage. Cameras indicated a 50% blockage in the lateral connection, therefore repairs were made immediately. Street work and asphalt repair are all that remain for completion. Did you know the drainage channels under Kampmann are large enough for a vehicle to drive through? Lots of water moves under our community heading to Woodlawn Lake.

CPS Power Outages: The lights have been out 3 times in the past 9 weeks in the community. The first 2, in September and October were caused by human error and the 3rd, in November was a tool failure. CPS Reliability Engineer stated training had occurred with employees and please contact them if you have additional questions or concerns. 210.353.2222.

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President: Bianca Maldonado
385-6188
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286-9212
Secretary: Ressie O'Connors
210-284-0092
Treasurer: Richard Weik
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Tony Sanchez 210-269-2886
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MonticelloParkNA.com

or check us out on Facebook
[facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA/)

Newsletter Committee Editors:

Ferne Burney article and event submission
please call 734-2445 or email
ferneburney@hotmail.com

For ad 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
	207-1363
SAPD, West Substation	207-7420
SAPD Emergency	911
SAPD Non-emergency	207-7273
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
Ron Meyers	219-2093
Historic Building Enforcement Officer	

.....*President's message, continued from page 2*

SAWS Water main break: Halloween evening (yes, even with the rain) there was a water line break at North Drive and Shearer. The line was repaired and all that remains is the asphalt and sidewalk repairs. Remember, please call SAWS to report all "running water" locations at 210.724.7097

Crime: With the Holidays approaching, it is important to remember to secure your property. Lock your vehicle, take your keys, and hide your belongings. While we sleep, we never know who could look into the windows of our vehicles. Eyewear, change, bags, and items left in plain sight within a vehicle are luring to thieves. If you are travelling over the upcoming holidays, communicate with your neighbors. Most importantly, if you see something suspicious, say something! Call SAPD's non emergency 210.207.7273 at any hour of the day. SAPD wants you to call them. They will not come to your home unless you request it. I cannot stress this enough; trust your gut instincts. Please utilize SAPD Officer Joey Vidal for home safety inspections. He attends all MPNA meetings. His contact info: 210.218.6546 (M) or 210.218.6546 (O).

HEB: MPNA has reached out to the Deco HEB management to attend the upcoming General Assembly meeting to address safety concerns at their store. Confirmation pending but likely there will be a representative to speak to recent events.

Hope to see you on the 30th! May you have a joyful holiday season!

Regards,
Bianca Maldonado

Save the Date!

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association
Christmas Tour of Homes
December 4, 2016

for more info or for questions, contact Gary Hudman,
ghudman@earthlink.net

It's Not Too Early To Begin Brainstorming New Year's Resolutions

By Sarah Rice, Jefferson Community Garden Steward

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY GARDEN
MONTICELLO PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

As this year winds down and you begin to anticipate 2016, I hope you keep the Jefferson Community Garden (JCG) in mind. The JCG is so much more than Garden Party Saturdays (when you can get a tour of the garden and/or volunteer).

Likely, you have a yard and you know what it takes to keep it looking good. The thought of having to take care of your place and then volunteering somewhere else can be overwhelming. I get it. I'm with you. But, here's the thing. I don't want the community garden to be a burden. It's a beautiful and calming place. There, I get to cultivate the earth with a sense of contribution to the community, the greater good. People drive and walk by and stop to see and ask what I'm doing. While still a novice/intermediate gardener I get to share my love of plants and nature with others.

In time I hope the JCG becomes an educational setting for students and young children. In fact, we already have a group of students from Thomas Jefferson High School making regular visits to the garden and a teacher from Woodlawn Academy has approached me about getting her younger students involved. This excites me and gets my mind racing about the garden's endless possibilities and future. And yet there's that regular maintenance thing that has to be taken care of in addition to dreaming about Daddy Daughter garden tea parties and butterfly bonanzas, etc.

If Saturdays don't work for you to come out and get your hands and possibly knees dirty with neighbors, there are a slew of opportunities that can be done on your own time based upon your personal availability. Would you enjoy being **Ruler of the Roses**? Come out every two weeks and spend about 15-20 minutes trimming back the roses growing uncomfortably into the bench seating area and weave the longer growths up the

arbor. Do you have **10 Minutes for Trash**? If you could swing by once a week and simply pick up any trash you see that would be immensely appreciated. Would you like to be the **Fruit Trees Steward**? If you have 15 minutes a week to fill the gator bags with water you could play a key role in the health and productivity of our fruit trees!

