MONTICELLO PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



September/October 2005

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY

Sept. 26, 2005 7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church 950 Donaldson Avenue

Future Meetings:

General Assembly

- September 26
- November 28 (election)

Board

- October 17 (3rd Monday)
- November 14
- December 12

FOUNDING 'HOOD MEMBER HAS THE MAYOR'S EAR

By Eric Lane

If there is one thing I've learned living here in Monticello Park it is that anyone who is anyone (and that includes you and me, of course) lives in Monticello Park, has lived in Monticello Park, or wants to live in Monticello Park. So it shouldn't come as a surprise to learn that until 1994, Phil and Linda Hardberger lived at 470 Furr Drive, right in the heart of the Monticello Park 'hood. But the Linda Hardberger story in Monticello Park doesn't end at Furr Drive. It just begins there.

In 1980, while out shopping for groceries, Anna Deosdade ran into Linda Hardberger in the vegetable section of HEB. According to Joe Deosdade, it was there, over the ripe, crimson tomatoes, that the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association was born.



Linda Hardberger, wife of Mayor Phil Hardberger, and former Monticello Park resident

Aware that Linda had worked very hard to organize the River Road Association, Anna introduced herself to Linda. Before you know it, Katrina Scoggins, Jesus Garza, who worked in the city's planning division, Diana Rodríguez, who later designed the Monticello Park logo, Anna & Joe Deosdade, and Linda Hardberger were meeting informally to discuss neighborhood issues. According to Joe Stehle, the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association was

officially formed in 1983.

There you have it. Not only did Linda Hardberger live in our 'hood, she was critical in the formation of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association. If it wasn't for her efforts and the efforts of other Monticellites, many of whom still reside here, you most probably wouldn't be holding this newsletter in your hands and reading these pearls of wisdom. (I have asked Anna Deosdade to write her remembrances about the early years of the association so that, in the future, others will know how it began and some of the obstacles it faced early on.)

Linda Hardberger: We had just moved to the neighborhood from River Road. I had helped form the River Road Association. Well, I guess I got to talking to Joe and Anna Deosdade and said this is what we had done at River Road. At that point the only other neighborhood associations were Monte Vista and King William, and they were both historic. At that time, there was a real push to develop these neighborhood associations so that we had some control over growth. When I talked to Joe Deosdade, there were several people who were unaware that you could be a neighborhood association without being a historical district. The feeling at River Road was that they didn't want anyone telling them how to paint their house and so forth. We developed as just a neighborhood association and then discovered that the voice of many was much more powerful than the voice of one. And we became a pretty powerful voice. There were a lot of issues there (River Road). They were building 281 at the time. Eric Lane: This was when?

LH: This was in the early '70s.

EL: What spurred you to move to Monticello Park?

LH: I wanted to live in an old neighborhood. And Phil wanted to run for state senate from this district. I had a big fight with the realtor because I said I needed sidewalks and she couldn't understand why I needed sidewalks. I had a wonderful realtor who just gave me the MLS listing and I found this house [470 Furr] that we just loved. At that time there was still Agudas Achim [the

(Continued on page 12)

2005 Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

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734-6968

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736-5474

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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 MESSSAGE

MPNA Elections - Your Opportunity

For the past few weeks we have been riveted to the television, seeing the devastation wrought on the southern coastal communities by Hurricane Katrina, and the dramatic events as they unfolded in the aftermath of the storm. We witnessed an unacceptably slow and disorganized government response to the crisis in New Orleans. But we also witnessed innumerable individual acts of courage, commitment, kindness, and generosity. We saw nursing home staff stay behind to care for the elderly residents who were not evacuated for nearly two weeks. We saw hospital staff choose to stay to care for seriously ill patients under primitive conditions. And we have been heartened by the overwhelming support flowing to the evacuees from individuals and businesses all over the country. We have seen that many small contributions have an enormous collective impact. On the whole, it has been an affirmation of the goodness of humankind and our innate desire to live in community and support of one another.

