

Monticello Park
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



November—December 2011

Reaching 730 Homes in the Monticello Park Neighborhood

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY
November 28,
2011
7:00 PM

Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson Avenue

**VIA AND THE
B.R.T.**

Our guest speakers for Monday's meeting will be from VIA and will be discussing the changes in the transportation on Fredericksburg Road.

Come with questions you may have a see the new design for the Bus Rapid Transit station at Fredericksburg Road and Mary Louise Drive.

AND come elect the new officers of the MPNA!

MEET THE NEIGHBORS
By Ferne Burney

This month's neighborhood article will not be the usual light-hearted one giving a positive showcase of one of our neighbors or an activity in the neighborhood. The board thinks it is important that all of the issues of concern surrounding the Bond 2010 be brought to your attention. We want you to know what we have done, and what has been done in response to our actions. The following is a presentation I made to the SAISD Board of Trustees meeting held on November 14, 2011. Throughout the presentation are interspersed remarks (*in italics*) about what changes we have seen due to those items brought forward at our first meeting about the Master Plan and at the Board of Trustees meeting.

"Thank you this opportunity to present the concerns of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association.

We heard the proposal for renovations at Thomas Jefferson High School on Friday, November 11. Four members of Monticello Park NA were present, two board members. We are aware of how this Bond has been advertised to the public, but what we saw was nearly none of the advertised improvements, or at least the "spin" on these projects was dizzying.

Our concerns for these plans are several:

1. Our collaboration with the City, block grants, and funds from MPNA have totaled more than \$200,000 to renovate Monticello Park's pocket park. Mr. Garza, you supported us when we came before City Council requesting funds to develop the Master Plan and creation of this park. We bought, planted, and still maintain 28 trees currently in the park. We reject the plans to cut away parts of the park, re-route Kampmann Boulevard through the eastern side, and shut down Kampmann along the south. We do not consider this a negotiable item.

(The Master Plan revealed in the Jefferson Education Leadership meeting held on November 16 no longer contain elements of cutting into the pocket park or re-routing of Kampmann Boulevard)

2. Lighting is proposed around the baseball, softball, and football fields, and tennis courts. These features are unacceptable due to the change in atmosphere it would create and the unsightly appearance to what we feel is the most beautiful high school campus in the state, if not the nation. We have been told that the goal is to attract families that are currently moving to NISD or NEISD, yet *none* of their schools have lighted baseball or softball fields. Very few have lighted football fields.

The rationale given us was that the students could then play night games. We see no extra accommodation for stands, restrooms, refreshment facilities, and the like in the eastern fields. But more importantly, the incursion into a historic district is unacceptable.

.....Continued on page 5

2011
Monticello Park Neighborhood
Association

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734-2445
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732-5543
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738-0379
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731-0780

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Advertising Manager: Board Members

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For pricing information call: 734-2445

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There's an old Pennsylvania Dutch saying that goes "the hurried-er I go, the behind-er I get"! The last six weeks of my term of president of the MPNA feel just this way.

We began meeting with VIA project managers in September concerning the BRT Stations on Fredericksburg Road at Mary Louise Drive. We were able to come to some consensus on the design of those stations that will not detract from the Deco District in which it sits. A marker indicating Monticello Park will be placed on the fencing around the power box for the signal equipment at the site. We met with the same personnel again this week, and discussed the possibility of reducing the number of bus stops in the Deco District, reducing the traffic jams which occur by the many buses streaming (and stopping) along Fredericksburg.

In the meantime, when we thought that the VIA issues were our biggest ones, we were invited to a preview of the Master Plan proposal for the Bond 2010 funds at Thomas Jefferson High School. Mobilization was the only way to describe the moments after we left that meeting. Many elements proposed were in direct conflict with our wishes for the neighborhood and would detract from the beauty of our National Landmark high school within our historic boundaries. I delivered remarks before the SAISD Board of Trustees on the following Monday night. Those remarks are included in their entirety in this newsletter. And you likely saw the flyer notifying the neighbors of the formal presentation which was held on Wednesday, November 16.

We don't want to be the "get off my grass" curmudgeon in dealing with our high school. Our commitment to the scholarship program of the MPNA remains strong, and it is funded through several future years due to the successful garage sales held twice a year. What we do want is a preservation of the beauty of our historic district and a steady improvement of the living conditions here.

