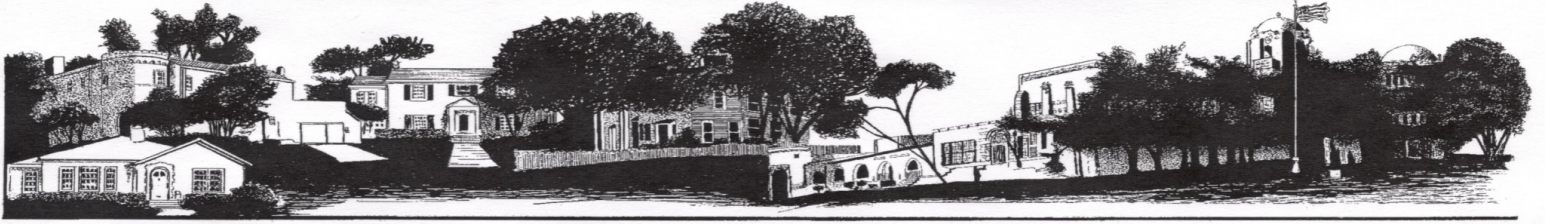


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MPNA is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

January – February 2019

Please attend the
Monticello Park
Neighborhood
Association **General
Assembly Meeting**

MONDAY
January 28, 2019
7:00 PM

950 Donaldson, Grace
Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM

Park Improvements

Homelessness in
Monticello Park

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

by Jan Peranteau

The poinsettias look stringy. Petals litter the floor or table where they sit. In the evenings, a few people still have their Christmas lights on. Their windows glow with sparkling Christmas trees, but most houses have been stripped of holiday gaiety and seem barren against cold winter-gray skies. And yet a new year has been begun.

Before leaving 2018, we remember those people of our neighborhood who died.

Amador Cuellar—April 22, 20118, age 90

Joe Delmas—August 20, 2018, age 69

Rita Mitchell—October 25, 2018, age 86

Mary Elaine Karam—November 28, 2018

The neighborhood gained some new residents in 2018. Jenson and Elizabeth Reigers moved into the peach house on Furr with doggie, Clementine. They recently married. Two orange trees out front of the house proclaim a bountiful crop and a box on the front steps offers oranges to passers-by.

Deborah Rowan and Mike Beasley married this fall and Deborah is in the process of moving to San Antonio from Kerrville. Hopefully, she becomes a permanent resident of Monticello Park.



Deborah Rowan and Mike Beasley

Matthew Mireles and Ellie Henson moved into the neighborhood in 2017, but this year was significant—they tied the knot and Ellie added another last name to hers-- now living in wedded bliss after a honeymoon in New Zealand.

.....continued on page 5

President's Message

New year. New neighborhood president. That's right, during our final General Assembly meeting of 2018, I was honored to be elected president of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA). It's a role I do not take lightly. Given the level of commitment, knowledge, persistence, energy, and vision of our two most recent presidents, Gary Hudman and Bianca Maldonado, I have some very big shoes to fill.

While I serve as a new leader in our neighborhood, it is not up to me to turn Monticello Park into the greatest neighborhood in the city. It is up to all of us, in ways large and small, to do something to make it a better place to live. For some, it may be a renewed commitment to cut the grass, rake the leaves, paint the trim, plant flowers and ensure our homes grow in value by improving and preserving the best features of the unique architecture and style of our community and make Monticello bello. For others, it may be using your daily walk to pick up the cans and bottles that litter our gutters and public spaces for recycling or notify 3-1-1 (have you tried the city's new app?) of potholes plaguing some of our streets. How about taking your participation a step further and organizing a Neighborhood Clean-Up day?

At the very least, I hope that you will make a commitment to attend our General Assemblies to learn the latest from the offices of our elected officials, our neighborhood's SAFE officer, and other invited guests, as we tackle opportunities to improve our neighborhood. It is not enough to simply complain on Facebook (FB) about our sidewalks, the recent increase and visibility of the homeless, the graffiti in our neighborhood, and other issues. While FB is an important platform for information sharing, it takes people willing to give just a little bit of their time working collaboratively to achieve our goals for a cleaner, safer, more active and engaged neighborhood.

