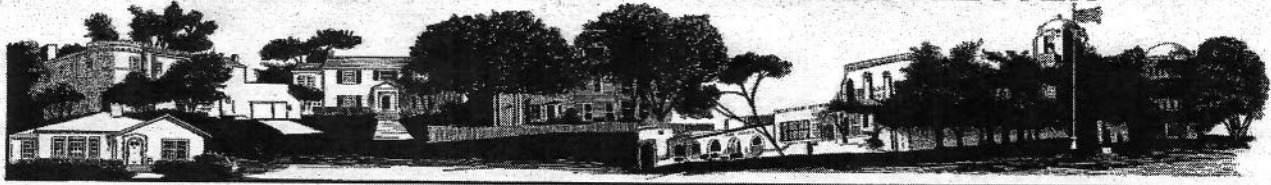


# Monticello Park NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



March—April 2011

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

## NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY**  
March 28, 2011  
7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church  
950 Donaldson Avenue

## MEET THE NEIGHBORS

by Jan Peranteau



*Earline Valdez and Sandee Gibson wait at the Monticello Park bus stop for their next exciting bus ride.*

Step back in time and ride the bus for a quarter. You must be 62 years old and have a Reduced fare I.D. Now, laugh at the price of gas at the pump. Sandee and Galen Gibson decided to try the bus lines about a week ago and found it to be a real adventure. "We got on 91 and rode to town in fifteen minutes," Sandee Gibson said.

Another neighbor, Earline Valdez, gave advice. "Make sure you don't sit by the window. I sat by the window once. A drunk went to sleep beside me and I had a hard time getting out." Valdez often rides the bus to Southwest Craft Center where she takes weaving classes. She also explained, "I used to take the 509 to Incarnate Word University. I volunteered at the Retirement Center there." When asked how long it took, Valdez replied, "Oh, it was less than thirty minutes. I'd say between fifteen and twenty-five minutes."

Our January meeting featured **TRASH TALK** a well-received presentation by Solid Waste Management Director, David McCary.

Our March meeting will feature

### **BACK ALLEY TOPICS**

a presentation by Robert Reyna of the Public Works Department. We will be hearing an update on the maintenance currently taking place in Monticello Park. These projects include SAWS, CPS, and Solid Waste Management

Valdez said, "Usually, the talk is friendly." She remembered one such conversation. "A young man sat beside an older woman who was all dressed up. She had on red gloves. The young man kept saying, 'you're such a nice grandma.'" Sometimes though, the people are not so nice. She remembered one of the colorful neighborhood characters who ranted on and on. "But the bus gets you where you want to go."

One morning, Gibson and Jan Peranteau set out for the Pearl Brewery on Broadway. Since this is a trendy spot for shopping and eating, and the goal was simply to get there and get back home. The trip to the former brewery took about twenty minutes including a transfer at Five Points. Transfers for seniors are seven cents. Peranteau and Gibson got there, crossed a parking lot, got a catcall or two, and headed for the Twig Book Store. The two visited the cooking store, Melissa Guerra's Tienda de Cocina. Finally, the duo rounded out the shopping venture at Adelante, a children and women's clothing store. Since the farmer's market is not open n weekdays, Peranteau and Gibson decided to dine at Il Sogno, an upscale restaurant where the two sat at the bar and watched the chefs preparing food.

On another day, Public Information Coordinator for Via Metropolitan, Andy Scheidt, shared information about the Via Bus System. He said, "We have ninety-one bus lines that operate seven days a week. The hours of operation are from 4 a.m. to 1 a.m. We go out as far as Loop 1604 and offer a variety of services." He said, "Categories of service include frequent, metro, express, skip, and streetcar as well as Via Trans for special needs, special event, and vanpool service."

