

Monticello Park
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



November - December 2013

**I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy.
- Rabindranath Tagore**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY
BY BECOMING AN MPNA BOARD MEMBER?**

**The vote for the 2014 slate of MPNA Board members and officers
will take place at the next General Assembly meeting.**

**You can submit nominations via email at
MonticelloParkNA@yahoo.com until the end of day on
Sunday, November 24. Nominations will also be accepted
at the meeting before the vote takes place.**

YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO VOTE.

**MPNA General Assembly Meeting
Monday, November 25 @ 7pm
Grace Presbyterian Church
950 Donaldson**

President's Message

Wow! Has it really been another year?

Let's see... so what has changed in 2013 in Monticello Park? VIA's BRT system finally got off and running, Jefferson High started its renovations, we've had some awesome socials, we gave out TWO scholarships, and the burned house on North has been rebuilt. Rumor has it that we have a very active Facebook page as well.

The scope of work at Jefferson High School continues to change as the project is significantly over budget [a long rant would usually go here]. The **good** news is that the fixing of the foundations has begun, and overall the project **will** provide a much better facility. The neighborhood association did win some concessions regarding the fencing material, the lighting at the fields, and the preservation of both our pocket park and the island at Donaldson.

If you haven't noticed, VIA is upgrading the "standard" northbound stop at the HEB. Included as part of this stop will be some artistic panels representing the "Old Spanish Trail." During a recent meeting, VIA promised to "fix" some of the design issues at our Mary Louise BRT stop in time for the one year anniversary.

National Night Out was another resounding success with over 120 people attending. As per our recent tradition, we partnered with the Jefferson Neighborhood Association. In addition, the Jefferson/Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation also provided funds for the setup. I'm always amazed at the new ideas I glean from talking with new neighbors at these events.

Because we reside in an historic district, the MPNA Board has always asked our neighbors to "follow the rules" and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the city before beginning any exterior work. We also have tried our best to follow projects involving our neighborhood and to issue a statement from the board for each case. About 3-4 years ago, the board decided that in order to avoid an appearance of preferential treatment, it would abstain from taking a position regarding board member projects (about 1 per year). We do, however, ALWAYS submit a statement to the city in which we note the case and explain our policy.

Finally, I would like to thank the MPNA Board and neighbors who really made it a joy to lead these past two years. Our meetings had discussion and occasional disagreement, but never anger (maybe that was due to the chocolate that Richard consistently brought). New board members took on tasks with gusto and kept me focused when I began an unrelated story (architects seem to like to talk - sorry). Meanwhile, our seasoned members continued to press our politicians and the city on neighborhood concerns. Not to be outdone, neighbors pitched in at the children's parade, held socials, or led the scholarship committee. We really do have awesome residents who have committed their time to serving the neighborhood.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president these past two years! See y'all on Monday.

Rob Sipes
President
Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

2013 Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

President: Rob Sipes
738-0379
V. President: Frank Ramirez
734-0999
Secretary: Ferne Burney
734-2445
Treasurer: Richard Weik
731-0780

Board Members

Adrian Contreras
Gary Hudman
Bianca Maldonado
Ressie O'Connors
Sarah Rice
Michael Robbins

Newsletter Committee

Editors: Ferne Burney, Sarah Rice
For article and event submission
please call 734-2445 or email
monticelloparkna@yahoo.com

Advertising Mgrs: Board Members
For pricing info call 734-2445 or
visit monticelloparkna.com

MPNA
P.O. Box 5851
San Antonio, TX 78201

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

District 7 Council Office 207-7044
SAWS 724-7097
CPS 353-2222
Officer Joey Vidal 207-1363
SAPD, West Substation 207-7420
Non-emergency 207-7273
SAISD Police 271-3124
SAISD Truancy Office 223-2360
VIA Transit 362-2019
Code Compliance 311
Animal Control 311
Office of Historic
Preservation 215-9274



Eat, Drink & Be Merry with your Monticello Park Neighbors!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30-9:30PM

402 MARY LOUISE

Please bring a dish/hors d'oeuvre to share.