We have completed all of the elements for application for official 501 (c) 3 non-profit status. Once this is granted from the IRS, we will be able to deduct any expense for work done for the benefit of the MPNA, scholarship funds, home tour tickets, and the like. We anticipate hearing from the IRS in about 60 days.

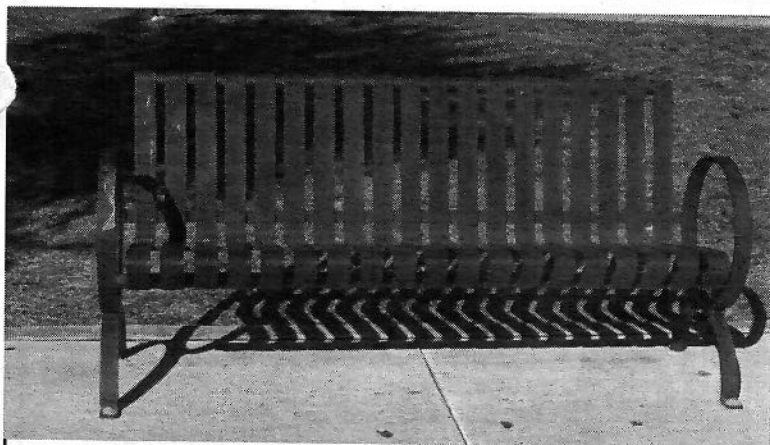
With six weeks left as president of this Association, I can tell you that it has been an honor to serve. I am proud of the work our board has done for the association. I am delighted that each of you has responded when the call for help has gone out and when the call for "party!" has gone out. Isn't that what makes us good neighbors? We will continue as a board to keep you informed and to press our support as well as our needs to the many city agencies. Our new board looks full of vigor and a love of our historic district.

AND, I especially appreciate the more than 70 of you who came to Wednesday's meeting to voice your concerns and hear the whole story.

Ferne Burney
President, MPNA

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

FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD



WHERE AM I????

Come venture a guess at this location in the MPNA, enter your guess in the drawing to be held at the General Assembly meeting to be held on Monday.

The first current guess drawn from all entries will win a valuable prize.

The last correct guesser was our current Secretary, Rob Sipes, who correctly identified the hitching post on Mary Louise Drive. The answer came to him as he was delivering newsletters on that very block!

A good reward for service to the Association!

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.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

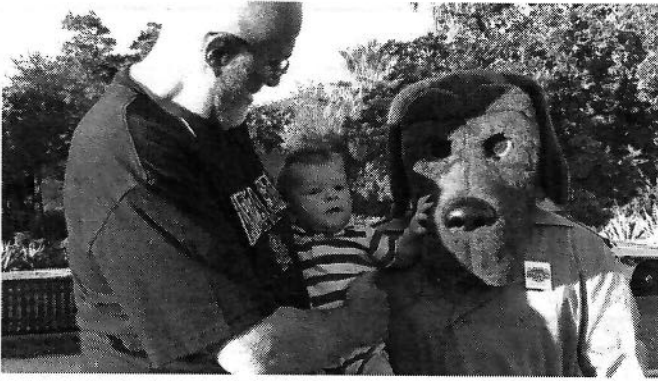
I would also like to help on the following committees:

Finance	Social Activities	Park
Fundraising	Safety/Crime Prevention	Zoning
Membership	Historical Preservation	Home Tour
Directory	Scholarship	Newsletter

Membership Dues

\$10 Senior Dues
\$15 Member Dues
\$__ Additional for

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



John Buxie, J.P. Desbrow, and Officer McGruff become friends at National Night Out.

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

We had a fine turnout in Monticello Park when we joined with Jefferson Neighborhood Association for the celebration. We enjoyed hot dogs with all the trimmings and a delicious array of other dishes supplied by neighbors. It was a night of perfect weather, and Tracy Sloan's Random Bluegrass Band provided outstanding music for all to enjoy. The kids could be found all night long in the bounce house, an annual favorite.

Thanks to the offices of **Leticia Van de Putte, Trey Martinez-Fischer, and the Woodlawn Lake CDC** for generous contributions to the evening of fun!

