MONTICELLO PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



January/February 2005

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY

January 31, 2005 7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church 950 Donaldson Avenue

Future Meetings:

General Assembly

- January 31
- March 28
- May 23 (4th Monday)
- July 25
- September 26
- November 28 (election)

Board

- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
- April 11
 May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- October 17 (3rd Monday)
- November 14
- December 12

THE JOHNNIE SINGLETON STORY

By Eric Lane

When you first meet Johnnie Singleton you know you've met a man who sees the glass half full as opposed to half empty. You also know that he has made lemonade out of the most sour of circumstances. And you can't mistake the feeling that your life has been influenced for the better by just having crossed Johnnie Singleton's path.



Johnnie Singleton

If you're a Jefferson State Bank customer you probably already know who Johnnie Singleton is. If not, Johnnie is the afternoon Security Guard at the bank. He is the fellow who patrols the premises, keeping an eye out for any kind of trouble and locking up the doors when the last person has left the building. Many of us have met Johnnie when we've gone to the bank after hours for meetings or association business. It's always Johnnie who is there to open the door and close up when we are finished. But the Johnnie Singleton story doesn't begin at the bank. It begins much, much earlier, in a bygone era, when segregation and Jim Crow ruled supreme, and when the options for a young African-American male from rural South Texas were extremely limited.

Johnnie grew up in Weslaco, a segregated, predominantly white farming town south of San Antonio. He still remembers his "Grandma Charity" (his great grandmother) who was born and lived much of her life in slavery in Louisiana.

"There were only about five black families in Weslaco," Johnnie started. "The schools were segregated back then. And I was a boxer, but I couldn't fight white guys. So I'd have to go down to Mexico to fight. I had a pretty good reputation. No one could beat me."

When Johnnie finished ninth grade in the summer of 1941, there weren't many opportunities for a young African American to either further his education or find work. Brown v. Board of Education was still 15 years in the future and the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts weren't even a twinkle in the American conscious-

ness. Segregation demanded that white students went to white schools and black students went to black schools. In Weslaco, ninth grade was the terminal year for a black student.

Johnnie's buddies convinced him that joining the Navy was the way to go. After a lot of arm twisting, Johnnie's mother signed the release form that allowed Johnnie to join the Navy at the ripe old age of sixteen. "My step-dad had also been in the Navy during World War I, you see."

"We thought we were all going to be together, me and the guys, but when we got to the recruiting station in Houston they sent me one way and they sent them another way."

(Continued on page 8)

2005 Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

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Lynne Wilkerson

734-6968

V. President: Gina O'May

736-5474

Secretary:

Gladys Williams

737-8717

Treasurer:

Olivia Kilpatrick

375-3130

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Bob Burney	734-2445	
Juliana Garcia		
Jesse Gonzales	734-2237	
Ron Hubbert	732-5543	
Bianca Maldonado	732-9950	
Roy Muniz	736-1051	

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Editor: Eric Lane 732-6564 Copy Editor: Kellen Kee McIntyre Production Manager: Christa Emig Advertising Manager: Roy Muñiz

Advertising

For pricing information call: 736-1051

MPNA Address: P.O. Box 5851 San Antonio, Texas 78201

For article submission and calendar of events please contact the editor. Eric Lane, 732-6564 eflane@swbell.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to serve as President of MPNA for the year 2005. By way of introduction, I have lived in Monticello Park for almost 20 years. My husband, Basil Scaljon, and I were attracted to this area by its interesting architecture, big shady yards, diversity of population in the neighborhood, and friendly neighbors. We have raised our three children in Monticello Park, and because we live across from Jefferson High School, they spent their childhood hours playing on its green expanse of fields. We really love this neighborhood!

We have watched the neighborhood improve steadily under the leadership of many involved and caring neighbors. It is my goal that in 2005, MPNA will continue with the good work it has done in the past, and will undertake new and im-

portant initiatives.

What do I think is important? It's probably not much different from what you think is important:

Keeping the neighborhood attractive;

Keeping the neighborhood safe;

- Nurturing appropriate development on Fredericksburg Road;
- Protecting the residential character of our neighborhood:
- Increasing interaction among neighbors.