This is a family-friendly event.

RSVP to wehrisman@aol.com by Wednesday, Dec. 18

REPORT ON MPNA GARAGE SALE HELD NOVEMBER 2

The Monticello Park Neighborhood Association held a Garage Sale at the pocket park on November 2. Many thanks to neighbor and Board member, Adrian Contreras, for coordinating the sale! 18 vendors purchased spots to display wares, and one spot was given to the Thomas Jefferson High School Theater program Booster Club. The weather was Chamber of Commerce perfect as crowds converged on our neighborhood to select their bargains.

A total of \$425 was collected for the MPNA Scholarship Fund. These sales are held twice a year to raise money for this fund. Last year, two deserving seniors from Jefferson High School were awarded scholarships. We thank all of those who participated and look forward to our next sale in May. Stay updated about scholarship recipients, the application process, and our next sale by visiting www.monticelloparkna.com.

Treasurer's Report

Checking - \$4,678.98

Saving - \$3,910.01

CD - \$11,329.70

What's the Word, Bird?



By Sarah Rice (filling in for Justin "J-Bird" Rice)

Temperatures are dropping. Thanksgiving and the holidays are right around the corner. What better time to add whimsy to your yard (or your neighbors!) and show gratitude for our feathered friends by feeding them? This month we take a break from bird sightings to share fun, easy, inexpensive ways to deck your trees and bushes with delicious decorations.

Decoration #1 Orange Swings – From "Frost, Birds, and the Countdown Begins" at playingbythebook.net and "For the Birds" at blogs.brighthorizons.com

1. Cut oranges in half.
2. Hollow out oranges using a grapefruit spoon or your favorite utensil. Don't throw away the inside! Squeeze your own juice or eat it.
3. Using a skewer, ice pick, chopstick, etc. make three equidistant holes near the top open half of the orange and tie a piece of string or yarn through each hole. (Pictured Left) Or you can make two holes across from one another and use a pipe cleaner for hanging. (Pictured Right)



Photo from playingbythebook.net



Photo from blogs.brighthorizons.com

4. Fill the swings with loose nuts or birdseed. You can also add a little lard to this mixture. You don't need to melt the lard. It becomes soft enough when you push your seeds/nuts into it. Even the littlest hands will find this doable!

Decoration #2 Dried Fruit Tree Necklaces – From "Frost, Birds, and the Countdown Begins" at playingbythebook.net

These are great for adding a little punch of color to an otherwise monochromatic fall/winter yard.

1. Get a variety of dried fruits such as apricots, prunes, cranberries, and golden raisins. Feel free to cut larger dried fruit pieces in half.
2. Tie a knot in one end of a length of embroidery thread.
3. Using an embroidery/tapestry needle with the piece of embroidery thread on it, thread the fruit and tie off the other end when you're finished. The fruit is soft enough to make it easy for kids to thread but this can be a slightly sticky step!



Decoration #3 Birdseed Ornaments – From "Thrifty gifts: Bird Seed Ornaments" at saltwater-kids.com

Materials: $\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, 1 envelope unflavored gelatin, 3 tbsp. corn syrup, 4 cups birdseed, molds (muffin tin, cookie cutters, etc.), nonstick cooking spray, drinking straw, waxed paper, ribbon, twine

1. Combine the flour, water, gelatin and corn syrup in a large mixing bowl. Stir until well combined.
2. Add the birdseed to the mixture and stir until well coated.
3. Spray your mold(s) with nonstick cooking spray and spoon the birdseed mixture into each mold. Use the bottom of a measuring cup or the bottom of a spoon to pack the mixture down, making the top smooth.
4. Poke a hole through the top of each birdseed mold using a drinking straw, making sure it goes all the way through. (see next page)

- Leave the birdseed mixture in the molds for two to three hours. Then, remove the straws and lay out a sheet of waxed paper. Gently remove the hardened ornaments from the mold, and place them on the wax paper upside down. Allow them to dry for at least two to three more hours, or overnight.
- Cut your ribbon or twine and carefully put it through the hole.