.....Continued on page 7

**2008  
Monticello Park Neighborhood  
Association**

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*Advertising Manager:* Board Members

**Advertising**

For pricing information call: 734-2445

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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**

Thanks to all who attended the last General Assembly. We heard a very informative program from David McCary with Solid Waste Management. We learned about the many changes that the city has implemented and some of the rule changes which have taken place. Yet, with the recent brush pick-up, many still included large trash items as in the past. These neighbors were dismayed to discover that those items were not picked up. All should remember that neither trash nor brush is to be left in the sidewalk area except on the dates of scheduled pick-ups. The large trash item pick-up will take place later in the year and will be announced ahead of time. At that time, no brush will be picked up, only trash.

The neighborhood association has been busy this month with a couple of issues. Our advice was requested by the city concerning the small island on Kampmann Boulevard across from Thomas Jefferson High School. We are concerned for the future of this island and the surrounding campus, and our response to the city is included in this newsletter on page 10 and 11. We have registered our rejection of the request as it stands, and the Jefferson Neighborhood Association has done the same.

Our first social event was held at the end of February. The MPNA Board decided that to encourage membership and neighbors getting to know one another, we would schedule a social event on the months that we do not hold a General Assembly. If this is any indication, we are off to a good start. If you missed this one, don't miss the next one on April 22. See the last page for details.

We continue to monitor the BRT situation and plans for the bus stop at the end of Mary Louise Drive. While our input has already been made, we are keeping in touch with our Councilman and the city concerning the plans as they unfold. Stay tuned, if we have another call to action concerning this, you will be the first to know! We are also staying on top of the new bills presented in the Texas Congress in regards to electronic billboards. Your help is needed! See page 14 in this newsletter.

Our next General Assembly is Monday. We will be hearing an update on the alley maintenance currently going on in Monticello Park. Many have been concerned that alleys are being closed, but in fact, they are being upgraded. Come listen to the progress and the plans.

Please plan to attend the events coming up soon...the General Assembly, the MPNA Social, and the Garage Sale.

Ferne Burney  
President, MPNA







# City of San Antonio

## Key Points...

- Changes are effective February 17, 2011
- Restricts distribution of advertisements on private property with conspicuous display of "No Solicitation" type signs upon or near main entrance to property
- Signage must be weatherproof and not less than 3"x4" with letters not less than 2/3" in height
- Requires property owner complaint to trigger enforcement—call 207-7273 (SAPD)
- Does not apply to federal, state or municipal government and any religious, political or charitable advertisements or handbills

## Handbill Distribution on Public and Private Property

### *An update to the City code*

*Gives citizens an avenue to restrict the distribution of advertisements on their property where "No Solicitation"-type signs are displayed in a conspicuous place upon or near main entrance to property*

## Chapter 21-3 Advertising on Public and Private Property

- It shall be unlawful for any person to paint, print, stamp or indent letters, words or figures, on any fence, tree, post, building, wall, sidewalk or bridge in this city, or to post bills on any fence, building, wall, sidewalk, or bridge in this city, without having first obtained the consent of the parties owning or controlling the same.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute or cause to be distributed, deposited, placed, thrown, scattered or cast any handbill upon any private property if requested by anyone thereon not to do so, or if there is placed on such premises in a conspicuous place upon or near the main entrance to the premises, a weather-proof card, not less than three (3) inches by four (4) inches in size bearing the words "no trespassing," "no peddlers," "no advertisements," "no solicitation," "no handbills," or any similar notice indicating in any manner that the occupants of such premises do not desire to have any such handbills left upon their premises. The letters on such cards shall be not less than two-thirds (2/3) of an inch in height.
- This section does not apply to any department, branch or agency of federal, state, or municipal government and any religious, political or charitable advertisements or handbills.

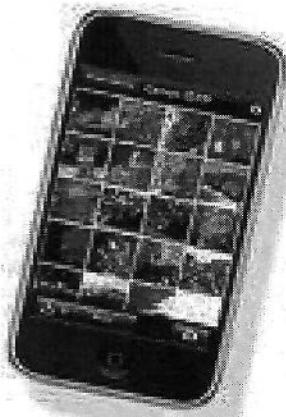
February 2011

## Now reporting graffiti is just an app away

Reporting graffiti in San Antonio just got a touch easier. The City's Graffiti Abatement Program has teamed up with App-Order.com to create "mySanAntonioTX" smart phone application that will allow residents with Android phones to send real time graffiti information and photos to the department.

