

Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MPNA is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization

January / February 2023

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

MONDAY, 1/30/23
7 PM
Grace Presbyterian
Church
950 Donaldson Ave.

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MEET THE NEIGHBORS

By Jan Peranteau



Adelita & John Cantu

Adelita Cantu and John Cantu both grew up in San Antonio but never knew each other until each moved to West Magnolia Ave. where they lived 10 houses apart. "I grew up on the west side and John on the south side. I went to Holmes High School and John to South San Antonio High School." But living on the same street they got to know each other. After being married for 18 years and losing her parents, they decided to move back to the Jefferson area. "We were able to

keep my parents on Broadview where they were able to age out at home. I am one of 7 children and we all helped with the caregiving."

After the death of Adelita's parents, they searched for a house in two areas—Inspiration Hills and the area around Jefferson High School. "When we saw the house on North, we felt comfortable walking into this single level home. Before we had lived in a 2-story—no more climbing up and down stairs." So, in August

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Neighbors,

I hope you had a safe and happy holiday season. At MPNA, we are celebrating a new year, new board, and new opportunities to become involved with your neighborhood.

To the board members who are taking a break from service, Pam Carpenter, Tony Sanchez, and David Guerrero, thank you for your time, ideas, and support to MPNA.

This year is particularly important for MPNA; we are celebrating our 40th anniversary as your neighborhood association! Help us celebrate this milestone by renewing your membership and/or joining the association. MPNA is a voluntary association and all homeowners/residents residing within the neighborhood boundaries are eligible for membership. Annual dues are \$15.00 per household (if over 65, dues are \$10.00 per household).

You do not have to be a paid member to participate in any MPNA meeting or event, but your dues payments allow us to continue printing and distributing this newsletter to more than 700 homes six times a year; help offset costs associated with neighborhood socials held throughout the year; contribute to the annual MPNA scholarship for graduating seniors; and most importantly, grant you with voting privileges for MPNA meetings and elections.

Please complete and mail the Membership Form and payment that is included in this newsletter; drop off your completed form and payment with any board member; or email us at boardmpna@gmail.com and a board member will stop by and collect it.

Be sure to join us for the first General Assembly meeting of the new year at Grace Presbyterian Church at 950 Donaldson Avenue Monday, January 30th, 7:00 pm.

In addition to updates from our SAFFE Officer, District 7, and State Senator, we will share the latest on street/alley improvements, an update on Woodlawn Lake Park, and welcome guests from Public Works to share what steps they have taken to date to address the ongoing traffic safety concerns.

As you are well aware, for the last year, MPNA has provided years of documented 311 reports, crash data, and photographs in an effort to introduce traffic calming measures to our neighborhood and surrounding areas. The continued crashes, disregard of stop signs, and speeding through the neighborhood has to stop. Please show your support for safer streets by joining us at this meeting.

This meeting is also an opportunity to share your ideas on MPNA's priorities for the upcoming year; learn about our various committees and volunteer opportunities; and most importantly, get to know your neighbors.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming General Assembly meeting!

President
Vice President
Treasurer

Drea Garza
Gary Hudman
Larissa O'Connors

Board Members

Marti Campbell
Robin Foster
Ron Hubbert
Bianca Maldonado
Carol Rea
Tom Simmons

Editor

Sabrina De La Rosa

AD PRICING INFORMATION

Visit monticelloparkna.org

MPNA

P.O. Box 100315
San Antonio, TX 78201

BoardMPNA@gmail.com

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office	210-207-7044
SAWS	210-424-7097
CPS	210-353-2222
Officer Vincent Cano	210-207-0803
	210-394-1398 cell
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

Visit MonticelloParkna.org

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

MEET THE NEIGHBORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By Jan Peranteau

of 2022 the Cantu family moved to Monticello Park with their two small dogs, Roxie and Mia. John has a grown son and 3 grandchildren, but with no children at home, they have time to meet neighbors. Their first big venture was at National Night Out. There, they chatted with many neighbors including Tony and Diana Sanchez, Bianca Maldonado, Pat Wathen and many others. And, of course, they enjoyed all the neighborhood activity at Halloween. They attended the Christmas Party at Wayne Ehrisman's house where they had the opportunity to meet about 100 neighbors before saying goodnight.

