#### **NEXT MEETING**

## MONDAY January 25, 2010 7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church 950 Donaldson Avenue

#### **Future Meetings:**

#### General Assembly

- · March 29
- May 24
- July 26
- September 27
- November 29

# Board Meeting (Open to all interested)

#### Held at 6:30 PM at The Deco Building 1800 Fredericksburg Road

- February 8\
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 15
- December 13

#### MEET THE NEIGHBORS by Jan Peranteau

Aaron Blanco is a purist. He simply wants to find the best coffee beans from all over the world and bring them back to San Antonio to roast in his own shop. The grayish-green beans are in large burlap bags all over the shop.

Coffee beans from Guatemala and Ethiopia were being roasted and packaged for shipping to New York the day this reporter arrived for an interview. About 8-10 boxes lined the floor. "These are going to the RBC Coffee and Espresso Bar in New York. It is their grand opening and I am going for the event. It is being covered by the New York Times."



Aaron Blanco gets your next cup of coffee ready in his shop Blanco gets his coffee from all over the world and buys whatever he finds is the best. He passes this on to customers who want his expertise and are willing to pay for it.

"Coffee is a clean, sweet fruit with some acidity. The higher up the mountain you go, the more complex the coffee."

Just this week, Blanco opened "Tables and Chairs", a coffee bar in the shop. Two or three tables with accommodating chairs sit in a small, cozy room at the front of the building. The room is lined with the artwork of James Saldivar. His works have an ocean –like quality. The coffee bar is open every Wednesday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Blanco serves five drinks. "They are made while you wait. Nothing is prepared in advance.

That's why it is called a 'Slow Bar'. But there is no cream and sugar. Coffee doesn't need it. It is naturally sweet." He said he had some trouble with customers wanting cream and sugar, but his purist nature comes through and he maintains his position of no cream and sugar. The day I was there he prepared a "Macchiatto" It is an espresso marked with a little milk that is lactose free. When asked why lactose free, he said, "What do you think of lactose-free milk?" The reporter made a face. He said, "Exactly. You think of it as a poor substitute for milk. But actually it is quite sweet naturally and good-tasting." The drink is creamy and delicious. In an espresso cup, it certainly doesn't take long to drink but the warm, rich tones of the coffee linger in the mouth.

Blanco talks of his interest in coffee. "We all started drinking coffee in college. I hate to think of some of drinks that went down as coffee. Back then it was Folgers and Maryland Club. We are discovering coffee as we discovered wine forty years ago."

When asked about competitors, such as Starbucks, he said, "Starbucks is now like a McDonalds." His coffee is straight from the bag—raw and untouched, then roasted by his hand and sold immediately.

Continued on page 7

#### 2008 Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

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President:

Ferne Burney

734-2445

V. President: Ron Hubbert

734-2443

732-5543

Secretary:

**Rob Sipes** 

738-0379

Treasurer:

Michael Robbins

732-5434

#### **Board Members**

Gail Collins	735-9966
Mary Guerrero	681-2399
Sagrario Mejia	806-440-6777
Frank Ramirez	734-0999
Richard Weik	731-0780
Kay Woods	738-2343

#### **Newsletter Committee**

Editor: Ferne Burney .......734-2445
Advertising Manager: Board Members

#### Advertising

For pricing information call: 734-2445

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

For article submission and calendar of events, please contact the editor, Ferne Burney, 734-2445 ferneburney@hotmail.com

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, this is a switch! After months of yelling over the fence to Rob Sipes that his column is overdue, I find that I merely need to look in the mirror to find the one responsible for the president's column!

I want to thank Rob for his leadership and the contributions that continue to our Association in his role of Board Secretary. We are at an advantage with an architect on the board, willing and able to render beautiful artwork and detailed digital images for the MPNA.

As we begin the new year, I would like to remind all neighbors to pay the annual dues to the Association. The dues are still just \$15 and are important to the work we are doing on behalf of the neighborhood. We need some basic funds to keep the ball rolling in our efforts. While the dues are voluntary, the benefit comes to all who live in our area.