On a much smaller scale, we each in our own way try to support our neighbors. We might collect the mail for a neighbor on vacation, keep a spare key for when they are locked out, and help a neighbor take out the trash. However minor the courtesy, each is significant because the cumulative effect of the individual effort is a strong, small community right here in Monticello Park.

This is the time for you to consider how you might personally contribute to our neighborhood community in 2006. At the November general membership meeting, MPNA will hold its annual election of board members. MPNA is seeking not only board members but also committee chairs for the upcoming year. I ask that you take a moment to consider whether you might be able to contribute some of your talents to the MPNA board or to an MPNA committee. If each resident were to assume a small responsibility for neighborhood safety, parks, alleys, newsletter, drainage issues, scholarship fund, or historic review and zoning, just think what an enormous sum of talent and energy we would have at work.

We need good people who are willing to make a small additional contribution for the good of the neighborhood. If you are interested in serving on the board or on a committee, now is the time to step forward. Although elections will be in November, volunteers for the nominating committee will be accepted at the September general membership meeting. Let us know where you see yourself fitting in in 2006. This is your opportunity to make your contribution to MPNA. By our individual, small efforts, we will continue to build this solid community of neighbors we call MPNA.

> Lynne Wilkerson President, MPNA

FROM THE EDITOR

Just a few items to mention. We need to make sure that each household contributes to the "Alley Tree & Shrub Fund." That \$5 symbolically shows the City of San Antonio that we are not going to tolerate our alleys being closed. Also, you don't want Joe Stehle to get upset, do you? So remember, that \$5, \$10, or \$20 you contribute is your insurance policy to keep our alleys open.

Second, board elections will be coming up. I hope we have a good mix of seasoned and new members on our board next year. Also, our committees are seeking members. A good way to get involved in your community is by getting on one of the committees. From there you learn the ins and outs of the Association and what does not interest

you. Try it. You might just like it.

The Bihl Haus Arts opening was a tremendous success. And the interaction between the Primrose community and our neighborhood was wonderful. The poetry readings are equally fabulous. Keep an eye on the Calendar of Events for

upcoming exhibitions and events.

I wasn't there but I was told that everyone had a good time at National Night Out. Lots of food items were gathered and donated by Bianca Maldonado for the San Antonio Food Bank. Thank you, Bianca. Please take a moment to read Officer Serda's comments. If you have graffiti that needs to be cleaned up, call him.

Eric F. Lane Editor, MPNA Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 21

Chill Out with Rep. Trey Martinez Fisher

6:00 pm- 8:00 pm

District Office, 1910 Fredericksburg Road

Come beat the heat and enjoy aguas frescas, watermelon, and paletas while visiting with our Representative.

October 9

Bihl Hou, Art, Poetry Reading

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Primrose at Monticello, 2803 Fredericksburg Road

For more information about this or upcoming poetry reading events, contact Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. at trinidadir43@hotmail.com.

San Antonio Regional Health and Safety Fair

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Crossroads Mall.

Free Admission. For more info. Call Randy Jones at the City of San Antonio Fire Dept. 207-8492

October 23

Bihl Hous Arts Poetry Reading

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Primrose at Monticello, 2803 Fredericksburg Road

November 5

The Monticello

Fall Garage Sale in the Park

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Monticello Park, 400 Club Dr. If you want a booth or to volunteer to help, call Ron Hubbert at 732-5543.

Proceeds go to MPNA Scholarship Fund.

November 13

Bihl Haus Arts Poetry Reading

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Primrose at Monticello, 2803 Fredericksburg Road

November 18

Annual Exhibition of Fiber Artists of San Antonio

5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Bihl Haus Arts, Primrose at Monticello, 2803 Fredericksburg

For more information, contact Flores at 744-3450 or sandrasanchez9124@sbcglobal.net.

Have an item for the calendar?

