September—October 2011

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY

September 26, 2011 7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church 950 Donaldson Avenue

WHAT IS THE O.S.T?

Charlotte Kahl of the Old Spanish Trail will attend our meeting to speak to us about this intriguing and historic part of San Antonio that included our neighborhood.

Join us as we attend to some amendments to our by-laws necessary to seek 501(c)3, non-profit status.

See you on Monday!

MEET THE NEIGHBORS by Jan Peranteau

The drought is here and affecting us all. We struggle with how to manage yards, foundations. animals (both wild and tame), trees and shrubs, and ourselves. Willa Cather wrote about the great dust bowl and drought of the thirties, "Between earth and sky I felt erased, blotted out."

A neighbor, Wayne Ehrisman wrote, "Growing up on a farm in Nebraska, much of our livelihood depended on things we could not directly control, especially the weather. For this reason, the weather had a profound effect on our mood. When it rained we knew the crops would grow. When droughts occurred during critical growing seasons, there was a prevailing sense of worry about our future. To this day prolonged droughts bring me down and I feel a chronic sense of mild despair. Rain, on the other hand, makes me feel hopeful, energetic and ready to party."

Neighbors have various strategies for dealing with lack of rain.

Bob Howard said, "I'm watering the shrubs and trees and a few rose bushes." He added, "The roses aren't blooming. It's too hot. "Howard rents, and utilities are covered in his rental fee. He said, "You can't water the grass. That's too much. His porch is covered with potted plants that he tends daily. "Of course I water these as they get dry, about every two days."

The aquifer level is at 640 feet. According to KSAT Weather blog, we need more than 15 inches of rain to end the drought. The San Antonio Express

Bob Howard and his lovely potted plants

News cited this Texas summer as the hottest ever in the United States edging Oklahoma's average of 86.5 degrees. San Antonio saw an average of 89 degrees in the months June through August. As of September 13, we have had 55 days of 100 or more degree weather. The only thing keeping us from Stage 3 water restrictions is that we are using water from other sources rather than the Edwards Aquifer. KSAT reported we are using water from the Trinity Aquifer, Twin Oaks Aquifer storage, Canyon Lake and recycled water. Add to this dismal picture, SAWS is proposing a rate hike of 14.7 % for 2012. The city council has set public hearings for Sept 28 and October 5. The vote will come on October 13.

2011 Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

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734-2445

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Don Hubbant

732-5543

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you are reading this, you have survived the "Diablo Summer" of 2011! We are hopeful that the worst is behind us until next summer, but this one was doozey. Thanks to **Jan Peranteau** for sharing the thoughts of our neighbors in living through these conditions.

The neighborhood association has not been idle, despite the heat. Board members have attended meetings for the San Antonio ISD Bond Updates and the VIA/BRT updates. In both cases, we remain concerned for plans and progress and promise to remain involved and "front and center" in making the wishes of the neighborhood known. We are grateful to **Rob Sipes**, our local architect, for lending his expertise to the interpretation of plans at Jefferson High School. We have also been involved in the Historic District Council which was initially organized by the Office of Historic Preservation, but has now taken on an independent life of its own. In unity on all of the issues that arise, we will see a strengthened voice.

I want to take some time also to thank **Juliana Garcia** who has tire-lessly served our neighborhood for many, many years. Although she will likely remain fully involved in all things Monticello, she will no longer be organizing our printed newsletters and delivering them to all of our block captains for delivery to your home. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all of her work. I always knew that I could count on Juliana, and I will miss her very much in this job. See the related article on page 4.

We have a lot of activity this fall in Monticello Park. Our National Night Out will be held on October 4, our graffiti wipe out is the weekend before, and our next social will be held in late October. In the meantime, we will be "hanging in there" advocating for MPNA in the plans for the BRT stop on Mary Louise Drive.

Very importantly, we will be voting as an assembly on several issues concerning our by-laws and changes needed in order for us to successfully apply for 501(c)3 status. We will need to agree on policies for Conflict of Interest and change our Articles of Incorporation to clarify our non-profit status. Once this is completed, and the IRS has granted us non-profit status, our annual tax liability will be quite small, we can more successfully apply for grants to improve the neighborhood, our donations to the MPNA for the scholarship fund will be tax deductible, and any expenses incurred for work with the MPNA will be tax deductible by the individual tax payer. This makes a whole lot of sense for us to do!

I hope to see you Monday night!