Using a built-in global positioning system the application will attach a location to the picture and send the information to the Graffiti Abatement Program. The electronic submissions will then be routed to the appropriate City staff or outside agency. Residents can also choose to receive updates on the status of their request.

Residents with iPhones are expected to be able to obtain the "mySanAntonioTX" within the next six weeks. For more information on this new program, call Lisa McKenzie, graffiti abatement coordinator, Code Enforcement Services Department at 207-5430.



## CALENDAR REMINDERS

**March 31**      Make it Your Mission Celebration  
Mission San Jose

**April 2**              Treasures at Twilight Gala  
Omni Colonnade Hotel

**April 2**                      Primer Sabado!  
Market Square

**April 2**                      Vision Walkathon  
Brackenridge Park

**April 2-3**                  Starving Artist Art Show  
SAHA Park, 818 S. Flored

**April 2**                      "Chair-ity" Event  
JW Marriott Hill Country Resort

**April 2—3**                  Starving Artist Show  
La Villita

**April 7—17**                  Fiesta San Antonio

**April 7—8**                  Fiesta Flower Show  
The Woman's Club of San Antonio

**April 8-10**                  Used Book Sale  
Blossom Athletic Center

**April 9**                      Viva Botanica  
SA Botanical Garden

**April 11-17**                  Valero Texas Open  
TPC San Antonio

**April 13**                  Fiesta Hat Contest and Luncheon  
The Woman's Club of San Antonio,  
Marriott Rivercenter

**April 13**                  A Taste of San Antonio  
Club at Sonterra

**April 22**                  MPNA Social Number Two  
470 Furr Drive

**April 30**                  Komen Race for the Cure  
Alamodome

**May 1**                      SAWS Garden Jazz Party  
SA Botanical Garden

**May 6**                      Mother of the Year  
Valero Energy Corporation

**May 6**                      First Friday  
Southtown

**May 7**                      Primer Sabado!  
Market Square

**May 7**                      MPNA Garage Sale  
Monticello Park

**October 4**                  National Night Out  
Monticello Park



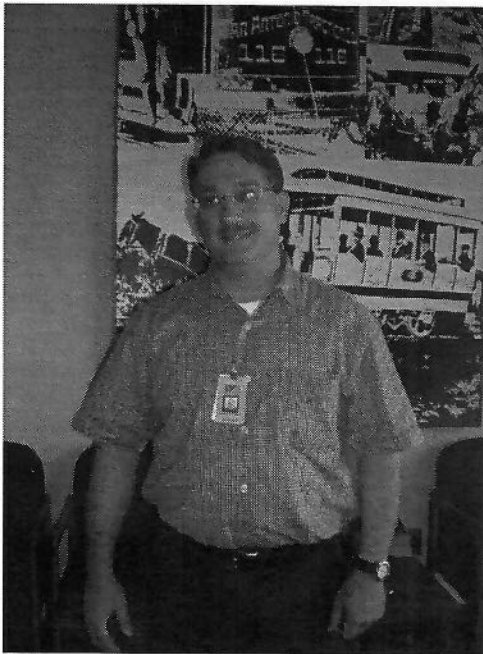
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Regular bus fare is \$1.10 per ride with 15-cent transfers. The bus service offers free information about individual bus routes. For customer service call 362-2020. Representatives will help people plan their bus trips or one can go on line at [www.viainfo.net](http://www.viainfo.net). The Crossroads bus terminal and Park and Ride is the place to obtain a reduced fare I.D. and monthly passes as well as one day passes and semester passes for students riding the bus. These vary in price from \$30 for a monthly pass to \$35.00 for a semester pass.

Scheidt said that all buses are equipped with wheelchair access. The bus driver assists persons with wheelchairs to be safely secured in the bus. He also said that all buses are cleaned on a daily basis.