How do we get there? I plan to start by:

- Listening to what you want;
- Improving communications between the MPNA and you;
- Expanding involvement by identifying activities that are of interest or that fill a need.

The association has already achieved some impressive accomplishments-the successful Alley Clean-Up Program, the exciting and self-supporting newsletter, and the new Primrose development, to name only a few. These are all great projects, and we should continue to build on those successes.

In 2005, I would like to see: strong newsletter effort maintained; neighborhood directory developed; active block captain and phone call system initiated: increased opportunities for neighbors to get together; emphasis on keeping alleys open for garbage pick up; and focus on improvement and maintenance of our parks and planters, and maximizing the use of city and grant funds to do so.

The Alley Clean-Up Program was a major achievement for 2004, and it should be continued and strengthened. In 2005, it will be important to keep on top of this issue with the City so that the alleys stay open for garbage pick up. In 2005, we also will be overseeing continued progress on the Monticello Park improvements, as well as improvement and maintenance of the pocket parks along Fredericksburg Road. Primrose development is nearly settled in, and is proving to be a solid neighbor. The CDC has done an admirable job with the development of the commercial Deco District, and in 2005 there will be continued construction of improvements along Fred Road.

The MPNA officers and board members for 2005 are by-and-large new to the MPNA leadership. We have quickly discovered that we have many common goals, and I can tell you that we are looking forward to working together in a cooperative and positive spirit. All of us in Monticello Park can work together to make sure ours is an attractive and safe neighborhood where families can grow and neighbors can watch out for each other.

Participating in an MPNA activity is a great way to get to know your neighbors. I sincerely hope that in 2005 you find a way to join us in one of the MPNA events. A good place to start is the General Membership Meeting on January 31st. Hope to see you there! If you need transportation to the meeting. call me and transportation will be arranged.

> Lynne Wilkerson President, MPNA

FROM THE EDITOR

The November Monticello Park Neighborhood Association meeting came and went. After all the votes were counted, a new Board of Directors and Members were elected. Lynne Wilkerson is the new MPNA President. As you can tell from reading her message, she is raring to go. With seasoned board members Jesse Gonzales and Roy Muniz returning for another tour of duty, the new board is equally excited and ready to move forward. Good luck to all of them for a successful year.

This is also an appropriate time to thank the old board and David Logan for all the time, work, and effort they put in during 2004. Now, David can get back to paying the bills and keeping the home fires glowing. The old board accomplished a great deal and it is passing off the association to the new board in much better shape than it found it.

The election itself went very smoothly and, thanks to the Jefferson High School vote tabulators that David invited for the election (see picture), the vote counting was as impartial and fair as possible.

We wish the new board and Lynne the very best.

Eric F. Lane Editor, MPNA Newsletter

P.S. Joe Stehle, in his indelible manner, has let me know that we still need volunteer block captains (see page 10). We hope to have a block captain for each block. Call Joe at 735-5032 if you would like to help out. Responsibilities include delivering the newsletter and special notices of events and information. It's a lot easier to deliver to just one block than to a whole street. Check with Joe, and remember, we can always use your help.



Lynn Wilkerson addresses the Association at the November meeting.



The 2005 MPNA Board (1 to r): Bianca Maldonado, Ron Hubbert, Jesse Gonzales, Bob Burney, Gladys Williams, Lynne Wilkerson, Gina O'May, Olivia Kilpatrick, Joe Stehle (former Treasurer), Roy Muñiz, and Juliana Garcia.



Volunteers from Jefferson High School recommended by Student Council sponsor Diane Hernandez tallied the votes at the MPNA Elections in December. Thank you Drum Major Anita Centeno, Nat'l Honor Society President Alexandria Aguilar, and Student Council President Miranda Tisdale!

Scholarship News-Help Wanted!