#### Last year you saw:

- A mass of people fighting for a zoning change which could prevent a late-hours bar to be established within our boundaries. Neighbors attended the zoning commission meeting, a day-long TABC hearing, and a City Council meeting.
- · Continued efforts in graffiti abatement
- A focus with local leaders to guide the bus rapid transit which will establish a transit station in the middle of our neighborhood
- Participation and advice with the changes in our local school district.
- Strengthening of the police presence in our area
- Vision and guidance concerning changes at Woodlawn Lake and other areas
- Changes on Kampmann Road (sidewalks)
- Support of our local schools through scholarships and program participation
- A farewell to one special neighbor, Andy Mireles, our friend. Our story in the newsletter will remember him not as the media has presented but as the very special person he was and the wonderful family he helped create.

Every time I think we could not get more involved with issues in the city, more opportunities arise. We could really use your help and advice, at least your support.

Plan to attend our General Assemblies this year. You are welcome to attend any Board meeting as well. All of those meetings and locations are listed in the left-hand column on the first page of this newsletter.

I look forward to working with you and to helping make Monticello Park a better place.

Ferne Burney President, MPNA

#### FROM THE EDITOR

So now, the schizophrenia sets in! I will not be producing a note from the editor since you will hear what I have to say in the president's message. So what goes in here?

I think we need to give a try at *Letters to the Editor*. If you have a comment, a question, a suggestion, a complaint, a story; let's try to put it right here!

You can send your letter to me at ferneburney@hotmail.com. Pictures will be appreciated in a *jpeg* format.

The other alternative is lots more advertising! We can always use the help in getting the newsletter produced through increased ad volume. Our prices have never been lower, and we would love to hear from you and your business.

Thanks for all of your support of our efforts.

Ferne Burney, Editor

Name:		Phone:	
Address:			
E-mail Address:		1	
I would also like to	help on the following committees:		Membership Dues
Finance Fundraising	Social Activities Safety/Crime Prevention	Park Zoning	\$10 Senior Dues \$15 Member Dues
☐ Membership ☐ Directory	Historical Preservation  Scholarship	Home Tour Newsletter	S_Additional for

#### **UPDATE ON CLUB PULSE**

December 3,2009 brought out more than twenty neighbors to the City Council chambers at City Hall. As we signed up to speak to Council, we were excited at the prospect of what to say and to whom we would direct comments. Residents of the Primrose Apartments, Jefferson Neighborhood Association, Los Angeles Heights Neighborhood Association, and the Apartments Northwest joined residents of Monticello Park to support the zoning change that had been recommended by the Zoning Commission some three months previously.

While we were happy to have such a good turnout for the presentation before Council, we were dismayed to learn that Julian Castro, former Councilman from District 7 and good friend of the area, was not in attendance. The absence of one other member of Council also meant that we were not needing a simple majority to rule in our favor, we needed a UNANIMOUS vote by Council to support the zoning change. Was such a thing possible?

Councilman Justin Rodriguez conferred with us as did his aide. He was as reassuring as he could be under the circumstances. Complicating matters was that Council had just returned from a closed door session concerning the problems at City Public Service. We expected no one to be in a good mood.

During the presentations by seventeen residents of our area, a recommendation was made that the down-zoning be changed from a C2 designation to a C3-R designation. This would allow the owners of the property to establish a laboratory in the building, to establish a liquor store, to establish several other types of businesses there, but that no liquor can be consumed on the premises.

The compromise seemed to fit what both sides were looking for, with the exception of the owners of Club Pulse. Council was ready for the vote. Everyone's fingers were crossed. The votes were posted...each and every Councilman voted in support. We will never have a nightclub on that site with this zoning change!



HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS	
District 7 Council Office	207-7044
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control	311
SAWS	724-7097
CPS	. 353-2222
Officer Serda	
SAPD — West Substation	207-7420
SAISD Police	
VIA Transit	
SAISD Truancy Office	

×
\$5,375.88
\$3,815.11
\$11,329.70
\$20,520.69



Set., Feb. 20, 11:00 em to 8:00 pm Surs, Feb. 21, Neon to 8:00 pm

Self-guided tour of art studios and galleries located in the neighborhoods on and off Fredericksburg Rd. between Vance Jackson and Culebra. Organized by Bihl Hans Arts.

> www.onandofffred.org 210.383.9723 kellenkee@swhell.net

#### **Remembering Andy**

By Jan Peranteau

Judge Andy Mireles raced through life like his favorite sports car, flying down an open stretch of road. Out the door at 5:30 a.m. and home by 6:00 p.m., his life seemed to never stop. But on December 15, 2009 at 3:30 p.m., the wheels stopped turning and Judge Mireles died of a heart attack. He was 59 years old.

As judge of the 73<sup>rd</sup> District cour, the didn't take kindly to juveniles breaking into cars, stealing TVs and guns. He had two sons and always expected them to toe the mark. He also expected parents to be responsible for their children. His wife, Margaret, and I used to meet to chat at the local baby sitter. Since I had a son, we would compare notes on husbands and attitudes on discipline. Andy was always known as stern disciplinarian. That certainly came across in our talks.

Born on April 3, 1950 in Lockhart, Texas, Andy Mireles grew up among four brothers and a sister. His father and mother moved to San Antonio, and Andy's father worked as a mechanic at the historic automobile building on Broadway, Broadway Dodge. Andy went to St. Mary's Law school and graduated second in his class. My brother, Phil Hardberger, said, "He studied to be a priest but discovered women." Or in a more refined tone, "He discovered Margaret Guzman, and the priesthood was out." Straight out of law school, Andy went to work for Phil Hardberger and Frank

Herrera. Hardberger talked to Dean Castleberry, head of the law school at that time, about the most promising students and Castleberry said, "That would be Andy Mireles." Mireles worked at the firm for five years. During that time, his first case was my Uncle Billy, a rowdy sort of fellow, who had a car wreck and was suing for damages. At any rate, Andy lost the case and grieved that he had not done better for the Hardberger family. But knowing my uncle, I am sure there were many mitigating factors. Leaving the Hardberger/Herrera firm, he went to work for Phil Watkins. He was in that office for five years. After that, he ran for judge of the 73<sup>rd</sup>. District Court and won. He remained in that position until his death.

As a resident of the Monticello Park Neighborhood, Judge Mireles was out and about first living on Furr Drive. A landmark at each of his residences was his display of the American flag. On Furr, Margaret bought him a flagpole. The flag flew there every morning. Margaret said that there were some problems with vandalism of the flagpole, so, on Mary Louise, they decided to get a flag that could be displayed from the columns of the house.



Neighbors could also see Mireles out on a Saturday morning cleaning his cars—especially his beloved Mercedes. He waxed and shined all his cars till they gleamed. Margaret said, "He loved to watch car races on television-the Nascar races." And in the younger years, he went with my brother to Watkins Glen Nascar races.

My favorite story though is the Traveling Baby Bed. When Amy Hardberger was born, the Hardbergers purchased a lovely spindle baby bed with bouncy springs on all four legs. Amy used it and bounced and bounced. Jarad Peranteau, my son came along, so Patrick and I traveled to San Antonio and picked up the baby bed that had now moved to the garage. Jarad bounced and bounced. Finally, the Mireles boys were born, Jonathan and Matthew. Patrick and I loaded up the baby bed and delivered it to the Mireles residence on Furr. I'm sure their boys bounced and bounced.

Neighbor, Sandy Rodriguez, said she will miss seeing Andy out pruning his roses. They lined his front walk. The roses are red and he had white gravel all around them—to keep out the grass. At any rate, he sat on his little green bucket turned upside down and examined each bush for bugs and blight. Margaret has a lot to do in the days ahead. When spring comes, we may all need to get on gardening gloves and help her keep those roses in shape. They were his pride and joy.