Finally, Scheidt spoke about those unruly riders who sometimes make a bus ride difficult. "We now have rules for bus travel. These rules are posted inside the buses. If a passenger is breaking the rules, he or she can be put off the bus. The police can be called if necessary."

When asked about improvements in the VIA system, Scheidt said, "We have increased our alternately powered vehicles. We now have thirty hybrids and four buses that use compressed natural gas. We will be adding a few all-electric buses to the fleet of 446 buses already in existence." With service area covering 1,226.07 square miles, why not give bus riding a chance and sit back and enjoy the ride?



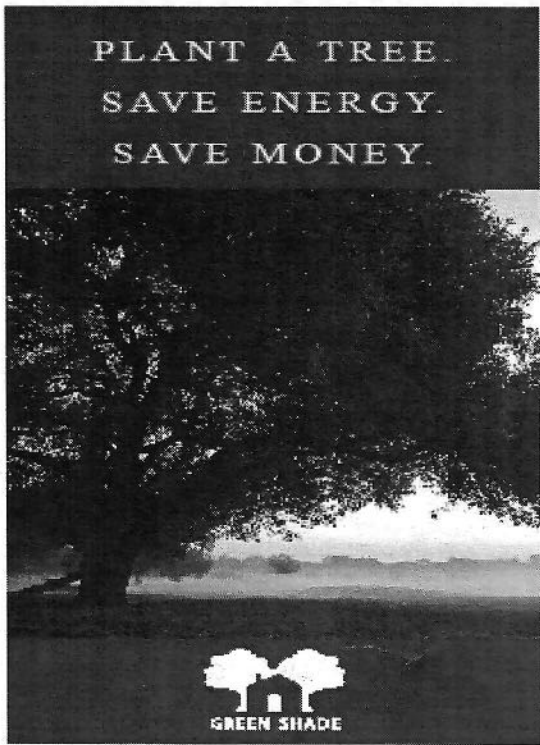
*Andy Scheidt, spokesman for VIA Transit, gives us the scoop on the benefits of riding the bus*

## Fresh Air Friday - April 1, 2011

AACOG and the City of San Antonio will host the fifth annual Fresh Air Friday event at Main Plaza on April 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy a leisurely stroll during lunch and join us for music, food, prizes, and giveaways. Local organizations will provide helpful information on improving air quality and other "green" measures that help our environment, promote active and healthy living, and save you money!

This will be a great opportunity to discover what others are doing to bring about cleaner air, improve transportation, and keep our city beautiful. Winners of AACOG's 2011 Air Quality Stewardship Award, who have significantly contributed toward reducing air pollution through various voluntary efforts, will also be recognized at this event. In case of rain, this event will be held on April 8, at the same time and same place. Call (210) 362-5213 or e-mail [aprosterman@aacog.com](mailto:aprosterman@aacog.com) for more information.

The Monticello Park Scholarship Committee is taking applications for its \$1000 scholarship for a graduating senior. If your family lives within the MPNA boundaries and you attend Jefferson High School, a school administrator will be able to nominate you. If you live within the boundaries of MPNA but do not attend Jefferson, you need to call Ron Hubbert at 732-5543 to obtain an application. The deadline for the self-nominating applications is April 15, 2011.



Save on your energy bill and add beauty to your home or business by using trees to shade your property and qualify for a

**\$50 rebate.**



works for you



**In short, to earn a \$50 rebate you need to:**

- \* Purchase an approved tree. There are 15 to choose from. The smallest size you can purchase is a 5 gallon (see the qualified trees on the CPS Green Shade link)
- \* Plant the tree on the East, South or West side of an air-conditioned structure
- \* Save your receipt from the purchase of the tree
- \* Complete the rebate application (go to the attached CPS rebate site)
- \* Submit completed application with receipt.
- \* Program ends April 1, 2011



**SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
STRATEGIC PLAN**  
*The Next Chapter*

The San Antonio Public Library is developing a strategic plan to provide a cohesive vision and direction for the next five years and beyond for library services in our community.