Ferne Burney President, MPNA

FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD



WHERE AM 1????

Identify the location of the item in the photo and bring your guess to the meeting on Monday night. Write your guess on a piece of paper and submit it.

We will hold a drawing at the end of the meeting, and the first correct guess to be drawn will win a valuable prize. You must be present to win.

Last General Assembly winner correctly guessing the weather vane on Club Drive was Earline Valdez.

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 2011 contribution.

Address: E-mail Address:			
	nelp on the following committees:		Membership Dues
Finance Fundraising Membership Directory MPN	Social Activities Safety/Crime Prevention Historical Preservation Scholarship Send to: NA P.O. Box 5851 San Antonio	Park Zoning Home Tour Newsletter	\$10 Senior Dues \$15 Member Dues \$ Additional for

Our loyal neighbor, Juliana Garcia, has received our newsletters, bundled them up for each block captain, and delivered those bundles to each captain in a timely manner so that the newsletter could be hand delivered.

The cost of mailing our newsletters would be more than cost prohibitive, and we have a team of loyal neighbors who ensure that you get a newsletter six times a year.

Juliana completed the task of getting this newsletter to you, but will be unable to continue to do so.

We are asking for a volunteer to help us build a team to continue to get the newsletters delivered. We are looking for an one or several individuals who are willing to work with the system that Juliana has created.

We own a GIANT debt of gratitude to Juliana!! In discussing this need, not one neighbor could remember when Juliana did NOT do this job. So our humble, soft-spoken friend has helped us for no less than 10 years, and likely, much longer than that!!

She has served on the Board of the Association several years, has either coordinated and/or participated in the graffiti wipeout programs, and can always be counted on to contribute to the betterment of Monticello Park.

Thank you, Juliana, for working tirelessly to help out the MPNA.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS	
District 7 Council Office	207-7044
Code Compliance	311
Animal Control	311
SAWS	724-7097
CPS	. 353-2222
Officer Vidal	218-6546
SAPD — West Substation	207-7420
SAISD Police	271-3124
VIA Transit	. 362-2019
SAISD Truancy Office	223-2360

SAVE THE DATE FOR....
MPNA Graffiti Wipe Out
Saturday, Oct. 1st, 2011
8:30 am - 11:30 am
Meet at Monticello Park Gazebo

Breakfast provided from 8:30 - 9:00 AM at the Gazebo

Volunteers to paint and/or transport of volunteers needed to specific painting areas. Student will receive community service credit

For more information and to volunteer, please call:

Sagrario Mejia-Gonzalez (210) 271-6102

MONTICELLO PARK CUSTOM FRAMING

by Rose Garza

Custom Picture Framing • Canvas Stretching
* Shadow Boxes

1439 Fulton Ave. San Antonio, TX 78201 (210) 232-2393 Call For Appointment



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

City of San Antonio will institute temporary prohibition of barbecuing and smoking prohibition in City parks

The City of San Antonio will announce Friday that a temporary prohibition will be placed on open flames in city parks, to include barbecuing. The prohibition, which includes the use of propane, charcoal or wood barbecue pits, is a preventative measure due to severe drought conditions.

In addition the existing prohibition on smoking at playgrounds and pavilions will

be expanded to include all park property.

The Fire Department officials jointly support this action, saying that it was necessary to minimize heat sources close to dry vegetation that could result in wildfires that endanger not only park patrons but residents who live in homes adjacent to the parks.

"In the first two weeks of September alone, the San Antonio Fire Department responded to 250 brush/ grass fires that have burned over 1,500 acres in our city and county. Grills in parks will be covered and temporary signage posted advising citizens of the prohibition. The measure will remain in effect until weather conditions change.

Monte Vista 21st Fall Home Tour October 22

Six homes showcase the extraordinary architectural talent of national historic district

The Monte Vista Historical Association announce its 21st Fall Home Tour, to be held on Saturday, October 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

This year, six exquisite homes will be showcased in the neighborhood. The architectural designs of the residential properties include an 1893 Queen Anne by McAdoo & Wooley, a 1911 Craftsman by Ayers & Ayers, a 1918 Colonial Revival by Atlee B. Ayers, a 1928 and a 1929 Tudor, and a 1935 Spanish Eclectic. Come see the 'old Adams house' where Beacon Hill and Laurel Heights developer Jay Adams held regular dances in the third floor ballroom. Revisit a home built in 1918 whose construction was featured in local newspapers of the times.