### **CALENDAR REMINDERS**

January 25

EMINDERS

General Assembly

January 28

28 Jefferson Historical
Preservation Society Meeting
Thomas Jefferson High School
Cafeteria, 6:30pm-8:30 pm

January 28

Harlem Globetrotters

AT&T Center

January 29

January 29

Western Art Show
Witte Museum

Fire on the Bayou
redericksburg Road
7:30 pm

1920 Fredericksburg Road

January 30

Graffiti Abatement 457 Club, 9 am

February 4—21 San Antonio Rodeo AT&T Center

February 5

First Friday

Southtown

February 8

MPNA Board Meeting Board Meeting Deco Building

February 12

Riverwalk Garden

Workday -

February 12

Lance and Sabers

Magnolia Ball

The Colonial Room Restaurant

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

February 13 Miss Fiesta San Antonio
Scholarship Pageant

February 20
Asian Festival
851 Durango

February 27
Earthwise Living Day
6417 Evers Pond Scholarship Pageant

851 Durango

6417 Evers Road

March 21 Empty Bowls Fund Raising

Event

Southwest Craft Center

April 4—6NCAA Women's Final Four

AT&T Center

In the Future:

May 1

MPNA Garage Sale

October 30

MPNA Garage Sale

November 7

MPNA Home Tour



He sells locally to some restaurants such as the Lighthouse Coffee Café on Stone Oak Parkway, Soleil Bistro and Wine Bar on

Blanco, and Le Midi, downtown on Houston Street. "The local neighborhood people are beginning to change," Blanco said. " They have a little disposable income." Speaking of his business, he said," We want to be a neighborhood place where you come to buy your coffee. This is not an Internet café, where you look at a computer screen. You have to want to interact with people. Bring a friend. Sit down and enjoy life."

Prices start at \$12 for 12 ounces of coffee. They can be as high as \$18 or \$19 a bag depending on how many roasts are involved in the process. If you are coming to the coffee bar, you need to



Brown Coffee Company on Kings Highway

bring cash for your cup of coffee and any other purchases you make there. He sells some bags of coffee out of his shop as well as the burlap bags the coffee comes in. He sells the Chemex and French Press coffee pots. "With these pots, you control the elements. Everything is manual and very fresh. As for purchase, he prefers that customers go online to make their selections. There are descriptions of different kinds of coffees. The address is browncoffeeco.com.

One last question from one who loves a good cup of coffee,"
Should the beans be refrigerated?" He said, "Never!" Why not?
"It moistens the beans and destroys the flavor as well as picking



Happy New Year!

We want you to be aware of a neighborhood program scheduled for this month:

What: "Education for the Future on an Historic Campus"

When: Thursday, January 28, 2010

6:30 pm —8:30 pm

Where: Thomas Jefferson High School

Cafeteria Area

Who: Featured Speaker

Julian Castro

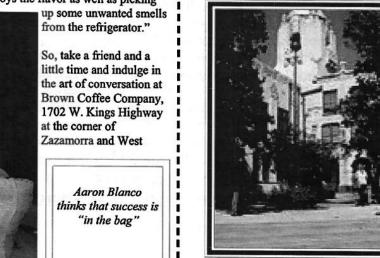
Sponsors: Jefferson High School

And

Jefferson Historical Preservation Society

Hope we get to visit

Tom Murrah For Jefferson Preservation



# Beautification of Monticello Park By Ron Hubbert

By now, hopefully everyone realizes that Monticello Park is a very good place to live. It does not matter if you have lived here for only a very short time or a very long time, the mystique of the neighborhood drew you here and hopefully you are pleased with your choice of making this area your home. We know the people are great. We know that our individual homes are wonderful. Each of us has done many things to make the inside of our houses, that perfect home for us. Many of us have also taken pride in the outside of our homes and done things that make it not only enjoyable for us individually, but enjoyable for the whole neighborhood.