Submit it to the editor: Eric Lane 732-6561 eflane@swbell.net

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NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

Primrose Docents offer refreshments to art opening attendees

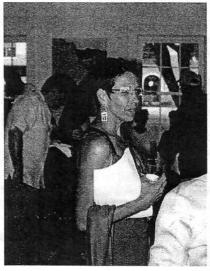
BIHL HAUS ARTS INAUGURAL EXHIBITION:

Simply a Wonderful Experience

By Jan Peranteau and Eric F. Lane

Bihl Hau Art held its long-anticipated inaugural exhibition on Friday, September 9. With Alaskan smoked salmon hors d'hoeuvres, mini-croissant sandwiches, a lovely Italian Merlot, a fresh Chilean Chardonnay, and a passel of artists and neighborhood folk all under the refurbished tin roof, this was the public's first chance to view the restored Bihl House.

Over the course of the evening, a very receptive crowd of between 500 and 1,000 people strolled across 110-year-old wide plank pine floors to



Artist Rita Maria Contreras enjoying the opening

view the works on display. These were the works of 18 professional neighborhood artists, including Monticellites Cristina C. Ramsey (Club Dr.), Bill Reily (Club Dr.), and Luis Valderas (North Dr.). Their artworks eloquently celebrate the diversity of Monticlo Park and the surrounding area.

Dr. Kellen Kee McIntyre (Quentin Dr.), co-director and co-curator of the evening's show with artist Rita María Contreras (W. Magnolia), recounted the story of how the house was saved—noting that Southwest Housing, the parent company of Primrose Senior Apartments, where the house is located, initially wanted to tear it down. Once they learned the significance of the Bihl House, Southwest Housing, McIntyre, Contreras and others went to work to see that this monument to our past was saved and restored. The result is magnificent!

The interior space opens all the way to the ceiling two stories above to reveal hints of early industrial aluminum mixed with the panache of formal post-modern wooden planks. Sturdy timber beams criss-cross the upper area. Tiny spotlights on wire tracks highlight the works on exhibit. During daylight hours, light pours into the space through windows that surround the first and second levels. A substantial stone fireplace anchors the room on one side. On opening night, a stunning floral arrangement by floral artist, Henry M. de León, added a natural beauty to the entire environment with Birds of Paradise cascading down in long delicate tendrils. A wide-leaf bow graced the arrangement and one wonders how it was tied without breaking the leaf.

The **Bihl Hou**, **Rrt**, opening was a memorable event and if you haven't had a chance to see it, you must stop by.* McIntyre, Contreras, Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. (director of literary programs), the Primrose at Monticello Staff, the Primrose Docents (what a wonderful group of ladies!) all did simply an outstanding job! We look forward to coming events at the beautiful **Bihl Hou**, **Rrt**. We wouldn't miss even one!

* Regular business hours will be scheduled soon. In the meantime, contact McIntyre at kellenkee@swbell.net for an appointment, to be added to the mailing list, to suggest future programming, to be added to our list of neighborhood artists, or to volunteer to support Bihl Hau/ Art/.



Henry de León poses with his floral design

FIBER ARTS AT BIHL HAUS ARTS

Bihl Haus Arts is very pleased to host the annual exhibition of the association of Fiber Artists of San Antonio (FASA), juried by Prof. Charles Field (UTSA, ret.). The public is invited to the opening reception on Friday, Nov. 18th, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. The exhibition runs through Dec. 30th. Carolina Flores (Sutton Dr.), chair of the 2005 FASA exhibition, promises an exciting, inventive, and very colorful show that will highlight fiber art works that cross over into other media.

For more information, contact Flores at 744-3450 or sandrasanchez9124@sbcglobal.net.