Learn about today's topical issue, Watersaver Landscaping from a home that recently won a SAWS award.

According to home tour co-chair Jane Lewis, "this biennial fundraising event is part of Monte Vista's many heritage-supporting initiatives to continue the preservation of our historic district." Tickets are \$20 in advance, and may be purchased on-line (MVHA website) or at On Main/Off Main. On the day of the tour, tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at On Main/Off Main, or at individual houses on the tour.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

All of September

Fotoseptiembre November 4

First Friday Southtown

September 27

Any Baby Can Style Show

Pearl Stable

Wurstfest New Braunfels

October 1 Graffiti Wipe Out, MPNA

Monticello Park Gazebo

November 5

November 4—13

MPNA Garage Sale

Monticello Park Gazebo

October 4

National Night Out

November 5

Diwali S.A. Festival of Lights

Monticello Park

November 13

Rock and Roll Marathon

October 7,8 and 14,15

Oktoberfest

Beethoven Maennerchor

November 19

Light The Way

University of The Incarnate Word

October 8

NAMI Walk

Brackenridge Park

November 25

Holiday River Parade

October 7-9

International Accordion Festival

La Villita

October 14

Andy Mireles Charitable

Golf Tournament and Dinner Hyatt Hill Country Resort

October 15

Gardens by Moonlight

SA Botanical Garden

October 23

SA Founders Celebration

Alamo Plaza

October 28

MPNA Social

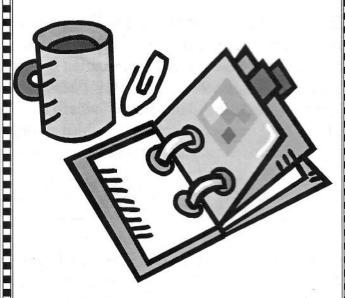
402 Mary Louise Drive

Oct 28-Nov 13

Celebrate America's Military

November 2

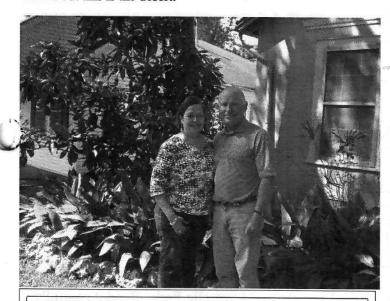
El Dia de los Muertos



.....continued from page 1

Tony Sanchez, a neighbor on North Drive said, "This is depressing, period!" Sanchez prides himself on his beautiful green lawn and luscious flowering plants. "Look what the squirrels did to my hanging baskets." He shows a hollowed out hanging basket with dying leaves and much of the dirt gone from the basket. "The squirrels made a home here." It did look nice and cozy, cool for a squirrel's afternoon nap.

Sanchez says, "I start watering every morning around 5:00 a.m. I try to be done by 10:00a.m. He goes to the cemetery each day to water his son's grave, drops by his daughter's house and hand waters there. "Bianca Maldonado and I go to the pocket park by Jefferson High School and water the trees at night. Then of course, there is his own yard that he faithfully hand waters. Still he points out, "These Lily of the Nile plants are dying. They are usually so beautiful." He shows a fence line that had a row of boxwood. He said, "They died so I pulled them out." "I never wanted to live in the desert but this is the desert."



Dori and Eliseo Cadena enjoy their beautiful plants.

Retired couple, Dori and Eliseo Cadena hand water. Eliseo said, "It takes a lot more time, but I hand water to keep things green. I don't cheat. I stay within the guidelines of the water restrictions. This green lawn on Furr Drive has two live oaks and a giant ash tree in the front yard. "I can't go to xeriscape. I have too much shade. Dori said, "we usually have impatiens, but the heat killed them." The Cadenas wish everyone would water a little. "Mostly people don't water, but it makes the value of our homes decrease. Eliseo says he doesn't want to complain, "But we have had beautiful lawns in he past. People don't keep up the yards. We are retired and we have time."

The Cadenas make weekly trips to the country to put out big bales of hay for their cattle. There is a windmill on the ranch that provides water for the livestock. Dori laughed and said, "What the cows really like is the prickly pear cactus once we have burned off the spines." She made smacking noises to imitate the cows chewing. Eliseo added, "We used most of the prickly pears. With no water they are not regenerating fast enough."