And if time is something you don't have you can still play an important role in the JCG. Two of the most generous JCG contributors I've witnessed are Terri Carrisal and Sylvia de los Santos. When JCG's water source was cut off for 2+ years they graciously let the garden connect to the water at their residence. That was HUGE. If you've lived in San Antonio for awhile you've experienced the droughts and accompanying water restrictions. Without their contribution we might not have a community garden today.

The community garden would love to receive donations of garden tools, money for plants and supplies, or garden art (especially that YOU created). Are you a Starbucks junkie? When you get your coffee fix ask the store if you can have any coffee grounds they have. Generally, they'll send you with a trash bag of grounds and ask if you want help carrying the hefty bag to your car. The garden's compost bins would love to have your coffee offering!

Honestly, I'll be thrilled if one of your resolutions is simply to visit the JCG once a week or month. The garden is meant to be ENJOYED.

To learn more about the JCG garden and how you can get involved...

1. Come for a Garden Party Saturday, 8-10:30am
 2. Email jeffersoncommunitygarden@yahoo.com
 3. Call 210.387.2108
- and/or
4. Visit "Jefferson Community Garden" on Facebook

Continued from page 1.....

Roush explained, "Theater is a way that all the elements of life come together. From theater we see, I am not alone. Things get said behind closed doors and those same things are said in the theater." In addition to *Medea*, Classic Theater will present *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov, And *Born Yesterday*, by Garson Kanin. Previously presented was *Master Class* by Terrence McNally.

The format is the black box, Roush said. "The box may be moved in any configuration. Currently, we seat 80 people. Mark Stringham, the director of the production, chose the thrust configuration with the audience seated on three sides, thus hemming in the characters. But people like the configuration to change with each production." She said that maximum seating capacity is 99. So the seating is intimate. Audience members easily see each other. "On opening night of *Medea*, someone in the audience fainted." This reporter wondered, "What happened?" "Water was brought to the person and the play went on. Really, the audience becomes a part of it all and each night is different," she said.



The stage setting for Medea at the Classic Theater

When asked how long it takes to produce a play from beginning to end, she said, "It takes from nine months to a year. It's just like giving birth." At six months, ideas are presented to the design team and prior to that is the decision of which plays will be produced. " At 2 months out, castings for parts are made. Actual rehearsals begin about six weeks before opening night. And, of course, there is all the technical work—the lighting, staging, and costumes, and more. The last week is long and devoted to all the details of the play. "On the Saturday before production, we put in a ten hour day making sure costumes, lights, and design are all in place and creating the desired effect," Roush said.

Taking a tour of the facility, a dressing room for men and one for women stood, with all the costumes and carpeted floors for absorbing sound. Behind stage are restrooms as well as a kitchen area. Sets generally tend to be simple, but can be complex with structures on stage. In the set for this play, the mosaic

floor painted on stage is particularly beautiful with a medallion or star at the center of the mosaic. Greek columns are created, adding to the entire scene. A sound room with screens is to the side of the foyer. The foyer itself is being used as a gallery space to display different artists- currently Susie Monday of El Cielo Studio, Pipe Creek, Tx. Her pieces feature colorful quilt murals.

What is their connection with Woodlawn Theater? Roush said, "We are both non-profits. Woodlawn Theater does musicals. We don't compete." It is a nice marriage. We help each other. We share a bathroom and a bar where Classic Theater goers may get a drink before the show and take care of necessities."

And the price for Season tickets? Seniors, Military, and educators are \$72. Regular tickets sell for \$25 each. Student tickets are \$10. For more information, call 210-589-8450 to make reservations or go on line at classictheater.org.

In an Express News article, Georgette Lockwood thinks back to the time she first saw *Medea*, when she was a junior at Churchill High School. She wondered, "Will I ever be good enough to do *Medea*?" She plays *Medea* now and her perspective has changed. "Before I thought she was unrelatable and so far out there. The more I work on it, I realize how accessible it actually is. I'm realizing it could happen to anybody."



Kelly Hilliard Roush at the Classic Theater on Fredericksburg Road

I Want More Than A House In A Neighborhood

By Sarah Rice

I want a home nestled in a thriving community.

As I prepare for Thanksgiving and reflect on those things for which I am most grateful, where I live ranks pretty high. I'm a nature girl. I *need* to be outside. For a significant period of time. Every day. We are blessed to live on lots with mature trees that serve as habitats to numerous birds and other critters. Woodlawn Lake is basically our backyard and I don't know if you've ever experienced a sunset there, but if you need to regain some serenity in your life catching one of those, Sweet Neighbors, will bring some instant recalibration to the end of a hectic, harried day. We also have a lovely community garden where you can sit for a spell amongst the fragrance of beautiful roses or where you can connect with neighbors while keeping that rose arbor trimmed and pretty and tending to the veggie, herb and butterfly plots on Garden Party Saturdays.