Especially for Kids – From “Frost, Birds, and the Countdown Begins” at playingbythebook.net
 Want to make the outdoor tree decorating activity extra special for your kids, grandkids, or your neighbor’s kids? Incorporate reading *Night Tree* by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Ted Rand. Multiple copies of this book are available for free checkout through the San Antonio Public Library. Visit mysapl.org to place a hold on a copy.

Night Tree tells the story of one family’s Christmas custom to venture into a small wood near their home every 24th of December to decorate a tree with food for the birds and animals. Told in the present tense (a decision which brings an immediacy and vitality to this story perfect for helping children to imagine they too are going alongside for the adventure in the dark), this gentle story is perfect for reading snuggled up on the sofa with frost outside.



Ted Rand’s illustrations of the mysterious and magical nature of the trees at night bring just the slightest suggestion of suspense, essential for later creating a feeling of magic and awe, especially successful in the spread showing the the beauty of the tree laden with gifts for the animals of the wood. (From “Frost, Birds, and the Countdown Begins” at playingbythebook.net)

Songs perfect for making bird treats:
 “Feed the Birds” (Tuppence A Bag) from Mary Poppins
 “Found a Peanut” sung by Lisa Loeb
 “Big Bags of Birdseed” by Richard Popovic




Cats and dogs from 78201 are now eligible to be spayed/neutered for free through a new grant received by SpaySA. Have questions or want to set up an appointment? Call 351-7729 or visit spaysa.org

A FEW WINTER PET CARE TIPS

- Cats and wildlife seek shelter from warmth by crawling into available covered spaces, including vehicles. Banging on the hood of your car before starting the engine should scare out any stowaways. (motherearthnews.com)
- Dogs and cats should be kept inside if possible. If kept outside, they should have a draft-free shelter large enough to stand and turn around in, yet small enough to retain body heat. Use a layer of straw or other bedding material to help insulate your pet against the cold. (americanhumane.org)
- Antifreeze is deadly to pets. The sweet taste is irresistible to animals kept in the garage in colder months. Look for "safe" non-toxic antifreeze and make sure all spills are cleaned immediately and thoroughly. (americanhumane.org)

MPNA BUSINESS BUZZ



Bea's Sweet Cakes & More By Jan Peranteau

Beatriz H. Gonzalez is a graduate of Edison High School who grew up on the other side of I-10 in the Beacon Hill area. She is also a woman who knows what she wants and sets out to make it happen. Currently she is a paralegal at Rios Law firm from 8:00-2:00 Monday through Friday. After work, she goes to her business, Bea's Sweet Cakes & More at 1025 Donaldson, and makes pre-ordered cakes and other sweet confections. She and her husband have two girls, so upon completing her baking for the day she drives to pick up her two girls at St. Paul's Elementary.

"I have been baking since I was a child. The Food Network was my university. Everything I saw on the network, I wanted to try out on my family." In 2002-2003 she took a cake-decorating course at Michaels. She said, "It was a Wilton Co. course. The company has many supplies that are used in making cakes." After the course, the instructor asked if anyone was interested in applying for her position at Michaels. Gonzalez submitted her application and was chosen to replace the instructor who was moving out of state. Gonzalez began teaching Cake Decorating at Michaels.

Upon deciding to open her own cake making business, in 2004 Gonzalez registered her business name with the court system as "Bea's Sweet Cakes & More." Her official hours of business are: 4:00-8:00 Friday and 10:00-3:00 Saturday. But the best way to reach Bea is to call (210) 385-6910 and set up a consultation. This service is free and you will get tastings if the order is for 100 people or more. You also may sample various foods on Saturdays. Cupcakes begin at \$1.00 and go as high as \$1.75 for specialty cupcakes. Cakes are priced according to the number of people served. The lowest price is \$1.50 per serving and go up to \$2.75 per serving. Specialty cakes for weddings and other special occasions are dependent upon various factors such as tiers involved, if fondant is used, and what ingredients are incorporated. Unique designs are more expensive than a straight sheet cake. Gonzalez stressed that she often works with people who have a budget. She added, "I make all kinds of cakes including those that are gluten free and sugar free.