Your MPNA Board is comprised of volunteers, many of whom are busy parents, caregivers of their parents, gainfully employed and overly-committed people, just like you.

.....continued on page 3

President: Cathy Teague (Furr)
210-415-6670
Vice President: Gary Hudman (Mary Louise)
210-286-9212
Secretary: Drea Garza (Furr)
210-643-4760
Treasurer: Tom Simmons (Club)
210-701-4300

Board Members
Scott Gustafson
Ressie O'Connors
Tony Sanchez

Visit MonticelloParkNA.com

Or

Check us out on Facebook
Facebook.com/groups/MonticelloParkNA

Newsletter Committee

Editor: Ferne Burney

Article and event submission, please call 210-734-2445
or email ferneburney@hotmail.com

For ad pricing information, call
210-734-2445 or visit monticelloParkNA.com

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HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office. 210-207-7044
SAWS 210-424-7097
CPS 210-353-2222
Officer Vincent Cano 210-207-0803
(Cell) 210-394-1398
Vincent.cano@sanantonio.gov
SAPD, West Substation. 210-207-7420
SAPD, Non-emergency. 210-207-7273
SAISD Truancy Office. 210-223-2360
VIA Transit 210-362-2020
Code Compliance 311
Animal Control 311
Office of Historic Preservation 210-215-9274
Historic Building Enforcement Officer
report@sapreservation.com

...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 2

We, as a Board, need just a little bit of your time, your energy, your knowledge, and your passion for Monticello Park to help us. Can you make that commitment to serve your community in 2019? When we approach you for a small favor or a volunteer opportunity, can you say "yes?" I know I speak for the entire board when I say that we need your support. You can make a difference in our small world.

Many of you remember the days—not so long ago--when dozens rallied for Saturday morning neighborhood clean-ups and graffiti removal, attended our annual National Night Out events and showed up ready to have a good time at our famous Pink Flamingo parties. We've successfully revived our annual July 4th Kids' Parade, we've added signage to improve the safety of our children and cyclists and we want to find new ways to use our soon-to-be-improved pocket park. Music or movies under the stars anyone? Would you help make something like this happen?

It is an exciting time to live here! I am so encouraged by the young families, singles, artists, entrepreneurs, and honored elders living in MP whom I call my friends and neighbors. I want to get to know more of you. All of you have much to teach me and I promise to listen and learn. We have lots to be thankful for living where we do yet, there is so much still needed to keep all aspects of Monticello Park moving forward. Won't you consider raising your hand and joining the cause in 2019? I hope so, because we're counting on you.

Cathy Teague
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Our Neighborhood Park Upgrades

The city of San Antonio's TCI Department is moving full steam ahead in working with the Board to wrap up final changes to complete the Master Plan and vision for our Pocket Park. A recent update from our TCI contact, Alma Nunez, has revealed significant progress has been made in defining the scope and design details of the improvements we prioritized: a new, stamped concrete walking trail, enhancements to the pavilion including seating and decorative elements to bring added beauty to the structure and, hopefully, rejuvenated signage to replace what currently stands along Club Drive.

You may have already noticed that, working with District 7, we recently secured "No Parking" signage along the Kampmann side of the park so that cyclists aren't pushed out of their dedicated lane and into the street in this busy portion of our neighborhood. City police are also enforcing this restriction, which we appreciate.

This kind of cooperation between neighborhood leaders, our elected city council office, city departments and law enforcement can ensure MPNA's vision can become a reality. With city council approval set for April, TCI's goal is to complete the bid process so that work at the Park can begin no later than early May. Learn more at our next General Assembly meeting on January 28.

Need Assistance with Potholes, Stray Animals, Garbage, and more? City help is at your fingertips.

DOWNLOAD THE 311 APP



311 **SAN ANTONIO**



There Are Not Enough Words



If there's one thing I've learned from watching my predecessor, it is that busy people somehow find a way to make room in their lives to do more. Gary Hudman, the Board's last president, somehow found the time in his life to serve and we on the Board and our neighborhood certainly benefitted from his thoughtful, skillful and tenacious leadership.