Diane Simpson expressed concern for the wildlife. "I think it's important to keep seed plants alive for the wildlife. We are not the only ones here. " When asked if she is talking about our neighborhood critters, she said yes. "Though raccoons can be a bother, they were here before us." She also feeds birds, and other creatures that wander through her yard. Concerning her watering schedule she said, "I hand water and use a drip hose around the foundation of the house. " She said she waters her trees, the bamboo screen between her house and that of the neighbors and her garden. "I managed to keep my serrano and jalapeño peppers alive. Planning her fall garden, Simpson said," I am putting a drip system in the garden. I have thyme, basil, oregano, and epasote growing now. She turns the soil easily with a shovel. Her compost pile is nearby and full of grass clippings. Shovels are stuck in the pile for frequent turning. Her compost pile looks the way I wish mine did. Another garden plot has been dug on the side of the house but she says it won't be ready this fall. As I walk out the front door, the grass is crunchy beneath my feet, but I feel a sense of peace knowing that the trees and animals are still being cared for. She calls, "Did I tell you what I dreamed last night? I dreamed it rained." She smiles, "It's gonna rain." (Ed.: And of course, her dream came TRUE!)



Diane Simpson turns the fertile soil in her lawn on Furr Drive.

Beautification of Monticello Park

By now, we hope 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.

The MPNA Board and many of the people in the neighborhood want all to take pride in the outside appearance of their homes. 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 such as planting flowers in flower beds or pots, to medium projects like replacing the grass in the yard or pruning trees, to a project as grand as removing trees or painting the house. It will be truly up to you as to how you are helping improve the beauty of the neighborhood. Use your imagination.

We plan to make this award twice a year, in the spring and 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. You may apply for a new project with each award application period.

You must keep your receipts for your expenses and submit them as part of your application. You must submit a "before" and "after" photograph of your project.

If you are doing something that requires the approval of the Office of Historical Preservation or a permit from the city, you must submit copies of your approval or permit as part of your application. 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 carefully. 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. 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 November 28, 2011 which gives you plenty of time to decide what you want to do, to schedule your plans, 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 sometime in the late spring.

The application and directions can be found on page 9 and 10 of this newsletter.



Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Beautification Application

Please complete the application below. The application is an ongoing 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 the project that you choose to beautify your house and consequently the neighborhood can be something very simple or something very complicated. It is up to you. Use your imagination.

This application is due by Saturday November 28, 2011. 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 can turn in photocopies, but the dates and relevant information must be visible.

Name	
Address	The state of the s
hone Numb	er
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.
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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, November 28, 2011.

Your project needs to be finished by Saturday, November 28, 2011 to be considered for the reimbursement. If it is not then submit it for the next reimbursement.

Turn in receipts, work orders, contracts or copies of these as part of the application. The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association will reimburse you up to \$500 for your project. If your cost is less than \$500, then 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. Therefore, your undertaking should take place in the front of the house if you live in the middle of the block or if you live on a corner then it could be the front of the house or it could be on the side of the house that faces the street or both.

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

There are certain types of work that you must clear through Historic Preservation because we are living in a historical neighborhood. Check with the Office of Historic Preservation before you begin any work and make sure to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness if it is needed. If it is needed you must submit a copy of the certificate as part of the application. The Office of Historic Preservation is located at 1901 South Alamo. Their 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 then 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. Their 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.

MPNA Fall Garage Sale

Saturday, Nov 5, 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.

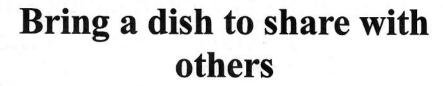
You can reserve your space by calling 732-5543.

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.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

October 28, 2011 6:30 pm 402 Mary Louise Drive

Beer, wine, and sodas provided





RSVP wehrisman@aol.com or 732-7719

It's going to be FUN!!

WE WILL VOTE

Monday's General Assembly will vote on changes in several aspects of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association. At the August meeting, the MPNA Board moved to accept changes in the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws. The complete Articles and By-Laws will be available at the General Assembly.

In short, the following changes are proposed:

To amend The Articles of Incorporation will be changed to reflect at every reference that the MPNA is a non-profit organization, specifically 501(c)3. The Articles are generally structured according to the format required by the state, so the changes reflect on the status change. The rest of the verbiage remains unchanged.

To amend Articles IV-PURPOSE of MPNA By-Laws.

Currently reads: The purpose of the MPNA is to provide an organized framework to promote, preserve, and enhance the quality of life and values within the MPNA boundaries and the city.