**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



The top brass of San Antonio's finest join Ted Guerra, president of Jefferson Neighborhood Association and Bianca Maldonado of MPNA for National Night Out in Monticello Park.

.....continued from page 1

(The lighting issue remains on the table, it seems. Students asking for changes did not seem to realize that the lighting proposed in the Master Plan was not just security lighting, which MPNA would heartily support, but would be many 60 foot poles with lighting sufficient to illuminate the entire field....and Monticello Park as well. We have information from Trinity University which indicates that the surrounding neighbors are bathed in light whenever the fields are in use, and they regret their decision to allow this to happen after initially resisting it. When it was pointed out to us that these lights would be on for only a few hours at a time, and not all year, we countered that the poles which likely would be taller than the dome at the school would be there 24/7. The fact that the NEISD and NISD do not have lighted fields was ignored. Schools such as Southside (which is the only high school in the district and thus the DISTRICT field) were cited as having lighted fields. We also contend that night games can be played at the Burbank High School Sports Complex which was built for just this purpose and is an excellent facility.)

3. While we could concede some parallel parking along Kampmann Boulevard, we will not support any changes of its route at all. Kampmann was once the Martinez Creek, and the water flow of that old creek, now paved over, is evident each time the rainfall is the least bit heavy. Laddie Place I, II, and III will remove 52 homes off that flood plain. A Band/ROTC practice area was proposed which will place a vast amount and additional impervious surface into a 100-year flood plain. Laddie Place III will not be complete until five more years have passed. I understand that your plans are to remain on time and on budget.

(This appears to have been removed from the discussion. The revised Master Plan leaves Kampmann as is. However, the Band/ROTC practice surface is still in the plan. Our concerns remain in reference to the impervious surface added the flood plain. Drainage is in place for the parking lot, but we do not know the plans are for drainage at the practice field.. A storm drain reservoir was discussed for under the field, but this has not been funded and by City Ordinance, RFCA Tracking No: R-5272, is not required. Given this information, would you approve the project hoping that the flooding studies would be done and steps taken to prevent it?)

4. Fencing has been proposed along Kampmann to serve as an outfield fence or mark the perimeter of the school. Although no front-yard fencing is allowed in Monticello Park, we could accept fencing only if it remains low and is landscaped. The views from Furr Drive are an important part of the beauty of this school and the neighborhood, and any blockage of those views will be unacceptable.

(Fencing is still in play in this discussion.. The fencing proposed at the most recent meeting was landscaped but was certainly not low. The views of the campus from Monticello Park could be all but eliminated. The trees that were suggested to soften the blow of a fence-scape will take years to grow, and we hope they do not suffer the fate of the last ones that were planted there.)

We support SAISD and especially our National Landmark and Historic Thomas Jefferson High School.

Every proposal we saw on Friday spoke to exterior changes and additions. It was explained to us that a dedicated, full-sized band practice field was necessary for the band to become competitive. We would offer that Marshall, MacArthur, Churchill, Taft, Clark, and Roosevelt do not have them, but at least three of them are repeat finalists at the state UIL levels. Some of these schools have partial fields, and some of them share the fields with car parking. We do believe, however, that the design shown us can be revised so that at least a partial field can be constructed.

We were accused of wanting to keep Jefferson behind with our resistance to plans. Nothing could be further from the truth!

(The remark was that since none of us present at the Friday meeting has children at the school, we don't care what happens. I would maintain that having lived in this neighborhood for 27 years, I will be here long after the current students have graduated. I appreciate our neighborhood school and want it to succeed. No one wants the seeds of the future to be sown in unfertile soil!)

MPNA offers each year scholarships of at least \$1000 to seniors at Jefferson. We have not missed a year of awarding these amounts, even when dollars are tight.

We support the band and the sports teams at the school. Many of our neighbors can be found at Alamo Stadium to watch the teams play. Are the changes proposed for rental of this stadium behind pressing the issues for lighting the football field?

Continued on page 7.....