Not only did Gary organize and lead our Board and General Assembly meetings in 2017 and 2018, he spearheaded last year's 16th Biennial Holiday Home Tour and Christmas Market. Utilizing the

talents of another small team of volunteers, he pushed hard and ensured it was our most successful home tour ever. We will have a final report during our next General Assembly meeting.

Gary also returned the traditional 4th of July Kid's Parade to Monticello's own Pocket Park and pushed for the original desired park upgrades (which will begin later this year) and vision of our community to be realized. As our representative at a host of other governmental meetings large and small, Gary ensured our voice was heard on topics such as gentrification, traffic and safety, historic preservation, and beautification. All of this was while balancing new responsibilities and job demands and undertaking the demolition and reconstruction of his own gem of a home in our neighborhood.

Gary has agreed to continue to serve on the Board as our Vice-President in 2019 and I can't tell you how thankful I am personally to have his wisdom and experience to lean on as we work to accomplish new goals moving forward. Thank you for your great leadership Gary. We're a better community because of you!

.....Continued from page 1



*Ellie and Matthew
Mireles*

Babies, babies—they are everywhere, but somehow, I haven't been introduced. So, here's to all the new arrivals.

Another couple moved onto Furr Drive, Larry and Mary Tutor. They remodeled, constructed a new privacy fence and painted the exterior of their house. They have even joined into the fun of a few neighborhood parties.

Finally, Lydia and David Lerma moved back into their stone house after three years of repair from a gut-wrenching fire on a cold November night. The move-in day was July 7, 2018. It is so good to see the evening lights come on at their house now. They are in the midst of raising two grandchildren after the sudden death of their daughter, Sarah.

When talking to Lydia, she said, "We still aren't finished, but we are home." She described a few of the problems—familiar to many-- contractors leaving before work is completed, plumbing problems, a floor that buckled because of a water leak under the house. A back porch needs to be completed, and the insurance money has run out. Still, they are home and we are delighted to have them.

A new year begins. Whether one makes resolutions or not, it is certainly a time for reflection. How will we spend our time, talents and money? Where will we travel? What new things are we willing to try? What books will we read? How can give service to our community? What movies will we see? And the list goes on. Questions haunt us about the meaning of life.

How can I experience belonging?
How can I live purposefully?
How can I forgive and who will forgive me?
What can I let go of?
How can I be true to myself?

Whatever the questions, this quote from Mark Twain might be helpful.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mary and Larry Tutor

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Homelessness...It's Complicated

By Cathy Teague

Sometime during the recent holidays, I noticed them. A small group of men sitting between the old Furr Company Real Estate office and the VIA Primo bus stop near the intersection of Mary Louise and Fredericksburg Road. They were up to no good. Bold enough to not bother hiding their growing pile of beer cans and liquor bottles, you could see the discomfort of families waiting for a bus and the chance to escape what must have been an uncomfortable, even dangerous situation for them.

From the first time, I spotted them until later when I returned to MP and called SAPD non-emergency, their numbers grew. The following day, they were back. Again and yet again, they returned, congregating on the H-E-B side one evening, moving to the stone VIA shelter another night, shifting slightly each day, realizing they had to find new places to share their alcohol and to avoid detection.

There's no escaping the fact that Fredericksburg Road is a major thoroughfare for those men and women and even teenagers whose addictions, mental illness, joblessness, and need to escape the demons in their lives have brought them to our neighborhood in numbers we haven't seen before. They've approached me in parking lots and I've seen them dumpster-diving or picking through outdoor trash cans plenty of times, establishing "camps" in alleys, behind churches, etc.