The Youth and Scholarship Committee is currently recruiting members. If you want to promote educational opportunities to the youth of our community, then JOIN US TODAY!!! Those interested should contact Diana at

dianajennifer@satx.rr.com (210) 843-415

Diana Arevalo Chair, Youth and Scholarship Committee

Message from the Vice-President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season. As the newly elected vice-president of Monticello Park, I would like to tell you a little about myself. My husband and I have lived in the neighborhood for eight years. We met at The University of Incarnate Word, where we graduated in '97. USAA is where I serve Monday through Friday as a brokerage trader for the investment division. I am and always will be a true San Antonian. Its history and uniqueness are what make San Antonio so appealing, which is also probably what attracted my husband and I to Monticello Park. Our home was built in 1928, and it has had only two previous owners!!

This year will bring many new and exciting challenges to Monticello Park. We are starting the year off with a new MPNA Board. Each and every individual on this board is dedicated to making Monticello Park a beautiful, safe, and enjoyable place to call home.

I have seen many wonderful changes to our neighborhood. These transformations encouraged me to become more involved in our community. MPNA is currently developing various committees, such as crime prevention, parks, social and fundraising, to name just a few. Each committee needs volunteers now, and I encourage you to take part in the development of the Deco District. You can do this by coming to the next General Assembly Meeting and by offering your suggestions, or you may simply call any board member and we will be more than happy to consider your ideas, suggestions, or opinions.

I would like to wish our family, friends, and neighbors a very happy, safe, and blessed New Year.

Gina A. O'May Vice President, MPNA

OUT-OF-CYCLE COLLECTIONS

By Juliana Garcia

The City of San Antonio offers out-of-cycle collection of brush and bulky items. If you need a personal collection, call 311 to request a House Call, an inexpensive and valuable service that removes these items from the front of your house.

Upon your request, the Environmental Services Department (http://www.sanantonio.gov/enviro/) will send a staff member to offer a free estimate of the cost for the collection and disposal of your materials. The fee charged is based on the size of the load. Note: The City will only collect those items listed as acceptable for regular residential brush collection service.

Once your fee is paid, the City will collect these items within two working days. It's that easy! House Calls are an inexpensive alternative to hiring private haulers and a convenient way for you to get rid of brush and bulky items.

Juliana Garcia, one of the new MPNA Board Members, was born and raised in San Antonio. In 1994 she obtained a Bachelor's Degree from UTSA. She has been employed with City Public Service for the past 26 years. She is now an analyst in the Customer Service Department. She has lived in the Monticello area for the past five years.

CDC REPORT

Streetscape Enhancement Update: We are very pleased to report that this project is moving along nicely. In November, we saw the first of the palm trees go in the ground along Fredericksburg Road. Groupings of the palms will be lit by recessed floodlights. CPS has completed its portion of this work on schedule. The work to be done includes the completion of new rock planter areas that will be filled with native shrubbery. Planning work on Phase II of the Streetscape Enhancement project will begin shortly. This phase will extend the enhancements north to Quentin and south to W. Kings Highway.

Building Redevelopment Update: We are working with the City to hone the final details for the construction phase of this project. Once construction begins, the project is scheduled to take 120 days. Informal pre-leasing activities are beginning. So, if you know of any artists or cultural organizations looking for gallery or studio space, please direct them to us for more details.

The Jefferson/Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation (CDC) is always looking for volunteers who are interested in contributing to the revitalization of our Deco District. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help our efforts, please contact us at 732-2238, or email us at email@decodistrict.org.

As always, please feel free to visit www.decodistrict.org for the latest news and developments in the Deco District.

Happy New Year!

Paul C. Stahl President Jefferson/Woodlawn Lake CDC



KEEP SAN ANTONIO BEAUTIFUL

Keep San Antonio Beautiful, Inc., invites our neighborhood to participate in the second Neighborhood ReLeaf Project. The Neighborhood ReLeaf Project has a mission to increase the community's value of neighborhood trees. Residents (children and adults) will receive first-hand knowledge of the value of a tree and how to plant a tree by participating in a series of neighborhood tree plantings through Keep San Antonio Beautiful, Inc. Free shade trees will be handed out to all participating residents.

An invitation will be sent to residents describing the program and will include a registration form for the resident to return. Residents are required to bring an ID or proof of residency (e.g., utility bill), make an advance reservation, and attend a basic 30-minute tree planting workshop. In order to receive a free shade tree, the resident will agree to plant and maintain the tree by signing the Tree Care Agreement Form after the workshop. The program will run on Saturdays beginning in March and continue through April.