CALENDAR REMINDERS

November 25 **Holiday River Parade**

November 28 **General Assembly, MPNA**

November 29—December 2 **Christmas Faire**
The Woman's Club of San Antonio

First Friday **Beethoven Maennerchor
and Southtown**

December 2—4 **Ford Fiesta
de las Luminarias
RiverWalk**

December 2 **First Friday Art Walk
La Villita**

December 2-4 **Hecho a Mano**

December 3 **Mission to Mission Bike Tour**
Mission TrailRotary Club

Now through December 18 **Ford Holiday
Boat Caroling
RiverWalk**

December 3 —10 **Los Pastores
La Villita**

December 3 T **amale Bootcamp**
Pearl Brewery

December 9—10 **Ford Caroling Nights
With Santa**
Arneson River Theater

December 10 **Bazar Sabado**
San Antonio Museum of Art

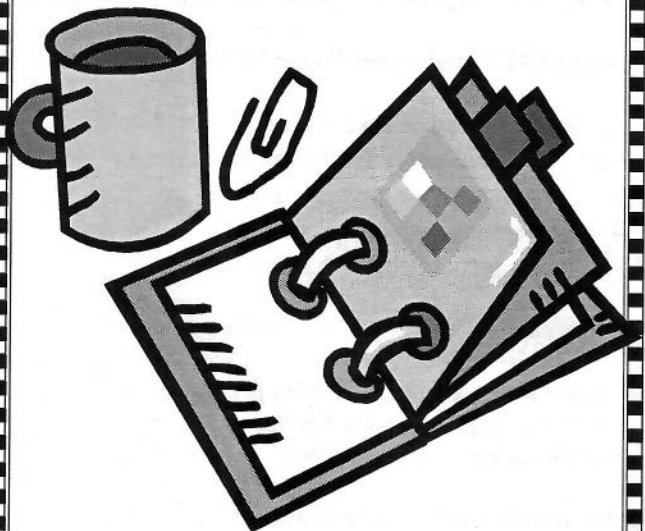
December 10 **25th Annual Blessing of
the Animals**
Market Square

December 11 **Die deutsche Weihnachtsfeier**
Margarite B. Parker Chapter
Trinity University

December 17 **Tubameister**
Christmas Tubas
La Villita

December 31 **New Years**
Celebrate San Antonio
Lady Bird Johnson Park

January 1 **Neighborhood Social**
MPNA
340 Mary Louise



.....continued from page 5

I believe that the success and the growth of this school will come at the improvement of its academic achievements, its programs, and its leadership. We have seen startling improvements in academics under the strong, sure leadership of Ms. Cockrell, and we applaud her.

(The quality of the remarks made by students on Wednesday night's meeting is a testimony to the quality of education that is being provided at TJHS. We strongly support the new leadership's efforts, and if the Bond 2010 were to fund the projects that the voters supported, these academic programs would be enhanced. You will see that very few of the proposed changes were in the description of that would be taking place at TJHS with the \$24 million Bond 2010)

It was stated on Friday that the students from other schools should be amazed at a visit to this school. I say that given the architecture, they aren't looking if they are not currently amazed. Future impressions will be made when the scholastic advancements already underway are improved, and the school will become a true academic magnet.

(The most troubling thing that happened on Wednesday was the setting of the stage for two different "sides". We are not on sides here. All of us want a quality education for the students. All of us want these young people to succeed and lead happy lives. Many of us in Monticello Park actually graduated from this school and love it all the more for that. Despite some of the closing remarks at the meeting, it is not a matter of either being for or against the students. We will continue to monitor the progress on the Bond allocation and how it will be used at Jefferson High School).

The following is the Bond 2010 as approved by the voters in November 2010. We don't see the same in the Master Plan

Jefferson High School \$24,636,675

2010 Proposed Bond Projects

Safety & Security Improvements

- Improve campus security and access control with additional security cameras, new building access cards and readers for faculty and staff
- Repair and update existing PA system, emergency fire alarm system, and fire sprinkler system in campus buildings
- Improve special-needs accessibility issues
- Improve site lighting and fences

Technology Improvements

- Provide additional technology equipment for use in campus classrooms, computer labs, or other instructional spaces