It is complicated. Like many of my neighbors, the part of me grounded in my faith compels me to see those living homeless with compassionate eyes. I lead an annual sock drive at work and deliver those donations to Haven for Hope and yes, I've sometimes given money to those begging at a street corner when I know I shouldn't. I've also witnessed similar camps of men and women in other parts of our city and I've worried about their health and security on bitter, cold nights

Yet, I couldn't help but be shocked, angered and truly worried when a family living in our neighborhood recently had a frightening encounter with a homeless man, obviously mentally ill or high on drugs, who deliberately lashed out at them, damaging their car and scaring the life out of a child inside it. That kind of trauma...well, I have no words.

Our District 7 council member, Ana Sandoval, also recognizes that the issue is complicated with no one-size-fits-all solution. So, coincidentally did the father of the child so upset by the encounter. I encourage you to visit our Monticello Park FB page and read their mature, thoughtful exchange.

In my President's message, I asked you to get involved in 2019. Helping our neighborhood respond to the increased homelessness at our doorstep can be your first step.

Call our SAFE officer, SAPD, VIA Transit Police, Deco H-E-B and yes, your city council office (their numbers are on Page 2 of every newsletter) and report the problem in real time. Make these numbers a part of your phone's Contact List for quick access. Provide details...time, location, what you witnessed, etc. As Sandoval notes in her FB exchange, the more details they have, the "more effective we can be with our resources."

Join us at our next General Assembly, January 28, so we can hear your thoughts and discuss solutions. This is a crime problem, a safety issue, and yes, it is complicated.

Attention Neighbors!

Our next General Assembly Meeting is Monday, January 28th! Please plan to attend and participate as your Board listens to you and discusses issues that matter such as the increased homelessness in our neighborhood, park improvements and much more! The Assembly begins at 6:30p.m. at the Grace Presbyterian Church meeting room. The entrance is on Manor Street! See you there!

We Like to Party All the Time

If you like to socialize and get to know others in your neighborhood, always be on the look-out for the large Pink Flamingo signaling the site for our next Pink Flamingo party. Bring a covered dish or bring drinks (certainly bring your family, your guitar, whatever) to share and please plan on attending the kind of social event other neighborhoods only dream of hosting. We in Monticello Park make it happen! We are always looking for neighbors willing to use their driveways and backyards to host the next event. A Pink Flamingo party is a good way to contribute to the spirit of comradery in MP. Reach out to a Board member and we can tell you how easy we make it for you to host an event!



Trees!!!!!!!!!!

Some of our homes have beautiful, magnificent trees that stretch across our neighborhood streets. Many are native pecan and oak, offering shade for walkers and those with baby strollers or pets. Most will spark envy from anyone who lives in a newer neighborhood outside the loops. Other trees are decorative and add incredible beauty to our landscapes.

Recently, in his *San Antonio Express News* Saturday column “Down to Earth,” Neil Sperry offered great advice regarding crape myrtles--don’t top them off! All you need to do correctly to keep them blooming is remove the spent tips. Now is the perfect time to do so.

Retired horticulturist Calvin Finch shared in his gardening column that now is also another good time to trim your oak trees (you can also do it during the hottest time of the year). Prevent the spread of oak wilt by treating fresh “wounds” on tree immediately after they are made whether it is by intentional cutting or simply damage to the tree limbs. Keep a can of pruning paint on hand to avoid having to take more expensive measures should your tree become infected.

If you have cactus or shrubs, please ensure they don’t create visual barriers for drivers approaching a street corner or for those who use the sidewalk.

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Did You Notice?

Recently five, approximately 15-foot, sycamore trees were installed by the city's Parks Department along Club Drive just off Fredericksburg Road. The trees, which grow quickly and can be found throughout our neighborhood on private property, were installed in the large tree wells that were part of the curb, sidewalk and street improvements of a prior voter-approved bond issue to improve Club Drive.

Those wells sat empty for approximately three years while a variety of MPNA board members and others pushed several city departments to come together and fulfill the promise of trees to improve the appearance of this major entrance to our neighborhood.

Do you recycle your kitchen scraps and yard clippings in the green bins that lines our alleys and streets once a week? Our organic waste becomes the compost that is used to enrich the soil of flowerbeds in our city parks. Parks Department crews mixed compost into the once compacted soil found in the tree wells to ensure the trees have the right mix of old and new dirt and a real chance at survival. The trees are also on a three-year watering and maintenance schedule and perhaps most importantly, we have a contact name and number should we in the neighborhood notice something is wrong with the trees while they are getting established in their new home.