Proposed: The purpose of the MPNA is for charitable and education purposes. Charitable purposes primarily involve awarding at least one scholarship per year to a high school senior. Educational purposes include providing an organized framework to promote, preserve, and enhance the quality of life and values within the MPNA boundaries and the city. MPNA is a recognized historical district. Therefore emphasis is placed on historical education and on promoting a "green" environment.

To Establish a Conflict of Interest Policy to be added to the By-Laws.

The By-Laws of the MPNA are fairly simple, and I think that most of us agree that simpler is better. BUT, we also agree that a policy which protects the association from problems which arise from a conflict of interest is a wise thing. The policy is comprehensive, establishes audits, and will be an improvement to our by-laws. It will be necessary to have this in place before we apply for non-profit status.

The board of MPNA has secured the assistance of John Buxie, CPA and his associates in developing our request to obtain this status. We are confident that we will be successful and that it will benefit all contributors to the MPNA.

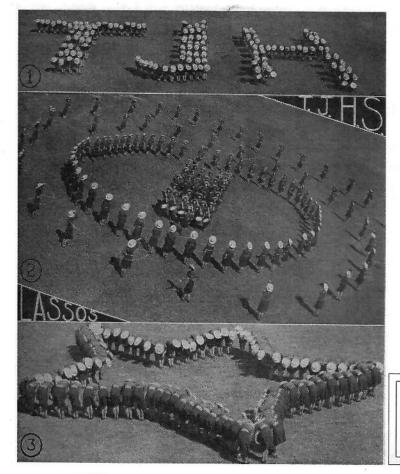
Due to our low generation of income (home tours primarily), we will have a very simple tax return once we have established our non-profit status. Annual registration will be the norm instead of an annual tax filing fee. All contributions to the MPNA (think scholarship fund or park beautification) will be tax deductible to the donor. We think it is a responsible and reasonable thing to do, and we hope that you will agree.

MAKING SAN ANTONIO A "NO KILL" COMMUNITY

The Area Foundation has been working closely with the City of San Antonio and the animal welfare community to help make San Antonio a No Kill community for dogs and cats. The Area Foundation, through its Donor Advised Funds, our Community Grants process, and our Animal No Kill Fund, has granted over \$2,400,000 over the past 4 years to local animal welfare organizations to help make San Antonio a "No Kill" city. In addition, the Talk About It! campaign was established in order to provide an interactive platform for the community to come together and achieve this effort. As part of this initiative, we will be hosting a special program next month.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 27th for*Talk About It!* Reno Achieved No Kill. San Antonio CAN, too, at the Norris Conference Center from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Bonney Brown of the Nevada Humane Society and Mitch Schneider of Washoe County Regional Animal Services, from Reno, Nevada will share how their organizations helped Reno achieve No Kill and offer insights for our community. It promises to be a very interesting and informative session, especially considering the many challenges that Reno has overcome in their effort to become a No Kill city.

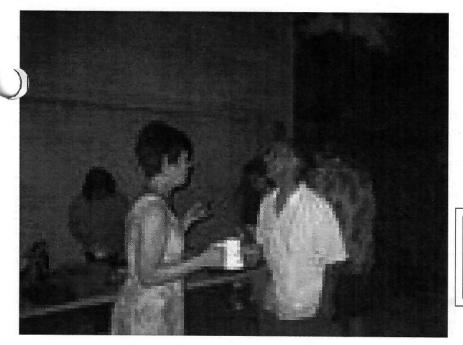
The event is free, but we are asking people to register because the seating is limited to 300. Call 242-4720 to confirm your attendance.





(Above) These cuties were some of the earliest Lassos at Jefferson HS. Monticello Park was a very new

The Lassos take the field in precise formations



Bluegrass Neighborhood Social

Ferne Burney and Basil Scaljon discus the finer points of country music at the Neighborhood Social

Despite the blazing heat, around 35 neighbors attended the bluegrass music Social held in August. Great food, great drink, and the best company ever was the tone of the evening. Third Rail Bluegrass band provided a spectacular concert. All were impressed, especially once we all realized that the members were all under the age of 18!

MPNA neighbor, Tracy Sloan and her band continued with wonderful music well into the evening. Such a banjo player, that Tracy!

Don't miss the encore at National Night Out!!!





Third Rail Bluegrass band takes the deck for a concert.

You can hear this band and learn a lot more about the neighborhood by becoming friends with MPNA on Facebook! Our page is "Monticello Park Neighborhood Association"

Our website is on its way too!! Stay tuned!