Major Renovations & Additions

- Renovate existing classrooms and other instructional spaces as needed to meet standards established by Texas Education Agency
- Add or renovate additional space for Special Education, as needed
- Replace or improve Fine Arts spaces for theatre and dance / pep squad / cheerleading
- Renovate space for teacher and administrative support, as needed
- Renovate space for Student Health Services (clinic)
- Restore or replace existing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems in renovated areas
- Repair and renovate site issues, including parking lots and roadway around buildings, student-drop off locations, outdoor basketball courts, underground utilities, storm water control, and landscaping and irrigation

Vocation/Career Instruction

- New and/or renovated instructional spaces for the following programs: Business, Marketing and Animation labs; Construction, Architecture, Interior, and Landscape Design studios in support of Architecture & Environmental Design magnet; Criminal Justice; Video Production lab; and Food/Nutrition lab
- New and/or renovated shared spaces for career instruction and campus use, including a GO CENTER for college and career readiness

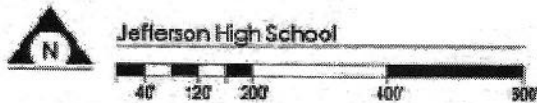
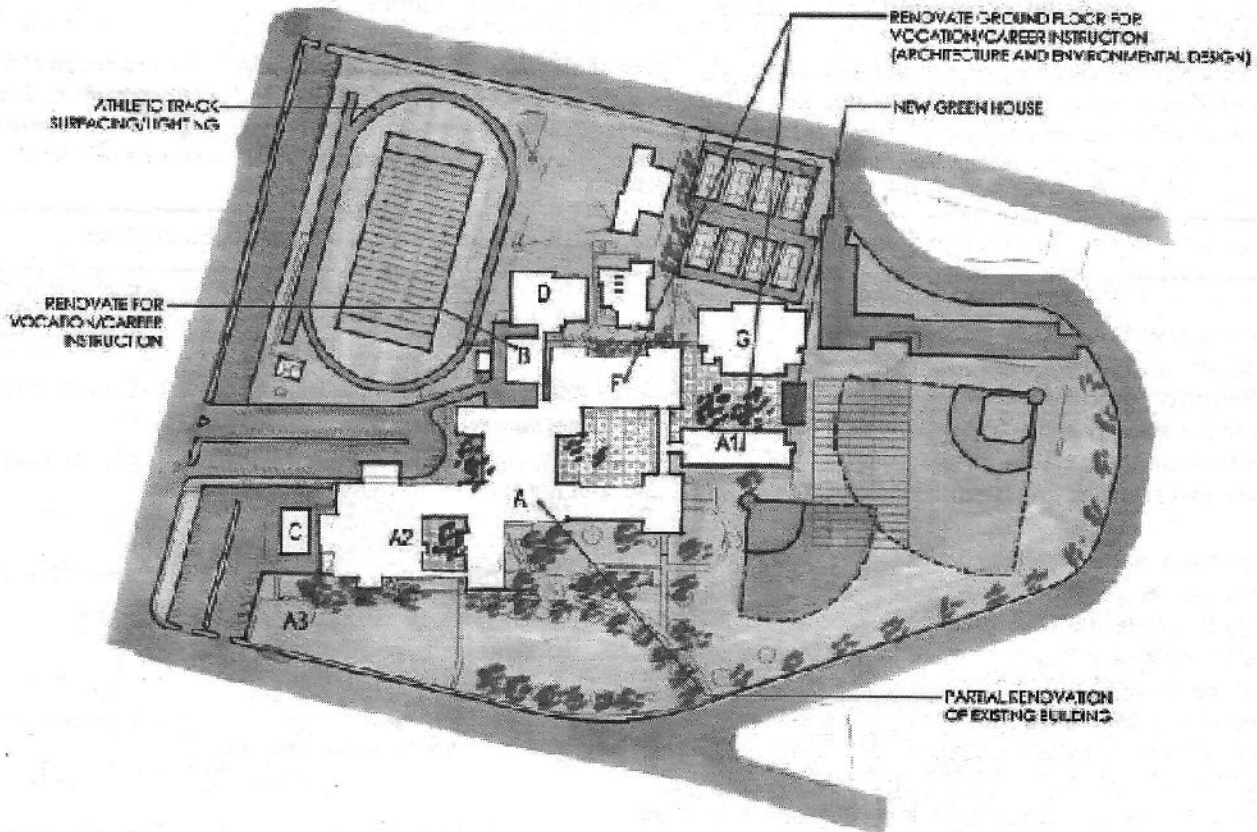
Athletic Track