Thanks to the tenacity of the Board, TCI and Parks leadership and others at the city, Monticello Park is finally turning a large expanse of bland concrete and a source of great frustration into a place offering shade and a green "welcome" for walkers and drivers alike.

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is incredibly grateful for the Sponsors of our 2018 Holiday Home Tour and Christmas Market. We had our best tour ever because of your support!

PLATINUM

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2018 Holiday Home Tour Set Records!

by Gary Hudman

The weather was gorgeous, online tickets sold briskly, and our tour booklet was outstanding. All of these contributed to the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association's most outstanding home tour ever.

The 16th Biennial Holiday Home Tour set a record for tickets sold, thanks to online sales and a large number of patrons buying tickets on the day of the tour. Held December 2, 2018, the tour featured six gorgeous homes, the sanctuary of Jefferson United Methodist Church, and the exterior of Thomas Jefferson High School. The home tour is MPNA's largest fundraiser, and allows us to support neighborhood beautification projects and college scholarships.

The Home Tour Committee is extremely grateful to the generosity of our homeowners who allowed us to feature their homes on the tour. You are all fantastic!

- Alfred Peña and Mike Reyes
- Dr. Pat Wathen
- Maria & David Guerrero
- Megan Dodge & Scott Gustafson
- Lance Williamson & Leo Zappala
- Linda & Bob Shade

Hundreds of guests toured these gorgeous homes throughout the day, and we were delighted to see several city leaders on the tour. We also wish to thank Deux South Creative, who designed our tour posters and booklet. Your work was absolutely outstanding.

We are also extremely thankful for the support of our Sponsors. This year, we set a record for both number of Sponsors and total amount donated. Without these Sponsors, our Home Tour would not be a success. Please note the complete list of sponsors in this newsletter and consider patronizing their businesses and thanking them for their support.

This was the second year for our Christmas Market, featuring several dozen local artisans selling their wares at the Home Tour Headquarters. Many of these vendors also participated in the 2016 tour, so we feel sure they are enjoying the venue and opportunity to see so many patrons at the tour.

Finally, this tour would never have happened without the tireless work of the Home Tour Committee. This group worked for over a year to plan this event and I am extremely grateful for everything they did. Committee members included Drea Garza, Kathy Hernandez, Jan Peranteau, Tony Sanchez, Tom Simmons, Cathy Teague, and Earline Valdez. Gary Hudman chaired the committee.

The 2018 Tour raised approximately \$10,000, \$3,000 more than 2016! We will continue to build on this success for the next tour and hope to see all of you there. Thanks to the entire neighborhood for a very successful day!

History Corner

By Gary Hudman

1927 Radio Home Was High Tech Wonder

This house at 334 Furr Drive featured the latest in technology when it was built and sold in 1927. A "Genuine Radio Home," the house featured built-in radio, indirect lighting, and a Kohler Electric Dishwashing Sink! This must have been very eye opening in 1927.

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS: SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 10, 1927

ANOTHER GENUINE RADIO HOME
Open for Your Approval
at 334 Furr Drive in North Woodlawn Terrace

Featuring
Indirect
Lighting
Kohler
Electric Sinks
Built-in Radio
Textone
Finishes
and
Many Other
Pleasing
Features



Attractively
Furnished
and
Draped by
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OPEN DAILY FROM 2 P. M. TO 10 P. M.

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"Exclusive Builders of Radio Homes"

*To Further Modernize the "Radio" Homes
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Kohler Electric Dishwashing Sink

Mrs. Dupree, Kohler Demonstrator, will demonstrate this wonderful sink Sunday at the new Radio Home at 334 Furr Drive. Do not fail to see it. You merely press a button and the washing begins. Push again and the washing stops. Twist a lever and a blast of warm air dries the dishes. Simple, efficient. A wonderful labor-saver that every woman will marvel over.

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