We, the association board and many of the people in the neighborhood, want everyone to take pride in the outside appearance of their home. With this in mind we are starting a drive to help beautify Monticello Park. The association will give up to a \$500 reimbursement award, twice a year, to two households who are improving the look of Monticello Park. The improvement can be small things like planting flowers or creating landscape beds, to medium projects like planting new grass in your yard or rebuilding wood screens, to as grand as wood window restoration, painting your home, a new roof, front door restoration, or repairing mortar on a masonry home. It will be truly up to you as to how you are helping improve the beauty of the neighborhood.

We plan to make this award twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. We will reimburse a household up to \$500 for beautifying/improving the outward appearance of their home. You can do the work yourself or have it done professionally. You can apply for the reimbursement award twice on any one project. If you were not chosen the first time you applied, you may apply a second time; or if you have gotten reimbursed once on one project, you can do another project and apply again for the new project. You must keep your receipts for your expenses and submit them as part of your application. You must submit a "before" and an "after" picture of your project.

All exterior repairs (maintenance) or changes to your home and property (this includes landscaping) require a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Office of Historic Preservation. You need to submit copies of your Certificate of Appropriateness and any required City permit as part of your application. http://www.sanantonio.gov/Historic/ or call the Office of Historic Preservation 210) 215-9274

We have tried to keep the application and process as simple as possible because we really want to encourage people to improve the curb appeal of the neighborhood. We know that money is always a factor and that is why we are trying to help you by reimbursing you some, if not all, of your expenses.

In this copy of the newsletter, you will find the application for Beautifying Monticello Park. Read it over. Ask questions if you need to clarify any of the requirements. You can call Ron Hubbert at 732-5543 and he will answer your questions, or better yet, come to the next general assembly meeting as this will be part of the agenda.

Start to make plans. The application is not due until May 8, 2010 which gives you plenty of time to decide what you want to do, when the best time to do it would be, and to shop around for the best prices for your project. If you need more time, for whatever reason, the next reimbursement award application will not be due until November 6, 2010.

# Monticello Park Neighborhood Association Beautification Application

Please complete the application below. The application is an continuing process so it is suggested that you keep it and your supporting documents in a folder until you are ready to turn it in.

Remember that the project you choose to beautify your house and consequently the neighborhood can be something very simple or something very complicated. It is up to you.

This application is due by Saturday May 8, 2010. It and the supporting documents can be turned in to any board member. You do not have to turn in the original receipts, work orders, contracts, etc. You may turn in photocopies, but the dates and relevant information must be visible.

Name	
Address	
Phone Number_	
This is the	
	first time I have submitted this project for consideration.
	second time I am submitting this project.
	I did not receive a reimbursement
	award for it the first time it was submitted.
	scription of what you plan to do. If you need more lines, feel free to answer sheet of paper and attach it to the application. Please write or print legibly.
<u> </u>	

Important rules on next page!!!!!

### Beautification Project Rules, continued:

You must abide by the following rules to be considered for the reimbursement award. A committee will make the final decision as to which household will receive the reimbursement award.

Your full application must be submitted to a board member by Saturday, May 8, 2010. Applications must include receipts, work orders, contracts or photocopies of the same. The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association will reimburse you up to \$500 for your project. If your cost is less than \$500, you will be reimbursed up to the amount of your cost.

Some store receipts do not give details as to what was purchased. Please list your purchases on a sheet of paper. You must still turn in your receipts, or copies, along with this list.

The project must be able to be seen by anyone who stands on the street. Your undertaking should take place in the front of the house if you live in the middle of the block. If you live on a corner, the project can be on either the front or the side of the house or yard.

You must submit a "before" and an "after" picture of your project.

All repairs/maintenance and changes, including window repairs and landscaping, must be submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation for approval. Check with the Office of Historic Preservation before you begin any work and make sure to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness. You must submit a copy of the certificate of appropriateness as part of the application. The Office of Historic Preservation is located at 1901 South Alamo. The phone number is 215-9274.