If you are interested in participating in the Neighborhood ReLeaf Project, please contact Lynn Wilkerson at 734-6968, or Keep San Antonio Beautiful at 207-6460 to set up dates and locations for our neighborhood.



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Northeast Loop	1777 N.E. Loop 410
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THE SERDA REPORT

I hope everyone had a great Christmas Holiday, which came and went quickly. The big news in the greater area is the home invasions that have been occurring. So far, no arrests have been made, but we are working on some suspects. The invasions started on 11-11-04 at 1145 hrs. This was a private resident on Sherrill Brook. The homeowner saw an unknown Latin male, 30 years old, about 6'0, walk by her window. She went to investigate, opened the door, and the suspect forced his way inside and displayed a gun. Money and a wallet were taken.

The second occurred on 11-15-04 on Donnelly Street off Bandera Rd. The homeowner got home and saw a 1/m, 30 years old, 6'0 standing by his house at the corner. As he opened the door the suspect came from behind, displayed a gun, and robbed him of his wallet. He made the homeowner stay inside while he fled. The next incident happened on 11-17-04, again at another address on Sherrill Brook. The suspect in this case knocked on the door and the homeowner opened it. The suspect, again described as 1/m, 6'0, 30 years of age, displayed a weapon, put it to the homeowner's head, and demanded money. He then ransacked the place, took some items, and fled on foot.

The fourth incident happened on Broadview on 11-18-04. Once again, someone kept knocking on the door until the homeowner answered the door. This time a 1/m 5'7", 19-25, barged into the home, put a

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gun to the homeowner, and demanded money. Taken were jewelry and money. The suspect fled on foot.

As I researched the cases the time frame is important. They occurred between 1130 and 1250 hours in broad daylight. The suspect looks like the same subject but robbery detectives are not sure yet. In the past I have mentioned home invasions when I spoke with you. Let's be smart. Do not open any door without being sure who it is.



Have a phone in hand when answering a knock on your door. If someone wants to use the phone you can call right then and there, or tell them you are calling the police. These people were lucky. Be aware of who is standing next to you, watching you, or waiting nearby. They could be waiting for you. So be careful, use caution, and if I hear anything, so will you. Be S.A.F.F.E.

Marcos Serda #0592 SAFFE Officer

HELPFUL NUMBI	ERS
Animal Control	737-1442
Brush Pickup	522-8831
Code Compliance	207-7230
Councilman Julian Castro	207-7040
Garage Sale Permits	207-8263
Health Department	207-8780
Historic Preservation	207-7873
Jefferson Co-Op	735-9419
Noise Complaints	207-7230
Non-emergency	311
Police West Substation	207-7420
SAWS (San Antonio Water System)	227-6143
SAFFE Officer Pager- Marcos Serda	759-3612
Youth Services	207-7191

In 1941, the U.S. military was as segregated as the civilian world. And there were places where blacks could and could not go. President Truman, who would later desegregate the military, wouldn't even be on the Roosevelt

ticket until 1944. Johnnie ended up as a mess attendant in the officer's quarters aboard the U.S.S. Maryland.

A few months after joining the Navy, the U.S.S. Maryland, with Johnnie Singleton aboard, was tied up in Pearl Harbor. It was a quiet, lazy Sunday morning in Hawaii when the first wave of Japanese fighters attacked.

"I was in the officer's pantry making a sandwich when all of a sudden all hell broke loose. I had to go to my battle station, which was way down below in the belly of the ship . . . way down in the bottom. That's were we sent the ammunition up to the gunners. We had an ammunition room and we

made a line passing ammunition hand to hand for the antiaircraft battery, loading the shells on a hoist and pulling them up. The attack lasted about three hours.

"The Oklahoma got sunk. It was parallel to us. They pulled up alongside us the night before. Them pulling up alongside us was a blessing in disguise for us. They took all the torpedoes instead of us. But there was a lot of damage on the Maryland."

"How long were you on the Maryland?"

"Throughout the war. You see, we went through all the battles, from Tarawa to Okinawa. The only one we missed was Iwo Jima."