HURRICANE KATRINA AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

Southwest Housing (SWH) is reaching out to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. With 50 communities across Texas, we are setting up donation drop-off locations in San Antonio at Rosemont @ Palo Alto and Rosemont @ Miller's Pond (family sites), as well as Primrose @ Monticello Park senior development. In addition, we are working with Texas Officials and Housing Authorities to provide emergency housing. For seniors, Primrose @ Monticello Park development, located at 2803 Fredericksburg Road, and SWH staff and volunteers have opened their doors and hearts to families coming into the San Antonio area. Tours of the beautifully landscaped luxury apartment community have been conducted to bring housing opportunities to those eligible families temporarily housed at Kelly USA. In efforts to make this transition to their new homes just a little easier, a Primrose Resident Welcome group has been formed to embrace our new neighbors. As people join the Primrose @ Monticello senior community, every effort will be taken to ensure connections are in place to meet spiritual, emotional, social and other related needs in addition to furniture, clothing, food, and the like.

If you are interested in making a donation or to volunteer to help any of our new neighbors, please call Di Anne Garza, Director of Community Services for Southwest Housing at 738-9923, or Jan Hanna, Primrose Property Manager at 733-8300.

Curves.

3534 Fredericksburg Rd., Ste. 18 San Antonio, TX 78201 Tel: 210-731-8788 Fax: 210-731-8699

FROM THE DESK OF JOE E. STHELE...

George Gonzalez of Gonzalez Tree Service has again performed his duty in trimming the alley trees and shrubs for the small sum of \$5 per homeowner. Of course, we will always have a few homeowners who will not pay their \$5. If you did not pay your \$5 and you did not trim your trees and shrubs overhanging the alley, the Waste people are not going to pick up your garbage in your alley. All it takes is one limb in an alley to give the Waste people an excuse to close the alley to garbage pick up. Please, if you are a renter or homeowner, pay the small \$5 fee and make your neighbors happy.

Your neighbor, Joe E. Stehle 735-5032

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Enhancing your lifestyle

Through Southwest Housing's innovative approach to improving the lives of our residents, each community has professional staff on-site to coordinate and direct social services and activities, such as

- Scheduled Transportation
- · Prescription Medication Program
- Exercise Program
- Health Screenings
- Food Assistance
- Social Outings

Your Community

- Limited Access Gates
- Covered Parking
- Elevators in Each Building
- Barbecue Area with Grills
- Heated Swimming Pool with Wheelchair Access
- Pets Welcome
- Professionally Landscaped Grounds
- 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance











NEIGHBOR PROFILE

THE HOUSE OF SECOND CHANCES

By Jan Peranteau

Houses grab you in ways you don't expect. At least that is what happened to me as I watched the transformation of a small house in the 200 block of Quentin Dr. I saw the "For Sale" sign a few years ago and I thought, "Who would want to buy this house?" It looked a little like the pre-fab '50s houses I had grown up with. The gray siding grated on my nerves. Somehow, that little house with no character didn't belong in the neighborhood.

But then, one day, the "For Sale" sign came down and little flags appeared indicating a survey. I became curious. Each Saturday, as I went to my favorite taco palace, I would drive by the house and look. One Saturday, as I drove by, I saw window boxes with freshly planted flowers. Another Saturday I saw the tree trimmer cutting branches to expose a view of the house. Yet another day I saw flowerbeds being dug and chunky limestone rocks being laid.

Then came the house scrubbing. The windows were shining one day. The house had been washed down and soon after, the glossy white trim appeared. The zinnias began to pop up and a front garden was born.

On another day, as I drove by, I saw that new wrought iron had been bought and installed to frame the door with an opening welcome. Finally a little white swing hung from one of the big branches of the one tree in the front yard.

My courage was taking hold. I did not know the owner but decided to knock on the door anyway. There was no answer. I thought about a note and the exchange of a phone number. I found an envelope in the car and wrote down my intentions—to do a story about this small house of miraculous change. I left a phone number and went home. After gardening half a day and running a few errands, I returned home to see a light blinking on the answering machine. It was the voice of Paula Schechter and she said she would love to show her house and do an interview.