Work takes Adelita away from home, but she does maintain an office at the house. She is Associate Professor of Nursing at UT Health Science Center as part of the academic school. She said, "I've been here 20 years, beginning in 2002. Before that, I was a part of the University Health System as Director of Patient Satisfaction." John is a retired mechanic, from Via Metro Transit System. Working 35 years, he mainly worked on buses powered by diesel. He said, "The electric, hybrid, propane buses were just coming in when I retired." Now he does part-time driving for UT Health Science Center. "The buses are like big mobile homes, complete with examination tables or chairs as needed. We host vaccine clinics, health fairs and dental clinics. The vans screen for various diseases and provide dental services for places such as Haven for Hope and rural communities."

With no children, the two small dogs become the center of things. Mia, a Jack Russell mix, and Roxie, Chihuahua/Dachshund mix, prove the point by taking off down the street after another dog being walked by his owner.



Adelita & John Cantu

But, with a stern call from John or Adelita, they run right back to the yard. "John takes the girls walking every day," Adelita says. John adds, "I have a grown son and three grandchildren, but these dogs are our babies." But then there are other interests that occupy John. "I like muscle cars from the 60's and 70's.". Retiring from Via Metro, John started collecting cars. He has a 1969 C-10 Chevy truck from his father-in-law. Peeking under the hood, one sees gleaming chrome. He proudly says, "the parts have all been changed out. When he starts the engine—a husky rumble emerges. He smiles, "I can't sell it." The other prize possessions include a 1966 Mustang Convertible, a 1977 Corvette Stingray, and a Harley Davidson motorcycle. John also shared a picture of his senior league baseball team that won a World Series Championship in 2018. A jigsaw puzzle just completed, about the books banned at library, sits on the dining room table. "We just finished that yesterday. I am going to frame it," John says. We take a quick look at two bicycles in a small room off the kitchen. They both enjoy cycling 6-10 miles at a time and walking. Adelita adds, "I like cooking as quickly as possible." John said he likes making Caldo and promised to invite this reporter over for a bowl on a cold night. Those cold nights seem far away but maybe there will be one or two more cold nights and a warm bowl waiting.

WOODLAWN THEATER OPENED IN 1945

History Corner By Gary Hudman



The Woodlawn Theater, 1920 Fredericksburg Road, is an iconic landmark in the heart of the Deco District, and through multiple incarnations, has served as a neighborhood entertainment venue for over 75 years.

This “De Luxe Suburban Theatre” was designed by John Eberson, one of the most celebrated theater designers of the 20th century. Mr. Eberson designed over 500 theaters around the world, many of them in the atmospheric style, artfully exemplified by another of his efforts, downtown’s Majestic Theater.

The Woodlawn’s auditorium seated 1400 people on the main floor and balcony and was designed to feature the latest Hollywood motion pictures.

Called the “newest and most modern of San Antonio’s suburban showhouses,” the Woodlawn Theater opened on August 17, 1945, playing *National Velvet*, starring Mickey Rooney and a young 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor.

As an added attraction, the theater also played *Girls Preferred*, a two-reel short film featuring the celebrated Lassos from Thomas Jefferson High School.

The theater was ready for the car culture of the 1940s, and opened with a large parking lot just across the street. This lot is the current site of the closed credit union and the housing units under construction on the block between Gramercy and Donaldson. The lot was lighted, paved, and even had attendants to watch over the cars while patrons were at the Woodlawn.

Opening night ceremonies were attended by Mayor Raymond Mauermann and several representatives of the Interstate Theater Circuit, which operated the theaters. KABC televised the event from outside the theater starting at 7:45 pm, so it must have been quite an anticipated grand opening.

In 1960, the world premiere of *The Alamo*, starring John Wayne, was held at the Woodlawn, and the theater
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continued to feature first run movies for several years. By the 1970s it began to suffer, and eventually fell into disrepair. The movies ended, and tenants used it for live theater, music concerts, and a variety of events.

In 2013, the Woodlawn Theater was designated a City of San Antonio Historic Landmark, and in July 2022, the live theater producers using the theater announced they were moving out of the building into another facility.

I can't wait to see the next chapter for this this amazing building, and see it continue to be a popular center for neighborhood entertainment.



SAVE THE DATE: THE 14TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023!

By Office of Historic Preservation

Ready to get started on your next home improvement project? Need some help connecting with a contractor or design professional? Want to learn how to navigate the historic design guidelines and the permitting process, or ask experienced renovators about their work in older homes?