There are certain types of work that may need a permit from the city. Check with the Office of Planning and Development before you begin any work and obtain a permit if one is needed. If a permit is needed from the city, you must submit a copy of the permit as part of the application. The Office of Planning and Development is located at 1901 South Alamo. The phone number is 207-1111.

If you were not awarded a reimbursement for your project the first time, and this is the second time you are submitting this application, please make sure that you checked the appropriate space above.

. A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF

# 2010 ON & OFF FREDERICKSBURG RD: STUDIO TOUR A 2-day self-guided tour of artists' studios in neighborhoods along historic Fredericksburg Rd. in San Antonio, Texas Sat., Feb. 20, 11:00 am-6:00 pm & Sun., Feb. 21, noon-6pm

San Antonio, TX – December 2, 2009. The 3rd Annual On & Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour takes place in San Antonio's famed Deco District, along a section of the celebrated Old Spanish Trail Auto Highway. The event, scheduled for Feb. 20 and 21, 2010, features two full days of leisurely self-guided tours that offer visitors the rare opportunity to interact with area artists in their work spaces. From reclaimed former neighborhood grocery stores to intimate backyard sanctuaries, the studios on the tour provide the environments in which artists create a variety of works, such as large ceramic sculptures, metalworks, one-of-a-kind light fixtures, art photography, and a variety of paintings in various styles. Demonstrations, hospitality, and opportunities to purchase art are all part of the On and Off Fred experience. The Mission of the On and Off Fredericksburg Rd. Studio Tour is to promote the work of diverse visual and cultural artists in the area, enhance the appreciation for the arts in the community, and stimulate neighborhood revitalization.

More than 50 artists who live and work in the 6 target neighborhoods will participate in the 2010 On and Off Fred Tour. Among thm are svral artist who live in Monticello Park. They are: David Alcantar (Furr), Norman René Avila (Club), Le Green-Schubert (Furr), David Guerrero (North), María Guerrero (North), Eric Lane (Quentin), and David S. Rubin (Quentin), plus Bihl Haus Arts and IAMA Coffee House. They will open their spaces free to the public from 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday, February 20, and noon to 6 pm on Sunday, February 21, 2010.

The tour weekend kicks off Friday evening, February 19, 6:00-9:00 pm, with the not-to-be-missed On & Off Fred Autograph Party and Reception at Bihl Haus Arts, 2803 Fredericksburg Rd., with music by. On exhibit will be works by each of the studio tour participating artists who will be on hand to autograph copies of the tour catalog. Lavish hors d'oeuvres, wine, live jazz by George Prado (Quentin) and Joe Gonzalez, and the opportunity to mingle with artists, event sponsors, and community leaders fill the evening.

Visiting the tour website— <a href="www.onandofffred.org">www.onandofffred.org</a> —provides the visitor with compete tour information, a downloadable map, and images of each artist's work. On the tour visitors are guided by a color-coded map that makes navigating the tour easy. Seven neighborhoods are featured on the tour this year: historic Monticello Park, stately Jefferson, Woodlawn Lake, Los Angeles Heights, eclectic Keystone, charming Beacon Hill, and delightful Alta Vista. A full-color, 88-page studio tour catalog (\$10) may be purchased beginning Feb. 1st at local participating businesses, including Vee's Hair and Spa (1022 Donaldson) and the International School of Music and Art Coffee House (just off Fredericksburg Road @ 131 Babcock).

The On and Off Fredericksburg Road Studio Tour is made possible with the support of the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs and City Council District 7. The tour is organized by area artists and Bihl Haus Arts (<a href="www.bihlhausarts.org">www.bihlhausarts.org</a>), which is located at Primrose at Monticello Park Apartments, the only non-profit professional art gallery on the premises of senior affordable housing in the U.S. The gallery is also supported by The Potashnik Family Foundation and Primrose. For more information, 210.383.9723, or kellenkee@swbell.net

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> Full page ad for \$100 1/2 page ad for \$50 1/4 page ad for \$25 Business card ad for \$15 Classified ad for \$5

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