Now comes the hard part—to describe all that I saw in the thirty minutes or so before her son, Max, woke up from his nap.

We sat down on couches with flowery slipcovers and she began her story.

"I call this 'The House of Second Chances." Why, I wondered?

"I moved from a half-million dollar house in the

Marymont area to this—a \$78,000 cottage and I love it. It suits me." She explains it was due to her divorce.

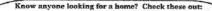
She then went away for a minute and came back with a large brown folder. "These are all the original documents about the house." She pulled out the original bill of sale: \$5,600 sold to Anna Longwith in 1941. She then told me of Anna Longwith's daughter Jean Longwith, who inherited the house after Anna died. "There are similarities between the original owner and myself." Jean Longwith had received a degree in communications and so had Paula Schechter. Jean Longworth loved to entertain and so does Paula. Jean Longworth loved the color pink and pink surrounds the Schechter home.

As Schechter got up to give me a tour, she described the house's décor when she first walked in. "There was a Pepto-Bismol pink room and also a clear sky-blue room." Schechter walked me into the kitchen where she showed me the blue that covered the kitchen walls. She has left an inset of shelves blue, the original blue, in remembrance of the original owner. It brims with rosy dishes that resonate with romanticism and times gone by.

The floors have been stripped of several layers of linoleum. Exposed is a rustic pine floor simply restored. An original Chamber oven is in the kitchen. Schechter has removed the doors and plans to replace them with glass ones. "I want to be able to see my dishes," she said. A collection of amethyst Depression-era glass peers out of the cabinets. Lots and lots of dishes adorned with flowers abound—mostly roses on white porcelain—reminding me of Haviland china. The kitchen sink is from Ron Hubbert, a neighbor. She explains, "I get a lot of free things. Ron was redoing his kitchen. He got a new deep sink." The bowl is wide, long, and shallow. "I don't use a dishwasher as all my dishes are old and need to be washed by hand."

Schechter talks of an Aunt Kit from England who donated much to her new house. There is the furniture with fat cushions surrounded by ruffles. The fabrics are hand gathered from the store "Me and My House." Roses abound in various patterns on the furniture.

We last visited the garden where Schecter has built a patio of discarded pieces of faded painted green concrete. The pieces are primitive and the patio is small but unique. Pea gravel fills the gaps between the concrete pieces. Back beds brim with ferns, an eastern sculpture, and remnants of the original fence. Schechter plans to grow roses on these structures from the past. Her plate is full. Life offers many chances and she considers this her "House of Second Chances."





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Upcoming Poetry Readings Set

by Trinidad Sánchez, Jr.

When Ron Allen first featured this poet at Alexander's Restaurant in Detroit, I was in 7th Heaven! I had been reading in the open mike for about four years and to be invited by Mr. Allen as the "Featured Poet" was like WOW!!! It was supposed to be a 20-minute reading! When the night arrived I read every poem I had ever written—in an hour and a half! My older brother who was present in the audience cornered me and told me, "The next time you read, READ FOR 15 MINUTES!I learned the wisdom in this remark.

Over the years, in organizing poetry readings, I have asked poets to read for 15 minutes. This allows the audience to sample the works of each presenting writer. This way, a reading of four poets/writers will last about an hour. For the most part the directive works and makes for an enjoyable outing.