The San Antonio Public Library plays a critical role in the continued growth of San Antonio. As the City's educational arm, the library system is directly tied to our collective goals of business recruitment and economic development;

community and neighborhood revitalization; and literacy and educational achievement. The San Antonio Public Library understands its important role and desires to be a relevant service organization by anticipating the future and adapting accordingly so the Library can continue to be a responsive service organization.

A consulting team led by KGBTexas and The Ivy Group, which has consulted for more than 50 library systems across North America, will draw on best practices and innovations from high-achieving libraries around the country and a thorough market analysis of the Library's service areas to guide the strategic planning process. The resulting plan will recommend strategic initiatives to enhance customer service, increase operational efficiencies and maintain relevance through adaptation of emerging technologies.

The plan will be developed with a high level of stakeholder and public engagement, allowing the entire community to participate in a unified vision for the Library. Updates will be publicized through the media, social media and on a dedicated page of the Library's website, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan at a public meeting planned for the summer of 2011.



# You only need one...

## The Free Forever IRA™ from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

*An IRA here, a Rollover IRA there, and even retirement funds left in plans offered by former employers . . .*

Are your retirement savings divided among several accounts at various locations? Consolidating your funds at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney could provide multiple benefits such as a more comprehensive investment strategy, greater investment flexibility, simplified tracking and paperwork, and lower costs.

### A special offer

When you add, transfer and/or roll over at least \$50,000 to a Morgan Stanley Smith Barney IRA, we will waive your annual maintenance fee for the life of the account. Please note that this offer is available until December 31, 2010. Call today to take advantage of this limited time offer.



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By law, some IRAs may not be consolidated. Consult your personal legal advisor.

Other product charges (e.g., commissions, advisory fees) continue to apply. Funds must remain in the IRA for one year from the date of deposit to qualify for the Free Forever IRA fee waiver.

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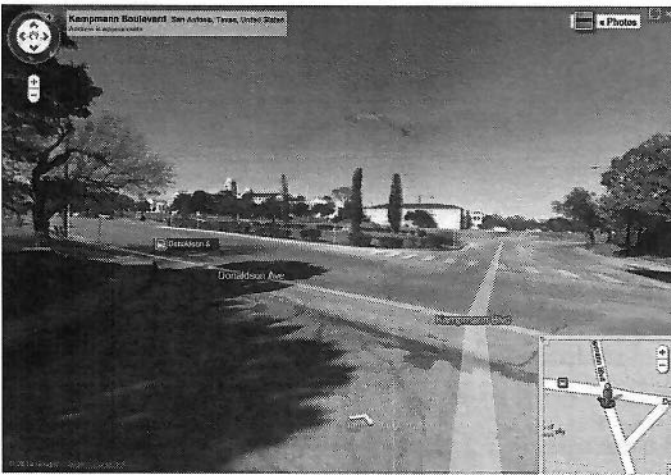
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The following response was formulated by the MPNA Board and sent to the city in response to the city's request for our opinion of the possible destruction of the island on Kampmann Boulevard and the closing of Kampmann Boulevard on the western side of the island:

The board of Monticello Park Neighborhood Association objects to this proposal for the following reasons:

We have not yet seen a master plan. Our vision and approval cannot be made with knowing what your vision is for the site. As shown in the attached photos, different from yours, the site does not appear closed, vacant, and abandoned. It is a neighborhood pocket park in need of some loving attention by the neighborhood. Please notice the other two pocket parks, Monticello Park (at the corner of Kampmann Boulevard and Club Drive) and the park at the other end of the neighborhood (corner of Vollum and Fredericksburg). The Near Northwest Community Plan, Action Step 6.1.1 states "Have each neighborhood association take an inventory of potential pocket park opportunities among vacant properties within their boundaries and work to adopt these properties as parks." We have had a hand in each of the park projects including the landscaping ideas along the Fredericksburg corridor.



