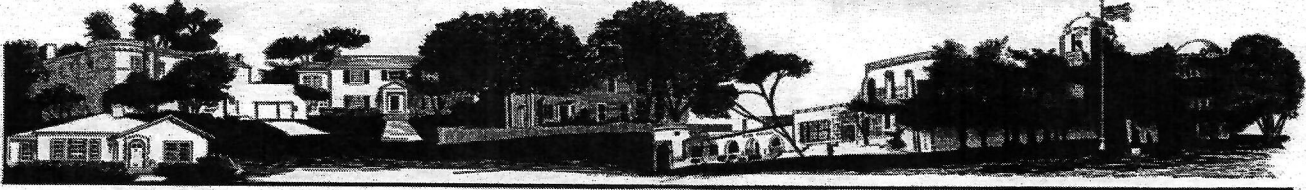


Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



May—June 2010

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY
May 24, 2010
7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson Avenue

Future Meetings:

General Assembly

- 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

- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 15
- December 13

MEET THE NEIGHBORS

"All my wishes end where I hope my days will end, at Monticello"

Does that sound like one of our neighbors? No, it is a quotation from the man who not only was one of the outstanding citizens ever in our nation, our neighborhood high school is named after him: Thomas Jefferson. And of course, Monticello Park is a reference to the name of the home Jefferson built and died in, Monticello.

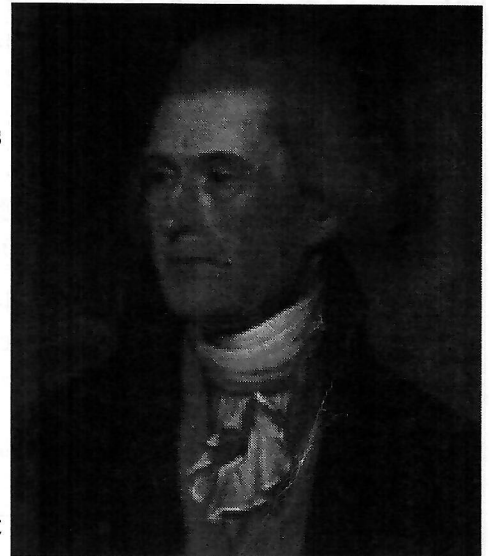
We have all worked hard on our lessons and passed our American history class, so much of the information concerning our third President would be repetitious to you. Our "Meet the Neighbors" in this issue will focus on some of the more rare facts concerning this man.

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson was born at Shadwell (hence the street name one block from the school), his family estate in Virginia?

Jefferson kept a mockingbird named Dick in the White House study, and let the bird ride on his shoulder whenever possible. President Jefferson even trained Dick to take bits of food that he held between his lips at meals! When Jefferson went upstairs, his faithful companion would hop up after him, step after step, never far from his side. Dick would have to remain upstairs if Jefferson had guests for dinner.

Bears brought back from Lewis and Clark's famous expedition were displayed in cages on the White House lawn. For years the White House was sometimes referred to as the "president's bear garden."

Thomas Jefferson was once given a 1,235 pound hunk of cheese, giving us the term "the big cheese." Jefferson once ate a tomato in public to prove it wasn't poisonous. Thomas Jefferson was a vegetarian, green peas were his favorite. He had a huge greenhouse where he cultivated a wide variety of pea plants along with a wide variety of native plants.



Thomas Jefferson

Continued on page 7

2008
Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association

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734-2445
V. President: Ron Hubbert
732-5543
Secretary: Rob Sipes
738-0379
Treasurer: Michael Robbins
732-5434

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Newsletter Committee

Editor: Ferne Burney734-2445
Advertising Manager: Board Members

Advertising

For pricing information call: 734-2445

MPNA Address:

P.O. Box 5851

San Antonio, Texas 78201

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello from the MPNA Board!

We are working on recommendations for our neighborhood in regards to the Near Northwest Community Plan. We discussed it briefly during our last General Assembly, and I thought you would want an update. As we work toward a Master Plan for the neighborhood, an important step for our future, we must keep our neighborhoods preserved.

The following was forwarded to the city from our Board:

The highest priority of the list on the plan for MPNA is the sidewalks on Vollum Avenue from Fredericksburg Road to Woodlawn Lake. The area from Mary Louise Drive to the Lake needs funding for sidewalks. The preference is for sidewalks on the east side of the street, abutting the curb.