- Provide all-weather surfacing for existing campus track
- Improve exterior lighting at campus track and field

Election Day November 2, 2010

Early voting runs October 18 – October 29

San Antonio Independent School District



- CAMPUS WIDE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY
- ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

For more information go to www.saisd.net/Bond2010

This is what the voters approved as the site in the election held in November 2010. The following page shows the budget allocations for the Master Plan. This is not a revision, it is a do-over. More meetings are scheduled for January, and we will keep you posted.



NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

January 1, 2011

12:00 pm—7:00 pm

Open House

340 Mary Louise Drive

Corned beef, black-eyed peas, and cornbread provided

Bring a dish to share with others

Program Administrator: Munoz Jacobs
 Project Manager: George Lloyd
 Project Architect: Perkins & Will
 General Contractor: TBD
 No. 607 / District 7

Jefferson High School



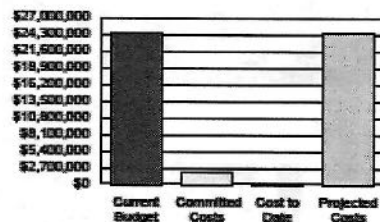
Activity Description	Early Start	Early Finish	2011				2012				2013				2014					
			J	F	M	A	J	F	M	A	J	F	M	A	J	F	M	A		
0000-Jefferson [7]																				
+ DESIGN	10MAR11A	14SEP12																		
+ BID	10SEP12	08NOV12																		
+ CONSTRUCTION	08NOV12	08NOV14																		

Cost Description	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Current Budget	Committed Costs	Cost to Date	Uncommitted Costs	Projected Costs	Projected Ovr/Undr
Land Improvement/Acquisition	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$247,400	\$250,000	\$0
Design Fees	\$1,439,756	\$0	\$1,439,756	\$1,161,843	\$0	\$277,913	\$1,439,756	\$0
Construction	\$19,138,673	\$0	\$19,138,673	\$0	\$0	\$19,138,673	\$19,138,673	\$0
Professional Services-Other	\$1,272,692	\$0	\$1,272,692	\$720,199	\$177,383	\$552,493	\$1,272,692	\$0
Construction-Other	\$190,550	\$0	\$190,550	\$0	\$0	\$190,550	\$190,550	\$0
Abatement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FF&E	\$349,202	\$0	\$349,202	\$0	\$0	\$349,202	\$349,202	\$0
Other Costs	\$98,912	\$0	\$98,912	\$0	\$0	\$98,912	\$98,912	\$0
Project Contingency	\$60,359	\$0	\$60,359	\$0	\$0	\$60,359	\$60,359	\$0
SAISD Managed	\$1,836,531	\$0	\$1,836,531	\$98,747	\$98,747	\$1,737,784	\$1,836,531	\$0
SAISD Managed-Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Totals: \$24,636,675 \$0 \$24,636,675 \$1,363,389 \$278,729 \$22,653,286 \$24,636,675 \$0

Comments

- Design Agreement executed with Perkins & Will.
- Community meeting was held on 14-Sep-2011.
- Site survey by Javier Quintanilla is complete.
- Programming Phase and Master Plan will continue for the next 30 days.
- Identify cultural ties to project in next 30 days.
- Construction start anticipated Fall 2012.
- Track-anticipated to start 14-Nov-2011, substantial completion anticipated 31-Jan-2012.



Dear Community Leaders,

As you may be aware, the majority of our graduates and UTSA Community members reside in San Antonio, and the surrounding areas. I am seeking your assistance in helping us promote the 28th Annual Diploma Dash 5K City Championship Race through your community newsletter, events calendar, or correspondence.

In addition to being one of our largest fund raising events for scholarships, the Diploma Dash is also the official City Championship 5K of San Antonio. This event has a broad appeal, and attracts serious runners, family walkers, and everything in between. Please find the event information below, and thank you for your assistance.