"How was Tarawa?" I asked Johnnie. I had a reason for asking. My dad had been on Tarawa. And the fact that Johnnie had been there at the same time watching the events unfolding from aboard the Maryland, made me feel like there had been a special bond between he and my father and maybe, just talking to Johnnie. I could relive some of what my father would never talk about, maybe I could grasp a little more deeply why my father never really could let go of the monsters that ultimately killed him in the prime of his life.



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"Our ship was a battle ship. We would go in quick and knock out the shore batteries with our big guns. We bombarded Tarawa for about a week with five or six other battleships. When the first wave of Marines went in, the Japa-

nese were waiting for them and wiped out the whole wave. You see, we were using explosive shells that exploded on the surface. We had to go back and put in armor-piercing shells."

"The water was bloody. We killed every Japanese on that island except two, and we took those two aboard my ship to interrogate them."

"Did you ever see Kamikaze?"

"Yeah. We caught a Kamikaze when we were invading the Philippines. A Kamikaze hit us there. After it was all over, said and done, there was a lot of damage and we lost several Johnnie, age 16. U.S. Navy men and we buried them at sea. We caught another Kamikaze in Okinawa."

> "Johnnie, you went through a particular period in American history. And I'm trying to fathom what it must have been like to be an African American, especially as young as you were, in a military and world that were predominantly white."

"It was bad. It was sad. It was sad. We got in some scruffles."

"Were you conscious of what was going on?"

"Sure. There was nothing we could do about it. On board ship I was popular. I boxed and had a lot of friends."

"We are now in 2005. Do you think things are better for African Americans now?"

"Yeah. Things are a lot better. It's a lot different. Yeah."

"So there is hope and you've seen progress in your lifetime?"

"Yeah. As a matter of fact, I'm free to do anything I want to do. But even more of a fact, I always did anything I wanted to no matter when."

"That's the story of your life, isn't it?"

"Yeah."

June 1941

On December 31, 2004, Johnnie Singleton turned 80.

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CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST

By Ferne O. Burney

A much anticipated tradition in San Antonio is the lighting of the Riverwalk on the night after Thanksgiving. Shortly thereafter, residents begin decorating their homes for the holidays and, one by one, our city is illuminated in many different ways. The MPNA decided that this year would mark the beginning of a Christmas lighting contest for the area, and three residences have been singled out for their contributions to our already vibrant neighborhood.

The Guerrero family of the 200 block of North took decorating honors with their festive display of wooden Nutcracker cutouts, a Santa Claus, angels, and a beautiful Nativity scene. This was surrounded by lights in the trees and along the roofline of the house. Despite the fact that a grinch stole the Nativity scene from their yard, the Guerrero family was not dismayed. They found another display that was stored in the garage, and it replaced the original.

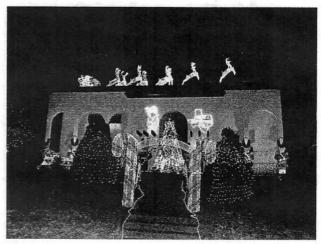
The Fuentes family of the 500 block of Mary Louise also was recognized for their decorations. No one within blocks of Monticello Park could have missed this festive array. A fountain in the front yard was transformed into a Christmas tree. An enormous inflatable Santa Claus greeted all who passed by. Hundreds of lights surrounded the trees, roofline, giant Nutcracker soldiers, train, and Nativity scene. A reindeer and Santa Claus perched on the roof. Did you notice that the reindeer and Santa are in place all year round? This is not sloth, but a love for Christmas that the Fuentes family has. It is just a hint of what is inside the house because Mrs. Fuentes adores this holiday and all of the themes that surround it. Christmas adornments of every fashion grace the inside of the house, and in it the spirit of the holidays is maintained throughout the year.

Our final salute goes to the De Los Santos family of the 300 block of Furr. Mr. De Los Santos stated that he enjoys putting up the Christmas decorations very much. The house and shrubbery were festooned with hundreds of lights. A herd of luminous reindeer grazed on the lawn. The walkway was also lit, and a window was crowned with a poinsettia of lights display.

Each of our winners was awarded a gift certificate from Home Depot. We congratulate them and all who worked to make Monticello Park a bright and cheerful place at Christmas.