Bea's Sweet Cakes & More

"Holiday Sweet Bakes & Custom Cakes!"

Pumpkin Pie - \$8.00

Web: beasweetcakesnmore.com

Cell: (210)385-6910

Pecan Pie - \$13.00

Sweet Potato Pie - \$10.00

10" Pumpkin Pecan Cheesecake - \$42.00
(16 Servings)

9" New York Style Cheesecake w/ Macerated Strawberries - \$38.00
(12 Servings)

Banana Nut Bread Loaf - \$8.00

"Spice & Everything Nice" Cookie Box & Bars - \$45.00
(Will contain 1/2 a Dozen of each of the following cookies)

- *Oatmeal Choco Chip Raisin Pecan Cookies
- *Healthy Pumpkin Spice Cookies
- *Snickerdoodles
- *Decorated Sugar Cookies
- *Chocolate Dipped Cranberry Almond Boscotti
- *Browned Butter Blondies

If you do not see something that satisfies your sweet tooth, please inquire, we custom bake too! Happy Holidays!





I double-dare you to try this place out. Better yet, purchase a cake!

December 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Hanukkah	2 Hanukkah	3 Hanukkah	4 Hanukkah	5 Last Day of Hanukkah	6 Winter Delights Youth Orchestras of SA at Magik Theatre 4pm Free. 737-0097	7 "A Christmas Story: The Musical" @ Woodlawn Theatre 7:30pm
8 Sexy Second Sunday Brunch @ Deco Pizza DecoPizza.com 210.732.3326 "A Christmas Story: The Musical" @ Woodlawn Theatre 3pm	9	10 Downtown Holiday Lights Running/Walking Tour @ 6pm To register online visit active.com and enter the search keyword "Go! Historic SA" For more info call 210.207.0066 or visit sanantonio.gov/historic/	11	12	13 "A Christmas Story: The Musical" @ Woodlawn Theatre 7:30pm	14 Jefferson Community Garden Work Day 9-11am. Located across the street from 2350 W Gramercy. Leave a message for Sherilyn at 912-4871 for info. Jingle Bell Jubilee @ Westfall Library, 2-3:30pm Kids of all ages will be ringing and singing, meeting and greeting, dancing and prancing at the Jingle Bell Jubilee! For more info email lmelda.merino@sanantonio.gov or call 207-9220.
15 Holiday Saxophones Hosted by the venerable Regency Jazz Band, this event gathers the best local and regional sax players. Featuring George Prado, Joe Posada, Rene Sandoval and special guest Stan Killian from NYC. UTSA Downtown Campus Buena Vista Theater (FREE parking at Cattleman's Square) 2 pm, \$20 and \$10 for students; Guadalupe Theater 8-11pm \$25-\$40 Guadalupeculturalarts.org 210.271.3151	16	17 Full Moon	18	19	20 MPNA Holiday Party 6:30-9:30PM 402 Mary Louise Family-Friendly event Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.	21 "A Christmas Story: The Musical" @ Woodlawn Theatre 7:30pm
22 "A Christmas Story: The Musical" @ Woodlawn Theatre 3pm	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27 Kwanzaa	28 Kwanzaa
29 Kwanzaa "A Christmas Story: The Musical" @ Woodlawn Theatre 3pm	30 Kwanzaa	31 New Year's Eve Kwanzaa				MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The 1st MPNA General Assembly Meeting of 2014 will be held Monday, January 27 @ 7pm.

National Night Out at the Monticello Park Pocket Park



Monticello Park Trick or Treaters

Green Spaces Alliance (GSA) provided city councilmen and women with baskets of fresh produce, herbs, and flowers from city-wide community gardens as a thank you for their support of GSA's Community Gardens Program, which enabled GSA to receive \$50,000 in funding for 2014. Monticello Park resident Sarah Rice represented the Jefferson Community Garden at this presentation. Pictured at right is the District 7 basket presented to Councilman Cris Medina.