Join the City's Office of Historic Preservation on Saturday, February 11, 2023, from 10:00am - 2:00pm for the 14th Annual Historic Homeowner Fair, a free annual event that brings together owners and occupants of aging and historic homes with local professionals, services, and solutions to care for and maintain their properties.

Our popular Exhibit Hall will feature local businesses including design services, construction professionals, and purveyors of goods such as tile, metal fixtures, paint, and salvaged materials.

We'll also have sessions on our most popular topics and a panel discussion where local renovators will share key lessons learned during their projects.

Visit the event website at www.sarehabberclub.com/hhf to register and to find information on sponsoring and volunteering.

WILDLIFE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

By Jan Peranteau



**Wildlife Communications Director
Mackenzie Perez**

The mission of Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center is to rescue, rehabilitate and release native wildlife and to provide sanctuary, individualized care, and a voice for other animals in need. Monticello Park now has an Intake Center for Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation at 166 Babcock Road. How many of us have found an injured bird, or opossum in our own backyard?

When I was small, I lived on a farm in West Texas. One day my father was plowing the fields and must have plowed into a warren of rabbits. Anyway, he brought a baby cottontail home and I remember holding it. I must have been 3 or 4 at the time. I can't remember what we did with it. But it probably didn't survive. We didn't have a wildlife rescue center then and about the only thing we knew to do was take it to the vet or try to feed it ourselves. Over the years I have rescued a vulture that couldn't fly and a bunch of baby ducks swimming on my pool with no mama in sight. In both these instances I called Wildlife Rescue, and they gave me instructions as to how to transport these animals to a rehab site. We are now very fortunate to have an intake center on Babcock Rd. and near the Original Donut Shop. Mackenzie Perez, the communications manager, talked about their recent move from Basse Rd. to the current location. "We moved on November 20th. We are totally donation-based and the previous location on Basse was bigger than we needed. Our purpose is not to rehabilitate the animals here, but rather to be a site where people can bring animals. They are transported to Kendalia where we have an animal hospital and a veterinarian suite for rehabilitating

wildlife." Perez said, "The office accepts all wildlife as well as farmed animals. The only exception is horses. They do not have the proper facilities for horses. They also do not take domesticated animals such as dogs and cats, even if the cats are feral. Our job is to take in injured wildlife and stabilize the animals until they can be transferred to the Kendalia location for rehabilitation."

Perez talked a little about the history of the organization. "It was founded by Lynn Cuny in her own backyard here in San Antonio 45 years ago. We are beginning our 46th year. She is still active and writes personal thank you notes to each donor." On the morning this reporter arrived, they had taken in a feral piglet that will be transported to Kendalia for complete rehabilitation. When asked about how many animals are received daily, Perez said, "It varies with the season. We are in Winter now, so we get from one to seven animals a day. But in the Spring season when all the babies are being born, we get 20-100 animals a day." When asked about what animals are dropped off, Perez said, "We get skunks, red tail hawks, raccoons, and recently a coatimundi from Central and South America. This is an illegal pet that looks a bit like a raccoon with an anteater face." Talking about the coatimundi seems to hit a central nerve of the organization—people feeding wild animals that then cannot survive in the wild once released. "People confuse domesticated with being in the wild. Our sanctuary in Kendalia has 600 residents that are not releasable because they have been fed by people, injured or are non-native to the Texas environment and will not survive in the wild.

“Our purpose is not to rehabilitate the animals here, but rather to be a site where people can bring animals. They are transported to Kendalia where we have an animal hospital and a veterinarian suite for rehabilitating wildlife.”

The paid staff at the intake center includes 8 employees with a total of 50 employees at both sites.

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The sanctuary has 212 acres, an animal hospital and a veterinarian on site. The hours of operation are 8-6 during winter and 8-8 during summer. "We are open every day of the year. Wildlife doesn't stop getting hurt," Perez said.

To contact Wildlife Rescue their website info@Wildlife-Rescue.org can be used or 24-Hr Hotline: (830) 336-2725. In either case you must leave your contact information. You will be responded to in the order received.

Volunteer opportunities abound through the website. The coordinator is Leon Rutley and people wishing to volunteer should contact through an email. There are various levels of volunteer activities beginning with diet prep, cleaning cages, and washing food bowls. The telephone may also be used as a method of contact or simply walk in and get acquainted with this much needed organization in the neighborhood. And if you have some spare time, volunteer! Let's keep this organization in our neighborhood.



Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
335 Old Blanco Rd, Kendalia, TX 78027

**NEIGHBORS HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY!
THANKS, WAYNE EHRISMAN FOR BEING A FANTASTIC HOST!**



MPNA Membership Registration/Renewal

It's a new year and time to join and/or renew your MPNA registration for 2023! We are a voluntary neighborhood association and all residents and homeowners who live within MPNA may join. If this newsletter was delivered to your home, you are within the MPNA boundaries.

Your paid membership grants eligibility for programs such as our restoration/beautification awards and allows you to vote during MPNA elections. All activities are open to MPNA residents/homeowners, but please consider becoming a paid member.

Membership funds remain invested in our community and allow us to continue printing and delivering newsletters, host activities such as the 4th of July parade, grant beautification awards, and grant scholarships.

Dues are \$15 per household and only \$10 for households with residents/homeowners over 65.

Please complete below information by January 31st and submit to any MPNA Member or mail to MPNA, P.O. Box 100315, San Antonio, TX 78201.

2023 MPNA Membership Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues: \$10.00 \$15.00

Additional Donation Amount: \$ _____

MPNA is a 501(c)3 organization.

Interested in Volunteering with:

Alley/Graffiti Cleanup

Newsletter Delivery

Hosting a Social

Home Tour

Other _____

Please make checks payable to "MPNA" and return to any member of the MPNA Board Member or mail to MPNA, P.O. Box 100315, San Antonio, TX 78201. You may also bring this registration form and dues payment to the next General Assembly meeting.

BERTA ALMAGUER DANCE STUDIO & COMMUNITY CENTER



The Berta Almaguer Dance Studio & Community Center opened on Saturday, January 22, 2023, representing a more than \$6.5M investment in Woodlawn Lake Park.

The new construction was made possible with \$5M in bond funds, approved by voters in May 2017, and a \$1.5M Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant, secured by State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer. The center is open to the public, has beautiful views of the casting ponds, and features many options for meetings and community activities.

History of the demolished structure

In April of 1955, the *San Antonio Light* reported the structure was to be built by the City and the Anglers Club for an estimated \$25K, with the City contributing \$14K and the Anglers the remainder. Over the years the open-air structure was enclosed, an addition was added to the rear, and the dance studio was built.

The city evaluated the original structure, but an engineering analysis revealed too many deficiencies, and renovation costs would exceed that of a new building. The structure had two foundations which were causing sheer stresses on the load bearing walls.

Dance Program & Community Center

The demolition and plans for the new community center received approval from the City's Historic Design and Review Commission in July 2019. The City of San Antonio is home to the oldest operating municipal dance program in the Country.

The namesake of the building, Ms. Berta Almaguer, joined the Parks and Recreation Department in 1934, and shared her love of dance and music by teaching dance programs until she retired in 1970.

The new 9,900 square foot Dance Studio & Community Center brings community spaces, classrooms, larger dance studios, changing rooms, dance program storage, offices, upgraded parking, and a hike and bike trail connection to the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System.

Two of the dance classrooms are dedicated to the Parks and Recreation programs.

Honoring the past, resiliency for the future

The building has interpretive panels documenting the history of the City's dance programs. Materials from the original building's rafters were reclaimed and used in the construction of the fireplace mantle, benches, and desks; and old bricks outline the new flower beds. The property has low impact design features in the landscaping to clean runoff and includes a rainwater collection cistern.

Facility Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9AM-9PM
Friday: 9AM-7PM
Saturday: 9AM-5PM

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec>

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HOLIDAY DECORATION WINNERS!

Congratulations to these homeowners for winning the best Holiday decorations contest!

FIRST PLACE: Laura Thompson and Oscar Hernandez, 539 Club Drive

SECOND PLACE: Emma Chamberlain, 205 Donaldson

THIRD PLACE: Raven and Matthew Ahrens, 105 Leming



Laura Thompson &
Oscar Hernandez



Emma Chamberlain



Raven & Matthew Ahrens

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A portion of all commissions are donated to local non-profits.



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14th Annual HISTORIC HOMEOWNER FAIR

Saturday, February 11, 2023

TriPoint Event Center

3233 N St Mary's St, San Antonio

10:00am - 2:00pm

The Historic Homeowner Fair is a FREE event hosted by the Office of Historic Preservation that brings together owners and occupants of aging and historic homes with local professionals, services, and solutions for home care, maintenance, and restoration.

Visit www.SApreservation.com for more information!



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



@sapreservation