Time/Date: 8:00 timed chip start, Saturday, February 25, 2012

Location: UTSA Convocation Center, Main Campus

Registration: Register online at utsa.edu/dash starting Dec 1, 2011

For More information contact The UTSA Alumni Programs Office at 210-458-4133 or alumni@utsa.edu

Thanks again, and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Steve Woodall

Events Manager

UTSA Office of Alumni Programs

One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Tx 78249-0624

Phone: (210)458-4133

Fax: (210)458-7227

Email: Steven.Woodall@utsa.edu

Visit our website, <http://www.utsa.edu/alumni>

Connect with us on Facebook, [http://](http://www.facebook.com/utsaalumni)

www.facebook.com/utsaalumni



WE WILL VOTE

Neighbors who have agreed to offer their participation in the MPNA Board for 2012 are as follows:

President	Rob Sipes
Vice President	Frank Ramirez
Secretary	Ferne Burney
Treasurer	Richard Weik

Board Members:

Gail Collins
Michael Robbins
Sagrario Mejia
Sarah Rice
Tony Sanchez
Gary Hudman

This should be a fine board with both experienced and new people serving.

Nominations from the floor will also be accepted and a vote will be taken at the General Assembly.

Neighbors from the Jefferson and Monticello Park NAs enjoyed a great picnic on the grass at the Monticello Park pocket park.





SERVE SA

Education call to service

We dreamed it. We mapped it. Now, we do it.

ServeSA aims to give the community of San Antonio easily identifiable, engaging volunteer opportunities that will help move the needle on the eleven areas identified by SA2020. The goal of ServeSA is to empower our community to contribute to the growth and excitement of our city by contributing their passion and talent through service. ServeSA begins with a call to service in education, connecting community members to three initiatives.

SA2020 Indicators Served:

College Readiness, High School Graduation Rates, College Enrollment

A unique mentoring program that matches adult volunteers, through their employer, with middle and high school youth to help them become the first in their family to attend college. In Inspire U, students visit the mentors at the workplace and are supported with career and college building activities.



creating a path to college

SA2020 Indicators Served:

3rd Grade Reading, High School Graduation Rates, College Readiness



"Creating A Culture Of Reading... One Book At A Time"

The SA Reads campaign is dedicated to making grade-level reading a reality for all Bexar County students. This community-wide collaboration will measurably increase reading skills and student success across the San Antonio community.

One piece of the program takes a guided reading approach and provides the student with a series of 30-minute, one-on-one sessions.

SA2020 Indicators Served:

College Enrollment & College Readiness

Research indicates that 90% of students who complete the FAFSA, the federal student aid application, will enroll in post-secondary education. For Student Aid Saturdays, volunteers are asked to train in aiding high school seniors to complete FAFSA and TASFA forms.

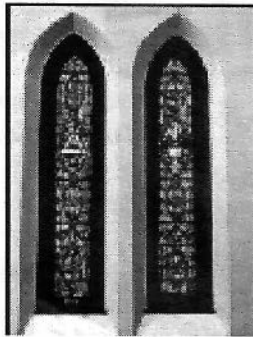


I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING

www.sa2020.org

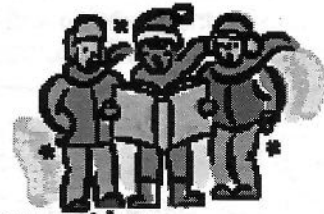
info@sa2020.org

A Taste of Grace



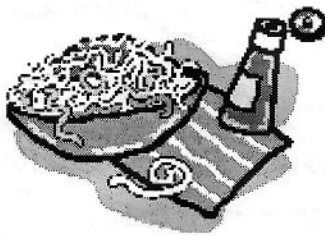
Come See ...

our beautiful sanctuary



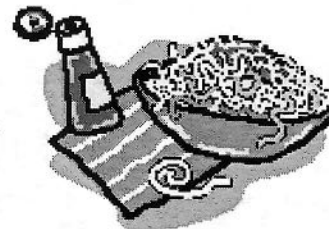
Come Sing ...

with members of our choir and congregation



Come Eat...

Spaghetti dinner



Come Share ...

Please bring a donation of one non-perishable
food item per person for the



Grace Presbyterian Church

950 Donaldson

Saturday, December 10

5 - 7 p.m.