This pocket park is not just a part of the streetscape of a neighborhood. It is a feature of a historic district. We are mindful of any changes made to the features visible from the street throughout our district, this included. Especially in a historic district, certain historic views of National Historic Landmarks should be protected, i.e. the view down Furr Drive of the domes, and the view across Kampmann from Donaldson. I am including an old postcard which says it all in our estimation.

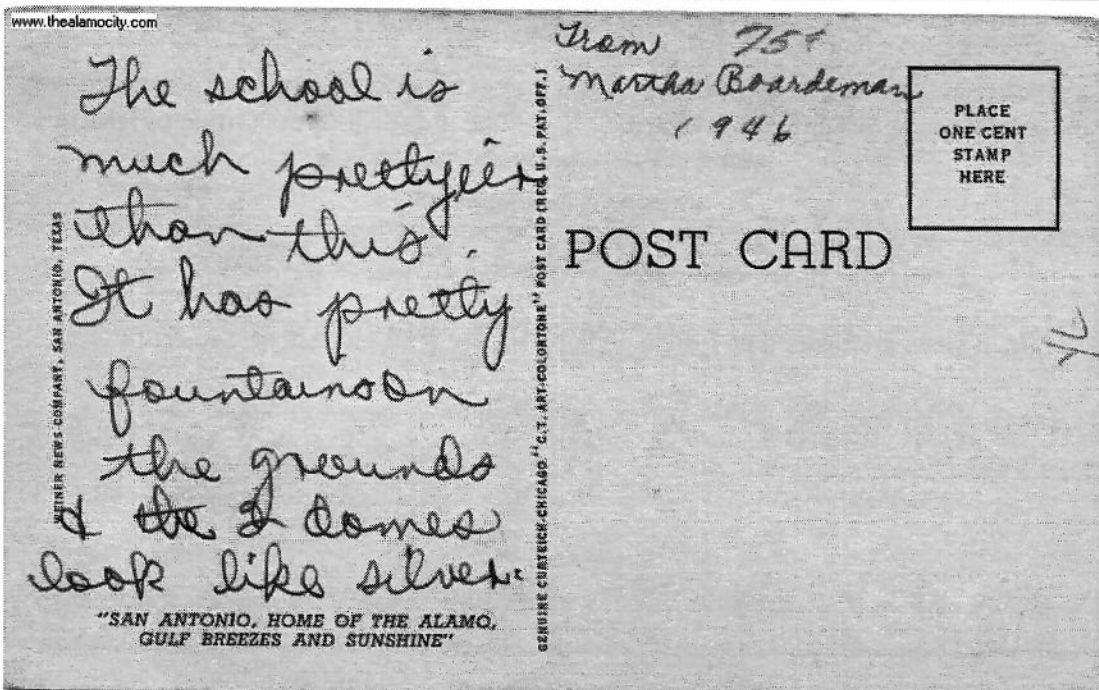
The park is also part of the 100-year flood plain. Additions to the campus should certainly be aware of this, and substantial changes would likely be problematic for all involved.

Recent history has seen the renewal of the walkability of Monticello Park. Closing the western side of Kampmann Boulevard will interfere with the route taken by many neighbors every evening. While other urban neighborhoods (Alta Vista, Beacon Hill) have added greenspace and walking trails, this would likely be a step for us in the opposite direction.

Although Kampmann Drive would not be completely closed, the proposed closure on the western side of the park would force drivers coming from the west on Donaldson Avenue to make not just a sharp left turn, but a more than ninety-degree angle to maneuver onto Kampmann Boulevard. Nearly all of our neighbors use the western branch of Kampmann to return to Monticello Park from West Donaldson.

We understand the issues of additional space being mandated by new state regulations. We appreciate the challenges facing the high school. We are in complete support of the school, working with them on issues that face any high school, cooperating with them on traffic issues and students moving through our community to get to school. We provide at least one scholarship per year to a deserving senior at Thomas Jefferson High School. But we do not appreciate that this proposal will add any substantial addition to the campus. Several sites around the school seem more appropriate for expansion and are not included in a historic district.