The 2005 Bihl How Art Poetry Series, in Primrose at Monticello, 2803 Fredericksburg Road, is designed to introduce the community to the many wonderful writers and poets living in our midst. The series kicked off on Sunday, September 11, with a very entertaining read by Lee Unger (Quentin Dr.), followed by the passionate works of Ernest Bevins, and a read-off between Regina Chávez y Sánchez (my wife) and myself. The September 18, 2005, event featured Cynthia Harper, Jim Brandenburg, John A. Ward, and Santiago García, hosted by Chávez y Sánchez. The readings are open to the residents of Primrose and to the neighboring communities. Mark your calendars and please plan to join us for upcoming readings, scheduled for several Sundays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. through the fall: October 9 & 23, November 13 & 27, and December 11. If you wish to be considered for participation in a Bihl Hou, Art, reading, please contact Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. at trinidadjr43@hotmail.com

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THE MINT JULEP

If you missed the Mint Julep, you missed the social event of the decade! So what if it rained? So what if the announcements were a tad on the tardy side? Tony Smith's made-to-order Juleps, a Monticello tradition, did their job. Everyone left happy and can't wait for next year.



Mr. Mint Julep, Tony Smith, was at it again—fixin' em up for all of us!



Tony Smith preps Emilie Ehrisman, the lady of the house.



Lynne Wilkerson (MPNA Prez) & hubbie, Basil

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"If you're not there then you must be square."

NEW MPNA WEB SITE: Monticellopark.org

Remember this web site because it is MPNA's new web site under construction. You can check it out and watch as content is being loaded.

Looking for a past copy of the MPNA Newsletter? Look on the website! Looking for those handy Helpful Numbers? Check the website! Wondering if there are any new neighborhood happenings? Go to the website!

If you have any ideas for content, let us know. Thank you to Jennifer & Peter Caritas, at "stylefish" our 'hood Webmasters. They have designed the beautiful site and can be reached at 734-3377 or by e-mail at

peter@stylefish.com. Thanks!

GAZEBO UPDATE

by Gina O'May

Many of you who have attended the general assembly meetings are aware that we have been making progress on the construction of the Monticello Park gazebo. At the last general assembly meeting (July 26th) we discussed concerns and the board was offered some suggestions. I am happy to report that after making a few adjustments, the design consultant has submitted the plans to the parks department of the City of San Antonio. This is what we have to look forward to:

- MPNA board plans to meet with San Antonio Parks prior to the submission of the design for bidding to confirm that all requests have been met.
- During the month of October MPNA's plans for the construction of the gazebo will go out for bidding.
- During this time the plans will also be sent to HDRC (Historic Design Review Committee)
- Once MPNA accepts a bid by a builder, San Antonio Parks and MPNA will meet with the builder to discuss any loose ends.
- San Antonio Parks expects to break ground mid-tolate November, with completion sometime in March 2006.

Please be aware that this is an approximate time frame, and may be subject to change depending upon the circumstances. However, I felt everyone would be interested and eager to have an update.

TREASURER'S REPORT	
Cash Balance @ 09/12/2005	

Checking	\$6,004.10
Savings	2,664.13
CD	11,329.70
	\$19,997.93
2005 YTD Expenses	3,146.83
2005 YTD Revenue	
Alley	980.00
Dues	1,770.00
Other	607.70
Advertising	3,290.00
T-Shirts	230.00
	6,877.70
	A

Note the following was received in 2004 for 2005:

Alley	167.00
Dues	352.00
	519.00

Gina O'May Treasurer



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THE SERDA REPORT

It's been pretty busy the last couple of months all over San Antonio. In our area, the Monticello Park Neighborhood, we had a slight increase in vehicle burglaries and we are trying to address this problem. Last month we had direct patrol in the Jefferson/Monticello areas every day of the week except Sunday. We also had black Suburban that is stealing plants two bike officers in the area and I asked them to concentrate in the upper Monticello area. Numerous transients were either cited or arrested for infractions. I stopped and I.D.'d the new ones I saw walk along Fredericksburg Rd. Most are coming from the bunk house.

We had a sweep of the Monticello area on 09-03-05. I had 15 kids doing restitution and we picked up trash along Fred. Rd. and in numerous alleys (Club, Furr, and Donaldson, to name a few). We also used weed eaters where it was necessary. We plan on doing this at least once a month. The next graffiti paint clean-up I do in the Monticello area is scheduled for 10-01-05, so I need targets in your area if you want them painted over. I will start in the 1500 blk of Fredericksburg Rd. and work my way south into your subdivision. I have contact with Mr.