Funding for the sidewalks on the west side of Lake Boulevard from Club Drive to Donaldson was requested as well. This area remains a high foot traffic area, and the extension of the already constructed sidewalks needs to be completed.

A request was also made for sidewalks at the corner of North and Shearer.

We also continue to keep our fingers on the pulse of Club Pulse. Much activity is taking place in the courts, but for us, it is a watch and wait situation. As for the location itself, all seems in a holding pattern. Stay tuned.

Finally, we circulated a flyer several weeks ago which commented on our feature article from the March-April 2010 newsletter. In that article, quotes were related which proved to contain inaccurate information. The MPNA wants to remind our readers that opinions quoted and published in the newsletter are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the neighborhood association. We regret that remarks concerning Joe Alderete contained information which was inaccurate. Monticello Park Neighborhood Association regrets any confusion resulting from those remarks.

I hope that you will take time to attend the General Assembly on Monday night!

Ferne Burney
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

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

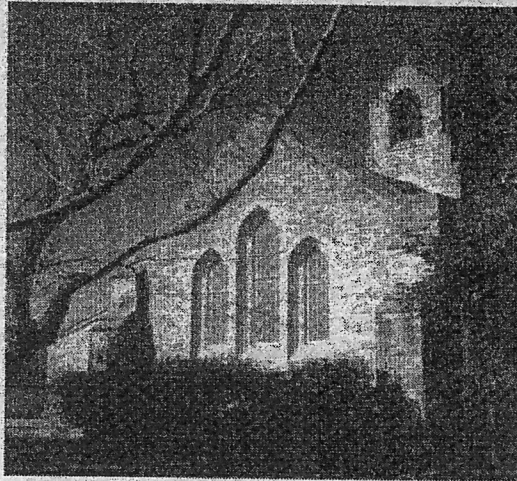
Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78228

WORSHIP WITH US
IN THE
HEART OF
JEFFERSON VILLAGE
(at the corner of Donaldson & Manor)

In the Monticello / Jefferson
Neighborhood

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Reverend Anna Wise, Pastor
(210) 735-9419
gracesec@att.net



MONTICELLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

Yes, I want to invest in my neighborhood. Enclosed is my 2009 contribution.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I would also like to help on the following committees:

Membership Dues

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Crime Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directory | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior Dues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Member Dues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$__ Additional for _____ |

Send to:
MPNA P.O. Box 5851 • San Antonio, TX 78201

Laddie Place 3 Update

Laddie Place Phase 3-Northwest Shopping Center Monticello Park/Jefferson/Woodlawn areas saw horrific flooding in 1998 and 2002. The homes along Kampmann saw a surge of water which came out of the street and entered homes, swept away cars, and cut off access from emergency services. At Woodlawn Lake, the homes became submerged in water and became floating islands. The community was promised efforts to assist with flood control and therefore the Laddie Projects emerged: Laddie 1, 2, and 3. The City of San Antonio funded Laddie 1 and 2 (completed and operational) and Bexar County will fund Laddie 3. One might ask what are the Laddie Projects? They are a series of detention ponds designed to hold water and then slowly release runoff water in a controlled effort: 24 to 48 hours after a significant rainfall. Detention ponds protect a community from a surge of water and decrease the flow rate of water in a drainage channel. Typically, they are located in low lying areas with access off a major drainage channel. The goal of Laddie 1, 2, and 3 will be to provide a regional solution for flood control. Will it eliminate all the flooding in our communities? No, but it will reduce the severity and damage. Laddie 1 is located off Spencer Lane and Laddie 2 is off Fredericksburg on the south side. The last project Laddie 3 will be located at the Northwest Shopping Center.