We must respond with a denial of approval on this proposal. We have also taken this proposal as a call to action on the attention to this well-regarded part of our neighborhood.



# MPNA Fall Garage Sale Saturday, May 7, 2011

The garage sale will be from 9:00 – 5:00 at the Monticello Park.

The cost is \$25.00 to reserve a space. One simple phone call gets you a hassle free day of selling to as many people as we can fit into the park! We take care of all of the permits, the advertising, and the layout of the park.

You keep all of the money from the sales of your booth.

All of the money that MPNA makes goes towards our scholarship for a graduating senior from Jefferson High School or a graduating senior from the Monticello Neighborhood.

**You can reserve your space by calling 732-5543.**

If you do not think that you have enough "stuff" to sell or that you really do not want to spend your day at the park then think about donating it to the Monticello Park booth. Again, all of the money that we make from this booth will go towards our scholarship fund.



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](mailto:ohp@sanantonio.gov).



# Fitness in the Park

## "FREE" Exercise Sessions In your local Park

*The City of San Antonio's Metro Health Department, Parks & Recreation, and the Mayor's Fitness Council are working together to bring you and your family 'Fitness in the Park!'*

### FREE activities offered include:

- Zumba
- Yoga
- Boot camps
- Walking Groups
- Mountain Biking
- Stretching
- Core
- Running

And more!

### Professional Instructors provided by:

- YMCA
- Spectrum Athletic Clubs
- Lifetime Fitness
- UTSA
- Bexar County Active Living Council - Bryan Muñoz
- RUWellness
- Letsgo210
- Flexible Fitness

### Participating Parks:

- Lions Field (2805 Broadway)
  - Near the softball field
- Pittman Sullivan (1101 Iowa)
  - Grassy area by the Basketball court
- Rosedale (303 Dortrouth)
  - In front of the YMCA
- Woodlawn (11030 Cincinnati)
  - Grassy area around the Island House
- Woodard Park (1011 Locust St.)
- OP Schnabel (9606 Bandera)
  - Near the YMCA
- McAllister (13102 Jones Mahsberger)
  - By the Dog Park
- HemisFair (600 HemisFair Way)
  - By the Magic Treasure and more!

**February 22–May 31, 2011**

*Open to all ages and fitness levels*

*No registration required*

Schedule of dates, times and classes, from Feb. 22 - March 5th listed on the back of this flyer.  
For a complete schedule on FIT Park go to [www.SABalance.org](http://www.SABalance.org)

If you would like to volunteer to become a Fitness in the Park Instructor,  
Email: [pedro.tgarcia@sanantonio.gov](mailto:pedro.tgarcia@sanantonio.gov)



Find your

**Balance**

For your health, your family, your future



San Antonio  
Parks and  
Recreation  
Department



**Mayor's Fitness Council**  
City of San Antonio

**METRO HEALTH**  
SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM

# A CALL TO ACTION!!!

## Here is what is at stake:

SB 971 would allow digital billboards inside Texas Cities and ETJs. As you know, several groups fought the proliferation of these billboards for two years, and the City Council did not extend the pilot program. This bill would allow billboard companies to put up additional billboards that would be used for emergency/amber alert systems when not used for regular advertising.

Below is the rationale for opposing this legislation:

VOTE NO TO STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES

TO ERECT DIGITAL BILLBOARDS

INSIDE TEXAS CITIES AND ETJS

SB 971 by Hinojosa and HB 1765 by Sid Miller

- Overrides local ordinances and the will of the people to decide how their city should look. Over 250 Texas cities currently prohibit; many more strictly restrict the erection of new billboards; all would be superseded by these bills.
- Delegates billboard control to a second state agency (currently TxDOT regulates billboards)
- Duplicates existing \$105 million State emergency/amber alert system
  - o Existing State-owned system has about 580 electronic signs on the ROW that effectively & ONLY display emergency, traffic and amber alerts.
  - o New, second system will be confusing, distracting and ineffective due to the location away from the highway ROW and constantly mixing emergency messages with commercial advertising messages.
  - o New, second system will be privately operated by billboard companies creating potentially serious future security issues
- Bottom line---
  - o These are NOT primarily emergency/homeland security billboards designed to assist the public. Instead they are primarily commercial advertising billboards designed and owned by the multi-billion dollar billboard industry that leveraging fear to erect unnecessary jumbo-tron electronic changeable message TV screens throughout Texas cities and ETJs even if they are not wanted by the people who live there.
  - o The billboard system is NOT needed since taxpayers have already invested \$105 million dollars to build 580+ TxDOT signs that are currently operating on the ROWs, along all evacuation routes and are effectively used ONLY used to display emergency information.

**MPNA Board is opposed to these bills and would ask your help by communicating with our state legislators (Leticia Van de Putte and Trey Martinez-Fisher). Action is needed by everyone as soon as possible!**

RE-ELECT

# Elena

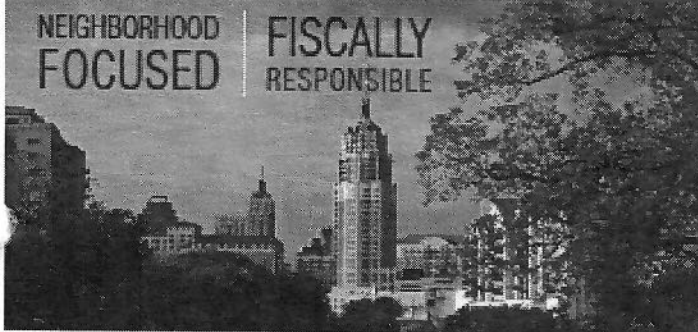
GUAJARDO

FOR CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 7

EARLY VOTING: MAY 2 – MAY 10  
ELECTION DAY: MAY 14

NEIGHBORHOOD  
FOCUSED

FISCALLY  
RESPONSIBLE



*"I want to serve you again. Together we can create jobs, improve and protect our community."*



### Elena Will Protect Our Safety

During my tenure representing District 7, together, we increased police and fire officers on the streets, built a new library and fire station, purchased all new fire trucks and acquired land for new parks in our neighborhoods.



### Elena Has a Plan to Create Jobs

In the midst of a recession my plan to push the bond improvements that we voted for will create much needed jobs and economic development in our community.



### Elena Will be Your Advocate

In 2007, we voted to create permanent public improvement projects to improve our streets, bridges, drainage, sidewalks and parks—work that has not been completed. Send me back to council to finish the work we started together.



### Elena Will Safeguard Your Tax Dollars

With a clear understanding of the City, Elena plans to take a hard stance on ethics reform. Elena has identified two loopholes in the distribution of council office and campaign spending. She plans to author policy changes that will protect your tax dollars.

*Join our campaign today!*

**ELENA'S PASSION FOR SERVICE** includes a 30-year multi-faceted career spanning achievements in her family's business, corporate America, non-profit and varied political arenas. Her community leadership as "change agent" demonstrated on San Antonio City Council includes the infusion of \$30 million in new funding for District 7 projects.

**ELENA GUAJARDO FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7**

(210) 425 6518 5804 Babcock Rd. #230 San Antonio, TX 78240

**VoteElena.org**

[facebook.com/elenaguajardo](http://facebook.com/elenaguajardo)

**twitter: Elena4District7**

Pub. Adv. Elena Guajardo Campaign Treasurer Benjamin Paez

## **SOCIAL NUMBER TWO**

Okay, so we didn't know what to name this that would be clever and catchy, but the truth is, we will be holding another social event during the month of April!

**Friday, April 22**

**7:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

**470 Furr Drive**

**Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre  
Bring along several copies of the recipe for the  
dish so that others can learn how to make the  
same delicious snack!**

**Beverages provided by the MPNA**