Eric Lane and you can pass the locations on to him or you can call me. I will hopefully have a list of locations you want painted over and I can do them all that day.

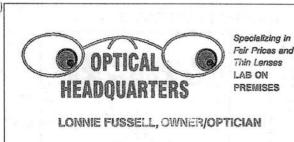
Back to the crime in the neighborhood. We are still looking for that from porches. I have not received any more complaints lately of plants missing, but let's keep an eye out.



I have been running radar along Donaldson and on the 100 thru 300 blocks of Babcock at least once a week. You can call me direct if you have problems with speeders down your block. We can get together and come up with a plan as to when I can run radar there. I try to get to everyone's request at least twice a month.

I hope to hear from you all soon with graffiti paint locations. Always USE CAUTION and be SAFFE,

> Marcos Serda #0592 SAFFE Officer



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Code Compliance	207-7230		
Councilperson Elena Guajardo	207-7044		
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		
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Youth Services	207-7191		

...Continued from page 1

were the delis and Mrs. Schneider's was a fabulous bakery on Fredericksburg Rd. Actually at that time the neighborhood was very vibrant.

When did you move out of Monticello Park? EL:

We didn't move out until 1995. LH:

May I ask you the reason? EL:

My daughter went to college and we wanted a smaller LH: place and I wanted to be closer to work.

Do you miss Monticello at all? EL:

Oh, yes, I really miss it. Of course another thing that happened was that my best friend moved out of town. She lived across the street, we brought up our kids together. But I miss the real sense of community. I loved the mix, the mix of people, and the mix of economics. So, yes, we really miss it. But, we haven't really left completely. We have family there.

Now you are the mayor's wife. Did you expect that? Did EL:

you think that at some point he would run?

Oh, my gosh, no. No. Not until it happened two years LH: ago, when people started asking him to run. The reason I went along with it is that I had participated in a lot of associations and sat on a bunch of boards and I got frustrated. I had lived in other places and I new that this town had potential and that we were always looking at it in a small way. One of the things that really irritated me was this idea that we have a small town feel. The thing is we are not a small town. We've got to quit thinking that way. There is a lot of potential here. But we've got to grow up. The problem is we've got to grow up the way we want to grow up. Not the way that the developers are pushing us, not the way somebody else is pushing us. If we can control the growth we can do it right... and we can do all that, we can say yes you can develop;

Jewish synagogue]; in fact we used to go to Israel days. And there we're not against development, but you have to do it this way. So when Phil said we were going to do this, and you know, we were real happy, at the time—we were on a boat having a great time. What I was going back to was whether Phil serves two years, fours years, or whatever, the idea was to raise the bar. To show people that if you elect somebody who has experience, who has the depth of understanding, who has the big picture mentality, that it can work. And that was the whole deal.

There are a lot of people from all over the world moving EL: to and living here in San Antonio.

One of the things that allowed Phillip to get elected was LH: that people who came from other parts of the country played a critical role in his election. What really happened was there was a synergy that came together. San Antonio is really on the cusp.

Many of us are very thankful that you have supported EL: your husband because we know how much of a demand it really is

to be in the political world.

Well, I did it kicking and screaming. It is a very difficult LH: thing.

In closing, what would you like to say to the neighbor-EL: hood as an ex-Monticellite?

LH: Well, my first thing is congratulations at how great it looks. There is a real sense of community and a sense of identity. I just always loved Monticello Park. I always have considered it home. River Road has a warm spot, but Monticello Park is where we grew up and were we feel at home. Especially my daughter. She feels more at home there than anywhere else.

So, Monticello Park for you, if not in fact, is symbolically home.

Oh, absolutely. That house on Furr will always be home. LH:



Loretta Salazar

KOXT/KSIL Account Executive



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