Guerrero family, 200 block North



Fuentes family, 500 block Mary Louise



De Los Santos family, 300 block Furr

	MPNA BLOCK CA	APTAINS	MAR SEED ST
BLOCK Donaldson Ave.	CAPTAIN	ADDRESS	PHONE
200 Block	Juliana Garcia	225 Donaldson	738-8277
300 Block	Gina O'May	323 Donaldson	736-5474
400 Block	Michael & Marinel Robbins		732-5434
500 Block	Paula & Earl Orozco	447 Donaldson	736-3915
600 Block	raula & Earl Olozeo	447 Donaidson	750-5715
Quentin Dr.			
100 Block	Ronald Hubbert	238 Quentin	732-5543
200 Block	Ronald Hubbert	238 Quentin	732-5543
300 Block	April Avila	391 Quentin	737-3034
400 Block	Sandra Marrin	410 Quentin	732-2110
North Dr.	Sandra Marrin	410 Quenum	752-2110
100 Block	Martha Durke	134 North	733-7351
	Peter Caritas	210 North	733-7977
200 Block			
300 Block	Robert Solis	345 North	733-7817
400 Block	Allen Stehling	439 North	735-6079
Kampmann Blv		1616 W	724 4540
1600 Block	David Logan	1616 Kampmann	734-4549
Rosemond Dr.		161617	724 4540
1 - 40 Block	David Logan	1616 Kampmann	734-4549
Leming Dr.		1/1/27	724 4540
100 - 300 Block	David Logan	1616 Kampmann	734-4549
Club Drive			And the second
100 Block			
200 Block	Mark Collins	254 Club	734-0747
300 Block	John Trevino	321 Club	735-3245
400 Block	Chester Casey	414 Club	532-7609
500 Block		101 202 201	
Mary Louise			0.00
100 Block	Ferne Burney	340 Mary Louise	734-2445
200 Block	Ferne Burney	340 Mary Louise	734-2445
300 Block	Alice Villarreal (ST)	302 Mary Louise	735-5742
400 Block	Luis Wilmot	450 Mary Louise	738-9305
500 Block	Olivia Kilpatrick	467 Mary Louise	375-3130
Furr Dr.			
100 Block		Carlo bearing and	o lateral of
200 Block			15 4 E
300 Block	A.J. Cuellar	407 Furr	731-8154
400 Block	Jan Peranteau	470 Furr	733-5923
500 Block		legación a seguina	1-2-1
Canfield		*	
100 Block	David Logan	1616 Kampmann	734-4549
Wilson			
2100 Block	David Logan	1616 Kampmann	734-4549
Cromwell	tion weather the last	A Control of the Cont	
1 - 50 Block	David Logan	1616 Kampmann	734-4549

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello, neighbors! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Olivia Kilpatrick. I was born in Mexico, but lived most of my life in Houston. My husband and I moved to San Antonio in March of 2000. I have an accounting degree and have worked in both accounting (including Public Accounting) and auditing. Currently, I am a full-time mom and although it can get lonely, it is great to be able to be writing this message to you while my son is watching Bob the Builder.

I would like to use this opportunity to extend to you a friendly reminder that the 2005 Alley and Membership Dues are due. You can either mail your check (application below), or bring it with you to the next General Assembly Meeting, scheduled for January 31, 2005. I am looking forward to the improvements we can make to our neighborhood. God Bless You, Neighbors.

Olivia Kilpatrick Treasurer



FAX: (210) 731-9284

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2005 TREASURER'S REPORT January, 2005

 CD Account
 \$2,292.91

 Savings Account
 2,539.05

 Checking Account
 11,329.70

 Total
 \$16,161.66

Money collected in December '04 for 2005 Alley and Membership Dues: \$519.00

MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is for everyone (owners and renters).

Recommended annual contributions are \$20.00 per household and \$15.00 for seniors

(rates include \$5.00 for Alley Clean-Up Program)

Ves. I want to invest in my point heads and an account it will be a senior of the contribution of the contribu

ame:ddress:		Phone:
-mail Address:		
10 <u>5</u> 1, 1	I would also like to help on the	following committees:
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