The County held public meetings about changes in the 100 year flood plain maps and regional projects which were planned. Laddie 3 emerged as a priority in our Watershed. A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place: Five are in Bexar County. Maybe it was timing, but in 2007, our community also flooded which ignited support for Laddie 3. Laddie 3 will unfortunately require the use of the entire property at the Northwest Shopping Center. The property is located in the 100 year flood plain and has flooded many times. Our area of town is fully developed; therefore, eminent domain is being used to acquire property for Laddie 3 construction. It will be sad to see the businesses move, but ultimately it is for the benefit of the regional community. Bexar County will purchase the land and assist with moving expenses for the tenants. The plan is requesting tenants to move by September 1st and demolition is planned for the first of the year. Bexar County will be holding additional meetings for community input on the design of the green space. Laddie 3 will not just be a hole in the ground but a recreational green area. The County is looking for your comments. Additional information may be obtained at www.bexarfloodfacts.org or call: 335.2011.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| District 7 Council Office..... | 207-7044 |
| Code Compliance | 311 |
| Animal Control..... | 311 |
| SAWS..... | 724-7097 |
| CPS..... | 353-2222 |
| Officer Serda..... | 207-7421 |
| SAPD — West Substation..... | 207-7420 |
| SAISD Police..... | 271-3124 |
| VIA Transit..... | 362-2019 |
| SAISD Truancy Office..... | 223-2360 |

Treasurer's Report:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Checking: | \$5,232.86 |
| Savings: | \$3,835.61 |
| CD: | \$11,329.70 |
| Total Treasury: | \$20,388.17 |

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BRT is Now VIA Primo

By Rob Sipes

Much to our dismay, but not completely unexpected, the VIA Bus Rapid Transit route on Fredericksburg Road has undergone some significant changes. There were three rationales for changing BRT into something more along the lines of an "enhanced" bus service:

1. The VIA Long Range Comprehensive Transportation Plan has decided that the route "may require further study to determine if a rail alternative is appropriate."
2. "Partnering agencies and stakeholders desire mixed-flow (no dedicated lanes) operation for BRT."
3. "Funding earmarked for reconstruction of Fredericksburg Rd... is deferred to 2012 and 2013."

VIA tried to do a good job of selling their new service, but everyone in attendance at the latest Corridor Council meeting saw right through it. VIA stated that by not doing dedicated lanes now, the streets won't have to be torn up again in the future for a rail line. When asked how soon a light rail line could be built, we learned that it could be 15-20 years away.

We then asked who objected to dedicated lanes, since there had never been any vocal opposition at any previous public meeting. Representatives from Balcones Heights also noted that they had not heard of any opposition from businesses to dedicated bus lanes. It was finally revealed that the City of San Antonio had some issues. This single change (an almost prerequisite of BRT service) will significantly impact travel times to the Medical Center.

Another meeting attendee noted that the new brochures show standard busses. VIA responded that no decision has been made yet on the bus type which will be used.

Ok... so we won't have dedicated lanes, we may not have fancy buses, but at least Fredericksburg Road will be fixed, right? "We are hoping to still do the concrete pads at the bus stops," was the only reply. I suggested that the BRT project be put on hold until 2012 when the funding to reconstruct Fredericksburg Road would be available. It quickly became obvious that this funding may *never* become available.

I believe it is very unfair in that VIA says they needed to cut the money allocated for a 12 mile+ BRT system from \$133.5 million to \$76.2 million when they are pushing fast and hard to spend \$90 million on just a 2.2 mile streetcar (i.e. rail) system downtown (operational in just a few years). Don't forget that the BRT project (and a portion of its money) also includes upgrades to the Alamodome terminal and a new downtown Multi-modal facility which will be used by the streetcar. To say that the most traveled route in San Antonio (downtown to the Medical Center) requires more study and is lacking money is insulting. As I mentioned to VIA, any public vote on rail is going to be a hard sale because people will say "it will just be chopped in half."

Will this enhanced service be an overall benefit to our area? Yes, without a doubt. But, as another representative said, "this is a substantially different product, from what we were sold."

CALENDAR REMINDERS

May 14—August 7

Fiesta Noche Del Rio
Arneson River Theater

May 31

Memorial Day

June 4

First Friday
Southtown

June 5

Tails of the Trails
Hardberger Park
13203 Blanco Road

June 10

Concert Under the Stars
San Antonio Botanical Gardens

June 11—13

Texas Folklife Festival
Institute of Texan Cultures

June 12

City Pools Open

June 18

Gartenfest
Beethoven Maennerchor

June 19

Juneteenth Celebration

June 24

Concert Under the Stars
San Antonio Botanical Gardens

July 4

Independence Day
Citywide Celebration
Freedom Fest at Market Square
Fireworks Show at Woodlawn Lake

July 8

Concert Under The Stars
San Antonio Botanical Gardens

In the Future:

October 5

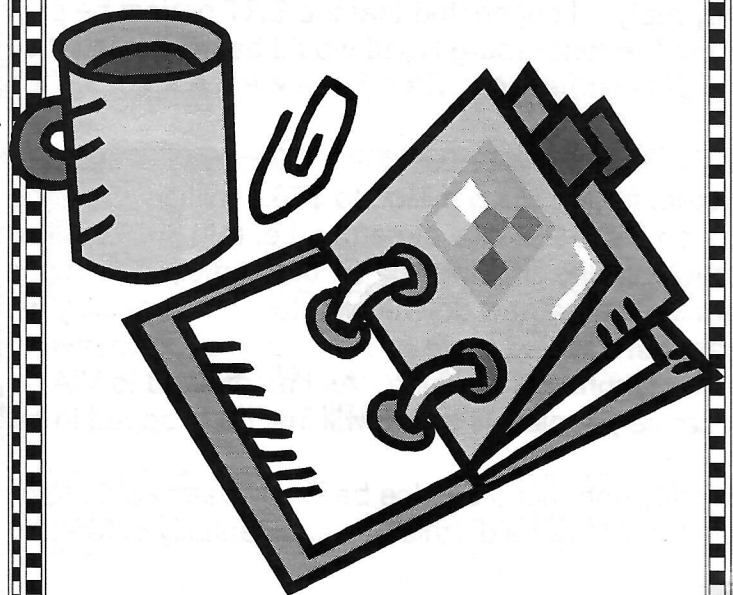
National Neighborhood
Night Out

October 30

MPNA Garage Sale

November 7

MPNA Home Tour



Scholarship Committee News

The scholarship committee has been busy this past spring. On May 1 we had our annual spring garage sale. The day was perfect. It was bright and sunny with just enough coolness in the air to make it a very comfortable day. We have developed a following of loyal sellers and buyers. This time we did not have as many vendors as buyers, but it was still a good day.

In all we brought in right at \$500.00 for the day. As of now we not only have paid for the scholarship that we are giving this spring, but we have paid for the scholarship we will be giving in the Spring of 2012.

We recently met with the finalist for this year's scholarship. We had some outstanding finalist. We want to congratulate this year's recipient Misty Marie Marrin. Misty does not attend Jefferson High School. She lives in the neighborhood and attends St. Anthony's High School. She will be attending Briar Cliff University this fall. She plans to become a pediatric nurse. She has many accolades to her credit - taking PreAP and AP courses, becoming involved in the community, being involved in extra curricular activities, and a sense of determination to make sure she achieves her dreams. As she told the committee, the one thing that she would like us to remember about her is that she has heart. The committee agrees with her completely.

Please come and meet Misty as we will honor her at our next association meeting.

.....Continued from page 1

Thomas Jefferson was the first US President to shake hands with the people instead of bowing to them. After being sworn in as the third President, he returned to his boarding house for his dinner. All the seats were occupied. Jefferson politely declined the seat offered by the wife of a Kentucky senator.

He was a voracious reader who had a collected around 6,000 books. Later he sold his collection of books to the Library of Congress for \$23,950. He had collected books in seven different languages. He had mastered the language Latin and Greek.

He died on the same day as John Adams, the second president of the United States of America. That day was July 4, 1826, fifty years after the birth of our nation. They were originally friends but became bitter political adversaries. They lived fairly close to each other; it's said that when one died, the other learned about it and more or less decided that he could die, also.

Jefferson was instrumental in establishing the monetary system of the US. It was he who made the dollar the official currency of the US and he advised the usage of the decimal system of money. A cent became the denominator of a dollar. The range of Jefferson's genius—his interests, abilities and accomplishments—would be extraordinary in any age. He developed an improved plow, the swivel chair, a bookcase for reading several books at a time, an improved dumbwaiter, a macaroni (as in pasta) machine, and many other tools to improve the life of the American farmer.

The last years of his life were spent in retirement at Monticello, during which period he founded, designed, and directed the building of the University of Virginia.

"Its soul, its climate, its equality, liberty, laws, people, and manners. My god! how little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!"

Thomas Jefferson

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Just a gentle reminder that NO landscaping changes or modifications to the outside of your home can be made in our historic district without the approval of the Office of Historic Preservation.



Once proposed changes are presented, a determination will be made whether or not the proposal must be presented to the Historic District Review Board.



The offices are located at 1901 S. Alamo in San Antonio, phone 215-9274.



You may contact the office on-line at ohp@sanantonio.gov.