As much as Nature's art plays a role in my well-being I also love art created by humans. Have you taken one of Bihl Haus Arts' annual *On and Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tours* and checked out the awesome diversity of artists living right next to you? Each year Bihl Haus (bihlhausarts.org) coordinates this cool studio tour where you can check out the creations of local artists right where they make 'em (which is often at their homes!). I look forward to this event each year and am amazed at the talent surrounding me. Mark February 20 & 21 on your calendar for next year's tour!

I'm also enamored with the architectural art of my neighborhood. No two houses look alike and the attention paid to detail in these historic homes is exquisite. Each home has its own personality and the unique ways in which the owners choose to express that is fascinating. December 4, 2016 (NEXT year) is the Monticello Park Christmas Home Tour and you don't want to miss it!

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, is the social activity and friendships of Monticello Park. When I talk to "outsiders" I share how immensely thankful I am that my neighbors aren't just neighbors. They're *friends* (and work colleagues too; isn't it splendid when your worlds collide?). We care about one another and we share our time and talents with each other. When children are born or illness visits meals are delivered. I'm thankful for my neighbor, Laura, who cooks more than her household can eat and asks me if I want the surplus (I'm more of a gardener than a cook). I love that I can share my homegrown produce with neighbors who bring over fruit from their heirloom trees. I love gorgeous days that are perfect for yard work and the weekends before brush pickup. You have to allocate ample, make that *extra* time, to execute outdoor projects because these are the ideal days for neighbors to stop you in your yard for a congenial catch-up conversation.

Once upon a time, I could stand outside my home and see five unoccupied houses. It felt lonely. Now they're all inhabited and many have kids running around in the yard. Play dates take place. Adults meet up for home dinners and excursions around the city. I get a bit of the small town feel, living seven or so minutes from the downtown of a 1.4M+ population city. I love it.



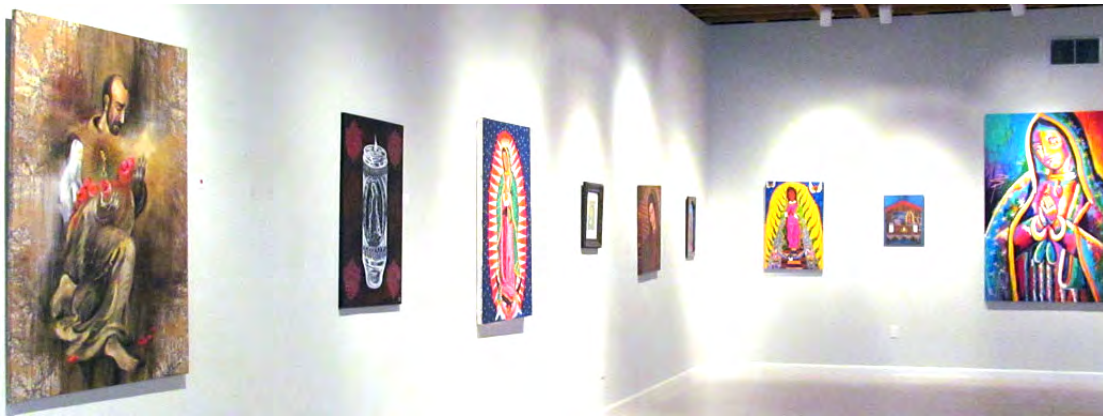
And frankly, I think it's fantastic that there's a pink flamingo taking flight through Monticello Park. It landed in the yard of 210 North Drive in November and will land in another yard come January. If you're thinking "Wait, WHAT?!" then check out the MPNA Facebook page because that's a pretty fabulous way to connect with your neighbors too.

Here's to a Happy Thanksgiving and to YOU for making Monticello Park a marvelous place to live.

20th Annual " Celebration a la Virgen de Guadalupe Exhibit"

Another annual event that people have come to expect and participate in is the *Celebracion a La Virgen de Guadalupe* on December 12th. In addition to exploring this secular icon and its significance in the Latin American community, visitors can experience this phenomenon through a visual narrative showcasing a myriad of artistic representations by some of San Antonio's most noted artists. The exhibition often includes Virgen de Guadalupe inspired hand pulled prints, wall hangings, acrylic, oil & water color paintings, wood sculptures and handmade jewelry.

Central Cultura Aztlan
1800 Fredericksburg Rd



MPNA Board of Directors Election

At the November 30th MPNA General Assembly meeting elections will be held for the 2016 Board of Directors. The nomination committee will be submitting the following individuals for consideration:

President: Bianca Maldonado
Vice President: Gary Hudman
Secretary: Drea Garza
Treasurer: Tom Simmons

Board Members:
Ron Hubbert
Jamie Jasso
Ressie O'Connors
Laura Reid
Tony Sanchez
Patrick Shea

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

What a fantastic National Night Out held at Monticello Park! Over 185 people came out to the MPNA and JNA NNO. Thank you to the sponsors: Cavender Toyota, Grady's on Fredericksburg Rd, Deco HEB, SAWS and the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event possible!

Special Guests: Mayor Ivy Taylor, SAPD Assistant Chief Geraldine Garcia, SAPD Deputy Chief Anthony Muro, DA Nico Lahood, State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer, Senator Jose Menedez, D7 Representative Cris Medina, MPNA SAPD SAFFE Officer Joey Vidal, JNA SAPD SAFFEE Officer Marcos Serda, Mc Gruff, SAPD Explorers, HEB Buddy, Deco HEB volunteers and City of San Antonio Code Compliance Officer Olga Wolff.



Left: Mayor Ivy Taylor addresses the crowd.

Above: Officer Joey Vidal entertains one of our younger MPNA members while Bianca Maldonado gabs with a neighbor.



A new Friday night event will occur in the MPNA area. When you see the pink flamingo in the front yard, the part is on for Friday night.

Watch for reminders on the Facebook page for the MPNA. Let's meet, greet, and enjoy life!

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

2015 Beautification & Restoration Award Application

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), with a donation from the Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation, is proud to announce \$4000 for the 2015 MPNA Beautification and Restoration Award. Please complete the application below.

Projects eligible for Beautification and Restoration award must be visible from the street. Some examples: wood window restoration, wood door restoration, roof, exterior masonry repairs, wood screen restoration, painting and new landscaping. New construction projects will not be considered.

Application is due by Sunday, January 31, 2016 and can be turned in to any MPNA board member or mailed. Projects must be completed between 1/1/2015 and 1/31/2016

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please provide a description of the scope of the project. 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.

All Applications MUST include the following documentation:

1. Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation.
2. Itemized list of all expenditures associated with project for award consideration.
3. Copies of receipts that show proof of payment with detail of the scope of project and materials.
4. Photos of "before" and "after" the project.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

The MPNA is hosting a Holiday Social at the home of

Wayne Ehrisman
402 Mary Louise Drive

on **December 19, 2015**

beginning at 6:00 pm

The Association will provide the main dish. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you have a special beverage you want to share, that too would be welcomed.

We hope to see you there!





MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
The MPNA is for everyone (owners and renters)

Yes, I want to invest in my neighborhood. Enclosed is my 2015 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

Social Activities Garage Sale Fundraiser Historic Preservation

Scholarship Home Tour Newsletter

Other: _____

Send to: **MPNA, P.O. Box 5851, San Antonio, Texas 78201**

The MPNA has worked hard to achieve its §501(c)(3) status. What does that mean to you? Any dues paid, any donation to the association (such as for scholarships), any expense to you on behalf of the Association is now tax deductible. Check with your tax preparer concerning any deductions you want to take.



Follow us on Facebook at “Monticello Park Neighborhood Association”
Find out the latest news, find a lost pet, and make a new friendship!

San Antonio Express New Realtor Spotlight

Rey Garza Real Estate

By Jeanette McNamee

San Antonio's most-established neighborhoods hold a special attraction for Realtor Rey Garza, who was born and grew up here.

Garza started in the real estate business 40 years ago, and opened Rey Garza Real Estate in 1997.

"San Antonio is filled with neighborhoods and pockets of distinct and proud communities," he said. "I love rediscovering these neighborhoods and introducing them to the younger generation of homebuyers who want to live and work closer to downtown."

“

I love rediscovering these neighborhoods and introducing them to the younger generation of homebuyers who want to live and work closer to downtown.

”

Q&A

with Rey Garza

What areas or communities do you serve?

All my agents reside inside Loop 410, in such unique and vibrant neighborhoods as the Deco District, where a lot of restoration and redevelopment is taking place.

There is a trend of buyers being attracted to neighborhoods such as Jefferson, Tobin Hill and Alta Vista because of the unique and timeless architecture. There is a whole generation of buyers who are being drawn back to San Antonio's original suburbs for the exact reason that made them popular to begin with: affordability, accessibility and well-built homes with character.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

It is a fantastic feeling to be an integral part of my client's life event, particularly with repeat clients. After 40 years in the business, it is not uncommon for me to sell someone their first home, then transition them into a bigger home as their family grows and their housing needs change.

I can't stress enough the importance of working with a Realtor who knows your area. San Antonio's real estate market is transforming before our eyes. If you are selling, it is important that your Realtor understands your competition and the consumer that is drawn to your area because that is how we competitively price and successfully market your home.



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